

**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET  
TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017**

Held At 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

Councillors R L Butler, J N Clarke, D J Mason, S J Robinson, R G Upton

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors A MacInnes, G R Mallender

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

P Linfield	Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
G O’Connell	Monitoring Officer
A Poole	Constitutional Services Team Leader

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors J E Cottee

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Planning Peer Challenge**

Councillor Butler presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities regarding the Planning Peer Challenge which the Council commissioned between 15 – 17 February 2017. He explained that the review looked at the Council’s planning services and the challenges that the Council faced delivering the significant growth agenda for both housing and employment. The resulting peer challenge report identified that the Council’s Planning Services performed well and were valued by its customers and users. Members were informed that this was an ongoing process and that the Peer Challenge team had identified areas for further consideration and action.

Councillor Butler highlighted that the recommendations included:

- Changes to the Committee including calling it the ‘Planning Committee’  
- to improve public engagement and provide a refocus of the committee on strategic decision-making  
A review of resources - Review development, management and planning policy resources

- Support for quicker implementation of growth: the use of programme management to take an overview of the strategic sites and have flexibility to switch resources. Explore further opportunities for support from the Local Enterprise Partnership and Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB)
- An examination of opportunities for the current Strategic Growth Board to develop or support creation of a 'strategic projects delivery board'

Members were informed that a plan had been produced that identified the actions to address these recommendations over the next 12 months. He summarised by explaining that this had been a very positive exercise for all involved and he was happy to put forward the recommendations detailed in the report.

Councillor Upton added his support, saying that he was particularly pleased to see a change in the name of the Committee, that public engagement was to be increased; provided it was effectively time managed and that there would be an improved template for Councillors to use when submitting comments on planning applications to clearly identify any 'material objections'.

Councillor Mason supported the comments made and recognised the work carried out by the Committee and Members. She was pleased to see a reduction in numbers on the Committee as it reflected the reduction on the Council from 50 – 44 Members. She also supported the recommendation for annual training of Councillors, which would take account of new rules and changes to procedures. Councillor Clarke added that this ensured that all Members of the Committee were up to date and conversant with current regulations.

Councillor Robinson concurred with the comments made and supported the recommendation concerning the use of the Strategic Growth Board as it enabled Members and Officers to focus on specific sites which boosted growth in the Borough.

Councillor Clarke supported the recommendation to enable public speaking stating that it brought the borough practices in line with those of most Councils.

Councillor Butler concluded by thanking the review team, the staff and officers who were involved in the review.

In response to questions, The Executive Manager – Communities explained that a further report would be presented to June Cabinet, and then to the Council at its meeting in June. Any changes to the committee would then be implemented from July 2017.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The planning peer challenge review team are thanked for their hard work and final report; and

b) The emerging Planning Peer Challenge Action Plan is agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

CHAIRMAN