

Minutes of Cabinet

28 April 2015

Present:

Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety,
Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor C. A. Davis, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor T. Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Asset Management
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Development
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, ICT and Procurement

Apologies: Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and
Cabinet Member for Strategy, Human Resources and Emergency Planning

2173. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

2174. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2175. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence fees 2015-16

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed set of fees for the Hackney Carriage and
Private Hire Licences for 2015-16.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the proposed set of fees for the Hackney Carriage and
Private Hire Licences for 2015-16.

Reason for the decision:

Under section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the 1976
Act), the Council may demand and recover the costs of the administration and compliance of
the HC and PH licensing system.

2176. Leader's Announcements

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

Spelthorne Borough Council has successfully prosecuted Shanghai Village Limited and its directors for numerous food hygiene offences at the Shanghai restaurant, 141-147 High Street, Staines-upon-Thames. Mr Yeoh and Mr Fang appeared before Redhill Magistrates Court and pleaded guilty to 18 charges brought under the Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013. They were convicted and ordered to pay total fine of £25,800 plus a victim surcharge of £180 and £1,527 in costs to the Council.

Following reports from residents, a large trailer of tyres which had been dumped in a lay-by on the Staines-by-pass has been removed by the Streetscene team.

The 2015 Spelthorne in Bloom competition launch was held at Notcutts Garden Centre in Staines-upon-Thames on 14 April. There are eleven competition categories and residents have until 19 June to register to take part. The competition to design this year's Spelthorne in Bloom poster was won by Louie Jennings, age 11, from Town Farm Primary School.

The Council Tax collection rates (cumulative) up to end March were:-

- Council Tax: 98.5% (target 98.5%)
- Business Rates: 99% (target 99%)
- Council Tax Support: 80.9% (76.1% sply)

Phase 1 of the implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management system to improve efficiency and improve customer care has been completed by Customer Services.

Six of Spelthorne's key grant-funded organisations gave presentations to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March. This followed the Council's decision to ring-fence more than £200,000 from the 2015/16 budget for 29 organisations working to support Spelthorne residents in a wide variety of ways. Each organisation answered questions and gave an insight into their work and the issues they face.

The Communications and Environmental Health teams have been working together to publicise businesses which receive the top '5' rating (very good) in their food hygiene inspections using Twitter. This has been well received by residents.

The Council has announced plans to invest £1m to secure rights to a new 29 unit housing scheme being developed by Bellway Homes on the Crooked Billet roundabout in Staines-upon-Thames. All 29 units are being bought by Thames Valley Housing Association (TVHA), one of the Council's preferred partner Housing Associations. The Council will hold nomination rights for all the homes for applicants currently on the Council's Housing Register, reducing the need for B&B accommodation.

A new website has been launched with the aim of promoting the town as a major hub for businesses. The Council and the Spelthorne Business Forum anticipate the new 'Invest in Staines-upon-Thames' website will be key a tool in attracting businesses to the area; whether they be brand new start-ups or established businesses looking to relocate. As well

as highlighting the town's assets, it features a business directory, news area, chat forum and location maps.

Town Farm Primary School and Stanwell Fields C of E Primary have received a new football kit and picnic bench thanks to local residents recycling more plastic. The Council delivered leaflets and held road shows in Stanwell and Sunbury Common to help residents identify which plastics can be recycled.

Working in conjunction with Funding Circle, the Council has announced the launch of the Local Business Lending Partnership, a pioneering new scheme to stimulate local economic growth and employment through improved access to business finance. As part of the scheme, the Council will lend up to £300,000 directly to businesses based in Spelthorne. This pilot scheme will help realise the growth potential of businesses currently being stifled by poor access to finance.

The decision by the Council's Planning Committee to agree an application by Brooklands College to create a two-storey building and sports facility on the Thomas Knyvett College site in Stanwell Road, Ashford, has been referred to the Secretary of State as a 'departure application.'

The Fordbridge Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary on 23 May with a special lunch event attended by the Chief Executive, Cllr Jean Pinkerton and the Mayor.

Environmental Health has launched a new service called AirAlert which sends text, voicemail or email alerts to residents when air pollution levels increase to a moderate level or above. The service is free to subscribe and aimed at people affected by asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Preparations are underway for the Staines 10K road race which will take place at 9am on Sunday 17 May, starting outside the Leisure Centre in Knowle Green. The race is already full but residents are being encouraged to come along and support the runners.

594 young people have signed up for the Surrey Youth Games coaching sessions which began last week. Team Spelthorne are looking for more participants for the basketball events - the boys' event is open to year 7 and 8 students; and the girls' event is open to year 7, 8 and 9 students. If you are interested in participating, please register online at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames

The Council has launched a consultation on its health and wellbeing strategy. The consultation can be found on the Council's website and the deadline for comments is 30 April.

The Council's Penalty Points Scheme for Taxi and Private Hire drivers and Operators has been updated and was approved by the Council's Licensing Committee on 22 April. The revised scheme is set to go out for a six week consultation.

The age limit on licensing taxi and private hire vehicles is set to be relaxed following approval from the Council's Licensing Committee on 22 April. Vehicles must currently be a maximum of seven years old to be eligible for licensing. The proposal is that the upper limit should be ten years, subject to the cars remaining in very good condition. The proposal will undergo a six week consultation.

A bee awareness event held at the Spelthorne Community Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames was attended by 100 local residents. Local beekeepers Tim and Sally Hitchinson gave an interactive talk on bee keeping and the vital role bees play in pollinating our seeds, nuts, berries and fruits.

Accreditation courses have taken place for the recently appointed Law Enforcement Officers. The final member of the Enforcement Team, who is currently working as a PCSO in Spelthorne, is due to start on 28 April.

A project is underway to convert the Borough's CCTV cameras from digital to a wireless network. The conversion is expected to cost up to £150k but will produce annual savings of at least £35k per annum. Work is expected to commence in the autumn. Following the departure of Brian Kingston and Steve Appleby, the Community Safety team has recruited Paul Smith, an experienced ex-Surrey Police Officer. Interviews for the second post take place on 20 May.

A project is taking place around Ashford Train Station to landscape an overgrown piece of land. This work will be carried out by women from Bronzefield Prison with support from South West Trains, local volunteers and a local DIY store. This will be completed this spring.

50 new small businesses started trading in Spelthorne in January 2015, down 5 from December 2014. In terms of the rate of growth, Spelthorne is down -12.3% on the corresponding period last year. This growth rate ranked Spelthorne 203rd out of the 326 English local authorities and below the average of -5.9%.

The first of the new Spelthorne Business Forum networking events took place at the Bulldog in conjunction with Hounslow and Surrey Chambers of commerce on 19 March with over 40 businesses present. The event started at 9am to cater for those who are unable to attend early morning or evening events due to child care commitments.

2177. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

2178. 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 1 May 2015**