

CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th July 2013 at Retford Town Hall

- Present:** Councillor G J Wynne (Vice in Chair),
Councillors A Chambers, J Evans, J A Leigh, S May and J White.
- Assistants:** Councillors I J Campbell, M Gregory, G Jones and C Palmer.
- Advisory Members:** Councillors H M Brand and D Challinor.
- Liaison Members:** Councillors H Burton and K H Isard.
- Officers:** D Armiger, S Brown, J Hamilton, M Hill, L Hull, M Ladyman, N Taylor and R Theakstone.
- Also present:** Councillor R Leigh – Young People’s Ambassador
Councillors J M Sanger, A Simpson and K Sutton.

(The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure.)

(The meeting opened at 6.30pm.)

28. QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC

Council Procedure Rules were suspended for fifteen minutes to allow questions from the public; however, no members of the public were present.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Barker, S A Greaves and C Wanless.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

31. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11TH AND 20TH JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 11th and 20th June 2013 be approved.

32. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

33. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

34. FORWARD PLAN

A Liaison Member enquired as to progress of the LDF Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Key Decision No. 363) and the Deputy Leader reported that work on the Plan is being progressed by both Members and officers, and that a meeting is to be held next week.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

35. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – COUNCILLOR S A GREAVES

(a) **Sheffield City Region Inter-Authority Agreement (Key Decision No. 412)**

(The Interim Chief Executive presented this report in the absence of Councillor S A Greaves.)

Members were provided with a brief summary of the Inter Authority Agreement for the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership which has been put forward by Sheffield City Council (acting as the Accountable Body on the Growing Places Fund) as a means for all Sheffield City Region local authorities to share the financial risk of delivering external funding activity on behalf of the City Region.

A copy of the Inter Authority Agreement was appended to the report, which outlined: sharing risk; current position; and expansion of use. Scenarios were outlined where, once agreed, the Agreement might come into effect.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Members have discretion to sign the Agreement or not, if they choose not to do so, then future benefits from the City Region will be limited accordingly.

Agreeing to an obligation to 7% of unknown costs and 7% of any potential losses carries a significant risk.

RESOLVED that the Inter Authority Agreement arrangements for the Sheffield City Region, as appended to the report, be supported and referred to full Council for approval.

36. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE – COUNCILLOR J EVANS

(a) **Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (Key Decision No. 375)**

Members' approval was sought for the implementation of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) within Bassetlaw, following the in-principle agreement by Cabinet on 14th February 2013.

The report provided: an overview of the housing market; details of the ongoing situation facing first-time buyers; an introduction to the LAMS scheme and how it works in practice; the national position; Nottinghamshire County Council's scheme; commercial lenders; and the timescale for implementation. Nationally, there are no mortgage arrears or repossessions to date under LAMS.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

There is always the option of not introducing the scheme and relying upon the success of the Nottinghamshire County Council scheme. There is, of course, the possibility that the majority of their funding is spent in non-Bassetlaw areas.

There are a number of risks associated with the scheme and the Council should give careful consideration to how to manage those risks and the mitigating controls to be put in place. A risk assessment outlining the key risks and potential mitigating controls was circulated as part of the report for the 14th February 2013 Cabinet.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) be adopted in accordance with the outline provided within the report:
 - (i) A total indemnity value of £1m funded by Bassetlaw District Council and £1m funded by Nottinghamshire County Council, resulting in a total available indemnity of £2m;
 - (ii) A maximum loan size for the Authority of £123,500; and
 - (iii) The qualifying postcodes will be provided to the lender(s) in a schedule to the indemnity deed.
2. The following be noted:
 - (i) Discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council are at an early stage and further discussions will be required to reach agreement regarding a 'match funding' arrangement. A formal SLA between Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council will also need to be agreed; and
 - (ii) If no agreement is reached with the County Council for match funding, the total indemnity will be capped at £1m, i.e. the Bassetlaw contribution.
3. The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Head of Finance and Property be delegated responsibility to develop a Bassetlaw LAMS in discussion with Sector Treasury Services with one or more commercial lenders, subject to the total indemnity value of £2m (£1m from Bassetlaw District Council and £1m from Nottinghamshire County Council).
4. The Council's Monitoring Officer be indemnified in respect of any personal liability she may incur by providing an opinion and providing the Lender with the Opinion Letter (this applies to schemes with Lloyds TSB only).

37. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR J A LEIGH

(a) Dog Control Orders (Key Decision No. 361)

Members' approval was sought to introduce Dog Control Orders within Bassetlaw, following a consultation exercise involving over 500 members of the public, the results of which were appended to the report.

The report outlined: the current legal framework in Bassetlaw; possible changes to legislation; the content of the Dog Control Orders which may be introduced; administrative arrangements; and the process going forward.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – Members do not agree to the content of the proposed Orders and refer the Orders back to officers for further consideration.

Option Two – Members agree to the content of the proposed Orders and Legal officers are asked to scrutinise the draft Orders prepared by Environment Health officers to then be submitted to a future Cabinet for approval.

A Liaison Member asked whether a defined settlement envelope could be the designated area and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that this could be investigated.

RESOLVED that the following proposed Dog Control Orders be agreed:

- (i) An Order requiring the removal of faeces from all areas of land open to the air to which the public have access (by payment or not).
- (ii) An Order requiring dogs to be kept on leads in nature reserves and burial grounds.
- (iii) An Order requiring dogs to be kept on leads when directed by an authorised officer on all areas of land open to the air (by payment or not).
- (iv) An Order excluding dogs from fenced children's play areas.

Other Decisions

38. REFERRAL(S) FROM SCRUTINY REVIEWS

(a) Future Sustainable Transport in Bassetlaw

Councillor G Jones, Chair of Select Panel 3, presented the Panel's report for consideration and approval of the recommendations for implementation. The aim of the review was to define and clarify the role of the District Council in sustainable transport in Bassetlaw.

The report was appended for Cabinet, Assistants, Advisory and Liaison Members and had been deposited in the Members' Room. The report contained 15 recommendations, some of which were discussed by Members.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Members could choose to refer the report back to the Select Panel if they feel that further consideration needs to be given to the recommendations.

Cabinet could agree all, some or none of the recommendations within the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to Members, officers and witnesses for their input in the Select Panel Review, and particularly to the Chair of the Panel, Councillor G Jones, for her role.
2. Cabinet considers the recommendations within the Review of Future Sustainable Transport in Bassetlaw report and submits its response to the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

39. REFERRAL(S)

(The Head of Human Resources presented the two referrals in the absence of Councillor S A Greaves.)

(a) Joint Employee Council – 19th June 2013 – Minute No. 8(a) – Employee Suggestion Scheme

RESOLVED that:

1. The Employee Suggestion Scheme be approved and implemented.
2. The number of employee suggestions received be monitored and reported intermittently to the Joint Employee Council.

(b) Joint Employee Council – 19th June 2013 – Minute No. 8(d) – Appeals Procedure

RESOLVED that the draft Appeals Procedure be approved and implemented.

40. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – COUNCILLOR S A GREAVES

(a) Children and Young People’s Issues and Action Plan

Councillor R Leigh, the Young Person’s Ambassador, updated Members on progress against the Council’s Children and Young People’s Plan and sought Members’ approval for the external activities outlined within the report.

The report outlined: progress against the Action Plan; the work of the Young Person’s Ambassador; the UNICEF report ‘Report Card 11’, the report ‘State of Children’s Rights in England 2012’; Bassetlaw Youth Council; Local Democracy Week, 14-20th October 2013; Early Intervention Locality Management Group; Health and Well Being Agenda; and the Big Lottery Talent Match. Some of these initiatives were discussed by Members, including the attendance by many primary schools at the recent Armed Forces events held at both Town Halls.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Children and Young People’s Plan for the Council takes account of future strategic priorities and the level of resources available.

Members have the opportunity to decide not to support the Bassetlaw Youth Council; however, it is in line with the Council’s priorities.

RESOLVED that:

1. The progress against the Children and Young People’s Action Plan be noted;
2. The Bassetlaw Youth Council’s project ‘Rise Against We Matter Campaign’ be supported.
3. The Council’s participation in the Early Intervention Locality Management Group be approved.
4. The Local Democracy Week, 14-20th October 2013, be supported.
5. The proposals for priority areas for Talent Match within Bassetlaw be endorsed and the outcomes of the Talent Match within Bassetlaw be monitored.

41. REPORTING MINUTES

(a) Joint Employee Council – 12th March 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Employee Council held on 12th March 2013 be received.

(b) Health and Safety Committee – 16th April 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Safety Committee held on 16th April 2013 be received.

42. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and after considering the public interest test as set out by the officer in the body of the report, Members agreed that the following items of business involved the likely disclosure of

exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2, and therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 15(a) – Airey Housing, Harworth (Key Decision No. 359) – Paragraphs 1 and 2

Agenda Item No. 16(a) – Worksop Market Operational Issues – Paragraphs 1 and 2

(Councillors J M Sanger, A Simpson and K Sutton remained in the meeting with the Chairman's permission.)

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

43. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HOUSING – COUNCILLOR A CHAMBERS

(a) Airey Housing, Harworth (Key Decision No. 359)

Members were updated on the delivery of this project, following Cabinet approval in March 2013 for the Council to undertake a procurement exercise to select a preferred partner to deliver the redevelopment of all the remaining Airey properties in Harworth. Work has progressed on planning pre-application discussions and in relation to potential budgetary impacts. The significant HRA underspend for 2012/13 has enabled an early commencement of the development planning stage. The Head of Community Prosperity indicated that the procurement process would be undertaken through a mini tender exercise undertaken under and Efficiency East Midlands framework to ensure best value for money is secured.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Whilst it is possible to improve the existing properties, this has been considered previously and was not determined to be financially viable. In addition, it is possible to seek external funding for the project although only limited opportunities currently exist to obtain such funding, and there is clearly the risk of not being successful in any bid. As a result, the proposals set out in the report are considered to represent the best means of achieving the replacement of these dwellings within a reasonable timescale.

RESOLVED that:

1. The progressing of the Airey Housing project through the use of existing funding streams be agreed and a delivery partner be appointed through a full tender exercise.
2. A1 Housing be authorised to apply to take properties out of management to facilitate the delivery of the project and that any requests be agreed under the delegated powers of the Director of Community Services.
3. Cabinet be minded to authorise the use of Compulsory Purchase powers to acquire 20 Thompson Avenue, Harworth, should it not be possible to agree to a negotiated acquisition with the owner.
4. Approval be given for a budget of £1.2m to be added to the HRA Capital Programme for 2013/14 in respect of the scheme, of which £1.0m is a new approval and £0.2m is a transfer from the approved Decent Homes budget.

Other Decisions

44. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR J WHITE

(a) Worksop Market Operational Issues

Members' approval was sought for a revised staffing structure for the operation of Worksop market. The proposals involve a reduction in the time and resources allocated to the erection and dismantling of the market and will deliver full year savings from the 2014/15 financial year onwards.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The options are to continue with the existing procedures which involve a high degree of over-staffing which, in turn, is placing a budget pressure on the market operation, or to revise the structures to better reflect current working arrangements.

RESOLVED that:

1. The commencement of consultation with staff and trade unions with regard to the potential impact of any agreed changes be approved, in accordance with the Council's Job and Structure Redesign Policy and Procedure.
2. A further report be submitted to Cabinet in due course to report back on the outcome of the consultation process with staff and trade unions.

45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

(a) Member Training – Dementia Friends

The Cabinet Member for Customer and Support Services reminded Members that the Authority became a 'Dementia Friendly Council' a year ago, and with this in mind, urged all Members to attend the training arranged for Thursday, 18th July at 6.00pm at Retford Town Hall.

As there was no other urgent business to be considered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 7.45pm.)