



**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET  
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2011**

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 Councillor S J Boote, G Davidson and A MacInnes.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

A Graham	Chief Executive (AG)
C Bullett	Deputy Chief Executive (CB)
S Griffiths	Deputy Chief Executive (SG)
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
S Goodrich	Head of Revenues and ICT Services
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies.

**11. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**12. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 June were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**13. Financial Out-turn 2010/11**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Financial Services setting out the revenue out-turn. He explained that the out-turn was subject to audit and appendix one of the report indicated that the Council had achieved its activities within the allocated resources with an overall saving on services. These savings amounted to £884,000, which reduced to £653,000 when a windfall refund of VAT was taken into account.

Commenting further Councillor Cranswick stated that the savings had been brought about by the hard work of officers and these had been highlighted through both the budget monitoring and budget setting processes. The largest of these savings related to £135,000 of energy costs and the rebasing of charges for the management of the leisure centres. Other savings included a number of grants received in 2010/11 that were proposed to be carried forward to be spent in the current year. The report indicated that officers had been aware of the savings targets included in the Financial Strategy going forward

and therefore had deliberately reduced expenditure to ensure that ongoing savings were achieved.

Councillor Cranswick stated that with regard to revenue carry forwards these were set out at appendix two of the report and paragraph seven detailed the proposal to transfer £429,278 to reserves. He added that paragraph seven also set out the significant items making up the proposed transfer to reserves with £100,000 being earmarked for capital reserve. This sum related to the amount collected with the West Bridgford Special Expense in 2010/11 for capital purposes, primarily play areas and it was intended to use this to finance such schemes within the capital programme.

In respect of capital expenditure this was set out at paragraph eleven of the report with gross capital expenditure being £4.034m against a revised programme of £5.292m, excluding contingency. This equated to 76% of the revised gross capital budget. The table at paragraph eleven set out the category of capital schemes detailing the budget, actual spend, variance and the amount to be carried forward.

Councillor Mrs Smith welcomed the report and commented that it was favourable to see an interest rate of 1.4% being obtained compared to a budgeted rate of 1%. Whilst she recognised that interest rates remained very low it was positive to see that the £86,000 received in interest rates, above what had been anticipated, together with the overall savings on services, ensured no transfer was required from the equalisation reserve.

In conclusion Councillor Cranswick stated that he believed the report evidenced the effectiveness of the Council's robust financial management arrangements and also clearly demonstrated the excellent work undertaken by Council officers to ensure resources were used properly.

RESOLVED that:-

- a. the outturn be noted;
- b. a proposed carry forward of £50,260 to 2011/12 in respect of revenue items listed in Appendix 2 be supported and referred to Council for approval;
- c. a transfer of £429,278 is made to earmarked reserves;
- d. the net capital carry forward of £1,175,930 is approved.

**14. ICT SHARED SERVICES ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN RUSHCLIFFE, BROXTOWE AND NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCILS**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Revenues and ICT Services setting out proposals for the Council to enter into an arrangement with Broxtowe Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council to create a shared Chief Information Officer (CIO) post.

The report stated that the Council's Information Systems Strategy 2009-12, which had been approved by Cabinet in September 2009, recommended that the Council introduced more corporate guidance in the use of ICT to ensure a consistent approach to its application and usage. In order to achieve this objective a Corporate ICT Project Commissioning Group, chaired by a Deputy

Chief Executive had been established. Additionally the Head of ICT and Corporate Services at Broxtowe Borough Council had been working with the Council's Head of Revenues and ICT Services in the role of Chief Information Officer (CIO) to provide guidance and advice on strategic ICT issues.

Subsequently Newark and Sherwood District Council had indicated that they were keen to collaborate with Rushcliffe and Broxtowe Borough Councils in the same way. This was in view of the advantages arising from improved ICT service levels, expertise and the potential benefits from joint procurement and rationalisation of infrastructure. As such the report set out detailed proposals for implementing a shared CIO post between Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Newark and Sherwood District Councils.

The Chief Executive explained that the implementation of the shared CIO post was fundamental to moving both the ICT service and function forward. He recognised that such an approach needed to be carefully co-ordinated to ensure the arrangements were effective and maximised the benefits for each Council involved.

By referring to the report the Chief Executive indicated that the Nottinghamshire Transformational Government Group, of which the Borough Council was an active member and which was chaired by the proposed shared CIO postholder, had produced a report. This report highlighted 12 strands of activity through which collaboration on ICT issues between all authorities in Nottinghamshire, could bring about significant benefits. The first step towards achieving further progress in implementing these activities was to create a shared CIO post between Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Newark and Sherwood District Councils. Although the cost of this shared post equated to £20,000 the expertise and strategic guidance it would provide would cost sufficiently more if it were procured externally.

The Chief Executive added that it was also anticipated that by merging the help desk facilities immediate revenue savings would be available to the Council. As such the proposal ensured the best use of resources and further strengthened resilience across the Councils and the capacity to maximise future efficiencies through joint working, sharing best practice and procurement.

In conclusion Councillor Cranswick stated that the proposed shared CIO post would provide a record of efficiency savings achieved as a result of their activities for each authority. This would ensure that the financial and service benefits which were gained from the shared arrangements outweighed the costs involved. He added that the proposal presented an opportunity to develop an aligned strategy across the three Councils, identifying a clear way to achieve efficiencies and improve resilience, where it made economic sense to do so.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to enter into an arrangement with Broxtowe Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council to create a shared Chief Information Officer post, with Rushcliffe and Newark and Sherwood each contributing £20,000 per annum towards the cost of the post.

## 15. TACKLING CHILD POVERTY IN RUSHCLIFFE

Councillor Mrs Smith presented the report of the Head of Community Shaping which indicated that the Child Poverty Act 2010, which had received Royal Assent on 25 March 2010, introduced new statutory duties on local authorities and their named local partners. These duties were:

- Co-operate to put in place arrangements to work with partners to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty.
- Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty.
- Prepare a joint child poverty strategy setting out measures that the local authority and each named partner propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.
- Local Authorities to take their duty to reduce child poverty into account when preparing and revising their Sustainable Community Strategies.

A strategic partnership had been established by Nottinghamshire County Council to lead on these new duties across Nottinghamshire. The partnership, entitled the 'Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group' had completed a comprehensive needs assessment and was now preparing Nottinghamshire's Child Poverty Strategy. This required involvement from the Borough Council in shaping a local strategy for Rushcliffe that brought together its priorities and addressed recommendations highlighted in the needs assessment. As such the partnership was asking all Local Authorities and all named partners to provide at least one measurable pledge which will form the actions in the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy.

At paragraph seven the report set out the Nottinghamshire child poverty pledge as follows:

*We will work together to reduce levels of child poverty and to mitigate the effects of child poverty on children, young people and families, as well as on future generations. We will ensure that there are less than 10% of children in Nottinghamshire who live in households with less than 60% of median income (in 2010/11 that equates to less than £361 per week before housing costs for a couple with two children)"*

Referring to the Nottinghamshire pledge Councillor Mrs Smith stated that as a whole Rushcliffe had an overall child poverty figure of 7.9% so it made sense to focus activities on the wards that were above the 10% target, which were Bingham West, Cotgrave, Edwalton Village, Keyworth South and Trent. She added that there were many factors associated with child poverty including poor educational attainment, childhood obesity, mental health and drug and alcohol dependency issues and teenage pregnancies. Therefore it was paramount to target interventions in the areas of greatest need in order to help address child poverty and the many subsequent and associated factors which negatively impacted on a child's physical and mental wellbeing. It was also important to ensure that parents were equipped to make the right choices for children so that measures to address child poverty had a positive impact on the child and their environment.

Councillor Mason welcomed the pledge and the Borough Council's continued commitment to tackling child poverty. She stated that the actions within the Council's pledge were indicative of its long-standing commitment to the matter and targeting specific areas would address areas of greatest need. She added that it was important that mechanisms were in place to ensure delivery of the pledge across the region was monitored and evaluated and its effect measured.

In response to Councillor Mason's comments the Chief Executive stated that it was important for Cabinet to consider how collective delivery of the pledge across Nottinghamshire would be monitored and managed. On this basis it would be prudent to seek assurance from the County Council of the mechanisms in place to ensure the pledge was delivered and its effects measured and also how this was linked to the Joint Needs Assessment process. It was suggested by the Chief Executive that a letter be sent by the Cabinet portfolio holder to highlight that this assessment, and subsequent monitoring, should be undertaken through the work of the health and well-being board.

In conclusion Councillor Mrs Smith stated that appendix three of the report set out the Borough Council's proposed pledges to be submitted to the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group. Furthermore the recommendation within the report stated that performance against these pledges should be monitored by the Performance Management Board annually.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the proposed pledges which will be submitted to the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group and agrees that these will be monitored by the Performance Management Board on an annual basis.

**16. Local Government Act 1972**

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items of business pursuant to section 100A (4) of the above Act on the grounds that it is likely that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**17. LAND AT SHARPHILL, EDWALTON – APPOINTMENT OF VALUATION SURVEYOR**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Revenues and ICT Services setting out a proposal to appoint a specialist valuation surveyor to represent the Council when the overage agreement in relation to the land at Sharphill, Edwalton was triggered. The purpose of appointing a specialist valuer was to independently and transparently ensure that the benefits of the Council's financial interests in this land were protected.

RESOLVED that Bruton Knowles be appointed as the Council's independent valuer in relation to the overage agreement for the land at Sharphill, Edwalton; and the terms of the instruction, be determined as set out in the report.