

## **CABINET**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Worksop Town Hall**

Present: Councillor G A N Oxby (Chair),  
Councillors J Evans, S A Greaves, S May, A Rhodes and D R Pressley.

Liaison Members: Councillors M W Quigley, S Toms and C Wanless.

Officers: D Armiger, A Burton, J Hamilton, M Hill, D Hunter, N Taylor and  
R Theakstone.

Standards Members: Mr B Letherland.

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

#### **97. QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC**

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

*Can any Member or officer give an update on the progress by Nottinghamshire County Council and/or Bassetlaw District Council to find a site and build a covered bus station which is central to Worksop town centre?*

The Cabinet Member for Community Prosperity replied that meetings are scheduled with the County Council and it is a priority for the District Council. He cited other towns such as Mansfield, Newark and Retford, which have such a facility.

The Head of Community Prosperity added that the Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan refers to a new bus station for Worksop and so assumes that funding will be made available. The problem is finding a suitable site but options are being discussed. The project will cost £5m and further reports will be presented to Cabinet as and when appropriate.

The member of public asked if progress could be reported in the Bassetlaw News for the benefit of the residents of Worksop.

#### **98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Burton and J A Leigh.

#### **99. 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.

100. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 be approved.

101. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

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

102. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

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

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

**Key Decisions**

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

(a) Fees and Charges 2012/13 (Key Decision No 296)

Members' approval was sought to determine the level of fees and charges for 2012/13 in accordance with the Corporate Charging Policy. The proposed fees and charges were appended to the report.

It was noted that the charges for Worksop Town Hall are subject to VAT and those for Retford Town Hall are not. Other fees and charges include VAT. The majority of fees and charges for leisure activities are set by BPL under the terms of the contract between BPL and the District Council.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

One option is to accept the recommendations and adopt the fees and charges set out in accordance with the adopted Corporate Charging Policy and its underlying principles.

The other option is to not adopt the fees and charges.

All councils are under increasing financial pressure to support the service they currently provide and Members should take this annual opportunity to start strengthening their resource base. The consequence of not doing so will mean cuts and reductions in services, as any specific subsidy is ultimately paid for by general council taxes, and there is a consequence for any decision whether it be to subsidise, break-even or achieve any sort of surplus. In the past, the Council's budget has been robust in terms of the level of Formula Grant but, as this decreases, all aspects of the Council's budget needs to be considered in the light of fewer resources, which creates different service/income tensions.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Officers engage with service users and taxpayers on a regular basis to inform the fees and charges process for the following year.
2. The level of concessions to be applied to the Standard Charge for those services where concessions will apply be approved as follows, subject to rounding and consistency adjustments:  
Leisure activities with a Leisure Membership Pass (bowls, putting, tennis, fishing) – 20%  
Non-leisure activities (community centres, pest control, allotments) – 50%

3. The level of discount to be applied to both the Standard Charge and the Concessionary Charge at 10% for those services where discounts will apply be approved as follows, subject to rounding and consistency adjustments:  
Town Halls for regular bookings
4. The individual fees and charges as set out in the appendices referring to Licensing be approved, subject to approval by the Licensing Committee which has the constitutional responsibility for setting licensing fees.

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

(a) Calculation of Council Taxbase 2012/13 (Key Decision No 297)

Members' approval was sought to set the Council's taxbase for the next Council Tax year starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. Detailed figures regarding the number of dwellings shown on the Valuation List for the Authority as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and the precepts for the Charter Trustees and the parishes were shown in the appendices to the report which were tabled.

It was noted that the figures show a growth of 210 dwellings at Band D compared to last year.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has a statutory obligation to set a tax base and to notify precepting authorities. Not to set a tax base would mean that the statutory requirement is not met and there would be no basis to set a Council Tax for 2012/13.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. A Council Tax collection rate of 98.5% be approved for the purposes of the tax base calculation for 2012/13.
2. The tax base of 36,427.23 dwellings at Band D, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
3. The individual tax bases for parish councils, parish meetings and Charter Trustees, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

**Other Decisions**

**105. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – COUNCILLOR G A N OXBY**

(a) Forward Plan – December 2011 to March 2012

Members were presented with the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the coming four months.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The report is for noting.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan for the period December 2011 to March 2012 be approved.

(b) Council's Progress on Equality and Diversity Issues

Members were provided with an update on equality and diversity matters and approval was sought for the publication of the Council's Annual Equalities Report which had been deposited in the Members' Room.

The report outlined action to date on: Public Sector Equality Duty; setting Equality Objectives; Equality Impact Assessments; Black History Month; and LGBT History Month.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has already endorsed the current approach towards equalities work in the Council. The Council is required to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty requirements.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The update on equality and diversity issues be noted.
2. The draft report on the Council's Compliance with the Equality Duties be approved for publication.
3. Officers be instructed to commence work on the development of equality objectives in order to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and report to the February 2012 Cabinet on progress.
4. Thanks be recorded to the Senior Manager Support Services and his team for the work to date on these issues.

(c) Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership

Members were provided with an update report on the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership. A copy of the Partnership structure and a full list of the Partnership's priorities were appended to the report. Detailed reports of the Partnership's activities can be requested from the Community Engagement and Performance Service.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has a statutory duty to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Council does not need to be part of or facilitate a Local Strategic Partnership.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. It be noted that the Council's new administration is actively supporting the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership and that the Leader of the Council has taken on the role of Chair of the Partnership Board and Executive.
2. The summary progress report be noted and further reports be presented to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
3. Thanks be recorded to the Corporate Development and Policy Manager for her work in supporting the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership.

(d) 1, 2, 3 Alcohol

Members' approval was sought to accept £13,000 from NHS Bassetlaw to provide a commissioned service tackling the impact of alcohol on young people and related anti-social behaviour and health related matters including teenage pregnancy.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The options are that if the funding is not accepted the project will not be delivered. This is hopefully the first step for the Community Safety Team to generate income from external sources through a commissioning model.

The risks are that by running the pilot scheme until the end of March 2012 and extending the temporary post for three months, the Council will incur minimal redundancy costs in terms of that post.

Income generation is important to the Council and in this case the project being funded has the potential to have substantial community impact, tackling alcohol related anti-social behaviour amongst a small percentage of our young people. It will also seek to address other risky behaviours that they participate in.

**RESOLVED** that the funding from NHS Bassetlaw be accepted in return for the provision of this service and the appropriate revenue budgets be set up.

#### 106. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HOUSING – COUNCILLOR A RHODES

##### (a) Housing Options Update

Members were updated on the progress of the Housing Options Working Group and approval was sought for the commencement of a review of a shared services approach in respect of areas detailed in the report.

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

Option One - Members can allow the present situation to continue with this Council and A1 Housing maintaining the current management arrangements for the service areas detailed in the report. However, no efficiencies and improved working arrangements will be realised.

Option Two - Members can agree to the commencement of a review of the current services detailed within the report. A report will be presented to a future meeting on possible shared services arrangements with A1 Housing and Bassetlaw District Council.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. A review of the services detailed in the report be commenced.
2. A report be presented to a future Cabinet on proposals for possible shared services with A1 Housing and Bassetlaw District Council.

#### 107. 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 11(a) – Swimming Development Review - Paragraph 2

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

##### **Key Decisions**

None.

##### **Other Decisions**

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

(a) Swimming Development Review

Members were updated on the outcome of the formal consultation process approved on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 relating to the proposed closure of the Swimming Development programme. The intended termination date will be 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

Members' approval was sought for the proposed new arrangements. The trade union's formal response on the proposals was tabled at the meeting.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

It was recommended that Members agree to the cessation of the swimming development service, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, and declare staff formally at risk of redundancy.

**RESOLVED** that the cessation of the swimming development service and the removal of the Bassetlaw Swim Squad from the Council's budget from 2012/13 be approved and the posts be deleted from the Council's employee structure.

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

As there was no other business to be considered, the Chairman closed the meeting, thanking officers and colleagues for their work, and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.