

**Draft Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council
of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held on Monday 18th November 2019
in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon at 7.15pm.**

Present

Cllr Charlie Birks	Mayor
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	Deputy Mayor
Cllr Gabby Barody	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Grace Clifton	
Cllr Margaret Crick	
Cllr Eric de la Harpe	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Andy Foulsham	
Cllr Alex Greenaway	
Cllr Jim Halliday	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Robert Maddison	
Cllr Helen Pighills	
Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom	
Cllr Andrew Skinner	

In Attendance

Mr Steve Rich	Assistant Town Clerk / Head of Services
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Mrs Susan Whipp	Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer

C67 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Andrew Coveney
Jeanette Halliday and Lorraine Oates.

C68 Declarations of Interest

None.

C69 Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

C610 Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Council received a verbal report of the proceedings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee which had taken place earlier in the evening.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Council considered the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Council agrees in principle to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Abingdon and include sums in the budget as detailed in the report of the Town Clerk.

In discussion Members considered that undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan was important to help shape the future of the town and could assist in matters such as the proposed Oxford- Cambridge Expressway. Undertaking a Plan was essential to (proposed) Key Objective 2 “to develop a resilient, sustainable town which would provide a home for residents now and in the future”. Achieving this objective would require a much higher engagement and involvement in the planning process and the Plan was the mechanism through which this would take place.

A Member stated that undertaking the Plan would take up considerable amounts of the Council’s time; in this regard, the Leader, Cllr Samantha Bowring, stated that it was proposed that the work be sourced externally. The recommended budget requirement for the plan was as follows:

- 2020/21 – Gross Budget £50,000 less sums remaining from the Community Led Plan process £11,000, less grants £11,000 = net budget requirement £28,000
- 2021/22 - £50,000 less grants £8,000 = net budget requirement £42,000
- 2022/23 onwards – (at least) £30,000

The budget was considered a reasonable estimate in order to deliver the Plan but would depend very much on the scope which was agreed. As part of the Plan process the requirements for years two and three would be established and would depend on the scope of the plan and the way in which the plan is undertaken.

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring, seconded by Cllr Jim Halliday and **resolved** that the Council agrees in principle to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Abingdon and includes sums in the budget as detailed above.

Strategic Plan 2019/23

The Council considered the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Council approve the Strategic Plan 2019/23.

Members considered the Strategic Plan in draft and made a number of amendments.

The Vision of the Council was agreed as follows:

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live. In developing this community the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

Under delegated powers (see below) the following words were added to the first sentence following the meeting: “and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised.”

The Council's key strategy objectives were agreed as follows:

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future
4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring, seconded by Cllr Jim Halliday and **resolved** that the Council approve the Strategic Plan 2019/23 subject to an authority delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader to make further minor amendments to the Plan prior to its finalisation.

The meeting rose at 8.33 pm.

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Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

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Date