

CABINET**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2015****I N D E X**

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CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor J Austen

" N Barker

" M Gordon

Councillor P R Kerry

" Mrs L Robinson

471 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs E A Hill.

472 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.

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

473 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

474 Joint Empty Property Strategy

Cabinet considered Report No EAH/09/15-16/AA of Councillor Mrs E A Hill, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion which recommended for approval the proposed Joint Empty Property Strategy for Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils.

The proposed Strategy outlined the Councils' priorities for reducing the number of long term empty properties located in both districts and included a comprehensive suite of initiatives based upon national good practice. It was also anticipated that this work would lead to an increase in New Homes Bonus.

Once approved by both North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council the Strategy would be promoted at a private landlord event.

RESOLVED – That the Empty Property Strategy be approved.

Reason for Decision

To implement measures to reduce the number of long term empty properties resulting in additional housing units, additional New Homes Bonus and greater community sustainability.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

The option of not implementing the Strategy was rejected.

(Joint Empty Properties Officer)

475 North Derbyshire Housing Ambition

Cabinet considered Report No EAH/10/15-16/AWC of Councillor Mrs E A Hill, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion which provided an update on the North Derbyshire Housing Ambition Project.

This District Council was the host authority for the delivery of an 18 month pilot project, North Derbyshire Housing Ambition Project, across four Council areas including this Council, Chesterfield Borough, Bolsover and Derbyshire Dales District Councils. The project was to deliver specialist housing advice to young people aged 16-24.

The agreement had been established with this Council as the lead authority for the funding and delivery of the project services. Derby City Council had been identified as the accountable body for the Department of Communities and Local Government grant for the project.

The report detailed some of the progress that had been achieved so far. It was noted that the project had been achieving results which exceeded expectations and had been received very positively by partner agencies. Two new posts had been created to deliver the project which was recruited to in July 2015.

A number of sessions in local schools had already been delivered, which had received positive feedback, and further sessions had been booked.

The project had been promoted via a new website, with partner agencies, and through a housing needs forum. The project had also been highlighted by the Industrial Communities Alliance as developing best practice and it was proposed that a promotional event be held at the House of Commons.

Members were advised that there was potential for additional funding to be obtained for the project work to be replicated across Derbyshire with a new post based at the County Council. It was anticipated that this may increase the likelihood of obtaining additional funding for the continuation of the project beyond the period of the pilot scheme.

RESOLVED –That Cabinet:-

- (1) Acknowledges the progress and successes of the project achieved to-date.

- (2) Supports the promotion of the North Derbyshire Housing Ambition project at the House of Commons.

Reason for Decision

To provide an overview of the North Derbyshire Housing Ambition project and the progress achieved to-date.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

476 Callywhite Lane Industrial Estate Extension Land Feasibility Study

Cabinet considered Report No PRK/18/15-16/BH of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Economy, Finance and Regeneration which provided an update on opportunities for the expansion of Callywhite Lane Industrial Estate and recommended a budget allocation for the preparation of a feasibility study to support and develop these opportunities.

Callywhite Lane Industrial Estate was recognised as one of the Council's strategic employment sites. The site was at capacity and could benefit from expansion.

Previous feasibility studies identified an option to unlock further land for development via a link road from Chesterfield Road. The cost of this was previously considered to be prohibitive due to the need for a new bridge to be built over the railway line.

The previous studies had become out of date; technology had advanced and other circumstances had changed, such as the electrification of the Midland Mainline for which a new bridge would be necessary.

It was therefore recommended that a new feasibility study be carried out to support the development of a business case for submission for an infrastructure funding application to the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

In order to prepare the feasibility study it was recommended that the Economic Development Team prepare a brief for the site and invite tenders from suitably experienced and qualified economic development consultants.

RESOLVED – That a budget of £20,000 be allocated to the preparation of a feasibility study to support the development of a business case for infrastructure funding to unlock expansion land adjacent to Callywhite Lane Industrial Estate.

Reason for Decision

To support the Council's key aim of unlocking our growth potential.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Due to the level of technical knowledge and experience required to complete the detailed business case, it was not within the capacity of the council officers so the only realistic option was to secure external expertise.

(Senior Regeneration Officer & Urban Designer)

477 A Healthy North East Derbyshire Quarterly Update

Cabinet considered Report No LR/05/15-16/DR of Councillor Mrs L Robinson, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Community Safety and Health which provided an update on the latest developments regarding the Healthy North East Derbyshire Approach and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Cabinet had approved the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy for North East Derbyshire 2015-2019 on 2 September 2015. The Strategy had since been published on the Council's website and had been promoted through partner organisations.

The Healthy Community (Locality) Action Plan for North East Derbyshire had been developed with the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership and would be submitted to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) for approval. The action plan priorities aligned with North East Derbyshire District Council's Corporate Plan Priorities and DCC Public Health Plan.

Key issues had been identified within communities across the District which were identified as areas of multiple indicators of deprivation (diamond communities) and older generations (silver communities) which formed part of the evidence base for the action plan.

The delivery of the Council's priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and in the action plan would be monitored through the performance of departmental service plans. Regular update reports would be made to the Joint Service Managers Forum and the new North East Derbyshire Operational Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group.

Cabinet discussed that new data had recently been published on areas of deprivation and it was agreed that this information would be shared with members once it had been broken down.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet notes the progress in the first quarter of the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for North East Derbyshire 2015-2019, the development of the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership and the funding arrangements.

Reason for Decision

To provide an update on the latest developments regarding the Healthy North East Derbyshire Approach.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

(Partnership Development Officer)

478 Urgent Business (Public Session)

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

479 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 3 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].

480 Update on the Position of Disposal of the Freehold of Land in Respect of Sites at Clay Cross

Cabinet considered Report No JA/01/15-16/BM of Councillor J Austen, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Information Technology, E-Information and Asset Management which advised Cabinet of the offers that had been received in respect of land owned by the Council at various sites in Clay Cross and recommended the actions to be taken.

The recommendations within the report were designed to ensure that the Council complied with its legal obligation to secure the best consideration reasonably achievable for the pieces of land that were under offer. Consideration had been given to whether the amounts offered were in line with independent valuations received by the Council and whether there was any potential for the sites to benefit from a future uplift in value.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That delegated powers be granted to the Executive Director – Operations in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for IT, E-Information and Asset Management to agree the terms of the sale of land at High Street, Clay Cross as shown in Appendix 2 to the report and to dispose of the land in line with the valuation provided by the external valuer.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the position with respect to land at Smithy Avenue and requests officers to continue to explore any options that are available to the Council to maximise the potential value of the Council's freehold interests, or to promote the wider regeneration of the Clay Cross area.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the position with respect to the land at Plot 20, Bridge Street, Clay Cross, and agrees to reject the offer as outlined in the report for Plot 20, Bridge Street, Clay Cross.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council secures the best consideration reasonably achievable.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

As outlined in the report.

(Executive Director – Operations)
(Paragraph 3)

481 Urgent Business (Private Session)

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