

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017**

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

PRESENT:

Councillors S J Robinson (Chairman), A J Edyvean, D J Mason, G S Moore, R G Upton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors R Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender, S Mallender
3 Members of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
M Elliott	Constitutional Services Team Leader
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
G O’Connell	Monitoring Officer
L Webb	Constitutional Services Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2017/18 – Quarter 1 Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report of Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services to provide an update on the Council’s budget position for both revenue and capital accounts as at 30 June 2017.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that with regard to the Council’s revenue account there were projected efficiency savings for the year of £103,000 and additional funding identified of £9,000. The current financial position included a number of positive variances including employee cost savings; savings from contracts, reductions in both Housing and Council Tax Benefit payments as well as increased income generated from green waste collections. It was noted that that these amounts could improve throughout the remainder of the year as managers continued to drive cost saving and raise

income against existing budgets. The revenue monitoring statement by service area, along with a detailed variance analysis, as at 30 June, 2017 were attached as appendices to the officer's report.

The updated Capital Programme monitoring statement was also attached as an appendix to the officer's report and provided details of the progress of the capital schemes, as well as information on both the rephasing of schemes and current efficiency savings identified of £2,425,000. The original Capital Programme of £15.13 million had been supplemented by a net amount brought forward and in-year adjustments of £9.97 million which gave a revised total of £25.1 million. The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted that this was an ambitious Capital Programme which would see the completion of two major redevelopment schemes, the Cotgrave Multi-service Centre and the Cotgrave Employment Land.

Councillor Upton, in seconding the recommendations noted the favourable position of both the revenue and capital accounts. Councillor Robinson welcomed the feasibility assessment concerning Bingham Leisure Centre and advised that he looked forward to seeing the results of the assessment.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the projected revenue and capital budget positions for the year of £12,000 revenue efficiencies and £2,425,000 from capital scheme rephrasing and efficiency savings be noted.
- b) the use of a maximum of £20,000 of the revenue efficiencies towards a business case feasibility assessment concerning Bingham Leisure Centre be approved.

Reason for decisions

To demonstrate good governance in terms of scrutinising the Council's on-going financial position and compliance with Council Financial Regulations and to meet key council objectives.

25. Mobile Homes Act 2013 – Proposed Amendment to current Mobile Homes Policy Statement

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure presented the report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods which proposed changes to the Council's current Mobile Homes Act 2013 Policy Statement, which had been approved by Cabinet on 13 May, 2014. The report noted that the legislation had been introduced in order to provide greater protection to occupiers of residential park homes and caravans and that it had placed a responsibility on local authorities to ensure compliance with site licence conditions.

The Portfolio Holder advised that currently inspections and subsequent revisits had been carried out on all parks annually in order to check for compliance with the licenses, with site owners being charged an annual fee, based on a price per pitch. The Department of Communities and Local Government guidance on fee setting provided local authorities with three options for

charging for inspections which were:

- a fee per pitch (A fee based on the total cost to the local authority carrying out its annual licensing function for all sites, divided by the total number of units over all the sites which will give a price per unit),
- a fee based on site size bandings,
- a fee based on a risk rating that takes into account the size of a site; the level of compliance on a site and confidence in management.

The revised Policy Statement proposed that the Council should in future adopt an approach to the level of fees being based on a risk rating that took into account the size of site, number of complaints received regarding the standards on the site in the period of time between inspections, adherence to site licence conditions and there being sufficient confidence in site management that there would be continued compliance with legislation. The Portfolio Holder advised that the proposed amendment to the policy was based on the outcome of inspections of all parks from 2014 to the present which demonstrated that standards had improved for residents and that there was good compliance with the legislation with fewer complaints being received from residents. The Portfolio Holder thanked officers and others involved in the consultation which had helped shape the proposed amended policy.

Councillor Edyvean in seconding the recommendations noted that the proposed procedures for risk based approach to assessments of mobile home sites would give greater security to residents.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the revised Mobile Homes Act 2013 policy statement be approved.
- b) a risk based assessment on future inspection frequency of Mobile Home sites be carried out.

Reason for decisions

To provide for a proportionate and transparent approach to be taken to the Council's responsibility to inspect Mobile Home sites.

26. Playing Pitch Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities seeking approval for the proposed Rushcliffe Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy.

The report noted that the proposed Playing Pitch Strategy for Rushcliffe Borough Council and its partners had been written to provide a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2028. The proposed Playing Pitch Strategy would also provide a framework to ensure that the provision of

outdoor playing pitches was able to meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Rushcliffe and contained the three strategic aims of:

- protecting the existing supply of playing pitch facilities where it was needed for meeting current or future needs.
- enhancing the playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
- providing new outdoor sports facilities where there was current or future demand to do so.

The proposed Playing Pitch Strategy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the analysis of the existing provision for all pitch sports was that either demand was currently being met or there was a shortfall in provision, however there were some areas where demand was currently being met that would experience shortfalls in the future and that current shortfalls in provision would also become worse in future years if action was not taken.

The proposed Playing Pitch Strategy had also identified that the supply of skate parks in the Borough, while considered sufficient in number, faced considerable challenges with two thirds of existing provision being of a poor condition and requiring financial investment to ensure their long-term sustainability. It was considered that the establishment of a time limited grant fund would enable the Council to support the owners of existing skate parks in the Borough, such as Town and Parish Councils with match funding which could also assist in securing other external funding to replace poor quality timber skate-parks with low maintenance concrete facilities. The Portfolio Holder advised that the options for the creation of a skate park improvement grant fund would be brought to Cabinet in November 2017 for consideration. Councillor Mason thanked Councillor Cottee who had initiated the work on the Playing Pitch Strategy and officers for their hard work in developing the strategy.

Councillor Moore in seconding the recommendations noted how proud he was that sport, was such a part of the Borough's identity and the provision of high quality sports facilities was such a high priority for the Council and noted the comprehensiveness and ambition of the strategy. Councillor Moore also welcomed that a further report on skate parks would be brought to Cabinet as they provided a great community facility but noted his sadness that the Hook Skate Park in Lady Bay had been vandalised. Councillor Upton noted that the document would be useful for Town and Parish Councils to use as a reference due to the great amount of detail published in the strategy. Councillor Robinson thanked the officers for their hard work in producing the strategy and noted that the strategy would enable to the Council to meet the demands on sports pitches that the predicted population growth within the Borough over the next ten years would create.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the Rushcliffe Playing Pitch Strategy be adopted.
- b) that the Executive Manager – Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure be delegated authority to approve any minor drafting amendments.
- c) that a further report on the creation of a skate-park improvement grant fund and the associated conditions be brought to the November, 2017 meeting of Cabinet.

Reason for decisions

It is important that Rushcliffe Borough Council has an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy in order to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meets the local needs of existing and future residents across Rushcliffe.

27. Overage Payments – Land at Melton Road, Edwalton

The Leader presented the report of the Chief Executive to advise Cabinet of the results of the negotiations with, as well as of the proposed framework of calculations under the overage agreement with the landowner of the areas of land at Melton Road, Edwalton, known as Sharphill.

The report of the Chief Executive included information on how the negotiations had been conducted as well as information on what considerations and elements would be included in calculations under the overage agreement. It was noted that there was an expectation that over the next five years approximately £15 million would be received by the Council in capital receipts that would then be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Leader advised that the overage agreement for Sharphill was a good example of how the Council was protecting its financial position when agreeing land deals which consequently allowed the Council to protect and deliver high quality services to the residents of the Borough.

Councillor Mason in seconding the recommendations noted how pleased she was to see the development of Sharphill moving forwards with the successful negotiations under the overage agreement. The Leader noted that the £15 million received by the Council in capital receipts would be used to deliver services that would benefit residents in all areas of the Borough.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the framework negotiated by the Council's agent, as detailed in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the officer's report, be noted.
- b) the final approval and completion of all overage-related land issues, in accordance with the approved framework, be delegated to the Chief Executive.

- c) the continued appointment of Bruton Knowles as the Council's independent valuer in relation to the overage agreement for this land with John A Wells Ltd. be approved.
- d) appropriate sums be included within the medium term financial strategy as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process to be presented to Full Council in March 2018.

Reason for decisions

To provide a framework to enable the calculation of the sum owed to Rushcliffe Borough Council whilst enabling the Council to reasonably make judgments as to the amounts which can be included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.

CHAIRMAN