

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

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, J E Fearon, D J Mason, Mrs J A Smith

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Head of Environment and Waste Management
C Bullett	Deputy Chief Executive (CB)
A Graham	Chief Executive
C McGraw	Head of Community Shaping
D Mitchell	Head of Partnerships and Performance
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
P Steed	Director of Finance
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

7. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

8. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 June 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. Four Year Plan Update

Councillor Clarke presented a report outlining the progress made against the Council's Four Year Plan to achieve £2.8m by reviewing all services. He was pleased to say that during the first year savings of £1.81m had been achieved against an original target of £1.07m. This had been accomplished as part of an excellent combined effort through a range of officer led initiatives and two major service area reviews supported by Members. Furthermore many of the savings also involved the Council working in partnership with the community helping to deliver the aims and principles within the Localism Act.

Commenting further Councillor Clarke stated he was pleased to note that the Council had been recognised nationally by being chosen as one of only two

councils to take part in the Local Government Association's Future Challenges Transformation Programme, with the other authority being a large city council. He believed this evidenced the Council's innovative approach to reviewing and transforming its services.

Councillor Clarke stated that in view of the economic climate and further indications from Central Government regarding public sector funding it was imperative that the Council continued to focus on the delivery of efficient and cost effective services

By referring to the report Councillor Clarke highlighted the key initiatives that had been introduced as part of the Environment & Waste Management and Community Facilities reviews. He also highlighted that the reviews of garage services and insurance services, which were planned for year two, had been brought forward into year one. Additionally he also made reference to the various reviews undertaken by officers which had also contributed to the delivery of the plan. .

Councillor Clarke stated that he was aware of concerns and complaints from residents regarding changes implemented in relation to grass cutting and proposed wild flower meadows. In view of this Councillor Clarke requested that the Head of Environment and Waste Management provide a report for the portfolio holder for Environment detailing the key issues and options. This process would enable the portfolio holder to consider the report and take any action necessary to resolve the issue. Details of this would then be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet. Councillor Bell indicated that he agreed with this approach because he was aware of the complaints and concerns of residents, however there had also been some positive feedback which should be considered when looking at the issue.

Concluding Councillor Cranswick highlighted all the actual savings that had been achieved and how these compared favourably to the estimated budgets. He added that the decision regarding green waste had proven to be a success and had greatly assisted with delivery of the plan. He added that Cabinet should recognise that, potentially, the savings could increase by 2014/15. Councillor Cranswick thanked officers for their hard work in the delivery of the plan however it was important to remain vigilant and focused as the future presented a continued challenge.

In response to a comment from Councillor Mrs J A Smith Cabinet recognised the significant savings achieved through the joint tendering of the Council's insurance contract particularly as this had been achieved in a very limited market.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) the delivery of the four year plan continue to be supported,
- b) in light of recent feedback from residents Cabinet requested that:
 - (i) the Head of Environment and Waste Management provide the portfolio holder for Environment with a written report detailing the

key issues and options regarding the approach to grass areas and wildflower meadows in specific locations within the Borough and

- (ii) the portfolio holder for Environment considers this report and determines any necessary action to be taken and reports details of this to a future meeting of Cabinet.

10. Four Year Service Review Programme – Terms of Reference

Councillor Clarke presented a report setting out the proposals to establish a cross party Member Group to oversee and scrutinise the service review of Community Shaping's Environment & Energy, Health, Arts & Events, Temporary Accommodation & Homelessness Prevention services as part of the Council's Four Year Plan. It was anticipated that the Group would have regard for the achievement of the overall four year service review savings target and the different models of service provision to respond to the national agendas of localism, personalisation of services and efficiency.

The proposed terms of reference for the Group as set out in the report were:

To oversee and ensure scrutiny of the Energy and the Environment, Health, Arts and Events and Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Prevention review project as it progresses, taking into account Cabinet's direction to:

- *Aim for completion by March 2013 the efficiency and savings review of the services*
- *identify areas where efficiencies and the required savings of £55,000 per annum for Energy and the Environment, Health, Arts and Events and £20,000 from Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Prevention from April 2013 can be achieved, while still meeting customer needs*
- *identify and consider in-house and alternative service delivery options, including, where appropriate, partnerships and community based initiatives*
- *oversee any consultation with the public, partners and other key stakeholders*
- *advising and reporting any recommendations for the future delivery of the services to Cabinet prior to any formal decision being made.*

With regard to the membership of the Group it was considered that it should comprise of nine Members based on the political representation of the Council and that the Chairman would be Councillor Fearon. It was proposed that in order to ensure consistency of debate and composition substitutes would not be permitted at the Member Group's meetings.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) the 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.

11. Proposed Lease of Abbey Road Depot (Part) to Nottinghamshire County Council Transport and Travel Services

Councillor Cranswick informed Members that Nottinghamshire County Council had approached the Council with a view to leasing some of the Abbey Road Depot site to create a new operational base for a small number of staff and 25 passenger vehicles which would serve the south of the County. It was felt that there was adequate space at the Depot to accommodate this and that it would be a good opportunity to maximise the Council's assets. Financially the Council would receive an income of £58,000 per annum. The lease would be for five years, with a minimum of two years, in order that it could be flexible for both parties. He stated that it was imperative that the Council could maximise any opportunity to review its operations at the Depot.

With regards to the terms of the lease it was stated that a rolling break clause had been included which meant that either party had to give nine months' notice to terminate the agreement. The minimum length of the agreement was two years therefore either party could give notice after the first fifteen months.

Cabinet were informed that any capital works needed to accommodate the service would be financed by the County Council. It was also noted that the County Council might wish to take over part of the garage area, which if necessary would be subject to a further report to Cabinet. As part of the development of the proposed arrangements the County Council had undertaken a public survey to gauge the views of local people. The County Council had indicated that they had not received any complaints about the proposal within responses to the survey. With regard to the potential installation of a vehicle wash facility it was important to ensure this was managed appropriately to ensure there was no associated noise issues.

In conclusion Cabinet recognised that the proposals within the report presented an excellent opportunity to work in partnership with the County Council which would reduce the costs to the public purse and create savings for both parties.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) agreed in principle to the granting of a lease to Nottinghamshire County Council for the shared use of Abbey Road Depot subject to negotiation in accordance with the terms set out in this report, and
- b) if necessary agree minor changes to those terms in consultation with the portfolio holder

12. Response To The Publication Version Of The Aligned Core Strategies Of Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough And Nottingham City And The Submission Version Of The Erewash Core Strategy

Councillor Bell presented a report outlining the Council's response to the publicised version of the aligned core strategies of Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough and Nottingham City and the submitted version of the Erewash core strategy. These areas were part of the Nottingham Housing Market Area. It was noted that all these authorities had objected to Rushcliffe's Core Strategy.

He pointed out that they wished to extend the time scale to 2028 whereas the Regional Spatial Strategy, which Rushcliffe had complied with, had looked at housing provision up to 2026. In the Aligned Core Strategies it was felt that any additional land required should be found within the Rushcliffe area. In response to this the Council felt that there were a significant number of Sustainable Urban Extensions within the Nottingham Housing Market area that had not been considered in the submission, whereas they had all been considered in Rushcliffe's Core Strategy, which also gave good reasons why some had been declined.

Councillor Fearon felt that, during the present economic climate, the number of homes required would be less than that previously predicted. This was evidenced by the fact that many young people were living with their parents for longer as they could not afford to buy a house. He stated that when the situation was reviewed in five years' time the evidence would have substantially changed if the economic climate did not improve.

In conclusion Councillor Cranswick felt that it was unfortunate that a combined submission from the whole of the Nottingham Housing Market Area could not have been achieved.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the comments set out in this report as the basis for the Borough Council's response to the Publication Version of the Aligned Core Strategies of Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough and Nottingham City and the Submission Version of the Erewash Core Strategy.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN