

CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th April 2013 at Worksop Town Hall

Present: Councillor S A Greaves (Chair),
Councillors A Chambers, J Evans, J A Leigh, S May, D R Pressley and
G J Wynne.

Advisory Members: Councillors H M Brand, D Challinor and C Palmer.

Liaison Members: Councillors B Barker, H Burton, K H Isard and C Wanless.

Officers: S Brown, A Burton, J Hamilton, M Hill, L Hull, M Ladyman and N Taylor.

Also present: Councillor G A N Oxby – Chair of Health Panel;
Councillors J M Sanger and A Simpson.

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

(The meeting opened at 7.00pm.)

167. QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC

Council Procedure Rules were suspended for fifteen minutes to allow questions from the public; one member of the public was present.

Mr G Brown, acknowledging that Councillor H M Brand is the Council's Rural Ambassador, referred to the Sheffield City Region's LEP and the fact that the LEP has no rural strategy, and asked:

"Given that Bassetlaw is predominantly a rural area, what action is the Council planning to take to get Bassetlaw on an even keel with regard to its rural communities, and what engagement is taking place with DEFRA, particularly in pursuing rural economic growth?"

The Leader of the Council disagreed with the premise of the question, and stated that Bassetlaw's needs are acknowledged at the City Region meetings. The City Region's economic strategy is also being refreshed and there is much input by the Council to shape that strategy, feeding directly to the City Region team. He stressed the importance of Councillor Brand being present when this is discussed so that rural concerns can be heard. As discussions move forward, he expects to see a greater emphasis on the demands and needs of rural communities and the rural economic strategy. In the over-arching perspective, Bassetlaw wants to see specific pointers to its rural communities. He could not comment on DEFRA but could arrange for this to be made available.

168. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

Mr A R Burton, Head of Revenues and Customer Services, declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 18(a) – Revenues and Customer Services, as the report concerns his employment at Bassetlaw District Council; he left the meeting before consideration of this item.

170. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2013 be approved.

171. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

172. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

173. FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

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

(a) Developing the Council's Rural Agenda (Key Decision No. 372)

Councillor H M Brand, the Council's Rural Ambassador, presented the report which sought Members' approval to progress the priorities for rural communities, as identified within the Corporate Plan. The report updated Members on:

- Work of the Council's Rural Ambassador
- Rural Conference which took place on 6th December 2012
- Rural Action Plan – an outline of the key issues was appended to the report
- District/Town and Parish Council Relationship Review – the key recommendations were included in the report
- Matched funding for local projects – a capital fund of £80,000 is available for projects of community benefit
- Planning Protocol – a draft protocol was appended to the report
- Rural Voice in the Sheffield City Region
- Funding for rural local authorities – the statement made by the SPARSE Group within the LGA was included in the report

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet can accept, amend or reject the proposals contained within the report. Given the priority placed upon this work by the Corporate Plan 2012-13, Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposals.

Key recommendations from the District/Parish Relationship Working Group were listed within the report under the headings of: strategic; tactical; development; information, and for town/parish councils.

The Cabinet Member for Community Prosperity welcomed the Planning Protocol and suggested training events for clusters of town/parish councils in the new municipal year in this regard.

RESOLVED that:

1. Approval be given to develop a Rural Action Plan to progress the key priorities arising from the Conference and the developing dialogue with town/parish councils and rural communities.
2. The recommendations arising from the review of future working relationships with town/parish councils be supported, including the proposal to formally disband the Parish Councils Liaison Group and replace with a twice-yearly rural conference and links with the Bassetlaw NALC business meeting.
3. The draft Planning Protocol, as appended to the report, be approved.
4. Thanks be recorded to Councillor H M Brand for her work in the role as the Council's Rural Ambassador.

(b) The Future of the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (Key Decision No. 379)

Members were presented with some options about a new structure for the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP). Current and proposed structures for the BLSP were appended to the report. The proposed membership was outlined in the report, together with proposals for four sub-groups under the headings of Aspire; Prosper; Healthier; and Safer, and their links with agendas were explained.

Members raised issues on:

- links with transport;
- the support for the Community Safety Partnership from the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- an economic partnership to include rural communities; and
- the involvement of the Bassetlaw Action Centre.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One - The Council could retain the existing BLSP.

Option Two – The Council could refine the structure to reflect current circumstances, either in a narrow way with just a Board or the recommended format, with four more focussed and manageable sub-groups.

Refining the work of the LSP Board will enable the Council to work effectively with its partners to ensure that, as the public finances retrench, it can have a far greater impact than working in isolation. Members will also be aware of the emphasis being placed on “community budgets” by the Local Government Minister, and after the pilot phase is finished, a re-established LSP will allow this initiative to be developed locally for the benefit of the community here.

RESOLVED that:

1. The proposal to revise the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP) structure, as per paragraph 3.5 of the report, with four sub-groups focussing on agenda themes of Aspire, Healthier, Prosper and Safer, be approved.

2. Consultation commences with partners at the earliest opportunity on the proposed structure, and this be concluded by the end of May 2013.
3. The agreement of the final structure be delegated to the Leader of the Council.

175. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – REVENUES, CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES – COUNCILLOR S MAY

(a) Council Tax Reduction Scheme: Hardship Fund Policy (Key Decision No. 380)

Members' approval was sought for a new policy for administering a local scheme for hardship payments for Council Tax reduction cases in 2013/14. The draft Council Tax Reduction Hardship Fund Policy was appended to the report.

Members expressed concerns that such a policy is needed and the detrimental impact that the new welfare reforms will have, particularly on residents within Bassetlaw.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet has the option to determine a different provision than the £20,000 for 2013/14 or to change the draft policy but does not have the option to reject a Hardship Fund, as the recommendation to set one up came from full Council.

RESOLVED that:

1. A Council Tax Reduction Scheme Hardship Fund of £20,000 for 2013/14 be approved.
2. The draft Hardship Fund Policy, as appended to the report, be approved.
3. Responsibility for the operation of the Hardship Fund be delegated to the Head of Revenues and Customer Services and the Local Taxation and Benefits Manager.

(b) Discretionary Housing Payments Policy (Key Decision No. 381)

Members' approval was sought for a new policy for administering discretionary housing payments to claimants in receipt of Housing Benefit in light of benefit changes under the Welfare Reform Act 2012. The draft Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme Policy was appended to the report. It was noted that the Policy also applies to privately rented properties.

The Cabinet Member for Revenues, Customer and Support Services expressed concern that the funding of £126,148 for 2013/14 will not meet a quarter of the identified needs.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Discretionary Housing Payment Policy gives a transparent and structured framework for assisting those vulnerable claimants who find they need additional help with housing costs, due to exceptional circumstances or hardship.

Without a structured policy and its associated funding, the needs of some families suffering financial hardship and requiring help with housing costs may not be met. This would have a knock-on effect on the collection of arrears of rent and Council Tax in the future.

RESOLVED that:

1. The draft Discretionary Housing Payment Policy, as appended to the report, be approved.
2. The additional administrative funding of £12,922 in 2012/13 and 2013/14 be made available to provide additional support to those affected by the welfare reforms.

(c) Local Income Disregard Policy for Housing Benefit and the new Council Tax Reduction for War Widows, Widowers and War Disabled (Key Decision No. 382)

Members' approval was sought for a revised policy for administering a local scheme for war payment income disregard when considering claims for Housing Benefit and the new Council Tax Reduction, effective from 1st April 2013. The revised policy was appended to the report.

The policy confirms the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces as it empowers officers to ignore all of the income attributed to war pensions, etc., when calculating Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit entitlement, which will affect approximately 60 households in Bassetlaw. Only the first £10 per week of respective war payment pensions is disregarded by statute.

The expenditure on the local scheme in 2013/14 was outlined in the report, and it was noted that this will need to be reviewed once Universal Credit takes effect.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet has the option not to continue with the local scheme. However, approval of the revised policy, and therefore the local scheme, will ensure a full disregard of war pension income for future Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit claims.

RESOLVED that the continuation of the Local Income Disregard Scheme for war widows, widowers and the war disabled be approved and the revised policy, as appended to the report, be approved.

(d) Bassetlaw Transactional Web Project (Key Decision No. 383)

Members' approval was sought to spend capital on the new Transactional Web (Digital by Default) solution. A formal project has been scoped by the Strategic ICT Manager and the formal procurement exercise should be completed by the end of April 2013. Capital is needed to raise orders for goods and services at the appropriate times in the implementation project.

A Member raised the implications of this project on employees, but the Head of Human Resources advised that, at the present time, the Human Resources implications are not known and cannot be quantified at this stage. However, these will be continuously reviewed and assessed, and once identified, the Council will plan for and address what inevitably will be significant changes in the way services are staffed and resourced.

The Deputy Leader added that, within Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands, Bassetlaw District Council is leading the way in ICT, e.g. the roll out of Ipads to all Members, and this may well have advantageous implications.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet has the option of either approving capital spend or to fundamentally reject the proposal, consequentially cancelling the project.

RESOLVED that:

1. The £132,000 capital spend on the Transactional Web solution be approved.
2. Relevant updates on the implementation of the project be reported to Cabinet, as key points, as the project progresses.

Other Decisions

176. REFERRAL(S) FROM SELECT PANELS

(a) Report of Health Panel: The Ambulance Service in Bassetlaw

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor G A N Oxby, presented the Panel's report, which had been appended for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members and deposited in the Members' Room. The report contained 14 recommendations, five of which were expanded upon.

It was noted that, due to the impact of the report and consequent pressure on the East Midlands Ambulance Service, certain proposals had been withdrawn, including the closure of the Worksoop and Retford ambulance stations, which are now to be retained.

The Chair of the Panel expressed concern on the mental well-being of residents in light of the emerging welfare reforms, and stressed the need to continue to monitor the response times of call-outs by ambulances in Bassetlaw.

RESOLVED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to the Chair of the Panel, officers, Members and witnesses for the work involved in the scrutiny process and the production of the report, particularly Scrutiny Officers.
2. The recommendations of the Health Panel on the Ambulance Service in Bassetlaw be considered by Cabinet and its response be submitted to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(Councillor G A N Oxby left the meeting at this point.)

177. REFERRAL(S)

(a) Joint Employee Council – 12th March 2013 – Minute No. 42(b) - Annual Leave Policy and Procedure

RESOLVED that:

1. The Annual Leave Policy and Procedure, as appended to the report, be approved.
2. The Policy and Procedure be adopted and implemented from 1st April 2013 to co-ordinate with the new leave year to ensure that the Council meets its legal obligations in relation to annual leave and sickness whilst mitigating the financial cost burden associated with the changes.

(b) Joint Employee Council – 12th March 2013 – Minute No. 42(e) – Social Media Policy

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 1.3 of the Social Media Protocol, which states that "Elected Members who do not comply with the general principles ... are covered by the Council's Member Code of Conduct".

RESOLVED that the Social Media Policy, as appended to the report, be approved and adopted.

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

(a) Living Wage Supplement

Members' approval was sought for the adoption of a Living Wage supplement to enhance pay rates for staff earning below the Living Wage rate, which was a result of a motion passed by full Council on 20th December 2012.

It was noted that 49 employees will benefit from this supplement, and that Bassetlaw District Council is one of only a few local authorities in the UK to implement this discretionary scheme.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To adopt a Living Wage supplement, effective from 1st April 2013.

Option Two – To not adopt a Living Wage supplement.

(Councillors K H Isard and C Wanless left the meeting at this point.)

RESOLVED that:

1. The adoption of a Living Wage supplement, effective from 1st April 2013, be approved.
2. Additional funding of £7,000 be made available from the Corporate Contingency fund.
3. Thanks be recorded to the Head of Human Resources for the work involved in facilitating the scheme.

(Councillor G J Wynne took the Chair for the following item in the absence of the Chairman.)

179. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITY PROSPERITY –
COUNCILLOR D R PRESSLEY

(a) Review of Bassetlaw Museum

Members were provided with an update on discussions concerning the delivery of savings on the Museum budget following consideration of the issue by Cabinet in February 2013.

One option considered for making savings was to reduce the Museum's opening hours; however, this would require the consent of WREN who funded recent improvements and have stipulated minimum access requirements to the Museum. Therefore, alternative options were considered, particularly the cleaning contract, the delivery of development activities at the Museum, and the operation of the shop.

Members' approval was sought to approve the proposals listed within the report to achieve the necessary savings identified through the 2013/14 budgetary process. It was noted that positive feedback had been received from officers at the Museum to the proposals.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Whilst the Council could continue to operate the service as it does presently, there is a clear need to respond to wider budget pressures and look at ways of making savings from the Museum budget.

The proposals listed within the report provide options to deliver sustainable savings within the Museum Service whilst still maintaining the focus on service delivery to the community.

It is therefore recommended that Cabinet agrees to the proposed budget changes and the establishment of a Friends Group to support the development of the Museum.

RESOLVED that:

1. The savings, as detailed within the report, be approved and the savings be moved to the Corporate Contingency budget.
2. The principle of establishing a Friends Group to support the development of the Museum be approved, and details of how this will work be brought back to a future Cabinet Meeting for approval.

(Councillor S A Greaves resumed as Chair.)

180. REPORTING MINUTES

(a) Joint Employee Council – 11th December 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Joint Employee Council held on 11th December 2012 be received.

181. 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 2 and 3, and therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 15(a) – Proposed Sale of Land at Keats Crescent, Worksop (Key Decision No. 385) – Paragraph 3

Agenda Item No. 16(a) – Voluntary Redundancy, Early Retirement, Flexible Working and Flexible Retirement Requests – Update – Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 17(a) – Environmental Health and Pest Control Out-of-Hours Services – Follow-up Report - Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 17(b) – Pest Control Service – Follow-up Report – Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 18(a) – Revenues and Customer Services – Paragraph 2

(Councillor Sanger remained in the meeting with the Chairman's permission.)

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

182. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE AND PROPERTY – COUNCILLOR J EVANS

(a) Proposed Sale of Land at Keats Crescent, Worksop (Key Decision No. 385)

Members' approval was sought for the disposal of a brownfield site (approximately 2.81 acres) at Keats Crescent, Worksop, which was outlined on a plan appended to the report. The site has been deemed suitable for an affordable housing scheme and the developer will offer the Council nomination rights on up to 30% of the dwellings.

As the local Ward Member, the Deputy Leader welcomed development of the site, which is the cleared site of the former Kennedy Court scheme.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One - The Council might decide to do nothing with the site, in which case the potential to generate a capital receipt would be lost and the Council would continue to incur costs in relation to maintaining the land. At some point in time, the housing market will improve and it would be reasonable to assume that a number of sites will come forward that are available for development, and there is no guarantee there will be renewed interest in this particular site.

Option Two – The Council could agree to sell the site and receive a capital receipt for site that will be developed and would create the opportunity to provide intermediate affordable housing to the community.

RESOLVED that the Property Manager be authorised to finalise terms for the sale of the site to the developer, as outlined in the report.

Other Decisions

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

(a) Voluntary Redundancy, Early Retirement, Flexible Working and Flexible Retirement Requests - Update

Members were updated on the status of staffing changes arising out of the Corporate Voluntary Exercise 2012/13, as approved by Cabinet on 2nd October 2012. A schedule of the outcomes and costings of the exercise implemented at 1st April 2013 were appended to the report. Six of the seven approvals have been implemented, with one employee withdrawing his application.

Members' approval was sought for one of the previously deferred applications, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

As this is a progress update report, there are no options or associated risks.

RESOLVED that:

1. The progress and current position in terms of implementation of the staffing changes, approved by Cabinet on 2nd October 2012, be noted.
2. The previously deferred application, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report, be approved.
3. It be noted that the two remaining decisions previously deferred remain pending, subject to service reviews in IT and Legal Services, and that these will be the subject of future report(s) to Cabinet.

184. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE – COUNCILLOR J A LEIGH

(a) Environmental Health and Pest Control Out-of-Hours Services – Follow-up Report

Members' approval was sought to withdraw the Environmental Health and Pest Control out-of-hours standby services. Following consultation with affected staff, trade union and staff comments were appended to the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To leave both services unchanged; however, this would not lead to any savings.

Option Two – To approve the withdrawal of the out-of-hours services, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that the out-of-hours call-out services relating to Environmental Health and Pest control be withdrawn, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

(b) Pest Control Service – Follow-up Report

Members' approval was sought to withdraw the Pest Control Service. Following consultation with affected staff, trade union comments were appended to the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To approve the withdrawal of the Pest Control Service and delete the two posts allowing officers to leave the Authority on a voluntary redundancy arrangement, as detailed in the report.

Option Two – To retain the service in its current form; however, no savings will be realised for the 2013/14 budget.

RESOLVED that the withdrawal of the Pest Control Service, granting the two officers the opportunity for voluntary redundancy as soon as practicably possible.

185. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – REVENUES, CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES – COUNCILLOR S MAY

(a) Revenues and Customer Services

Members were updated on responses to consultation following the approval, in principle, of the early retirement/redundancy of the Head of Revenues and Customer Services by Cabinet on 14th February 2013. Affected services are:

- Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates
- Customer Services
- Debt Recovery
- Housing Benefits
- Housing Benefits Fraud Prevention

Trade union comments and the response by the Interim Chief Executive were appended to the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Members can decide whether they wish to adopt these recommendations or not.

The response to the staff consultation exercise has been positive and the team understands that costs need to be reduced and work organised in different ways. It also provides some development opportunities and these have been positively welcomed.

The reaction to changes in the bedroom tax and the local council tax benefit changes will be dealt with in six-month period from April, following annual billing, before the Head of Revenues and Customer Services departs in October 2013.

RESOLVED that:

1. The request of the Head of Revenues and Customer Services to be made voluntarily redundant from 1st October 2013 be approved.
2. Thanks be recorded to the Head of Revenues and Customer Services for his invaluable work to date during his length of service with Bassetlaw District Council.
3. The interim arrangements, as outlined in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 of the report, be approved, as a contingency until the recommendations in the Organisational Review for a permanent structure are implemented.

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

The Chairman reflected on the municipal year 2012/13 and outlined the work undertaken, and projects approved, by Cabinet, namely:

- A lower rent increase for tenants
- The conclusion of the Housing Options Review of A1 in conjunction with the Institute of Housing
- The successful development of the new Local Council Tax Benefit scheme
- Introduced a new set of charges for second homes and vacant properties to alleviate the benefit cost changes to the vulnerable
- Set up Member groups to develop Langold and The Canch
- Work by Scrutiny on Pride in our District, and attracting new businesses to local areas
- Set the foundations for a game changing Information Technology Strategy
- Reviewed the arrangements for concurrent grants, grants to voluntary bodies, parish councils and the Local Strategic Partnership
- Introduced a Local Authority Mortgage Scheme to help people who want to achieve a stake in Bassetlaw
- Provided support for local Special Constables, so that we can make a positive contribution to deal with more anti-social behaviour and crime prevention
- Brought together both A1 and BDC's Anti-Social Behaviour Teams to co-ordinate their efforts
- Made Bassetlaw a Living Wage Authority
- Seen the transfer of the Two Counties Credit Union and Citizens' Advice Bureau in Worksop as the start of a local service hub
- Delivered on the new developments in Bridge Street, and seen Councillor David Pressley open the Old Market Square and the benefits of this major asset at Remembrance Day
- Established a Member-led Regeneration Group which will seek to bring vacant land into use
- Balanced the budget with another zero Council Tax increase, plus a successful response to the Local Government Settlement for 2013/14, and laid the plans for 2014/15
- We sponsored and co-ordinated the Bassetlaw Games, which was a great local event, planned by local people for local people
- Linked up with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that he has a sound understanding of the needs for policing in Bassetlaw
- Forged ahead with the replacement arrangements for CCTV
- Linked up with Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire to make the most of our contributions in the Sheffield City Region, whilst improving our links with Nottinghamshire so that Bassetlaw gets the optimum solution and maximise economic development for our residents
- Started work with the Youth Unemployment Taskforce initiative

- Made links with other Co-operative Councils which will help shape our political future and the offer we can make to the electorate
- Developed a new Community Infrastructure Levy which strikes a responsible balance between resources for services and encouraging development
- Started work on maximising the opportunity presented by developing the Night Time Economy
- Assisted parish councils with the adoption of their Neighbourhood Plans
- Developed an Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy
- Introduced new Dog Control Orders
- Reviewed Choice Based Lettings, dealt with the new Strategic Tenancy arrangements and a new approach to “problem sites”
- Dealt with the implications of the Localism Act and introduced a new Code of Conduct for corporate governance and Member conduct
- Taken forward the Aurora project at Worksop Library and reviewed all the Council's community centres
- Strengthened the Anti-Poverty Strategy leading to active support for the establishment of the Bassetlaw Food Bank
- Provided support to three separate initiatives in Manton following the demise of the Manton Community Alliance: the Centre For Sport and Learning, the Radford Road allotment project, plus a local play project at Manton Villas
- Provided support to Newark and Sherwood District Council for Planning and Emergency Planning and to West Lindsey District Council for Human Resources
- Completed the first phase of the new Creative Village facility in Worksop and local jobs
- Sold the second biggest capital receipt for land at Ordsall in Retford
- Developed a new approach to capital investment: moving away from the old style of unilateral projects to a new way of providing opportunities with other councils and agencies, plus local sports groups
- Introduced a new telephone answering call system which has cut call waiting times
- Hosted a visit by the Chief Executive from the Local Government Association to Bassetlaw
- Retained our Investors In People status
- Staff Wellbeing Gold Award
- Commended in the 2012 Regeneration & Renewal Awards: the “Boosting High Street Vitality” category, a competition endorsed by the Homes and Communities Agency.
- Extended 147 ground source heat systems and 230 air source systems, and extended the amount of renewable energy grants
- Ensured funding in place to further develop Kings’ Park
- Set money aside to work with the Prince’s Regeneration Trust that could lead to a new dynamic vision for Retford
- Co-ordinated support for the future of Retford train station
- Moved forwards following the departure of the former Chief Executive - this has already borne some positive results with some very strong feedback in the staff survey

The Chairman mentioned the tragic events of Saturday night (13th April) and advised that the Authority's condolences will be sent to the family. He thanked Cabinet Members for their support and contributions and, as there was no other business to be considered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 9.00pm.)