

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors H A Chewings S J Hull A MacInnes G R Mallender.

OFFICERS PRESENT:

A Graham	Chief Executive
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
P Linfield	Interim Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
A Pegram	Service Manager - Communities
D Swaine	Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J N Clarke

16. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. Land Acquisition and Disposal Bingham

Councillor Robinson presented a report which outlined an opportunity for the Council to acquire a piece of land in Bingham that was managed by the Crown Estate. This land was part of the Section 106 agreement for the development known as Land North of Bingham, which could be used to support local businesses looking for employment land. However Members required further clarification on the land identified in Appendix 1. The Executive Manager - Transformation explained that the area had been identified as part of the masterplan included within the outline planning application for the site. She stated that the outlined area was approximately 2 hectares and that the piece of land being discussed equated to 1.2 hectares, however, if approved, discussions would be undertaken to determine the exact location. Councillor Robinson proposed a revised recommendation to address this issue.

In support of the recommendation Councillor Mason stated that this was an important opportunity as it enabled the Council to generate a capital receipt that would be used to improve the leisure facilities at Bingham in the future, as part of the Council's Leisure Strategy. She pointed out that the land to the south of the identified area was contaminated and therefore difficult to use, however this purchase would improve the future options for that land as well. She highlighted that this opportunity would enable the Council to meet its corporate priority to support economic growth.

Councillor Lawrence stated that there was a significant amount of employment land designated, however nothing had been started at the moment, including a large area associated with Tesco Ltd. He asked for clarification regarding the need to carry out any decontamination work. Officers assured Members that no work was required. He felt that the Council should progress this issue especially due to the financial arrangements.

In conclusion Councillor Robinson stated that the recommendation gave the Council flexibility to improve the site and bring forward employment land that would assist local businesses. He stated that this would give access to the adjacent land. He felt that this issue should be referred to the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board to ensure that the local community and the Town Council could work with the Council.

RESOLVED that

- a) Cabinet agrees in principle to taking ownership of the land prior to development which has been identified as part of the Section 106 agreement for the land North of Bingham.
- b) Taking ownership will only be agreed following satisfactory negotiations regarding access, positioning and value within the site identified within Appendix 1
- c) Cabinet authorises the Chief Executive to make relevant enquiries regarding the possibility of acquiring the whole site illustrated in Appendix 1
- d) Cabinet receives a further report with the results of the negotiations prior to marketing of the land for appropriate disposal.

19. **Establishment of YouNG as a Community Interest Company**

Councillor Cottee presented the report of the Chief Executive regarding the work of the YouNG group and how the Council could facilitate the future of the initiative. The initiative would assist young people to reach their potential, which was one of the priorities in the Council's Corporate Strategy, by improving their employability skills and work readiness. It had been recognised by the Economic Prosperity Committee that there was an urgent requirement for a stepped change to be made in respect of the connection between young people, schools and businesses. He stated that this strategy would strengthen links to key partners.

By establishing a community interest company this would enable young people to develop an innovative and creative approach to providing careers support, work experience and mentoring/coaching opportunities for entrepreneurs. He stated that it was imperative that the company should be built and run by young people. By forming this company the concept would be able to be scaled up and give opportunities beyond Rushcliffe, which had been one of the recommendations by the Community Development Group when it had recently considered the project.

It was proposed that the Council should discuss the creation of a merger with a relevant Trust Board Partnership. In respect of financing, the cost of the project would be met from existing budgets and the Council would also receive £19,000 from Gedling Borough Council to expand it into their area. The report also highlighted the associated governance arrangements.

Councillor Butler stated that there had been many examples of the good work undertaken by the YouNG group over the past few years and that the Council should be proud that it had helped young people to be motivated and provided opportunities for them to flourish, with support from local employers. He felt that this was a unique initiative and that it was now time for it to expand to other areas. He highlighted the brand and how this would still be appropriate.

Councillor Mason, in support of the recommendation, stated that this was a very good project that not only helped the young people directly involved but helped them to infuse others. She gave an example of a young girl who had benefited from the project by helping her to grow in confidence and as a person. She agreed that it was now time to expand the project beyond Rushcliffe.

Councillor Robinson felt that this was an excellent initiative and that the Chief Executive should be complimented on his vision. He stated that the recent YouNG market in West Bridgford had been an outstanding example of how the project helped young people to develop life skills and act as a bridge between school and work.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Supports the establishment of YouNG as a community interest company (CIC).
- b) Continue to commit the current level of resources to YouNG to further establish and develop the YouNG brand.
- c) Delegates responsibility to establish the details of the future partnership and governance arrangements, required to establish and grow the Community Interest Company, in partnership with the Business and Schools Community to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.
- d) Receives a further report detailing the outcome of discussions and negotiations with potential partners, and investors prior to making a decision to formally transfer any required intellectual property, YouNG

copyrighted material, assets or resources to an alternative Governance arrangement outside the Council.

20. **Loan to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club**

Councillor Robinson presented a report which gave details of a request from Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club for a loan of £8.1million from its three principle partners, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council. This loan would be used to improve the facilities at the Ground including the replacement of the William Clarke stand and the provision of a media suite. These improvements would enhance the Ground and ensure that it remained a Test Match venue. He highlighted the world wide renown of the venue, its uniqueness and heritage. He also pointed out the socio and economic impact the Ground had on the surrounding area.

With regards to the loan he stated that the whole project would cost approximately £12 million and that the Club would be providing £4 million. The loan had been considered by the relevant Chief Executives and Section 151 officers and was deemed to be on a commercial basis and was in accord with the principles of the Council's Asset Investment Strategy.

Councillor Cottee supported the comments regarding the Ground's international reputation; he said that it was the top ground outside of London and that it was the third favourite international ground, which was well liked by fans. He stated that it was vital that the Ground was kept up to date and that it needed to provide modern facilities. He too emphasised the fact that the Ground brought in people and money, which in turn brought employment to the County.

He explained that other local authorities had similarly supported other cricket clubs. He also pointed out that the Cricket Club had honoured previous loans. This loan was to be taken over 20 years and the return rate would be 2% above the PWLB rate which would give the Council a return of £1.6 million.

Councillor Lawrence supported the proposal although he pointed out that the Ground did not have a match in the next Ashes series. He felt that this was a good business opportunity that would be beneficial for the Club, the Council and the area.

Councillor Butler highlighted the good working partnership the Council had with the Club, including the successful Positive Futures initiative.

RESOLVED that Cabinet support:

a loan of £2.7m repayable over 20 years at a rate of interest of the prevailing PWLB rate (the rate at the time the agreement is signed) plus 2%. The investment decision accords with the objectives of the Asset Investment Strategy; and

that the Section 151 Officer has delegated authority, in consultation with both the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, to agree the final repayment schedule and legal agreement.

21. **Cotgrave Regeneration**

Councillor Robinson presented a report which highlighted the Cotgrave Regeneration project. He felt that it was important that Members received regular updates, especially as it was a long standing project. He stated that the new housing site was progressing well with the first houses being occupied in the very near future. He advised Members that there was going to be a public consultation event on 23 September 2015 where two proposals for the Town Centre would be presented. He stated that it was vital that the Town Centre had a good mix of businesses and services to reflect the need of the community. He outlined the funding that had been secured, and allocated, for the project.

Councillor Butler supported these comments and agreed that this was a complex issue. He felt that it was important that the Council demonstrated its commitment to the project. Also by having these regular updates it ensured that everyone could see the facts and gain helpful information. He said that there had been changes to the project due to the economic climate, especially in respect of a partnership with a supermarket chain. He stated that the community viewed the project with interest and positivity.

In conclusion Councillor Robinson thanked the Chief Executive and the Executive Manager - Transformation for all their work and for keeping the project focussed and on track. He requested that a further report be presented to Cabinet following the public event.

RESOLVED that Cabinet receives a further report following the September public communication event, detailing the business case for maximising the finance secured for the scheme and potential investment opportunities.

22. **Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2015/16 – Quarter 1 Update**

Councillor Robinson presented an update to the Council's finances following the end of the first quarter of 2015/16. He stated that it was important to understand that the timing of some projects, such as the refurbishment of Bridgford Hall, could be delayed due to circumstances beyond the Council's control. He stated that there was an increase in planning income, which was a growth area and congratulated officers for their professionalism. He thanked the finance section for producing these monitoring reports and the annual accounts during these difficult times.

Councillor Mason supported the comments regarding the larger projects being difficult to predict, but felt that these reports ensured that the Council's accounts were open and above board. However, Cabinet would continue to consider the Council's finances over the year.

Councillor Robinson was concerned about the Funding Circle loans. There had only been one loan requested for £30,000 in the last eighteen months. He had discussed this issue with officers and they would be considering how this facility could be marketed to businesses. He did state that this could be seen as positive evidence that businesses did not require this assistance.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

note the projected revenue and capital underspend positions for the year of £415k and £1,735k respectively; and

note the use of £30k revenue underspend in relation to the first approved Funding Circle loan which is revenue in nature. This is reflected in the £415K figure quoted above.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN