

**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET  
TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015**

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

**PRESENT:**

Councillors J N Clarke (Chairman), R L Butler, J E Cottee, D J Mason,  
S J Robinson

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors S J Hull, R M Jones, A MacInnes, Councillor G R Mallender

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

N Carter	Service Manager - Corporate Governance
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Constitutional Services Officer

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors N C Lawrence

**27. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**28. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**29. Bridgford Hall Grant**

Councillor Robinson presented a report regarding the use of the Chief Executive's delegated powers for accepting the terms of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for Bridgford Hall. He stated that the Heritage Lottery Fund had required evidence relating to the Council's powers to accept the grant within 28 days of the grant notification letter. Also, in compliance with the Constitution, the Chief Executive had to report to Cabinet at its next meeting any decisions that had been made under delegated authority. He was pleased to say that the £1.495 million would enable the Hall to be refurbished as an aparthotel and registry office. He informed Members that the new building should be completed, and opened, in Spring 2017.

Councillor Clarke supported the comments made and stated that this refurbishment would benefit the community and was a worthwhile reward for the Council. He said that this was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the Executive Manager - Operations and Transformation and her team.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the use of the Chief Executive's delegated powers in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder, for the acceptance of the Heritage Lottery Fund's terms of grant.

**30. Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 - 2020**

Councillor Butler presented the report of the Executive Manager - Communities regarding the new Nature Conservation Strategy which had been developed by the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group. He said that the Council had first adopted a Strategy in 2003 which had been developed by local community members and public bodies. This original Strategy was updated in 2010 to run until 2015.

He reminded Members that the Council had resolved on 5 March 2015 that Cabinet should investigate the possibility of a trees and woodland policy in consultation with the Community Development Group. It was agreed that instead of a stand alone document this policy should be included within the new Strategy. This approach was supported by the Community Development Group on 14 July. The Strategy was sent for public consultation during the summer and also referred to the Community Development Group. In total 36 comments were received and these had mainly been incorporated. With regards to the funding of the Strategy he stated that this would be met within existing budgets, including a Service Level Agreement with Notts Wildlife Trust of £15,750 and a Biodiversity Support Grant of £4,000 per annum.

Councillor Butler acknowledged the developments that would be taking place within the Borough over the next few years and proposed an additional point to paragraph 4.5 stating that "where practicable, developers will be required to provide at least an equal number of trees to those lost as a result of the development".

In conclusion he informed Members that the Strategy had been adopted by all the other members of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group.

Councillor Mason, in support of the recommendation, said that it was important that suitable trees were planted and that developers should ensure that the trees would not grow too big for the plot of land. She believed that the Notts Wildlife Trust should be asked to recommend the type of trees that could be used.

She thanked all members of the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group for all their hard work, not only on the development of the Strategy but also for the work they undertook across the Borough. She also thanked the members of the Community Development Group who had come forward with additional ideas for the Strategy.

Councillor Clarke supported Councillor Mason's comments regarding the potential size of the trees. He felt that the planting of trees should be encouraged with the caveat that in 20-30 years residents would not require the Council to fell them as they had grown beyond the space allotted.

Councillor Robinson queried why the new Strategy only required 10 hectares of woodland to be planted between 2016 and 2020, whereas 22.6 hectares had been planted during 2011 and 2015. Councillor Butler replied that two jubilee woods had been planted in the Sutton Bonington area to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by the University in partnership with the Notts Wildlife Trust and the local community. He believed that the target for the next four years was sufficient and achievable.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopt the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 – 2020 as a strategy of the Council.

### 31. **Devolution Deal Update**

Councillor Clarke presented a report which updated Members on the progress of the devolution deals with Government. He stated that these negotiations involved all 19 local authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and that he, as Leader of the Council, represented Rushcliffe Borough Council. He explained that he was part of a small team that would be visiting the Treasury to carry on with the negotiations on 11 November 2015. However, due to timing constraints, it was now necessary to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to continue the negotiations and, if acceptable, agree an 'in principle' decision that would then be brought to full Council for ratification.

Councillor Clarke stated that Members had received briefings to ensure that they were kept abreast of the discussions, especially as the negotiations were advancing and that further information would be provided after the announcement which was expected on 25 November. He also stated that the Government had felt that the name D2N2 was confusing and it had been agreed that it should be rebranded as the East Midlands (Derbyshire Nottinghamshire) Deal.

Finally, Councillor Clarke stated that the Deal had to provide benefits for the community otherwise he did not feel that the Borough should sign up. However, he assured Members that he and the Chief Executive would continue to negotiate for as many benefits as possible.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Cabinet notes the progress towards a devolution deal for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire;
- b) Cabinet delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to continue negotiations and to sign the devolution deal, subject to ratification of the deal by Full Council;
- c) A further report be brought back to Cabinet following the expected announcement on 25 November updating Members on the position;
- d) A report seeking ratification of the deal is brought to Full Council as soon as possible after the necessary changes in legislation.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN