

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2012**

Held at 7.00pm in The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors J N Clarke, J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, D J Mason, Mrs J A Smith

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors S J Boote, R Jones, A MacInnes, R Mallender

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Head of Environment & Waste Management
C Bullett	Deputy Chief Executive (CB)
C McGraw	Head of Community Shaping
D Mitchell	Head of Partnerships & Performance
P Sutton	Interim Head of Financial Services
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
L Reid Jones	Democratic Services Manager
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Bell

40. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

41. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. Rural Broadband Capital Contribution

Councillor Cranswick presented a report which detailed Nottinghamshire County Council's request that district councils match fund its contribution in support of bidding for Central Government funding to implement superfast broadband in Nottinghamshire. The report advised that the Government want to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe together with increased coverage across the UK by 2015. It was estimated that the private sector would cover approximately two thirds of premises with access to superfast broadband by 2015, leaving approximately one third of premises potentially within the scope for public sector intervention in superfast broadband.

By reference to the report Councillor Cranswick explained that the County Council request for match funding and calculations were based upon the number of premises which would benefit within each district. He said that in Rushcliffe there were approximately 10,000 individuals who could not access standard broadband connection, and the aspiration was for everyone to be able to access a 2 megabit per second service across the Borough. The main wards within the Borough detrimentally affected were Soar Valley, Stanford, Thoroton and Wiverton.

Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that the County Council was leading a bid to Broadband Delivery UK for infrastructure investment in Nottinghamshire to deliver rural broadband in areas of market failure. An initial bid had been submitted and the County Council had been allocated an indicative sum of £4.25 million. This was based on match funding of £4.25m to be secured from the County and district councils, with a further £8.5m being provided by the private sector. The match funding element from the district councils equated to £2m. He added that the Rushcliffe Community Partnership had received a Local Area Agreement reward allocation of £152,000 earlier in the year and the Local Strategic Partnership had indicated that this should be earmarked towards providing rural broadband in the Borough although this had not yet been approved. This would leave a balance of £93,000 to be contributed from the Council's own resources to meet Rushcliffe's proportion of the £2m.

Councillor Mason said that as a Member of the Local Strategic Partnership she would support this proposal. She commented that the diversity implications highlighted the benefits of rural broadband for both residents and businesses.

Councillor Clarke informed Members that the Local Strategic Partnership had agreed the aspiration of providing funding for the project and that he anticipated that it would be formally approved at the next meeting. He said that it was vital to support rural broadband. Furthermore as there were only limited resources it was important to work with the County Council to support and stimulate the economy, in terms of broadband availability for residents and businesses.

In response to a question from Councillor Fearon, Councillor Clarke stated that the County Council had investigated other methods of improving rural broadband, such as erecting masts on schools, however these options were not being pursued.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Smith, Councillor Clarke said that many areas were relatively well served, but there were also adjacent areas where the signal was temperamental or at times non-existent. He stated that this was the reason why a solution across the board was necessary in order to provide a baseline standard.

Councillor Cranswick re-iterated that the objective of this exercise was to get all rural areas up to a minimum standard of broadband.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Cabinet supports the principle that Rushcliffe Borough Council contributes up to £245,000 towards the Nottinghamshire County

Council rural broadband project. This will be made up of £152,000 money from the Rushcliffe Community Partnership (subject to the Local Strategic Partnership Board approval), and a balance from Rushcliffe Borough Council capital resources;

- b) Provision be included in the Council's capital programme for this purpose;
- c) The Chief Executive be authorised to agree the sum of money in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources; and
- d) A presentation be made to the Community Development Group regarding the detail of the Government's scheme and the authority's requested contribution prior to the finalisation of the Council's budget.

43. **Leisure Facilities Strategy 2006-2016**

Councillor Mrs Smith presented a report of the Leisure Facilities Member Group detailing the work of the Group since its establishment by Cabinet in September 2011. She thanked Members of the Group and the officers who had supported it and said it had been an interesting review process for the Group and the previous Member Panel. Councillors Mrs Smith stated that the Member Group had completed the review and this had resulted in an addendum to the original leisure strategy.

By reference to the report Councillor Mrs Smith informed Cabinet that the Member Group had considered that the original strategy proposal to reduce the number of leisure centres from six to three should be reviewed. The revised proposal was to seek to reduce the number of leisure centres from six to five with a consolidated enhanced facility in West Bridgford. She added that the Group had considered the joint use sites, however the headteachers had concerns with regards safeguarding issues, as the leisure facilities were in the middle of the school sites. Councillor Mrs Smith said the Group had looked in detail at each leisure facility in terms of maintenance, condition and services provided as part of its deliberations.

Councillor Mrs Smith drew Cabinet's attention to the main potential outcomes of the strategy as follows:

- There should be one leisure centre in West Bridgford. This should be a modern enhanced facility covering a broad range of leisure activities including pools, possibly on the site of the Rushcliffe Arena;
- At Bingham a site for a new leisure centre should be sought and there should be discussions with Bingham Town Council to explore the opportunity to include a 'community hall' within the facility;
- Keyworth and Cotgrave leisure centres should be retained and the opportunity for 'community management' be considered;
- East Leake Leisure Centre to continue subject to reaching agreement on the management costs when the current agreement ends in September 2013.

Councillor Mrs Smith stated that the Group had agreed that there were key triggers to be met before any changes could be initiated, the key ones being the availability of finance and the condition of the joint centre sites.

Councillor Fearon commented on the amount of work undertaken as part of the review and how the next stage could be dependent on house building in the Borough and any changes to schools' status.

Councillor Cranswick stated that the necessary funding to implement the strategy was not presently available and would not likely be for a long time. However the strategy gave a clear direction of travel enabling decisions to be made in a co-ordinated way.

Councillor Clarke commented that this was an evolving strategy and represented a good basis from where to plan for the development of the facilities.

The Deputy Chief Executive (CB) confirmed that the changes identified in the strategy were conditional on certain triggers, the key ones being availability of funding and sites.

Councillor Clarke thanked the Group for their work.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) agree the Leisure Facilities Strategy Addendum that updates the Leisure Facilities Strategy 2006 – 2016; and
- b) develop an implementation plan to deliver the changes identified in the addendum.

44. Interim Report of the Environment and Waste Management Member Group

Councillor Mason presented the interim report of the Environment and Waste Management Member Group which had been reviewing the recycling2go, streetwise and garage services. The report proposed a number of initiatives that could be applied to the in-house service, changing the way the service was provided and achieving potential budgetary savings of £350,000 per annum plus. By referring to the report Councillor Mason explained that the Group had also considered what was not possible to achieve. Furthermore not all of the savings identified could be achieved in 2012/13.

Councillor Mason stated that the proposals were being considered by Cabinet at this stage so that they could form part of the budget setting process. She said it was important that they were in the budget so savings could be made as soon as possible. Councillor Mason continued by detailing the proposals included in table 1 of the report.

Councillor Mrs Smith asked about litter hot spots and the proposal to reduce the number of litter bins that were emptied. Councillor Mason explained that information gathered by the Environment and Waste Management Service had enabled the Group to propose that the litter bins be looked at. This could be

that the number of bins could be reduced or in some areas larger bins could be installed and not emptied so frequently.

Councillor Clarke stated that the priority was to maintain high quality services which residents expected from the Council, with Rushcliffe being a great place to live. He said that item 12, limiting landscaping on new developments which the council would subsequently take over, needed further consideration. He said that it was not always necessary for the Council to take over the landscaping responsibility and gave an example of schemes in other areas where the house buyer entered into an agreement with the developer for a contribution towards maintenance of common land. Councillor Clarke reminded Members that if the proposals were adopted they would be incorporated into the budget process.

The Deputy Chief Executive (CB) explained that the recommendations included in the table were the recommendations of the Member Group. The recommendation to Cabinet asked for support so that the initiatives could be pursued and an associated level of saving incorporated into the budget. He said that there was an opportunity for Members to comment on the proposals through the workshops, and Cabinet would take into account Members' comments when recommending a budget to Council. He stressed that Cabinet was not being asked to agree the proposals for immediate implementation, but informed Members that they had been brought to this Cabinet so they could form part of the budget setting process.

Councillor Cranswick concurred with Councillor Clarke regarding landscaping on new developments. He said that as there had been changes in the way houses were built with less land, there needed to be a change in the way people received the landscaping maintenance services. The Council needed to ensure it did not become responsible for such activities.

Councillor Fearon stated that in relation to the garage services, the Council was paying significant maintenance costs. He said there would be hidden savings in these proposals, but it was important that they were achieved at the right time.

Councillor Clarke was of the view that item 14, whereby businesses would be asked to pay a contribution for litter collection from their forecourts, could engender a pride in the frontages of businesses.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the initiatives in table 1 be supported and where appropriate be incorporated into the budget for 2012/13; and
- b) a procurement of garage services be undertaken.

45. **Revenue and Capital Monitoring November 2011**

Councillor Cranswick presented a report detailing the budget position for revenue and capital as at 30 November 2011. He stated that the budget

monitoring reflected some significant savings, which had been delivered by maximising income levels, including the green waste scheme, and income from search fees, industrial sites, land holdings and investment properties, which were all out performing budgets. Councillor Cranswick drew Members' attention to the projected variance of £804,000. He thanked officers for their work.

In relation to the Capital budget Councillor Cranswick informed Members that the projected out turn for the capital programme was currently lower than budgeted, however the majority of the underspend related to unused contingency.

Councillor Mason stated that the success was a great accolade to officers and Members.

Councillor Clarke echoed this and said it was vital that officers kept a tight rein on the budget. Councillor Fearon concurred with this.

Councillor Cranswick thanked the Interim Head of Finance for the clarity of the report.

RESOLVED that Members noted the current projections for Revenue and Capital outturn.

46. **Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Services and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire**

Councillor Mrs Smith presented a report which set out the Council's approach to developing a single Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) for 2012-2015 to deliver services on the Council's behalf. She said that currently there was duplication between the services provided by the two organisations and a single SLA would help provide an improved service to residents along with budget savings. Furthermore this had been supported by the Community Development Scrutiny Group.

Councillor Mrs Smith informed Members that the proposed SLA document had not been scrutinised and was therefore recommending that this be carried out, prior to it being re-presented to Cabinet in April.

Councillor Cranswick said that, as the accountable body, the Council needed to be able to justify the funding to the public. As such, he said, the SLA should include clearly identifiable targets. He felt that this would be achieved by referring the document back to the Scrutiny Group.

In clarifying the payment arrangements the Head of Community Shaping confirmed that payments were made on an annual basis to the organisations and therefore both would need to be taken into consideration for interim payments.

Councillor Fearon said that as things change in a three year period the SLA had to be flexible to meet the Council's needs.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Cabinet agrees the principle of a single Service Level Agreement (SLA) and target of 10% savings with the expectation that Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) can achieve economies of scale from working together;
- b) Cabinet refers the SLA back to Community Development Scrutiny Group for further clarification, including identification of more comprehensive measurable outcomes;
- c) The Chief Executive be authorised to agree ongoing interim payments to RCVS and RCAN up to the end of April 2012 in order to maintain existing arrangements until further scrutiny is concluded.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN