

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 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, N C Lawrence, D J Mason and S J Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors D M Boote, S J Boote and A MacInnes
1 Member of the Public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

A Graham Chief Executive
D Mitchell Executive Manager – Communities
V Nightingale Senior Member Support Officer
P Steed Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

28. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

29. Councillor S J Robinson

Councillor Clarke announced that Councillor S J Robinson had been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Council.

30. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31. Review of Service Level Agreement between RBC and RCVS/RCAN

Councillor Cottee presented a report regarding a review of the Service Level Agreement between the Borough Council and Rushcliffe Community & Voluntary Service (RCVS) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN). He stated that the current agreement, which equated to £78,000 per annum, would end in March 2015. He informed Members that the Partnership Delivery Group had recently scrutinised the Agreement and it had supported the work undertaken which had assisted over 90 groups, brought in approximately £167,000 additional funding and provided advice to parish councils regarding Neighbourhood Plans. Councillor Cottee also confirmed that he and Councillor Robinson had reviewed the work undertaken by the two organisations as part of the Agreement in their role as Cabinet portfolio holders.

As part of the Transformation Strategy, and to assist the Council to meet its budget restraints, it was important to review the Service Level Agreement. The proposed new funding arrangement would be more flexible and allow opportunities for future collaboration. It would also provide a 20% saving per annum.

Whilst reviewing the Agreement other options had been considered. It had not been proposed to decommission the service as it was recognised that it supported, and was well received by the rural communities and voluntary groups. Also an option to bring the service in house had been explored. The Executive Manager - Communities confirmed that, following a suggestion at a recent budget workshop, this option was considered however, with the present possible mergers of the Rushcliffe, Gedling and Newark & Sherwood Council for Voluntary Services, the opportunities for further collaboration and increased resilience of service provision by RCAN it was not considered appropriate at the present time.

Councillor Clarke agreed that without confirmation of the outcome of the proposed merger of the CVS's this was the best way forward and that all options had been explored.

Councillor Mason, in support of the recommendation, stated that by reviewing the Agreement in six and twelve months this offered the Council flexibility to react to any future changes.

Councillor Robinson concurred with Councillor Cottee regarding the outcomes from the present Service Level Agreement. He stated that the two organisations provided excellent services and the projects delivered tangible and measurable outcomes. He acknowledged that there were financial pressures on all the organisations involved.

Councillor Lawrence stated that RCAN provided a valuable service to rural communities. He felt that this Agreement should continue however, it needed to provide value for money.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- a) Approves funding of £32,900 to RCAN for a period of one year from April 2015 to March 2016 which will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with budget setting.
- b) Approves funding of £15,000 to RCVS for a period of six months from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015 with further funding subject to review following the proposed merger of CVSs
- c) Delegates responsibility to establish the details of the Service Level Agreements and associated targets and monitoring to the Executive Manager - Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Community Services and Resources.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN