

CABINET**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2015****I N D E X**

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CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor J Austen

" N Barker

" M Gordon

Councillor P R Kerry

" Mrs L Robinson

232 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs E A Hill and Miss T Williams.

233 Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor N Barker declared a non significant other interest in item 6 on the agenda, NED Citizens Advice Bureau, arising from his non paid work as a volunteer at Citizens Advice.

234 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

235 Minutes of the Member Development Working Group

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Member Development Working Group held on 18 June 2015 be noted.

236 Appointment of Anti-Poverty Champion for Derbyshire

Cabinet considered a report of the Governance Manager which sought to appoint a member of the Cabinet as an Anti-Poverty Champion for North East Derbyshire District Council.

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum had sought appointments of Anti-Poverty Champions from each of the Councils in the County as part of its Anti-Poverty Strategy. Anti-Poverty Champions would support the Partnership's aim of reducing poverty in Derbyshire and have a key role in highlighting key issues, co-ordinating activity and promoting a corporate approach to champion poverty issues with key partners.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mrs E A Hill be nominated as Anti-Poverty Champion, supported by the Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator.

Reason for Decision

A nomination was requested from the Derbyshire Partnership Forum.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Governance Manager)

237 Funding to Voluntary Community Organisations – Presentation of Outcomes for 2014/15

Cabinet considered a presentation from Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire as part of a suite of presentations from voluntary sector organisations funded by the Council in 2014/15. Corrine Jesson, Deputy Manager of Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, attended the meeting to give the presentation.

Cabinet was advised that Citizens Advice had recently changed its name from the Citizens Advice Bureau, part of a national rebranding exercise for the business. Locally, Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire dealt with 11,133 queries in 2014/15, particularly centred on the southern part of the District due to demand. Details of the enquiries were then broken down by type, gender, age, employment, household type, housing tenure and income profile.

Details of various projects that Citizens Advice had been involved in were provided to Cabinet including the GP Project, Children's Centres Project, CABinstant and Community Advice which would include the installation of new I-Pad touch screen devices in the Council House.

Details of the Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire website and Derbyshire Consumer Hub were provided to Cabinet.

Following the presentation Members asked questions and raised issues.

RESOLVED – That the presentation from Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire be noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council maximises efficiencies and outcomes through commissioning voluntary sector organisations to help the Council achieve its corporate priorities.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

238 Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1: April to June 2015

Cabinet considered Report No PRK/10/15-16/BM of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Economy, Finance and Regeneration, which updated Cabinet on the financial position of the Council following the first quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management activity.

Officers had continued the integrated approach to budget monitoring in the first quarter of 2015/16 with Performance, Risk and Finance being considered at directorate management meetings during July 2015.

In respect of the General Fund, the original savings target for the financial year 2015/16 was £0.500m. The current budget now shows that the savings target had been reduced to one of £0.268m arising from under-spends of £0.175m with an additional under-spend of £0.020m due to increased income on investment properties and a further £0.015m on interest charges. Officers were of the view that the Council should be in a position to balance the budget by the end of the year.

In respect of the Housing Revenue Account, there was no significant income or expenditure variances to report. Dwelling rents were performing better than expected and the Housing Revenue Account had also benefitted from favourable interest charges. It was anticipated that the interest saving of £0.050m identified in the first quarter could be projected forward for the year resulting in a saving to the Housing Revenue Account of £0.200m.

In respect of the Capital Programme, the approved Capital Programme for 2015/16 stood at £24.809m. The Capital Programme profiled budget for quarter one was £6.572m and actual spend and known commitments totalled £5.420m, which was £1.152m below budget. The main area of under-spend related to Decent Homes, however, discussions with officers at Rykneld Homes confirmed they were comfortable with the progress to-date and were confident that they were in a position to ensure full delivery of the planned work for the year.

Following presentation of the report, there was a debate around the legality of the Government's plans to force housing bodies to sell their housing stock. It was agreed to write to the Local Government Association, putting forward representations on this matter.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the monitoring position of the General Fund at the end of the first quarter as detailed in Appendix 1 and requests officers to continue with work designed to deliver the targeted level of savings in respect of 2015/16.
- (2) Notes the favourable position with regard to interest charges on the General Fund and approves that the interest budgets are amended accordingly.
- (3) Notes the satisfactory position on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Capital Programme and Treasury Management at the end of the first quarter.

- (4) Notes the favourable position with regard to interest charges on the Housing Revenue Account and approves that the interest budgets are amended accordingly.
- (5) Requests officers to write to the Local Government Association making representations querying the legality of Government plans to force housing bodies to sell their housing stock.

Reason for Decision

To advise Members of the first quarter budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management activity.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Operations)

239 A Healthy North East Derbyshire

Cabinet considered Report No LR/04/15-16/DR of Councillor Mrs L Robinson, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Community Safety and Health, which sought approval of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for North East Derbyshire 2015-2019 and updated Cabinet on the latest developments regarding the Health North East Derbyshire Approach.

Cabinet were advised that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019 had been developed in accordance with the Council's Corporate Plan and the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing priorities. A copy of the Strategy was attached as an appendix to the report. Its core elements included:-

- Direct links to the Corporate Plan and priorities and plans of the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Recognising NEDDC's recent contribution to the wider health of the area in the past three years;
- Analysis of local statistics and indicators;
- Reflection of consultation with the community, partners, groups and other stakeholders;
- Prioritising localities and issues of focus;
- Clarifying NEDDC's offer to address the challenges in the area.

Within the Strategy there was analysis of health data which had identified two clear focus areas:-

- Diamond Communities where there was a prevalence of deprivation which impacted upon health related to education, skills and training, employment, income and health deprivation and disability.
- Silver Communities where there was a predominance of people over 65.

These particular communities had specific challenges around building healthy communities, promoting healthy lifestyles and improving access to preventative health and social care which the Strategy aimed to address.

It was expected that the Healthy Communities (Locality) Action Plan for North East Derbyshire would be produced shortly to align with the Derbyshire County Council local area committee timescales.

Cabinet was further advised that the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership had met twice and that terms of reference and operating arrangements had been agreed with a focus on developing the new Healthy Communities (Locality) Action Plan for North East Derbyshire by September 2015. Representation from North East Derbyshire was provided by Councillor Mrs L Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Health, who had been appointed as Vice Chair of the Group. Councillor Mrs E Blanshard also attended the meeting as a representative of the Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee.

The Healthy NED Engagement Forum had been held at Chesterfield College on 21 July 2015 which consulted with local, public and voluntary and community service providers regarding their current priorities, services and opportunities to contribute locally, subject to improved partnership working or additional resources.

The Community Development Worker funded through the current Locality Plan (£25,000 for two years) commenced on 3 August 2015.

Members considered the report and felt that it would benefit from more regular updates such as on a quarterly rather than annual basis.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Cabinet approves the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for North East Derbyshire 2015-2019.
- (2) Progress against the development of the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership and recruitment of the Community Development Worker be noted.
- (3) Cabinet receives quarterly reports on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the Council is in the best place to both lead on local health improvement activity whilst contributing to the wider partnership agenda.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Alternative options were covered in the paper discussed 15 May 2015.

240 Urgent Business (Public Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the public session at this meeting of Cabinet.

241 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006). [The category of exempt information is stated after each Minute].

242 Vehicle Fleet Replacements

Cabinet considered Report No MG/04/15-16/SB of Councillor M Gordon, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Environment, which sought Cabinet approval to replace five light commercial fleet vehicles operated by Rykneld Homes.

Cabinet was advised that the Council provided light commercial vehicles to Rykneld Homes by way of a service level agreement. 62 replacements had been approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 April 2014, further to which a further five vehicles required replacing. The Council had recently changed its policy from a lease arrangement to outright purchase of the vehicles. This switch in policy reflected the fact that there was greater flexibility and cost effectiveness afforded from ownership rather than leasing.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Replacement of five light commercial vehicles as outlined within the report be undertaken by outright purchase utilising the Nottinghamshire Procurement Partnership (Light Commercial Vehicle) Framework Contract.
- (2) The Council arrange up to £104,500 of prudential capital borrowing to finance the purchase of the vehicles to be repaid over a six year period, this having already been approved by the Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Treasury Management Strategy.

Reasons for Decision

The light commercial vehicles had reached the end of their hire term and Rykneld Homes had requested that the Council provide replacement vehicles through the external provider. The vehicles will be provided over a six year terms with the option to extend to seven years and maintained by the Council's Transport Team. Use of prudential borrowing provided the Council with greater flexibility through the course of the loan. If at some stage in the future it was considered appropriate to take vehicles out of use or if a decision was made to extend their operational life then this could be accomplished in a more cost effective fashion.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

The replacement of vehicles by way of contract hire/leave arrangements is not considered to offer good value to the Council and reduces the scope for flexibility concerning how vehicles are managed throughout the course of their anticipated life. Outright purchase was found to be the most cost effective option.

(Assistant Director – Streetscene)
(Paragraph 3)

243 Regeneration Strategy for the former Coalite Chemicals Site

Cabinet considered Report No MG/05/15-16/AWC of Councillor M Gordon, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Environment, which sought approval to progress the development of a Regeneration Strategy with relevant partners and to seek approval to establish a budget of £100,000, funded equally by Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils, for external advice and support for the development of a Coalite site. The report also sought to promote the site as a potential Enterprise Zone to both Local Enterprise Partnerships and to give consideration to jointly applying for a recoverable loan to kick start development of the site.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) A budget of £100,000 (equally funded by the two Councils) be approved to provide external advice and support for the development of the Coalite site.
- (2) The promotion of the site as an Enterprise Zone to both Sheffield City Region and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships be endorsed.
- (3) Approval be given to a joint application with Bolsover District Council to BIS, through D2N2, for a recoverable loan to kick start the development of the site.
- (4) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director – Operations, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, relevant Portfolio Holders and the Chief Executive Officer, to enter negotiations with Bolsover District Council, Marcol Industrial, HCA, D2N2, SCR and BIS with a view to securing a recoverable loan with Bolsover District Council to stimulate development on the former Coalite site.
- (5) Approval be given to progress the development of a Regeneration Strategy with relevant partners, the underlying premise of which would be Enterprise Zone status and a public sector financial package which improves viability.

Reason for Decision

As set out in section two of the report.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

The site could be left with the existing landowners to clean up and develop, however, as a contaminated site it is likely that the viability for development was

challenging and therefore highly likely to require public sector intervention in order to meet both authorities' expectations and obligations.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)
(Paragraphs 1, 3 & 4)

244 Urgent Business (Private Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the private session at this meeting of Cabinet.
