

Minutes of Cabinet

16 December 2014

Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Human Resources
Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor T.J.M. Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Development
Councillor T. Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor D. Patel, Cabinet Member for Parking services and ICT
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications and Procurement

Councillors in attendance: Councillor F.A. Ayers, Leader, Spelthorne Independent Party

2119. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 November 2014 were agreed as correct.

2120. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2121. Bridge Street car park redevelopment – Key Decision

Cabinet received a report on the proposed sale and disposal of the Bridge Street car park site.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorises the assistant Chief Executive for Assets and Finance:

- To proceed with the sale and disposal, and select the preferred bidder as advised in the Final Selection report of Cushman and Wakefield (confidential Appendix 3).
- To enter into a Conditional Sale and Development Agreement for the site.
- To dispose of the land on the best terms possible and provided that a certificate for best value has been received from the Council's professional advisors.
- To work with the preferred bidder to ensure a considered and well-designed scheme is brought forward, which meets the 6 development objectives in the Marketing brief, and for the Council to use external expert design and urban design advice to ensure these objectives are achieved.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the need to dispose of the land on the best possible terms for the Council and to ensure a well-designed housing scheme in the process.

2122. *The Crooked Billet – Key Decision

Cabinet received a report on a request for funding to develop the Crooked Billet site for affordable housing and to invest in future affordable housing opportunities.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council:

- Agrees to a supplementary capital estimate of £500,000 for the above project.
- Agrees to setting up a £2 Million fund that can be drawn upon to be invested in affordable housing opportunities in advance of Section 106 funds being received.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the provision of 29 properties on the Crooked Billet site would provide additional, permanent decent housing, reduce the overall reliance on bed and breakfast provision, and represents good value for the Council.

2123. Outline Budget 2015-16 to 2018-19

Cabinet received a report on the Outline Budget 2015-16 to 2018-19 and issues to be addressed as part of the first draft of the detailed Revenue Budget 2015-16.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees:

- That the net budgeted expenditure (before investment and use of reserves) for 2015-16 be set at a maximum level of £13.5m
- That the report be noted and that the Towards a Sustainable Future programme of savings and income generation continues to be progressed in order to enable the Management Team, the Leader and Cabinet, identify a package of options by which the budget can be balanced both in 2015-16 and over the following three years of the outline period.
- That the financial health indicators set out in paragraph 2.17 be agreed.

2124. Textiles collection service

Cabinet received a report on a proposal to set up a monthly kerbside collection of textiles and small waste electrical items to all houses in Spelthorne and provide textiles banks to flatted properties.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves, in principle, Option 1 of the report, subject to the 2015-16 budget approval process.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that an additional collection service of textiles and small waste electrical items will generate income for the Council through Recycling Credit Claims (RCC).

2125. Land at Plots 12 and 13 tow path Shepperton (Revelstoke)

Cabinet received a report on a proposal to convert the land into a car park for the residents of Pharaohs Island.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to:

- The proposals in principle.
- Authorise the Head of Asset Management to enter into lease negotiations with the Residents Association of Pharaoh's Island, subject to planning and valuation advice.
- A supplementary capital bid for the constructions and professional fees.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the proposal represents a good use of the Council's assets.

2126. Vacant pavilion to the rear of Cedars recreation ground, Sunbury

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to construct a new building in a more suitable location but still within the recreation ground.

RESOLVED that Cabinet accepts the tender from Sunshine Nursery.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the proposal represents a good use of the Council's assets.

2127. Vacant commercial office, garages and service yards in Fordbridge park, Ashford

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to refurbish the existing property and construct an extension to the front of the building, also adding soft play, all-weather play area and fencing.

RESOLVED that accept the tender from Sunshine Nursery.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the proposal represents a good use of the Council's assets.

2128. *Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule implementation

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed implementation of the Community Infrastructure Charging schedule.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council agrees to:

- Approve the CIL Charging Schedule.
- Adopt the proposed Instalment Policy.
- The proposed Regulation 123 List.
- The implementation of the CIL Charging Schedule with effect from 1 April 2015.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that CIL is a mechanism for collecting and pooling contributions from developers and will be the main source of funding for new or improved infrastructure.

2129. Leader's Announcements

The following are the latest service updates from various Council departments:

Councillor Robert Watts appeared before a special meeting held by the Airports Commission on Wednesday 3 December to hear the views of people around the Airport following the launch of a consultation in November inviting comments on the shortlisted runway options. Cllr Watts confirmed the Council's support for expansion at Heathrow and said: "The future of Heathrow is critical to both the local and national economy."

The new Spelthorne Enforcement Team has been launched with the aim of taking strong action against antisocial behaviour by making the most of the legal powers already held by the Council and Police. The team will tackle a range of problems including abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly posting and graffiti, fly tipping, litter and untaxed vehicles. Funding for the pilot project, which will run for two years, is being provided by the Police Commissioner's Office and the Council.

At the Partnership Action Day on 3 December, Enforcement officers from the Police, Borough Council, Trading Standards and DVLA worked throughout the day carrying out enforcement action including traffic speed checks; vehicle inspections; parking enforcement; and checks on taxi drivers, licensed premises and scrap metal dealers. The Spelthorne Enforcement Team focused on raising awareness of the enforcement pilot, visiting shops and speaking to residents about the work the team will be undertaking.

Housing Benefits have started a data matching exercise in conjunction with the DWP to help them ensure that claims are being assessed at the correct rate. This exercise involves comparing the earnings details given to the Council with the tax records held by HMRC. 163 cases are being examined.

Spelthorne residents are being encouraged to check the food hygiene ratings of restaurants before booking meals out with family and friends this Christmas. Currently in Spelthorne 93% of food businesses are rated satisfactory, good or very good. 55% of these businesses have achieved the top rating 'very good'.

The Bulletin magazine has been delivered to 42,000 homes in the Borough. This edition includes festive news and events, flood awareness information and updates on hot topics such as the sale of Bridge Street Car Park.

The Community Centres are holding Christmas parties for their members in the coming weeks. These are very much enjoyed by the older residents and guests.

A rest centre was opened at Fordbridge Centre on the night of 30 November following a fire at Renshaw Industrial Estate in Staines-upon-Thames. A total of 29 people, including six young children, were accommodated until it was safe for them to return to their homes. The Red Cross and clients commented on the excellent organisation at the Centre.

The IT Helpdesk received 351 helpdesk calls in the month of November. Of these calls, 26.7% were resolved within an hour, 20.2% within 2 hours and 10.2% within 24 hours (a total resolution rate of 57.1% within 24 hours).

The Mayor hosted a Charity Mauritian Evening on the evening of Friday 5 December in celebration of the 5th anniversary of Spelthorne's twinning with Grand Port, Mauritius. Over £2,000 was raised for the Mayor's Charities. London Irish Rugby Club provided the venue for the event and Barclays Bank matched the funding raised by the raffle and auction.

A number of plants have been stolen from the newly replanted Scott Freeman Garden located in Church Road, Ashford. An article has appeared in the local paper asking residents to contact the Council if they have any information about the theft.

Garden waste collections have now finished for the year and will resume in February.

Christmas lights have been installed in Staines-upon-Thames thanks to funding from British Gas.

2130. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

2131. Urgent items

There were none.

NOTES:-

- (1) Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule, the "call-in" procedure shall not apply to recommendations the Cabinet makes to the Council. The matters on which recommendations have been made to the Council, if any, are identified with an asterisk [*] in the above Minutes.**
- (2) Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are entitled to call in decisions taken by the Cabinet for scrutiny before they are implemented, other than any recommendations covered under (1) above.**
- (3) Within three working days of the date on which a decision of the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member is published, not less than three members [one of whom must be the Chairman] of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are able to "call in" a decision;**
- (4) To avoid delay in considering an item "called in", an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be convened within seven days of a "call in" being received if an ordinary meeting is not scheduled in that period;**
- (5) When calling in a Cabinet decision for review the members doing so should in their notice of "call in":-
Outline their reasons for requiring a review;**
 - Indicate any further information they consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to have before it in order to conduct a review in addition to the written report made by officers to the Cabinet;**
 - Indicate whether, where the decision was taken collectively by the Cabinet, they wish the Leader or his nominee (who should normally be the Cabinet Member) or where the decision was taken by a Cabinet Member, the member of the Cabinet making the decision, to attend the committee meeting; and**
 - Indicate whether the officer making the report to the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member taking the decision or his/her representative should attend the meeting.**
- (6) The deadline of three working days for "call in" by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the above decisions by the Cabinet is the close of business on 19 December 2014**