

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2005**



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

PRESENT:

Councillors G A Buckley (Chairman), J N Clarke (Vice-Chairman),
J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, Mrs D J Mason, B A Nicholls

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors D G Bell, G Davidson, S K Tiplady and B Venes

OFFICERS PRESENT:

K Beaumont	Chief Executive
C Bullet	Borough Treasurer
P Cox	Borough Solicitor
J McGuirk	Deputy Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (Community Relations)
P Wigginton	Member Services Manager

80. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2005 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

81. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs D J Mason declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in item 5 - Housing Allocations and Policy Register and a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 - Project Appraisal - Affordable Housing - Lantern Lane East Leake.

82. Rushcliffe Borough Council Performance Plan 2005/06 - Update

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Management Team.

Councillor Mrs Mason reported that the Performance Plan 2005/06 was formally approved by Council on 3 March 2005 along with the Budget which supported the plan's delivery.

At this point in time the plan had been updated to make sure that any tasks contained in the CPA action plan, which were not completed in 2004/05, had been brought forward for completion this year. She was particularly pleased to note, however, that these were few and far between and she emphasised that the CPA plan had largely been delivered. This coming year's performance plan complemented the success of last year's hard work which she thanked the staff for undertaking. In particular she referred to the following -

- The new Streetwise cleansing and grounds maintenance service had now been launched. SWAT teams – Streetwise Action Teams - were now out in force in the Borough, tackling, dirt, grime and graffiti. The service would be closely monitored to ensure that it delivered the outcomes expected by the community. To achieve this, two scrutiny reviews were planned. This would help to keep the service on track and was a reassurance for Cabinet that the Council was meeting the public's needs. She looked forward to seeing the reports from scrutiny on the impact of the service.
- Rushcliffe's recycling rates in 2004/05 were the highest in Nottinghamshire and 25th highest in the Country. This was a significant achievement. It was hoped that this continuing trend of delivering improved services would continue in 2005/06 when the kerbside service for the collection of dry recyclates was introduced. This included the introduction of a third wheeled bin and once again scrutiny would play an important part in ensuring that the changes to the service were introduced smoothly and that the public really benefited from the change.

Councillor Mrs Mason indicated that the plan submitted presented the full achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan which was published in 2004, and took the Council one step further in achieving the long term vision for 2020. To that end officers had made sure that tasks within the corporate plan which were scheduled for 2005/06 were included in this annual plan.

She reported that the next step was to complete the end of year performance figures by the end of June 2005. This was the deadline for publication and it was at this stage that Cabinet would formally monitor and review last year's performance.

The annual performance plan contained all of the headline strategic information that Cabinet would need to monitor the actions and performance of the Council, planned action for 2005/06, targets for 2005/06, and the headline performance measures. In summary, Councillor Mrs Mason indicated that the document would be used by Cabinet to monitor the direction and success of the Council and to ensure that the ambitions of the Council were fulfilled.

RESOLVED that

the update to the Performance Plan for 2005/06 be agreed.

Councillor Mrs D J Mason declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the following item at 7.09pm

83. Housing Allocations and Policy Register

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Relations).

Councillor Nicholls reported that Rushcliffe Homes Ltd (RHL) was consulting the Council on proposed changes to the arrangements in respect of its

Housing allocations Policy. As well as these proposals, the Council was suggesting amendments to its own Housing Allocation Policy which would reflect its position as a strategic, rather than landlord housing authority. In addition, administrative changes were also being proposed.

He indicated that the Council was preparing to amend the policy so that it better reflected its new role as a strategic housing authority, and to enable it to continue to meet its responsibilities towards homeless people. He felt that this was a commitment from the Borough Council to ensure that people in real need were able to access the service they required.

The proposed changes to the allocation policies and the administrative arrangements of the Housing Register had been drawn up in close consultation between the two organisations. The aim of the changes was to better reflect the different positions of the two organisations following the large scale voluntary transfer of the housing stock to Rushcliffe Homes. The changes will also provide more clarity for the customer.

Councillor Nicholls reported on the extensive consultation process proposed over a 12 week period with numerous stakeholders and interested bodies. In addition, there would be a Members seminar to advise members of the proposals.

RESOLVED that

- a) the changes proposed in the RHL allocation policy are noted and a formal response is sent to welcome the proposals.
- b) the changes proposed to the RBC allocation policy are approved in principle, subject to consultation
- c) the changes proposed to the housing register arrangements, in particular the proposal to move away from the current "Joint Housing Register" with RHL are approved in principle, subject to consultation.
- d) the formal stakeholder consultation, including a Member seminar, in respect of the changes contained in this report, should be commenced.

84. Update to Risk Register

The Cabinet considered the report of the Risk Register Review Member Group.

Councillor Cranswick, the Chairman of the Group indicated that they had reviewed the register in line with the comments made by the Council's Insurers, Zurich Municipal. He indicated that the Member Group had considered the comments made by Zurich Municipal and also included items of political risk. In addition, items raised by officers had also been included.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Councillor Cranswick reported that no action was proposed at the present time to mitigate the risk of

relationships between neighbouring authorities and or strategic partners being a barrier to achievement to priority outcomes for the community. He indicated that the Council was at present working in the best interests of the community but would keep the risk under review.

RESOLVED that

the Risk Register, as updated, be approved

Councillor Mrs D J Mason declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item at 7.12pm and left the meeting during the discussion

85. Project Appraisal - Affordable Housing - Lantern Lane East Leake

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Management Team.

Councillor Nicholls reported that approval was sought for a scheme to provide affordable housing for rent at Lantern Lane East Leake. He welcomed the proposal to provide 13 units of affordable housing which was much needed in the Borough.

Councillor Clarke supported the proposals and indicated that this was an example of planning policy of the Council working by way of section 106 agreements with developers in providing affordable housing within housing developments.

RESOLVED that

the capital expenditure for the scheme be approved.

86. Chairman's Remarks

As this was the last meeting of the Cabinet in this municipal year he thanked members and Officers for contributing to a successful year's work. He particularly thanked staff behind the scenes for their hard work in ensuring that meetings of the Cabinet ran in a smooth and effective way.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN