

## **CABINET**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Retford Town Hall**

Present: Councillors S A Greaves and G J Wynne (Chairs),  
Councillors J Evans, S May and A Rhodes.

Advisory Members: Councillor C Palmer.

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

Officers: G Blenkinsop, S Brown, A Burton, J Hamilton, M Ladyman, E Prime,  
R Schofield, N Taylor and R Theakstone.

Also present: Councillors I J Campbell and J C Shephard – Select Panel Chairs.  
Councillors F Hart, G Jones, J Sanger and K Sutton.

(The Vice-Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure, after explaining that the Chairman was hosting a meeting of the Sheffield City Region at Welbeck Estate.)

#### **35. 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.

#### **36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H M Brand, H Burton, J A Leigh and D R Pressley.

#### **37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

##### **(a) Members**

Councillor C Wanless declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 16(a) – Discretionary Grant Scheme for the Voluntary and Community Sector, as he is a Trustee of Focus On Young People In Bassetlaw; he remained in the meeting.

##### **(b) Officers**

The Interim Chief Executive, N Taylor, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 17(a) – Council Tax, Raising the Levy on Second Homes, Vacant Homes, Uninhabitable and Long Term Empty Dwellings, as he has a second home in Bassetlaw; he remained in the meeting.

#### **38. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2012**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 be approved.

#### **39. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

#### 40. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

A Liaison Member enquired as to the progress of the Community Centres Review (Key Decision No. 283) and was informed that there were currently issues regarding the fees and charges but a report is to be presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

#### **SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC**

##### **Key Decisions**

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

##### (a) Community Right to Challenge (Key Decision No. 342)

Members were updated on the Community Right to Challenge provisions of the Localism Act and approval was sought for an approach to effectively respond to these new provisions. 'Relevant authorities' must consider expressions of interest from 'relevant bodies' to run a service or part of a service. If they accept an expression of interest they must carry out a procurement exercise for the service or parts of service to which the expression of interest relates.

The report outlined 'relevant authorities' and 'relevant bodies', excluded services, expressions of interest, grounds for refusal, compliance with legislation, and the Authority's proposed process. A leaflet explaining the Community Right to Challenge, a guide for suppliers and contractors entitled 'Doing Business with the Council', and an Expression of Interest form were appended to the report.

##### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has a statutory duty to respond to the Community Right to Challenge.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The processes as set out at paragraph 3.5 of the report be approved so that the Council can meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Community Right to Challenge.
2. This approach be referred to full Council in September 2012 for approval and adoption.

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

##### (a) Bassetlaw CCTV Monitoring Contract (Key Decision No. 348)

Members' approval was sought to undertake a tender exercise for the monitoring of the Closed Circuit Television surveillance system in Bassetlaw.

##### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

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

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Approval be given for a procurement exercise to be undertaken for the provision of monitoring services for the CCTV Control Room for a period of two years with the option to extend by two periods of a year, subject to budget availability and satisfactory performance.
2. The outcome of the exercise be reported back to a future meeting of Cabinet.

(b) Bridge Street Public Realm Works (Key Decision No. 351)

Members were updated on progress of the delivery of the public realm works on Bridge Street, Worksop, and approval was sought for the final scheme. The proposed improvements to Bridge Street will provide an improved environment along Bridge Street which will complement the works done on the Old Market Square and have been designed within an allocated budget. The proposed works were outlined at paragraph 3.4 of the report, and these were discussed.

The Chair informed Members that a meeting had been held with market traders who are supportive of the proposals, and the shop owners are considering establishing a Business Forum for Worksop.

Liaison Members enquired as to the composition of the Member Working Group and whether Members could view the proposals before they are made public.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet gave approval for the design work for this scheme to be undertaken in November 2011. Now that costings are available for the works, it has the option to either agree to the scheme progressing or not. However, as the scheme is within the allocated budget and has been identified as a priority scheme, it is recommended that approval is given to the scheme progressing without delay.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The commencement of the Bridge Street scheme, as detailed, be approved.
2. The re-profiling of the Capital budget of £0.71m to 2012/13 from future years for the delivery of the Capital scheme be approved.
3. A project team be established to work with the emergency services to identify problematic access points along Bridge Street and to bring forward solutions in conjunction with land owners.
4. Viewing of the proposals by Worksop town centre Ward Members be arranged by R Blagg, Town Centre Manager.
5. Councillor C Wanless be advised of the composition of the Member Working Group.

(c) Charging for Pre-Application Planning Advice and Revision of Fees for Planning Permission Enquiries (Key Decision No. 352)

Members' approval was sought for the introduction of pre-application planning advice fees. The proposed fees and what they would secure were outlined at paragraph 6.1 of the report. A draft service level agreement setting out what users of the services could reasonably expect for the fee was appended to the report. The Planning Services Manager reported that the fees are comparable to other Districts.

### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To proceed with the adoption of pre-application advice fees. There are no significant risks associated with this course of action, although it will take a little time for the services to be running completely smoothly.

Option Two – Not to proceed with the introduction of pre-application advice fees. There are no risks associated with this course of action, but neither the Council nor service users would secure any of the potential benefits outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED** that the introduction of pre-application planning advice fees, as outlined in the report, be approved and implemented by officers.

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

#### (a) Food Safety Service Plan 2012/13 (Key Decision No. 345)

Members' approval was sought for the Food Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 which had been appended to the report for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members and deposited in the Members' Room.

### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Production and approval of a Food Safety Service Plan is a requirement of Chapter 1, paragraph 10 and Chapter 2, paragraph 3.1 of the Food Standard Agency 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement'. There is therefore no other realistic option than to produce a Service Plan. Failure to produce a Service Plan could lead to the Food Standards Agency taking formal action to ensure such a plan is produced.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Food Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 be endorsed.
2. The Food Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 be referred to Council for approval and implementation.

#### (b) Health and Safety Service Plan 2012/13 (Key Decision No. 346)

Members' approval was sought for the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 which had been appended to the report for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members and deposited in the Members' Room.

### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Production and approval of a Health and Safety Service Plan is a legal requirement under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. There is therefore no other realistic option than to produce a Service Plan. Failure to produce a Service Plan could lead to formal action to ensure such a plan is produced.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 be endorsed.
2. The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 be referred to Council for approval and implementation.

(c) Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy (Key Decision No. 347)

Members' approval was sought for the development of an Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy in relation to dog fouling, littering, fly tipping and graffiti, and the undertaking of a consultation exercise on the draft policy, which had been appended to the report for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members, and deposited in the Members' Room.

In order to effectively co-ordinate this approach to environmental enforcement, it is proposed to make changes within the existing structure. The Authority will be initiating a comprehensive publicity and educational programme on environmental crime, focussing, in the short-term, on littering and dog fouling. To further supplement and support this initiative, a report will be presented to a future Cabinet detailing the Authority's approach to Dog Control Orders.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To not agree to undertake consultation on the proposed approach in which case a clear framework for enforcement will not exist.

Option Two – To agree to undertake consultation on the proposed approach which will ensure that a more focussed approach to environmental crime will be achieved.

**RESOLVED** that a consultation exercise be undertaken concerning the proposed Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy and the findings of this exercise be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

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

(a) Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (Key Decision No. 326)

Members were updated on: the spending position for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for the Council's General Fund, Housing Revenue and Capital Programme, and any significant variances from the approved budgets; the proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of Council capital resources available, including capital receipts; regeneration projects and sites that are not monitored through the Council's Capital Programme; Treasury Management budget issues; and the regular quarterly performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Members' approval was sought for new additions, variations and re-profiling to the existing Capital Programme.

A Liaison Member queried the income from Fees and Charges, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report, and an explanation was given by the Interim Chief Executive.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The budget monitoring section of this report provides managers' forecasts and is for information only. There are always some risks that the actual outturn variance could be substantially different from that currently shown (mainly due to the volatility of income), but the report sets out officers' projections and, as such, the financial risk that may occur by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

The Council has responsibility for delivering its Capital Programme on time and not doing so could undermine the achievement of its objectives. The Property and Regeneration Group will continue to monitor future programmes on a monthly basis.

There may be changes to the way the Capital Programme is financed as officers review the most appropriate methodology as part of the closedown process for 2012/13.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. A further explanation of the income from Fees and Charges, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report, be given to all Members.
2. The position with regard to Revenue and Capital budget monitoring be noted.
3. The 'new approvals' to the 2012/13 Capital Programme, totalling £0.61m, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
4. The 'other variations' to the 2012/13 Capital Programme, totalling £0.192m, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
5. The 're-profiling' to the 2012/13 Capital Programme, totalling £0.049m, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
6. The proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of capital receipts currently available to fund any further capital expenditure be noted.
7. The update on the Langold Lake key regeneration project be noted.
8. The quarterly update on performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be noted.
9. The weekly investment balances made throughout the first quarter of the financial year, in conjunction with the Security, Liquidity and Yield benchmarking date for the Council, be noted.

(b) Concurrent Grants (Key Decision No. 323)

Members' approval was sought for the existing concurrent grant regime to be revised from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. A schedule showing the grants to be paid to parish/town councils by the Council in 2012/13 was appended to the report.

This way forward is in response to a reduction in the Authority's revenue support grant by 27% in the last two years, some £3m, and the retention of the Authority's council tax increases at 0% since 2009. Further financial changes are expected in 2013/14 and will impact on preparations for the 2013/14 budget. It was noted that any parish/town council may set a precept.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

This is a complex issue which parished areas are obviously keen to lobby on with their arguments about double taxation. If Members decide that Bassetlaw should remain as the last District to continue paying the concurrent grant, it is at their discretion. But, as resources diminish and further financial uncertainties become more defined in the run up to the 2013/14 budget, Members are likely to have to reassess all their commitments for both voluntary and the level of statutory services.

It is important to note that the original basis for the allocation of funds to the 57 parishes is not known as it dates back over a number of decades. In summary: 16 parishes receive grants between £1,000 and £7,000; 32 parishes receive grants between £1 and £999; and 9 parishes do not receive any grant from the Council. On equality grounds, even if Members do not agree to withdraw the grant, the basis of allocation should be reviewed after such a long time.

Members can either decide to:

- (i) Continue the concurrent grant arrangements but review the basis for the allocation.
- (ii) Cease making the general grant in either whole or part.
- (iii) Cease making the overall grant for both the general support and the service specific supported services.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The overall level of concurrent grants be reduced by at least the level of Bassetlaw's own budget reductions from 2013/14 onwards.
2. That, moving towards 2014/15, parish councils be advised that it may not be possible to continue to pay the concurrent grant due to further budget reductions imposed by Central Government and to consider making alternative provisions for this eventuality.

**45. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HOUSING – COUNCILLOR A RHODES**

(a) Re-endorsement of Introductory Tenancies (Key Decision No. 349)

Members' approval was sought to re-endorse the use of powers under Section 125 of the Housing Act 1996 regarding the continuation of granting Introductory Tenancies for all new Council tenants.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Endorsing the continuation of granting Introductory Tenancies will offer the Council a tool to more closely manage new tenants and to take swift action where there may be breaches of the tenancy agreement. The use of Introductory Tenancies will also assist the Council in dealing with anti-social behaviour.

The risk of not endorsing the continuation of granting Introductory Tenancies could result in the Council being challenged in court.

**RESOLVED** that the policy of the Council continuing to grant Introductory Tenancies to new tenants be endorsed.

(b) Right To Buy – Use of Discretionary Powers on Repayment of Discount (Key Decision No. 350)

Members' approval was sought to introduce a new policy and procedure for dealing with requests from former tenants to waive the repayment of their Right To Buy discount. A draft procedure was appended to the report.

A Liaison Member queried the discount repayable in Years 3 and 5.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To adopt the policy and procedure as contained in this report. This will result in any requests being dealt with in a fair and transparent way.

Option Two – To not adopt the policy and procedure. This will contravene guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The policy and procedure appended to the report be approved and adopted for dealing with requests to use discretionary powers on repayment of Right To Buy discount.
2. A further explanation regarding the discount repayable in Years 3 and 4 be made available to all Members.

**Other Decisions**

**46. SELECT PANEL REPORTS**

(a) Select Panel 2: Pride in Bassetlaw

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor I J Campbell, presented the Panel's report on 'Pride in Bassetlaw'. He outlined key points within the Scrutiny Panel Report which had led to the sixteen recommendations. The Scrutiny Panel Report had been appended for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members, and deposited in the Members' Room.

(Councillor S A Greaves joined the meeting during consideration of this item.)

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Thanks be recorded to Panel Members and witnesses for their contributions, and Scrutiny Officers for their assistance.
2. Cabinet considers the recommendations within the Select Panel 2 report 'Pride in Bassetlaw' and submits its response to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

(Councillor S A Greaves took the Chair.)

(b) Select Panel 3: Attracting New Business to Rural Areas

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor J C Shephard, presented the Panel's report on 'Attracting New Business to Rural Areas'. He outlined key points within the Scrutiny Panel Report which had led to the thirteen recommendations. The Scrutiny Panel Report had been appended for Cabinet, Advisory and Liaison Members, and deposited in the Members' Room.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Thanks be recorded to Panel Members and witnesses for their contributions, and Scrutiny Officers for their assistance.
2. Cabinet considers the recommendations within the Select Panel 3 report 'Attracting New Business to Rural Areas' and submits its response to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

47. REFERRAL(S)

(a) Information Technology and Access Sub-Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – Minute No. 8(a) – Paperless Meetings Update

The proposal for the use of Ipads by Members was discussed, together with issues of concern which had been raised by Members involved in the pilot project.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The implementation of Paperless Meetings be supported by an optional roll-out programme of Ipads to Elected Members upon request.
2. The withdrawal of the Members' Internet Allowance be considered if using an Ipad.
3. A Capital budget to a maximum of £14,600 be approved.
4. The Ipad Usage Policy be adopted and reviewed periodically by the IT and Access Sub-Committee.

48. REPORTS OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – COUNCILLOR S A GREAVES

(a) Forward Plan – September to December 2012

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan for September to December 2012 be approved.

(b) Developing the Council's Rural Agenda

Members' approval was sought for progressing the priorities for rural communities, as identified within the Corporate Plan. Councillor H M Brand has been appointed Bassetlaw's Rural Ambassador and has started to develop a Rural Reference Group - an informal network of links across the District's rural communities. The report included further proposals, such as a Rural Conference and a review of the Parish Charter.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Cabinet can accept, amend or reject the proposals contained within this report. Given the priority placed upon this work by the Corporate Plan 2012-2013, Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposals.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The role of the Rural Ambassador and the Rural Reference Group be noted.
2. The review of future working relationships with town and parish councils be progressed and recommendations be presented to Cabinet for consideration.
3. A Rural Conference be developed and progress be reported back to Cabinet.
4. A Rural Action Plan be developed to progress the key priorities arising from the conference and the developing dialogue with parish councils and rural communities.

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

(a) Neighbourhood Plans – Designation of Neighbourhood Areas

Members' approval was sought for two Neighbourhood Areas for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan as defined in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Proposed boundaries for Sturton Ward and Elkesley Parish were appended to the report.

Proposals must be consulted upon extensively, undergo independent examination and then be put to a local referendum before they can be adopted as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District. At present, the Planning Policy team is actively supporting three groups (Sturton Ward Planning Forum, Elkesley Parish Council and Hayton Parish Council) that are progressing Neighbourhood Plans and has been advising a number of others about their options.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To approve (retrospectively in the case of the Sturton Ward parishes) the Neighbourhood Area designations for Sturton Ward and Elkesley Parish. There are no obvious risks associated with this approval, as the areas follow natural administrative boundaries. This will enable the parish councils concerned to progress, or continue with, their plans accordingly.

Option Two – To not approve the designations. This will carry the risk that the nascent plans of the communities in question will be unable to progress to Examination.

**RESOLVED** that the Neighbourhood Area designations for Sturton Ward and Elkesley Parish be approved, retrospectively in the case of the Sturton Ward parishes.

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

(a) Discretionary Grant Scheme for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Members' approval was sought for a new model of administering the major grants programme that currently benefits community and voluntary sector organisations in Bassetlaw.

Members' approval was also sought to reassess all existing major grants to Bassetlaw community and voluntary sector organisations, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, in accordance with the new criteria, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Grants Review Group will receive grant applications and assess the levels of grant that it allocates to Bassetlaw's voluntary and community sector organisations for 2013/14 and for future financial years. The benefits of the 2013/14 funding must be established and the re-assessment of grants awarded could result in grants being removed, reduced or increased.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One - The Council could choose not to review its major grants programmes and continue to manage this in the same way as it does currently.

Option Two – The Council could revise the scheme and develop a more equitable and transparent approach.

Option Three – The Council could keep the levels of funding for the major grant programme as it is currently.

Option Four – The Council could consider reducing its major grants budget.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The establishment of a cross-party Member/officer Grants Review Group be approved, to be in place by November 2012.
2. The guidelines for the proposed new scheme be approved, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
3. It be noted that there are no targets to make savings on the £125,400 for the major grants budget in 2013/14.
4. Focus On Young People In Bassetlaw be allowed to apply for funding to the Grants Review Group for 2013/14 as a current recipient of a major grant.
5. Engagement with the affected organisations to commence in September 2012.

(Councillor C Wanless had declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item but remained in the meeting.)

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

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

(a) Council Tax – Raising the Levy on Second Homes, Vacant Homes, Uninhabitable and Long Term Empty Dwellings

Members were informed of recent developments in legislation which gives Billing Authorities further powers to raise the incidence of Council Tax liability on second homes, as well as dwellings empty for 0-6 months and over 6 months, and uninhabitable dwellings currently

exempt; and Members' approval was sought to undertake consultation on proposals, which were outlined within the report, to change existing Council policy.

Officers are currently holding discussions with Major Precepting Authorities who would benefit from the reduction and removal of Council Tax discounts.

#### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To support the proposals outlined in paragraph 2.7 of the report. Whilst the regulations are being made and fully clarified by the Government, officers consult with the Private Sector Empty Homes team on options for optimum use of the empty homes premium and further work be done on the Class C option.

Option Two – To not progress any change in empty property taxation.

Option Three – To reduce the existing impact of empty property taxation.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The proposals outlined in paragraph 2.7 of the report be supported.
2. Consultation to commence and a further report be brought back to the November 2012 Cabinet Meeting for a final decision.

(The Interim Chief Executive, N Taylor, had declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above item but remained in the meeting.)

#### 52. REPORTING MINUTES

(a) Friends of Kings' Park Sub-Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Kings' Park Sub-Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010 be received.

(b) Council's Health and Safety Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council's Health and Safety Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be received.

(c) Parish Councils Liaison Group – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Councils Liaison Group held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be received.

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

Agenda Item No. 19(a) – Provision of Conservation Advice to Ashfield District Council - Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 19(b) – Tourist Information Centres Service Review – Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 20(a) – Environmental Enforcement – Paragraph 2

(Councillors I J Campbell, F Hart, G Jones, J Sanger, J C Shephard and K Sutton remained in the meeting with the Chairman's permission.)

## **SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE**

### **Key Decisions**

None.

### **Other Decisions**

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

##### **(a) Provision of Conservation Advice to Ashfield District Council**

Members' approval was sought for the provision of conservation advice to Ashfield District Council and the new fee and budget.

Bassetlaw's Conservation Team has developed an excellent reputation over the last four years and the Team's work has been recognised nationally. The Team has provided an officer for one day a week to Ashfield District Council since April and, should the arrangement continue until the end of the financial year, the Council will achieve an income of approx. £6,600.

#### **Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations**

Option One – To continue to provide conservation advice to Ashfield District Council. It is possible that, if applications increase again, the Council's own conservation service may be adversely affected, in which case a review of the arrangements would be required.

Option Two – Not to continue to provide conservation advice to Ashfield District Council.

### **RESOLVED that:**

1. The ongoing provision of conservation advice to Ashfield District Council be continued until such a time as the arrangement is terminated by either party.
2. The new fee and budget of approx. £6,600 be approved.

##### **(b) Tourist Information Centres Service Review**

This item had been withdrawn from the Agenda prior to the meeting.

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

##### **(a) Environmental Enforcement**

Members' approval was sought to commence consultation regarding the proposed changes to the existing Environmental Health structure in regards to enforcement activities, i.e. delete the current Cleaner Safer Greener Lead post and create an Environmental Enforcement Officer post, for which the job descriptions were appended to the report.

### Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option One – To reject the proposals and revert to the original status quo. This will not allow for an improvement in co-ordination of enforcement and will mean a continuation of lack of leadership in a high profile service area.

Option Two – To accept the report in its entirety and commence consultation under the Council's Enabling Process.

#### **RESOLVED** that:

1. The proposals be supported and consultation be commenced with staff and trade unions.
2. A further report be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

#### 56. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

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