

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012**

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 S J Boote, R M Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender

OFFICERS PRESENT:

A Graham	Chief Executive
C McGraw	Head of Community Shaping
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
L Reid Jones	Democratic Services Manager
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

52. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

53. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. Interim Report of the Community Facilities Member Group

Councillor Cranswick presented a report detailing the work of the Community Facilities Member Group which had been reviewing the Council's community halls, sports pitches and parks, Rushcliffe Country Park and Sports Development. This was with a view to identifying areas where efficiencies could be achieved and identifying in-house and alternative service delivery options. The Group had proposed a number of initiatives, highlighted in table 1 of the report, which could be applied to the in-house service, changing the way the service was provided. By reference to the report he reminded Members that a saving of £40,000 per annum was targeted for this review within the Council's four year plan. Furthermore the review had identified initiatives that could generate potential gross savings ranging from £76,000 up to £136,000 per annum in a full financial year. Councillor Cranswick explained that table 2 of the report outlined options supported by the Group which were in the development phase, and Appendix 1 contained options which the Group had not supported.

In reference to item 3 in table 1 in the report regarding the removal of preferential rates for the playgroup at West Bridgford Community Hall, Councillor Clarke stated it was important that sufficient dialogue took place with users before a decision was made.

Councillor Cranswick explained that the playgroup used one room in the Hall for a limited period each day, but stored their equipment in the hall for the remainder of the time. Furthermore it was difficult to rent the rest of the accommodation whilst the playgroup was running because of a number of issues including safeguarding children and noise levels. Whilst he was not suggesting that the playgroup be charged the rent for the whole building he stated that it was important to take a pragmatic view to resolve the situation.

In response to a question from Councillor Bell the Head of Community Shaping confirmed that the playgroup had paid staff and that officers had carried out an initial bench marking exercise with other providers in the area in order to market test the rental rates.

Councillor Fearon asked whether it was possible to sound proof the room in the longer term to address the noise issue. In response the Chief Executive commented that there were wider issues such as OFSTED requirements and safeguarding matters to take into account, and therefore this went beyond the issue of noise reduction measures.

In relation to item 8 in table 1 of the report regarding the removal and sale of carp and other native fish Councillor Clarke sought an assurance that the Council had the appropriate licences to achieve this. In response the Head of Community Shaping confirmed that this was the case and that carp had been sold from the lake for a period of time, and that the money had been re-invested and had assisted with the costs of the fencing around the lake and play equipment in the play area. The Deputy Chief Executive (PR) added that the Environment Agency had been consulted and were of the view that it was positive to move the fish out to create space for the remaining fish.

RESOLVED that the initiatives in Table 1 of the report be approved.

55. **Equality Scheme 2012 - 2014**

Councillor Mason presented the Equality Scheme 2012 – 2014, which the Council was legally required to implement through the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. By referring to the report she explained that the Equality Act 2010 brought together several pieces of equality legislation into one single act, incorporating the nine protected characteristics and simplified the whole principal of equality. She stated that the Equality Scheme set out what had been achieved and what the Council was planning to do up until 2014 in relation to equalities. She highlighted that the proposed objectives linked to the Corporate Strategy through the Council's Four Year Plan. She informed Cabinet that the Community Cohesion Network had been consulted on the draft Equality Scheme, and that once agreed the final document would be posted on the Council's website and in libraries.

Councillor Mason proposed amendments to the objectives as set out at page 24 of the Scheme so that they were reflective of the Council's commitment both to residents and staff. As such the amended objectives would read:

To find out who our customers are, what they want and how they are treated we will:

- *Monitor the demographic make-up of our residents and our workforce*
- *Consult customers and staff where appropriate*
- *Carry out equality impact assessments as part of our 4-year plan.*

Cabinet welcomed the Equality Scheme and Councillor Fearon stated that it contained important information which all councillors would find useful.

RESOLVED that the Equality Scheme 2012 – 2014 be approved, subject to the words 'and our workforce' being added to objective 1 and 'and staff' to objective 2 on page 24 of the Strategy.

56. Service Level Agreement – Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire

Councillor Cranswick presented the Council's proposed single Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) for 2012 – 2015. He reminded Cabinet that the SLA had been agreed in principle and had been presented to Cabinet in January. By referring to the report, in particular Schedules A to D, he drew Cabinet's attention to the revised SLA which now contained the activities and outcomes expected of RCVS and RCAN. Furthermore the two organisations would now be responsible for distributing funding amongst themselves. He said that Schedule D now contained an adequate representation of the requirements in relation to evaluation and monitoring, and payment. Councillor Cranswick pointed out a number of minor amendments to be incorporated in the Schedules as follows:

- Schedule B, service 1 (2), last bullet point: amend 'photocopies' to 'photocopier' (page 46)
- Schedule B, service 4 (2), third bullet point: delete 'enable', replace with 'have', delete 'to be' (page 47)
- Schedule C, service 2, above bullet points: add 'Demonstrate that'
- Schedule C, service 5, bullet point 8: add 'RCVS' before 'website'.

In response to a question from Councillor Cranswick, the Head of Community Shaping confirmed that a formal tenancy agreement was in place alongside the SLA documentation.

Councillor Clarke stated that the SLA now clearly demonstrated what the Council could expect from the organisations and this was welcomed.

Councillor Mrs Smith informed Cabinet that the SLA had been presented to the Community Development Scrutiny Group on a number of occasions and had also previously been considered by Cabinet. She drew Cabinet's attention to Schedule D which required RCVS/RCAN to provide activity monitoring reports

with evidence of outcomes to the Council four times per year. It also required six-monthly meetings with key officers and the Cabinet Portfolio holders for Finance and Community Services, and annual scrutiny by the Partnership Delivery Group.

Councillor Fearon welcomed the revised and much improved document and questioned what happened if the organisations did not deliver on the SLA. Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that if this was the case then ultimately the funding could be withdrawn.

Councillor Bell stated he was pleased to see the evidence required in Schedule C, in return for the Council's investment.

RESOLVED that the Service Level Agreement for Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire be approved, subject to the necessary amendments being made to Schedules B and C.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN