

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL 29 JANUARY 2026 FROM THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2026

CAB107: RISK STRATEGY AND POLICY REPORT

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The Senior Corporate Governance Officer presented the report as included in the Agenda. The Audit Committee had also considered the Risk Strategy and Policy.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Cabinet under Standing Order 34 highlighting the importance of keeping records of contracts and amendments to contracts.

RECOMMENDED: Cabinet recommends that Full Council adopt the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure there is a comprehensive and up to date framework for the Council's management of risk.

CAB108: SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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Cabinet noted that the Environment and Community Panel had considered this report and supported the recommendations to Cabinet.

The Corporate Governance Manager presented the report as included in the Agenda.

Councillor Rust congratulated officers on production of the Policy and how it was now much more manageable and easier to read. She commented that this was an important document to help Councillors when meeting with residents and provided clarity of roles and reporting lines.

Councillor Moriarty commented that training for Councillors was important.

In response to a question from Councillor Morley, the Corporate Governance manager informed Cabinet that Safeguarding Risk Assessments were included in the process and work would be carried out to embed processes.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Cabinet under Standing Order 34 thanking those involved for bringing this forward and that it was an important document for Councillors.

Councillor Rust highlighted that the Policy included a 'takeaway sheet' which included reporting lines and out of hours contacts.

RECOMMENDED: Cabinet recommends that Full Council agree changes to the Members' Code of Conduct to include explicit safeguarding responsibilities.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- To ensure the Council continues to meet its statutory safeguarding duties under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014, reflects current guidance (Working Together 2023, Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2024), and is prepared for anticipated duties in the forthcoming Crime and Policing Bill 2025.
- The updated policy improves clarity and accountability, reflects new safeguarding priorities (including domestic abuse, modern slavery, cuckooing, self-neglect and hoarding), and provides stronger support for staff wellbeing.

CAB110: ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY DISPOSAL POLICY

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Cabinet noted that the Regeneration and Development Panel had considered the report and supported the recommendations to Cabinet, on the condition that the following wording be included in the Policy:

“Potential disposals should be discussed with the portfolio holder, ward members, parish councils and any other community representatives at an early stage where the land is located.

Councillor Ring supported the inclusion of this wording and proposed additional amendments to the Policy, building on the amendments put forward by the Regeneration and Development Panel as set out below.

Paragraph 3, section 9 to read: Potential disposals should be discussed with the portfolio holder, ward members, parish councils and any other community representatives, relevant to where the land/property is located, at an early stage **unless circumstances require expedient and/or greater levels of discretion in the best interests of the Council.**

Paragraph 4, section 8 to read: They provide no real social value to the Borough community at large and where it only provides a benefit that is disproportionate to the opportunity cost of the capital tied up in the asset **and/or where the social value is highly likely to continue after a disposal.**

Councillor Morley commented that it was important that the suite of Asset Management Policies coming forward, aligned with the Capital Strategy and Corporate Strategy to ensure consistency.

Councillor Rust referred to Assets of Community Value and the importance of Social Value. It was explained that there was a separate Policy for Assets of Community Value and the Chief of Staff had requested that this Policy be reviewed.

In response to a question from Councillor Lintern, Councillor Ring explained that there currently was no policy in place to deal with disposals and the delegations proposed were outlined, noting that key decisions would still require Cabinet approval.

Cabinet was informed that production of an up to date Asset Register was ongoing.

The Chief Executive thanked the team for the work carried out to bring this forward.

Councillor Moriarty thanked the Regeneration and Development Panel for their input into the Policy and the importance of community engagement.

Councillor Kemp addressed Cabinet under Standing Order 34 in support of the recommendations put forward by the Regeneration and Development Panel, but was concerned that engagement would not take place if quick decisions were required.

Councillor Ring provided further information on the amendments he would be proposing which still provided for community involvement, but ensured that the Council acted proportionally and achieved best value for its residents.

Councillor Ring thanked Councillor Anota who was involved in bringing this forward during his time as Portfolio Holder.

RECOMMENDED: Cabinet resolves to recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Property Disposal Policy with the following amendments (in bold below):

Paragraph 3, section 9 to read: Potential disposals should be discussed with the portfolio holder, ward members, parish councils and any other community representatives, relevant to where the land/property is located, at an early stage **unless circumstances require expedient and/or greater levels of discretion in the best interests of the Council.**

Paragraph 4, section 8 to read: They provide no real social value to the Borough community at large and where it only provides a benefit that is disproportionate to the opportunity cost of the capital tied up in the asset **and/or where the social value is highly likely to continue after a disposal.**

REASON FOR DECISION: There is currently no formal policy in place.