

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 21 JULY 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, S J Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors H A Chewings, R M Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender.

OFFICERS PRESENT:

R Caddy	Interim Service Manager – Finance and Commercial
N Carter	Service Manager - Corporate Governance
A Graham	Chief Executive
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
C Taylor	Interim Service Manager - Transformation

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 9 June 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. **YouNG Project**

Members were informed that this item had been deferred until the meeting to be held on 8 September 2015.

10. **Asset Investment Strategy 2015 - 2020**

Councillor Robinson presented the report of the Interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial which outlined the Council's Asset Investment Strategy. He stated that, through the budget workshops, £10,000,000 had been allocated to this Strategy to enable it to support the Capital Programme. It was envisaged that any investments would give rise to revenue returns which in turn would support the revenue budget. Members recognised that presently there were additional pressures on the revenue budget due to low interest rates and central government support.

Councillor Robinson highlighted the various activities that could be considered as part of the Investment Strategy, including industrial units, incubator units and loans to local businesses. He stated that there had been consensus at the workshops that there should be a balanced approach taken with a variety of projects across the whole of the Borough.

Members were informed of the governance arrangements for the Investment Strategy and how it would be scrutinised by the Corporate Governance Group and Cabinet.

Finally, he said he was pleased to recommend the approval of the Strategy as this was the conclusion of many discussions over the past twelve months.

Councillor Lawrence supported the proposal but queried if the Council would need to take out a loan to finance the investments, as this option had been approved at the workshops. The Chief Executive stated that it had been acknowledged that the Council would not be able to stay debt free in the future. However, funding would need input from the Section 151 Officer and could include use of the New Homes Bonus, Public Works Board Loans or prudential borrowing. He stated that the appraisal of any investment was an important part of the process when all costs would need to be taken into account. He informed Members that many local authorities took this approach.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the Asset Investment Strategy 2015 - 2020 as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Growth Deal Funding Governance Arrangements

Councillor Robinson presented the report of the Executive Manager - Transformation which outlined the governance arrangements in respect of the £6.3 million funding the Council had been allocated from the Local Enterprise Partnership. This funding would be used to bring forward development of 2,070 new homes, 2,747 new jobs and 26.5 hectares of employment land at sites in Cotgrave, Bingham and RAF Newton. He reminded Members that the Council had constituted the Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board, which with three Local Boards, would oversee the allocation of the funding. The Cotgrave Board was already in operation and was chaired by the Chief Executive and had been working towards the regeneration of the Town Centre.

Councillor Robinson said that this governance would provide a reporting mechanism for the Local Enterprise Partnership and for Cabinet, although at present there was no clarity on the frequency or the depth of information required for reporting to the Partnership.

Councillor Mason supported the proposal and Councillor Clarke stated that this was a straightforward approach.

RESOLVED that Cabinet delegates responsibility for securing and overseeing the Growth Deal funding to the Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board with updates to Cabinet as required.

12. **Off Street Car Parking Civic Centre**

Councillor Cottee presented the report of the Executive Manager - Transformation which proposed the introduction of a Parking Places Order to make the visitors' car park at the Civic Centre a temporary public off-street parking place. He explained that this would restrict parking to 30 minutes which would be compatible with the on-street parking restrictions on Pavilion Road. This proposal would be subject to a six week consultation period. It was felt that this was a necessary step as, with the introduction of the Rushcliffe Technical and Enterprise Centre at the Civic Centre there had been an increase in the number of visitors to the building thereby putting pressure on the existing spaces. The Order would be in place until 31 January 2017 which would be in line with the Council's move to new offices.

Councillor Cottee said that he had received some comments that the length of time should be increased to 60 minutes, however these comments would be considered as part of the consultation responses.

In support of the proposals Councillor Lawrence stated that this was a sensible approach.

Councillor Clarke believed that all responses, including those regarding timing, should be considered as part of the consultation exercise.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council undertakes a consultation exercise on the proposed use of the visitors' car park as a temporary public off-street parking place up until 31 January 2017 and the making of a Parking Places Order to regulate its use:

To introduce public off-street parking within the visitors' car park at the Civic Centre, Monday to Sunday (inclusive) 24 hours a day until 31 January 2017, with parking limited to 30 minutes Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm and No Return within 1 hour; and unlimited parking at other times, except for match days/evenings when Nottingham Forest Football Club has use of the car park for season ticket holders.

- b) Decisions on the use of the visitors' car park as an off-street parking place and implementation of the Parking Places Order resulting from the consultation be delegated to the Portfolio Holder – Communities and Leisure in consultation with the Executive Manager – Transformation.

13. **Financial Outturn 2014/15**

Councillor Robinson presented the outturn report for 2014/15. He congratulated the finance section on the work undertaken to produce the draft Statement of Accounts prior to the 30 June deadline. He was pleased to say that there was an underspend on both the revenue account and the Capital Programme. This underspend would enable the Council to meet the financial challenges it would face in the future. The £1.67 million underspend on the revenue account mainly related to £0.56 million extra planning income, £0.2 million additional grant income

and £0.15 million reduced contributions to capital in respect of the A453 improvements.

With regard to the Capital Programme the actual spend was £3.3 million. This was a significant underspend but this related mainly to timing issues, including the £2 million loan to the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club which had not yet been requested, the A453 improvements, the leisure and Civic relocation project and improvements to Bridgford Hall. It was noted that these were largely outside of the Council's control.

Councillor Mason agreed that there were good reasons for the large underspend on the Capital Programme, however the timing of spending should be considered more in the future.

In conclusion, Councillor Clarke stated that, in the future when budgeting, more realistic timescales should be used. Although it was recognised that the reasons were outside of the Council's control and whilst justifiable the underspend could be seen negatively.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- a) Notes the 2014/15 revenue underspend position (Appendix B) and approves the associated changes to the earmarked reserves (Appendix C)
- b) Notes the Capital underspend position and approves the Capital carry forwards outlined in section 4.7 and Appendix D.

14. Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item of business pursuant to Regulation 4 (2) of the above Regulations on the grounds that it is likely that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15. Civic Centre Options

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive regarding options for the Civic Centre following the Cabinet's decision on 9 June 2015 to build new Civic offices as part of the redevelopment of the Arena site.

RESOLVED that Cabinet confirms its preference to dispose of the Civic Centre and requests the Chief Executive:

- a) makes the necessary arrangements to market the Civic Centre for future disposal (on a freehold basis), and
- b) brings a future report to Cabinet on the results of the marketing of the Civic Centre so that Cabinet can consider offers received.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN