

**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET  
TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2013**

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

**PRESENT:**

Councillors J N Clarke (Chairman), D G Bell, J A Cranswick, N C Lawrence,  
D J Mason

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors D M Boote, S J Boote, R M Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

A Graham	Chief Executive
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
L Reid-Jones	Democratic Services Manager
P Steed	Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor J E Fearon

**18. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**19. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**20. Leisure Strategy Update**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial which updated Cabinet on the Leisure Strategy. He reminded Cabinet that the findings of the Leisure Strategy Member Group had been considered by Cabinet in January 2012 and it had concluded that there should be one leisure centre in West Bridgford: a modern enhanced facility covering a broad range of leisure activities including pools on the site of the Rushcliffe Arena. Councillor Cranswick explained that this report provided Cabinet with an update on the feasibility of delivering this aspiration within the current funding environment. The report detailed the financial viability of the proposals, and identified that an affordable solution could be provided through internal borrowing repaid from future New Homes Bonus receipts. He added that, in line with the Council's wider aspirations in relation to maximising the return on its property portfolio, and the suitability of the Civic Centre, the report also recommended the relocation of the Council' administrative hub to the

Arena site. Furthermore this would release the current Civic Centre for letting, disposal or redevelopment, thereby generating income for the Council.

By reference to the report Councillor Cranswick highlighted the three potential options for the Arena site: (a) complete new build; (b) renovation of the site retaining the current bowls arena with new facilities built over two floors to the front to the existing building; (c) renovation of the site with the majority of new facilities being in a vertical extension above the current bowls arena. He informed Cabinet that the preferred option was (c).

In continuing Councillor Cranswick stated that the report did not recommend that Cabinet commit to either consolidation of leisure facilities in West Bridgford or to the relocation of the Civic Centre. Approval of the recommendations would enable officers to carry out further research into the requirements and viability of the proposal. The report proposed that the relocation of the Civic Centre be scrutinised by Corporate Governance Group at its meeting in November and a Member Group be established to undertake a review of the leisure aspects of the report. Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that findings from both of these Groups would be presented to Cabinet in January 2014. Furthermore consultation would be carried out with users, including Rushcliffe School, with whom preliminary discussions had already taken place. Councillor Cranswick stated that subject to approval in January 2014 it was anticipated that building would commence in late 2014, with the new Arena site opening to the public in early 2016.

Councillor Clarke drew Cabinet's attention to the terms of reference for the Member Group, in particular item (c) to receive and consider the results of consultation with the public and current users. He stated that a significant amount of work has still to be carried out before any decisions could be made.

Councillor Mason stated that the proposal was a positive way forward and recognised that the Civic Centre was no longer suitable for its purpose. She believed that the short timescale was good. She added that it was important for the public to understand there would be no loss of amenities in the Borough whilst work was being undertaken.

Councillor Bell agreed with the concept and believed that the Member Group had a significant task in achieving the timescale.

In conclusion Councillor Clarke stated that the key was to optimise financial returns for the tax payer, by making best use of the Borough's assets whilst minimising risks.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- a) in line with the Terms of Reference at **Appendix 3**, form a Cabinet Member Working Group to undertake a review of the leisure aspects of this report.
- b) in line with the Terms of Reference at **Appendix 4**, refer the proposed funding model and relocation from the Civic Centre to the Arena redevelopment to the Corporate Governance Group.

- c) authorise the Executive Manager - Finance and Commercial, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to allocate up to £75,000 from the New Homes Bonus Reserve to meet essential project costs.
- d) agree to receive a further report on the proposed Arena redevelopment at its meeting on the 14 January 2014.
- e) request that the Chief Executive provide an update report on options for the future use of the current Civic Centre site identifying options for optimising financial returns for the Council.

**21. Community Governance Review of Edwalton: Recommendation of Member Group**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Executive Manager – Operations and Corporate Governance which set out the recommendation of the Community Governance Review Member Group in relation to the Community Governance Review (CGR) of Edwalton. He informed Cabinet that the Member Group had met to consider the response to the consultation undertaken as part of the CGR and whether a parish council should be established in Edwalton. He explained that the response rate had been 12.6% which was lower than had been expected. Due to the low level of turnout this meant that only 8.4% of the electorate had indicated that they were in favour.

In continuing Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that the Member Group had considered whether this level of response indicated sufficient support for the establishment of a new parish council, and whether a parish council would provide effective and convenient local governance. By reference to the report he highlighted the deliberations of the Member Group including:

- that residents may not understand the responsibilities of a parish council
- if a parish council was to be established there was likely to be a cost implication in terms of a parish precept
- most parish councils were defined by village boundaries but Edwalton was part of West Bridgford and therefore the distinction between the two was not clear
- fewer people responded to the consultation than had signed the original petition.

Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that, having considered all the information the Member Group believed that the low response rate indicated that there was not strong support for the establishment of a parish council in Edwalton, therefore the Group recommended that a parish council should not be set up. By reference to the report he outlined the next round of consultation to be undertaken on this proposal between 21 October and 13 December 2013. He explained that if the response was higher it was possible that the Council would need to reconsider its recommendation.

Councillor Lawrence supported the recommendations.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- a. accepts the recommendation of the Community Governance Review Member Group not to establish a parish council in Edwalton; and
- b. confirms its support for the arrangements for the second stage of the consultation.

22. **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring September 2013**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial setting out the budget position for revenue and capital as at 31 July 2013. He informed Cabinet that the Corporate Governance Group had scrutinised the budget position at its recent meeting and had found it to be satisfactory.

In respect of the revenue budget Councillor Cranswick referred to the report which showed a projected underspend against profiled budget to date of £333,972 and a projected underspend for the year of £77,720. He added that it was anticipated that this would continue to improve through the remainder of the year as managers continue to drive cost savings and raise income against existing budgets.

In respect of the capital programme Councillor Cranswick stated that the projected outturn remained lower than the budget, with a £573,000 underspend predicted.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the additional grant income received and that any relevant underspend during the year will be transferred to the Council's Assets and Service Delivery Reserve.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN