

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES

Tuesday, 12th April, 2022

Present: Cllr M D Boughton (Chairman), Cllr V M C Branson, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr D Keers, Cllr P J Montague and Cllr K B Tanner

Councillors Mrs S Bell, F A Hoskins, Mrs A S Oakley, H S Rogers, R V Roud were also present pursuant to Access to Information Rule No 23.

Councillors M A J Hood, S A Hudson, J R S Lark, W E Palmer, J L Sergison, Mrs M Tatton, D A S Davis, N Foyle and D Harman participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chairman in accordance with Access to Information Rule No 23.

An apology for absence were received from Councillor R P Betts

PART 1 - PUBLIC

CB 22/49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

EXECUTIVE NON-KEY DECISIONS

CB 22/50 PEER REVIEW

Decision Notice D220045CAB

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the recent Corporate Peer Challenge and presented an Action Plan (attached at Annex 2) which illustrated how the Borough Council aimed to meet the recommendations of the Peer Team.

Overall, feedback had been positive and it was recognised that the Borough Council was dependable, creditable and trusted. However, a number of recommendations designed to strengthen, complement and add value to the Borough Council's performance had been identified.

There was in-depth discussion in respect of the Corporate Peer Challenge report and how communication and co-operation with other political Groups could be a valuable tool in supporting political stability.

Other views expressed related to strengthening partnerships, local leadership for the benefit of residents and communities and governance arrangements.

It was indicated that the recommendations and actions set out in the Action Plan would be carefully considered by the Borough Council and all options would be explored.

In conclusion, it was recognised that without challenge there was no opportunity to identify areas of improvement which supported a modern, efficient and effective organisation.

RESOLVED: That the Peer Review Action Plan, as set out at Annex 2 of the report, be endorsed.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CB 22/51 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Members were advised of the current position in relation to Ukrainian refugees and the Borough Council's role in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme was outlined.

The following points were noted:

- Home visits and inspections of potential host families were undertaken by Borough Council Officers;
- DBS and welfare checks were the responsibility of Kent County Council, with Clarion Housing commissioned to provide 'wraparound' support for Ukrainian families;
- The Community Hub Helpline had been reinstated to provide advice and guidance and local community groups had offered to support where required.

Attention was drawn to the potential risks around points of failure and breakdown in sponsor arrangements, which could result in families approaching the Borough Council seeking alternative accommodation and creating a pressure on housing services.

Particular concern was expressed in respect of the Ukraine Family Scheme and further guidance and clarity on addressing a number of concerns was being sought from Government.

CB 22/52 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY OR URGENCY PROVISIONS

Details of the Decisions taken in accordance with emergency and/or urgency provisions were presented for information.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

CB 22/53 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm