

Minutes of Cabinet

27 January 2015

Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Human Resources
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets
Councillor T. Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications and Procurement

Apologies:

Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor D. Patel, Cabinet Member for Parking services and ICT
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Development

Councillors in attendance: None

2134. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 December 2014 and the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 21 January 2015 were agreed as correct.

2135. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2136. *Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015-16 – Key Decision

Cabinet received a report on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015-16.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015-16.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Council's ability to generate maximum, net investment returns with minimal risk provides significant resources for the General Fund revenue budget and the subsequent financing of the Council's services to local residents.

2137. High level options appraisal for the redevelopment of the Council offices site and the relocation to alternative accommodation – Key Decision

Cabinet received a report on an appraisal for the redevelopment of the Council offices site and the relocation to alternative accommodation.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Notes the options considered in Tables 1 and 2 at paragraph 2.7 on the redevelopment of Knowle Green.
- Agrees to pursue in more detail options 4, 5 and the public/private venture option as set out in paragraph 2.18 on the office relocation away from Knowle Green.
- Agrees to pursue in more detail options 3, 5a and 5b as set out in paragraph 2.21
- Agrees that a further report is brought back to Cabinet in April 2015 with final recommendations.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that for the Council to remain on the Knowle Green site and refurbish the current building, did not make financial sense; nor would it allow the Council to realise its aspirations for the site or deliver the anticipated income to enable the Council to move towards the stated aim of becoming self-sufficient.

2138. *Annual Pay Policy Statement 2015-16

Cabinet received a report on the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2015-16.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2015-16.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Localism Act 2011 required local authorities to publish an annual pay policy statement to increase transparency regarding the use of public funds to pay Council staff.

2139. Airports Commission – response to consultation

Cabinet received a report on the responses to the Airports Commission's consultation on the three options for a new runway.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees the responses to the Airports Commission's consultation as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that there are no direct implications for the Council but an expansion of Heathrow would bring wider benefits to the local economy.

2140. Review of Designated Public Place Order (DPPO)

Cabinet received a report on a review of the DPPO.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the report and endorses the continued application of the Order.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that, at a local residents' meeting, the police and partner agencies were thanked for their support and they commented on how improved the area was now.

2141. Review of the Leisure and Culture Strategy actions during 2014 and action plan for 2015

Cabinet received a report on a review of the Leisure and Culture Strategy actions during 2014 and the action plan for 2015.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the actions within the 2014 Leisure and Culture Strategy and the proposed actions for 2015.

2142. *Calendar of meetings 2015-2016

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year June 2015 to May 2016.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council agrees the draft Calendar of Meetings for the period June 2015 to May 2016 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for the decision:

The Calendar of meetings planned for the municipal year ahead ensures that the Council can conduct its business through its Committees in the most efficient and effective way possible.

2143. Leader's Announcements

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

Rubbish collection services all went ahead as planned over the Christmas and New Year period with very few problems and no delays.

Spelthorne Council, alongside several other Surrey authorities, has successfully bid for extra money to help homeless people and rough sleepers. A total of £247,500 – shared between six authorities and a housing association – is available for use until 2016. The money will be spent on, among other things, creating four single homeless support co-ordinators to work with the local Supporting Families Team.

Borough Councils in Spelthorne, Runnymede and Elmbridge have joined forces with Rentstart and Transform Housing to provide a winter shelter for people who might otherwise have to sleep rough. The shelter located near Walton will be open from the beginning of January until the end of March. Up to seven clients can be accommodated at any one time.

Three law enforcement officers are now patrolling the streets of Spelthorne helping to tackle issues such as fly tipping dog fouling and other forms of anti-social behaviour. The fourth post has been advertised and will be filled as soon as possible.

Cllr Daxa Patel was interviewed by Brooklands Radio on 17 December. She spoke on a range of issues including the Council's use of IT systems, the future of Ashford's multi-storey car park and the Council's role during emergencies such as flooding. Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley was also interviewed by the radio station on 21 January and spoke about the role of the Planning Committee, the Council's Green Belt policy and the Eco Park.

Of the 335 calls made to the IT helpdesk in December, 26.6% were closed within an hour, 21.3% closed within six hours and 9.4% closed within the day - making a total of 57.3% closed within 24 hours.

Following a review of the Council's mobile phone contract, costs have fallen by almost £14.5K per annum. An annual saving of £11K has also been achieved thanks to the introduction of the Lync telephone system at Knowle Green and the Depot.

The introduction of a new textiles collection service was approved by Cabinet at the end of 2014 and the implementation phase is already well underway. The launch date has been moved to 23 March to capture any tonnage that may be generated over the Easter break.

Ditch clearance works have been undertaken at Black Ditch, the Mark Way Ditch, two ditches along Moor Lane and Sweeps Ditch.

The Stanwell Recoup (recycling) project is due to conduct its final sampling and analysis next week, after which a press release will be drafted to announce the 'winners' of the incentive trial.

Activities designed for people aged 50+ started in January at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Ashford Table Tennis Club and Staines and Laleham Sports and Social Club thanks to funding from the Personalisation, Prevention and Partnership fund (PPPF).

As part of National Obesity Week, Leisure Services ran a three day pedometer challenge. Thirty staff participated and the winner, with 56,855 steps, won a month's membership at Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

The WW1 art competition for schools attracted many excellent pieces of work. These were displayed in the Council Offices on 19 January and staff and Councillors had an opportunity to vote for their favourite. All participants will receive a copy of a book containing the artwork and the winners will each receive an additional prize.

Ann Salter of Maureen Campbell Court in Shepperton appeared at Guildford Crown Court on 15 January and was sentenced to a 12 month sentence, suspended for 18 months, and 200 hours of unpaid community work after pleading guilty to 11 counts of Benefit Fraud. Spelthorne Council and the Department for Work and Pensions carried out a joint investigation into Ms. Salter's claims for Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. The fraud, committed over an eight year period, resulted in an overpayment of £65,468.96.

Residents who may be thinking of eating out this Valentine's Day are being urged to check the restaurant's food hygiene rating before they book. Currently in Spelthorne, 93% of food businesses are rated as satisfactory, good or very good.

Further to the Cabinet decision to sell Bridge Street car park to a preferred developer, the site will not be passed on to the developer until they have obtained planning permission, which is likely to be in autumn 2015. In line with Cabinet's requirements, the developer has given a clear commitment to ensuring the end result is befitting of its Thames side and conservation area setting, and to undertake meaningful public consultation before an application is submitted. The Council will use the money raised from the project to help secure the medium and long-term financial stability of the authority.

The November business start-up report showed that 65 new businesses started trading in Spelthorne during the previous month, placing Spelthorne 6th out of the 11 Surrey boroughs. The year-to-date growth rate of 1.7% gave Spelthorne the fastest growing number of new businesses in Surrey and marked it as the only borough with positive growth. The figures fair favourably with Surrey as a whole (-8.6%) and our adjoining boroughs of Elmbridge (-13.4%) and Runnymede (-10.3%) as well as bucking the trend of the rest of the country which has seen negative growth.

Sir William Perkins School has started work to build a new rowing boathouse on the river in Laleham. When completed, it will provide excellent rowing facilities, not just for the school itself, but also for young people in Spelthorne who might not otherwise have access to rowing. The Council worked closely with the school, leasing the land on which the boathouse will sit and negotiating access for the community.

The Licensing team have put in place interim arrangements for people who hold personal licences to sell alcohol to renew their licences following regulations that came into force on 5 January. This is in advance of the Deregulation Bill, likely to come into force later this year, which is set to abolish the need to renew these licences.

A pilot project was launched in December to enable the public to contact someone out of normal office hours about urgent or on-going noise complaints. Early indications are that residents have welcomed this new service.

2144. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

2145. 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 30 January 2015