

Cabinet  
5 September 2023

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL CABINET held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors P.Zukowskyj (Leader)  
L.Chesterman (Deputy Leader)  
S.Bonfante (Executive Member Environment)  
M.Holloway (Executive Member Community)  
D.Jones (Executive Member Resources)  
J.Quinton (Executive Member Planning)

ALSO Councillor Kingsbury, Leader of the Opposition  
PRESENT:

OFFICIALS K.Ng, Chief Executive  
PRESENT: C,Barnes, Executive Director (Place)  
S.McDaid, Service Director (Resident and Neighbourhood)  
C Carter, Assistant Director (Planning)  
M.Wilson, Planning & Policy Implementation Manager  
M.Sherry, Communications and Marketing Manager  
C.Cade, Governance Services Manager

---

129. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

130. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Broach (Executive Member for Governance).

131. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS

No questions or petitions were received.

132. ACTIONS STATUS REPORT

Cabinet  
5 September 2023

The Cabinet noted the Actions Status Report.

133. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 9

There was no notification of urgent business to be considered.

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Zukowskyj declared an interest as a Hertfordshire County Councillor.

135. ITEMS REQUIRING KEY DECISION

The following item was considered for decision in the current Forward Plan:

136. SUPPLY OF KITCHENS (FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE FP1187)

The Cabinet received the report on the supply of kitchens.

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:

(unanimous)

The Cabinet agreed that the Council enter into a framework agreement with Howden Joinery Limited for a period of 5 years for the supply of kitchens.

REASON FOR DECISION

Kitchen installation in Council properties is part of a planned maintenance programme. It will be mandatory for delivery partners installing kitchens in Council housing stock to use this framework.

137. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET PANELS

The following items were considered following recommendation from the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023:

138. BIODOVERISTY NET GAIN - GUIDANCE NOTE

The paper set out the minutes from the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Councillor Kingsbury thanked the Cabinet for agreeing to bring this item back to Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Councillor Kingsbury queried whether the 10% aim would be considered as part of the Local Plan. Councillor Quinton confirmed that 10% would be the minimum and the administration would be looking for opportunities to increase this.

Cabinet  
5 September 2023

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:  
(unanimous)

The Cabinet agreed that the Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note be endorsed, and that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Planning) in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, to update the Guidance Note as required with a further report detailing subsequent changes to come back to CPPP before 1 March 2024.

REASON FOR DECISION

This report presents the Biodiversity Net Gain - Guidance Note for the Panel's consideration and onward recommendation for approval by Cabinet.

On commencement of the relevant provisions of the Environment Act 2021, a mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10% will be brought into force for development under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Secondary legislation, and further national guidance is awaited to clarify how the mandatory requirement will be applied in practice.

The Guidance Note had been prepared to provide interim guidance and information for applicants and decision makers on how the mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain will apply to development proposals. Reference is also made to relevant policies in the emerging Local Plan.

139. BIRCHALL GARDEN SUBURB MASTERPLAN

The paper set out the minutes from the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Councillor Zukowskyj highlighted he had hoped that there would be an expansion of the green corridor southwards to link with the River Lee river corridor to the south of the site.

DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED:  
(unanimous)

The Cabinet agreed that the Birchall Garden Suburb Masterplan, be agreed as a material consideration for Development Management purposes.

REASON FOR DECISION

Birchall Garden Suburb is a large strategic site to the southwest of Welwyn Garden City straddling the boundary between Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire. A joint masterplan had been prepared to ensure the site is planned comprehensively to create a new sustainable community incorporating Garden City Principles. The policy position of the adopted East

Cabinet  
5 September 2023

Herts District Plan and emerging Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan is that any application for development should be preceded by, and be consistent with, a masterplan.

140. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

There were no other items of business, and the meeting was drawn to a close.