

## O&S Committee Meeting 5 March 2024 Running Order

### \*Emergency Procedure

There are no planned tests of the emergency alarm. If the alarm does sound everyone present must leave by the designated exit route via the main reception. If the preferred route is blocked, use the nearest signed alternative route. Do not use the lift. Everyone must assemble at the designated point, which is next to the County Museum in Market Place. Members of the public and press should report to a member of the Reception team who will be wearing yellow fluorescent jackets. Councillors and Officers should report to the Committee Officer. Please do not re-enter the building until the Fire Officer advises that it is safe to do so

### \*Reminder on use of mics

*I have been asked to remind Councillors that when using mics, please do not place any equipment such as your laptop in front of the mic because this will affect the mic's effectiveness, and please remember not to turn away from the mic when speaking.*

*Pre-scrutiny Q&A have been published on the Council's website on Cabinet meeting page.*

Agenda Item	Topic	Officers/Councillors attending	Notes
<b>O&amp;S agenda</b>			
<b>1</b>	Apologies and Substitutes		Apologies from Councillors Day, D Harrison Cllr Claire Wightman is subbing for Cllr Sullivan (her first O&S meeting) and Cllr Falp is subbing for Councillor Barton
<b>2</b>	Declarations of Interest		
<b>3</b>	To note the record of the Budget Review Group meeting 7 February 2024 (to be appended to the minutes of tonight's meeting)		
<b>Cabinet agenda</b>			
<b>4 and 13</b>	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25; and Q3 Budget Update	Councillor Chilvers Item 4 - Richard Wilson Item 13 – Steven Leathley Andrew Rollins	Cllr Chilvers – PH Resources Steven L – Strategic Finance Manager Richard W – Principal Accountant Andrew R – Head of Finance
<b>6</b>	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review 2024		

<b>14</b>	Annual Governance Statement 2022/23		
<b>11</b>  <b>(12)</b>	Change Programme – Case for Change  (*with relevant parts of Item 12 Introduction of a Customer Relationship Management System included)	Councillor Jess Harrison – PH Transformation Darren Knight – Deputy Chief Executive	

**O&S agenda**

4	Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Cabinet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Future High Streets Fund Update – email from Martin O’Neill (page 4) given in confidence which basically states the deadline has been extended from 31 March to 30 September. The report to Cabinet is now expected in April.</li><li>• Summary of the role, responsibilities and performance of the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership – been postponed until June because of annual leave in the Department.</li><li>• Review of the Significant Business Risk Register – this did not come forward on the Cabinet agenda and is scheduled for April.</li><li>• Digital Strategy Update – The Committee asked for Digital Strategy Updates every six months, which would mean either the 3 Sept or 24 Sept (no cabinet) meeting – do we need one and if so, which meeting?</li><li>• 26 March meeting (no cabinet) – just the one item on the Work Programme (see Item 4/Page 5 last item) and there isn’t a meeting of Cabinet scheduled for this meeting.</li><li>• Looking forward to April’s O&amp;S meeting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The O&amp;S End of Term report – Lesley proposes writing this on the normal report template, not the O&amp;S report template because it goes to Council on 17<sup>th</sup> after O&amp;S approves it. It saves accidentally missing anything off and it saves considerable time</li><li>○ Future High Streets Fund Update is scheduled to be on the Cabinet agenda.</li><li>○ SBRR is scheduled to be on the Cabinet agenda</li></ul></li></ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Any additions</b> to the Work Programme from the Forward Plan or anything councillors wish to add?</li><li>• Ask the Committee to note Appendix 2 – Comments from Cabinet 8 February</li></ul>
		Close the meeting	

**Email from Martin O'Neill given in confidence:**

Dear Councillor Milton

Following our telephone conversation last week, I am sending an email to let you and O&S know where we are with the Future High Streets Fund Programme (FHSF) given we have had to move the Cabinet report on another cycle to the April Committee.

Overall, progress is still being made with all of the remaining projects, they have not stalled. The only reason we took the difficult decision to move the Cabinet report is because there are complex legal and commercial issues being worked through which we felt were not yet in a position to provide meaningful information to Cabinet to enable them to come to the decisions being asked of them. I feel confident that we will have those issues ironed out by the April Cabinet.

One important update following my last report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, if you recall I was about to request an extension of time to spend the funds. The deadline at that time was 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities have approved our application (along with many other FHSF local authorities in a similar position) to extend the deadline to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – so an additional 6 months to utilise the funding. Projects may continue beyond that date – it only the FHSF that needs to be spent by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

I think one of the overarching and ongoing concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been the risk posed to the Council in terms of spending the money by the previous deadline, and possibly facing returning the funds to Government if we failed to do so. The additional 6 months does mitigate that risk – irradiates the March deadline risk and provides additional time to progress the legal/commercial requirements and then enable developments to commence.

Early works on the Stoneleigh Arms site have indeed commenced following planning consent being granted in December 2023. Starting this week, the old public house will be demolished over the coming weeks to lay the ground for the new development.

As stated above I will have a Cabinet report ready for April with much more detail on progress and I expect to be called in to your Committee as part of that process. In the meantime, if there is anything more in terms of an interim update that you would like from me, please do let me know.

Many thanks to you and your Committee colleagues for your understanding and patience.

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**Public & Press Motion if required:**

To consider resolving that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for item XX on the Cabinet agenda by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below:

Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Ask for the recording of the meeting that will be uploaded to YouTube to be paused.

*Wait for confirmation that YouTube has been paused before proceeding.*