



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2010**

Held At 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

J N Clarke - Chairman

Councillors D G Bell, J A Cranswick, R Hetherington and Mrs D J Mason

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor A MacInnes

OFFICERS PRESENT:

C Bullett	Deputy Chief Executive (CB)
A Graham	Chief Executive
S Griffiths	Deputy Chief Executive (SG)
D Mitchell	Head of Partnerships and Performance
N Morton	Head of Financial Services
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services
P Wigginton	Member Services Manager

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J E Fearon.

68. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

69. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman agreed that the item entitled 'Appointment of Cabinet Member Group – Customer Services Project' would be considered as an urgent item in line with section 100B(4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 by reason of the fact that the issue came to light after the agenda had been despatched.

The Chairman and Members also wished the Chief Executive a Happy Birthday for today.

71. Concessionary Fares – Discretionary Elements

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Financial Services indicating that as part of the County Council budget decisions, the joint funding

from the County Council for some of the discretionary elements of the current scheme had been removed. Consequently the other district councils in the County had indicated that in view of the decision of the County Council they did not wish to continue with the discretionary element of the scheme. Furthermore due to the fact that the scheme related to travel across district boundaries within Nottinghamshire there would be logistical problems if Rushcliffe decided to continue with the discretionary elements. These problems were outlined within the report which also set out the concerns of operators administering the scheme in respect of continuance of the discretions for Rushcliffe alone.

In terms of the cost, Councillor Cranswick reported that if Rushcliffe was minded to continue with the discretionary elements, there would be an extra ongoing cost of £43,000 per annum, which would require the use of funding from the contingency budget. In addition to this there would be a one off cost of £70,000 plus the likelihood of other costs emerging from the operators involved as a consequence of the cross boundary logistical issues.

Commenting further Councillor Cranswick stated that if it was decided not to apply the discretionary costs, there would be a saving to the Council of £25,000. In view of this he reminded his Cabinet colleagues of the Council's programme savings targets in the forthcoming years.

In conclusion, Councillor Cranswick stated that in the interests of a consistent approach across the County and due to the significant logistical problems arising if Rushcliffe were to continue with the discretionary elements alone it was recommended that the scheme be continued with the removal of the discretionary elements as set out in the report.

Members supported this view.

RESOLVED that

for the year 2010/11 Cabinet endorses the continuation of the scheme subject to the removal of discretionary concessions for (i) pre 09.30hrs and post 23.00hrs travel, (ii) local rail travel on specific routes (iii) companions travel and (iv) individuals using certain Community Transport Schemes, in line with the decision taken by all other participatory authorities in the scheme.

72. Corporate Strategy Refresh

Councillor Clarke presented the report of the Head of Partnerships and Performance indicating that a refresh of the Council's Corporate Strategy had been undertaken. Due to the light touch nature of the refresh it had comprised of updating certain statistical information, but no changes had been made to the Council's priorities for improvement and no new tasks had been included. In essence the refresh process had enabled the Strategy to be updated with no significant or substantial changes being made.

The document had been subject to extensive consultation involving Borough Councillors, the Parish Councils, and 60 other partners, Community groups and individuals. The consultation exercise had provided a number of

comments and this feedback had been evaluated and incorporated into the final draft Strategy now presented to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that

the refreshed Corporate Strategy be approved and published with effect from 1 April 2010.

73. Thrumpton Conservation Area

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Head of Planning and Place Shaping indicating that in line with government requirements, appraisals and reviews of boundaries were being undertaken for all the Conservation Areas in the Borough. As part of the review of this area, representatives from the village had been consulted and comments received had been incorporated into the report presented to Cabinet. In addition comments from the owner of the Thrumpton Estate had also been incorporated into the report.

Councillor Bell went onto to indicate that the proposed area was large but that it was mainly parkland which had a visual impact on the village. He added that there was a statutory duty to advertise the proposed changes in the local press and the London Gazette. All properties in the areas affected by the changes would be advised in writing.

In conclusion Councillor Bell indicated that the proposed reviews would meet the Council's objectives, in particular to protect, preserve and enhance the natural built environment of the Borough.

RESOLVED that

pursuant to Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, changes to the boundary of the Thrumpton Conservation Area be designated as shown on the plans at Appendix 2 of this report and notice be given in accordance with the statutory requirements.

74. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Period 10 – 2009/10

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Financial Services showing that the budget monitoring reports indicated a net underspend of £427,120 at the end of January 2010. He indicated that there was a summary of projected savings to the end of year on services of £192,000.

He drew attention to the savings across all service areas and reminded Members that the report had been considered and approved by the Corporate Governance Group.

RESOLVED that

the level of savings as highlighted in the report and actions detailed be supported.

75. Capital Budget Monitoring – Period 10 – 2009/10

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Financial Services indicating that at the end of period 10, the difference between the gross Capital Budget and the expected final spend for the year was £1,177,160. The monitoring process indicated that projected gross expenditure would be 71% of the profiled budget with the majority of the under-spend within the high risk category.

He drew attention to the most significant underspend in relation to the Customer Services Partnership Project where the total prospective expenditure had reduced to £1.25m. Concluding he referred to items that may need to be carried forward as detailed in the report.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Head of Financial Services indicated that in terms of spending performance, if the Customer Services Centre was taken out of the calculations, the projected expenditure as a proportion of budget expenditure at this time of the year was almost the same when compared to last year.

Councillor Bell noted that there was a continued high demand for Disabled Facility Grants and felt that this was indicative of the improved performance of the South Notts Home Improvement Agency (SNHIA).

RESOLVED that

the items to be carried forward as detailed in the report be supported.

75. Urgent Item – Appointment of Cabinet Member Group – Customer Services Partnership

The Chairman presented the report of the Head of Corporate Services relating to proposals to appoint a Cabinet Member Group to oversee the development of the Customer Service Partnership project, which he had announced at the Council meeting on 4 March 2010.

He indicated that the proposed terms of reference for the Group were as follows –

To ensure scrutiny of the Customer Services Partnership project as it progresses, taking into account Cabinet's direction to (i) promote partnership working with other public sector partners and (ii) deliver the project in line with the budgetary allocation within the agreed capital programme, reporting any recommendations to Cabinet prior to finalisation of the project detail.

It was proposed that membership should be politically balanced with parties being represented as follows – Conservatives (6), Liberal Democrat (2), Labour or Green (1), with the Chairman of the Group being a Cabinet Member.

In concluding, Councillor Clarke anticipated that the Group would be convened as quickly as possible in order to progress the project.

RESOLVED that

- a) a Cabinet Member Group be appointed with the terms of reference, composition and membership as set out in the report and;
- b) the Head of Corporate Services be requested to seek nominations to the Group and arrange its first meeting.

76. Note of thanks - Member Services Manager – Phil Wigginton

The Chairman reported that this was the final meeting of the Cabinet that the Council's Member Services Manager, Phil Wigginton would be attending before his retirement on 31 March 2010.

On behalf of all Members, the Chairman wished that a note of thanks be recorded in appreciation of Mr Wigginton's loyal, dedicated and professional service to the Council over many years. Furthermore Cabinet wished him a long and happy retirement.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN