

MINUTES OF CABINET

8 APRIL 2025

PRESENT:

Councillors Moran (Chair), Brown, C Edwards, Livesey, Mistry, O'Rourke and Robinson.

Councillors McKenzie, Poole and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

103. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Picker and Robinson.

105. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

106. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council's public question time procedure, Mr Woodfield submitted the following question to the Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder. Mr Woodfield did not attend the meeting.

"Why one month before opening public consultation to review the current Rugby Borough Local Plan in November 2023 the public individual record of documentation submitted to the government inspection for that plan was removed. Is the public evidence documentation for the current review therefore not a full or accurate record of what was submitted to the government inspectorate at that time?"

The Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, Councillor Robinson, provided the following response:

The full examination library and submission documents from the 2011-2031 local plan are still available on the council's website: <https://rugby.gov.uk/w/local-plan-2011-2031#examination-library>. These documents are made available for transparency, but are not legally required to be available. The requirements to retain public access to documents are set by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Specifically, Regulation 15(2) which states that local planning authority's may cease to make documents relating to a local plan available 6 weeks after the date that document was adopted by the local authority. Therefore, documents from the examination were only required to be retained on the website until mid-July 2019.

The submission documents for the 2011-2031 local plan are of limited relevance to the preparation of the new local plan which is ongoing. The new local plan is required to be based on up-to-date evidence.

Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications portfolio

107. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning an update on progress with regard to the regeneration of the town centre.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Town Centre Regeneration progress report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

108. PUBLIC REALM MASTERPLAN – PRIORITY PROJECTS

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the proposed allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025/26 from Warwickshire County Council to undertake further work in relation to priority projects identified in the Public Realm Masterplan.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT £272,199 (revenue) of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2025/26) to be received from Warwickshire County Council be allocated to progress priority projects 1-3 within the Public Realm Masterplan to RIBA stage 3.

Partnerships and Wellbeing Portfolio

109. FUNDING FOR A NEW ACQUISITION FOR THE RUGBY COLLECTION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning a proposal to use grant funding to enable Rugby Art Gallery and Museum to purchase a new acquisition for the Rugby Collection.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council enters into grant agreements of £20,000 from 'Art Fund Acquisition Grant' and £30,000 'Arts Council V&A Purchase Fund' to facilitate the purchase of new artwork for the continued development of the Rugby Collection; and
- (2) a supplementary capital budget of £0.070m for the purchase of the artwork be approved and be added to the capital programme.

Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

110. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FOOD INSPECTIONS

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning proposed additional resources to meet the Council's statutory obligations under food legislation for inspections of food premises.

RESOLVED THAT – a supplementary revenue budget of £47,920 to implement the FSA approved project plan be approved.

CHAIR