

CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 5th March 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 and D Challinor.

Liaison Members: Councillors B Barker and H Burton.

Officers: D Armiger, S Brown, J Hamilton, M Hill, M Ladyman, L Prime, N Taylor
and R Theakstone.

Also present: Councillors J M Sanger and K Sutton.

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

150. 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.

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K H Isard and C Wanless.

152. 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.

153. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2013 be approved.

154. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

155. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

156. FORWARD PLAN

It was noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy (Key Decision No. 367) was not presented to the 4th March 2013 Council Meeting.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

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

(a) Bassetlaw CCTV System Update (Key Decision Nos. 341 and 348)

Members were updated on the recent procurement exercises regarding the Bassetlaw CCTV system.

Since 1st June 2011, the Council has had direct management responsibility for the operation of the CCTV system and has administered all of the relevant monitoring, maintenance and service contracts needed to ensure the on-going delivery of the service. Savings are already being made on maintenance, due to the new, high quality, digital cameras, and further savings are anticipated.

The procurement exercise was concluded on 11th February 2013 and a total of six, good quality, submissions have been received; formal appraisal is being undertaken. Whilst a number of issues, including the compliance with the requirements of TUPE regulations, need to be finalised, the contract must be formalised before the end of the current monitoring contract expires on 31st March 2013.

It was noted that the re-siting of the CCTV Control Room to The Wing at Queen's Buildings is progressing to schedule and that Members are invited to view the facilities.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

As the current monitoring contract expires on 31st March 2013, it is essential that a revised contract is awarded before this date to ensure the continuity of delivery of the service.

RESOLVED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to the Head of Community Prosperity and the Cabinet Member for Community Prosperity for their work to date on the CCTV system and contracts.
2. The procedure for the letting of the contract for the monitoring of the CCTV Control Room for a period of two years with the option to extend by two periods of a year be endorsed, i.e. the final decision about the tender be undertaken by the Head of Community Prosperity and the Principal Procurement Manager, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Prosperity.
3. A report be presented to a future Cabinet on the decision and full costs of the new contract.

Other Decisions

158. REFERRAL(S) FROM SELECT PANELS

(a) Report of Select Panel 1: The Future of Policing in Bassetlaw

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor D Challinor, presented the Panel's report, which had been appended for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members and deposited in the Members' Room. The report contained 35 recommendations, some of which were discussed.

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.
2. Thanks also be recorded to Councillor D Challinor, the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel, for his work to date in highlighting the District's issues/concerns.
3. The recommendations of the Select Panel 1 on the Future of Policing in Bassetlaw be considered by Cabinet and its response be submitted to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(b) Report of Select Panel 2: Review of Promoting Electoral Engagement within the Community

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor B Barker, 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, some of which were discussed. The introduction of Individual Electoral Registration was also discussed.

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.
2. Thanks also be recorded to officers within the Democratic and Electoral Services Unit for their hard work to date in respect of the electoral and electoral registration processes, particularly officers who have dual roles.
3. The recommendations of the Select Panel 2 on the Review of Promoting Electoral Engagement within the Community be considered by Cabinet and its response be submitted to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

(a) Equality and Diversity - Update

(The Senior Manager Support Services presented the report in the absence of the Equalities Champion, Councillor I J Campbell, who was attending a civic engagement.)

Members' approval was sought for the annual Equality Report which had been appended for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members and deposited in the Members' Room. Members were also updated on progress against the Council's Equality objectives.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

There is a statutory duty to produce and publish Equality objectives for the next four years. The objectives have been previously approved by Cabinet and are reflected in the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED that:

1. The annual Equality Report be approved.
2. Progress against the Equality objectives be noted.
3. Further updates on progress be provided as part of the overall Equality updates.

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

(a) Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding

Members' approval was sought for the ring-fencing to Planning Services of grant funding achieved by the Planning Policy Team from the Department of Community and Local Government to support Neighbourhood Planning work in the District.

As part of its aims to roll out Neighbourhood Planning across the country, DCLG announced in December 2012 the establishment of a grant scheme for local authorities to help them to meet the costs of supporting local communities with their plans. Local authorities are able to bid into the scheme to secure a first payment of £5,000, made following the designation of a Neighbourhood Area, recognising the officer time supporting and advising the community in taking forward a Neighbourhood Plan. A second payment of £5,000 will be made when the local planning authority publicises the Neighbourhood Plan prior to examination and a third payment of £20,000 will be made on successful completion of the examination, reflecting the costs of paying for the examination and subsequent referendum. To date, £10,000 has been paid to the Council; officers were also successful in securing £10,000 for the Sturton Ward parishes from the Awards for All scheme.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To not agree that grant funding secure to support Neighbourhood Planning be committed for that purpose and to not agree that such funding may be carried forward year-on-year in line with Neighbourhood Plan development requirements. This will mean that the Council's ability to support Neighbourhood Planning is compromised.

Option Two – To decide that grant funding secured to support Neighbourhood Planning be committed for that purpose, rather than being rolled into the General Fund, and to agree that such funding may be carried forward year-on-year in line with Neighbourhood Plan development requirements. This will ensure that funds secured to assist with a specific activity are used to support that activity and spent as required.

RESOLVED that:

1. Grant funding secured to support Neighbourhood Planning be committed for that purpose, rather than being rolled into the General Fund, and that such funding may be carried forward year-on-year in line with Neighbourhood Plan development requirements.
2. An earmarked reserve be set up to hold the Neighbourhood Planning grant allocations and any other relevant funding that may be secured, including any received from the Awards for All scheme.

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

(a) Primary Authority Agreements

Members' approval was sought for the Council to provide Primary Authority Agreements to businesses on a cost recovery basis. Under such agreements, the Environmental Health Team will provide robust and reliable advice for other local authorities to take into account when carrying out inspections or dealing with non-compliance. The statutory inspections themselves will continue to be non-chargeable.

The Primary Authority Scheme has been described as a gateway to simpler, more successful local regulation, and will be overseen by the Better Regulation Delivery Officer (BRDO), part of

the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. There are currently over 600 businesses and 98 local authorities who are already working in agreements within this scheme. The BRDO will approve nominations and provide local authorities and partner businesses with guidance and standard agreements, and documentation to form the partnerships. The BRDO also hosts the Primary Authority IT system which enables the sharing of information between the enforcing local authority with others in the country.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To give approval for Bassetlaw District Council to enter into Primary Authority Agreements and to recover the costs of officer time from the partner business at a rate of £70 per hour, subject to annual review.

Option Two – To not approve that the Council enters into such arrangements.

Primary Authority Agreements are growing in application and popularity with businesses. They are seen to be the way forward for effective regulation of multi-site national companies. Many agreements have already been formed but it is envisaged that there are many, many more that will come. Businesses based in Bassetlaw will be looking for such partnership arrangements. If we do not agree to provide them then businesses that we have spent years working with and supporting will be forced to go to other local authorities and the benefits of that past working will be lost, as well as the chance to recover the costs of some of the service we provide. It is also possible within the legislation that the BRDO could actually direct us to undertake such agreements.

RESOLVED that:

1. Approval be given for Bassetlaw District Council to enter into Primary Authority Agreements with businesses based upon the criteria as set out in the report.
2. Principal Environmental Health Managers be delegated to agree appropriate arrangements for cost recovery with prospective partner businesses.

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

(a) Developing the Council's Anti-Poverty Agenda

Members were updated on the key aspects of the delivery of the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy work.

Completion of the move by the Bassetlaw Citizens' Advice Bureau to The Wing at Queen's Buildings complements the current use by the Two Shires Credit Union and provides a solid base for multi-agency work around the Anti-Poverty agenda. The Council has also supported the Bassetlaw Food Bank project in terms of premises and Member representation on the steering committee.

Discussions have taken place around proposals to amalgamate the officer working group with the Financial Inclusion Forum to reduce duplication and promote better inter-agency co-ordination. This supports the principle of "one stop shop" advice around Queen's Buildings. The Poverty Champion (i.e. the Cabinet Member for Revenues, Customer and Support Services) would also be a member of the revised group.

The Leader reported that he had learnt about some interesting initiatives regarding fuel poverty at a recent meeting with the Leaders of Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Councils, which he would like to be explored in respect of Bassetlaw.

The Cabinet Member for Community Prosperity also expressed interest in exploring the restriction of use classes for town centre premises to discourage the number of pawnbroking and/or pay day loan companies, although it was felt that if these are marginalised too much, it would only encourage people to use unlicensed loan sharks. The use of credit unions should be encouraged.

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.

RESOLVED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to officers, particularly the Senior Manager Support Services, and the Cabinet Member for Revenues, Customer and Support Services for their work to date on the Anti-Poverty agenda.
2. The delivery of outcomes against the Anti-Poverty Action Plan be noted.
3. The proposal to merge the Anti-Poverty work with the Bassetlaw Financial Inclusion Forum be agreed.

(b) Dementia Friendly Communities

Members were advised that the Council has signed a pledge to make Bassetlaw a Dementia Friendly Community. Members were also updated on the action that the Council will need to take in support of this pledge. A copy of the National Dementia Declaration Action Plan was appended to the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One - The Council could decide not to improve the way we provide services to dementia sufferers.

Option Two – The Council could fully support the NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group and plan an active role in making Bassetlaw more dementia friendly.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council supports the ambition that Bassetlaw becomes a dementia friendly community through training key staff that provide face-to-face services to our residents.
2. Any training for key staff on dementia issues be offered to Elected Members.
3. Bassetlaw District Council completes the National Dementia Declaration Action Plan.

163. REPORTING MINUTES

None.

164. 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

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

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

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

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

Members' approval was sought for officers to progress the procurement of a private sector partner to enable the delivering of redevelopment works for the non-traditional housing stock in Harworth to be taken further forward.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

None at this stage.

RESOLVED that:

1. A procurement exercise be undertaken to select a preferred partner to deliver the redevelopment of all the remaining Airey properties in Harworth utilising the land identified within the report, and the outcome be reported to a future Cabinet.
2. Any additional private dwellings provided through this scheme to include 15% social rented or equivalent.

Other Decisions

None.

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

(a) May 2013 Cabinet Meeting

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 7th May 2013 be cancelled.

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