



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
Report of Cabinet  
5 March 2018  
for items 10 and 11

**13 March 2018**

**7.30 pm**

**Town Hall, Watford**

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12 March 2018

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 13 March 2018 starting at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, Watford to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects, namely: -

**10. Review of Corporate Plan 2020: revised for 2018/19 (Pages 3 - 4)**

Report of Managing Director attached to agenda

Minutes of 5 March Cabinet

**11. South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (Pages 5 - 6)**

Report of Deputy Managing Director attached to agenda

Minutes of 5 March Cabinet

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Manny Lewis, Managing Director**

## **Report to Council – 13 March 2018**

## **Report of Cabinet – 5 March 2018**

Cabinet met on 5 March 2018 the minutes have been published online

The following Members were present at the meeting:

Present:

Mayor Thornhill (Chair)

Councillor Taylor (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Client Services)

Councillor Collett (Portfolio Holder for Community)

Councillor Johnson (Portfolio Holder for Property and Housing)

Councillor Sharpe (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Development)

Councillor Watkin (Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Service)

The following was a recommendation to Council

### **65. Review of Corporate Plan 2020: revised for 2018/19**

A report was received from the Managing Director and would also be going to Council on 13 March 2018.

The Mayor commented that the Corporate Plan was the council's way ahead for the future. It was timely with a new mayoral term and had endorsement from the Local Government Association peer review.

The Managing Director highlighted the corporate planning framework (on page 7 of the Corporate Plan) which set out the five priorities and how the council operated with effective engagement, high performance, its values and culture. The graphic was a clear way to present the council's ethos and convey the council's approach. The Corporate Plan then went into detail on all the major priorities, themes and ways of working and set out what would be achieved over the medium term.

The Managing Director also drew Cabinet's attention to the community survey which had received over 1,000 responses. The findings were very satisfactory with 80% of respondents agreeing that the council was working for a better place to live, 82% thought that the council provided value for money and 85% agreed that the council was working to make Watford economically successful.

Following a question by the Mayor, the Communications and Engagement Manager agreed to discuss the results at a county communications meeting to see how they compared with other local authorities.

The Managing Director explained that the areas for improvement which had come from the residents survey had been picked up in the Corporate Plan e.g., new homes to be supported with good infrastructure, keeping local people informed about decisions and explaining why well-planned growth was important to the town.

Councillor Taylor welcomed the focus on sustainable transport opportunities within the Corporate Plan.

The Mayor praised the Corporate Plan and its clarity.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the revised draft Corporate Plan 2020 and proposes any amendments and recommends it to Council.
2. Notes that the work programme within the plan will underpin service plans and staff's individual work programmes as set out in their annual performance development reviews.
3. Notes the work programme set out in the plan will be monitored through the year.

## **Report to Council – 13 March 2018**

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Councillor Sharpe (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Development)

Councillor Watkin (Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Service)

The following was a recommendation to Council

### **66. South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan**

A report of the Deputy Managing Director was received which would also be going to Council on 13 March 2018.

Councillor Sharpe introduced the report and explained that reforms in planning policy in recent years had replaced strategic planning with a 'duty to cooperate'. The government had announced today changes in the National Planning Policy Framework to make councils deliver housing targets. There was, therefore, a need to recognise that problems did not start and end at district council boundaries but there were shared problems in this part of Hertfordshire. There was recognition of the need to cooperate and the report before Cabinet was the start of work on a joint strategic plan and a statement of common ground.

The Deputy Managing Director commented that there were a number of authorities now adopting a similar approach. Housing was a key feature but the joint strategic plans would cover a wider scope. With regards to funding, there had been a bid to central government which had been successful and the council had been awarded £250,000. The memorandum of understanding was being worked on presently.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. To agree to work with the other South West Herts Authorities (Three Rivers, Dacorum, Hertsmere and St Albans Councils) to prepare a Joint Strategic Plan. Details of working arrangements and governance structures will be included in a Memorandum of Understanding which is currently being worked on. A timetable and the relationship with individual local plans will be set out in a Statement of Common Ground, to be agreed by all partners.
2. To agree to progress a Memorandum of Understanding as the framework for governing future joint working arrangements and for the final terms of the Memorandum of Understanding to be delegated to the Deputy Managing Director for agreement.
3. To agree to officers progressing work on the joint plan and to note that this will come back to Council for final approval.
4. To note the support of Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire LEP for this process.