

Minutes of Cabinet

11 May 2017

Present:

Councillor I.T.E. Harvey, Leader and Council Policy co-ordination
Councillor A.C. Harman, Deputy Leader and Towards a Sustainable Future programme (TaSF)
Councillor M.M. Attewell, Community Wellbeing
Councillor C.B. Barnard, Planning and Economic Development
Councillor N.J. Gething, Environment and Compliance
Councillor A.J. Mitchell, Corporate Management
Councillor H.R.D. Williams, Finance and Customer Service

Apologies:

Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Housing

2367 Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Extraordinary meetings held on 5 April 2017 and the 27 April 2017 were agreed as correct records.

2368 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor H.R. Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 of the agenda – Knowle Green Estates Ltd - as he is a Director of the Company.

Mr Terry Collier, the Chief Finance Officer, declared an interest in relation to item 12 of the agenda – Knowle Green Estates Ltd - as he is a Director of the Company.

Mr Michael Graham, the Head of Corporate Governance, declared an interest in relation to item 12 of the agenda – Knowle Green Estates Ltd - as he is the Company Secretary.

2369 *Recommendation of the Audit Committee

Cabinet considered the recommendation from the Audit Committee following a review of the Corporate Risk Register.

Resolved that Cabinet approves the Corporate Risk Register as submitted.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Corporate Risk Register accurately reflected the high level risks affecting the Council as well as the progress made on actions previously proposed by the Audit Committee.

2370 *Recommendation of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee

Cabinet considered the recommendation from the Members' Code of Conduct Committee on a review of the current Petition Scheme.

Resolved to recommend that Council approves the proposed changes to the Petition Scheme in relation to options for responses to petitions as follows:

- (a) Take, or support, the action the petition requests; or
- (a) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- (b) note the petition and keep the matter under review; or
- (c) if the content relates to a matter on the agenda for the meeting the petition be considered when the item is debated; or
- (d) the petition be referred to the Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration

Reason for the decision:

Providing Council with a wider choice of responses to petitions will allow it to respond in a more appropriate way to the matters that come before it.

2371 Government Consultation on Draft Airports National Policy Statement

Cabinet considered a report on the Government Consultation on the Draft Airports National Policy Statement.

The report explained that the Government was consulting on the Draft Airports National Policy Statement and the UK Airspace Policy document. Two exhibition events have been held locally; at Stanwell Moor Village Hall (Tuesday 28 February) and in Egham (Monday 20 February) at which detailed information on both documents was available. The consultation period closes 25 May 2017.

Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet:

- Not to respond to the consultation.

Resolved to:

1. Respond to the Draft Airports National Policy Statement as per Appendix 1 of the report;
2. Support the proposed formation of an Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise, in response to the UK Airspace Policy document.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet supports the expansion of Heathrow subject to noise, air quality and transport issues being resolved. It is therefore important to respond to these consultation documents as they will influence the way in which detailed proposals for expansion are assessed.

2372 Leader's announcements

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

Spelthorne's Sustainability team has exchanged contracts with PodPoint for the installation of eight electric vehicle charging points at the Elmsleigh and Tothill multi-storey car parks. The bays will be installed toward the end of May and will be free to use.

Guildford County Court has upheld a planning injunction issued to an Ashford resident. Mr Van Der Beeck challenged the injunction issued by the Council in 2015 which required him to demolish an outbuilding he had constructed in his garden. The Court upheld the injunction and ordered him to remove the building within four months.

Spelthorne's Licensing team took part in a joint enforcement day on 19 April with officers from the Immigration Enforcement and Surrey Police. The purpose of the day was to check that all staff employed in the licensed premises had the correct permission to live and work in the UK and that employers were conducting the appropriate checks. Of the seven premises visited, two people from separate premises were found to not have the correct immigration status.

Licensing officers joined Surrey Police and The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in a Road Safety Education and Enforcement Day at Notcutts Garden Centre in Staines-upon-Thames on 21 April. Several taxi and private hire drivers, including those from neighbouring boroughs, were pulled-over for spot checks.

Improvements have been made to Hengrove Park in Ashford following reports of anti-social behaviour. In addition to increased patrols by the Council and Police, the park will now be locked overnight and kissing gates have been installed to stop motorcycles gaining entry.

Work is underway for this year's Junior Citizen - a one-day course held in September which teaches year 6 pupils about staying safe and being good citizens. Topics covered include fire safety, first aid, online security, stranger danger and contacting the emergency services.

Improvements have been made to the subway at Sunbury Cross with new signage being installed and repairs made to the wooden fencing. A Designated Public Place Order which prevents street drinking in the area remains in force until October this year.

Team Spelthorne coaching sessions have started for the Surrey Youth Games which takes place on 17 and 18 June. Places are still available for mixed boccia, girls' cricket, girls' junior netball and girls' touch rugby coaching.

The Staines 10K road race is being held at 9am on Sunday 14 May. Registrations for the race are now closed but residents are encouraged to

come along and support the runners. The race starts from Staines Leisure Centre.

Leisure Services has been holding a series of creative writing competitions to mark the centenary of World War 1. Kitty from Riverbridge Primary School and Ryan from Thomas Knyvett College picked up awards for their winning war-time letters at a ceremony held at the Council Offices. A further 20 highly commended students also received certificates of achievement.

The Council has been publicising a scheme which offers subsidised play scheme places for families in receipt of benefits. Parents who receive Housing Benefit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Council Tax Support, Universal Tax Credit or Working/Child Tax Credit are entitled to apply for the vouchers which are worth up to £60 per child.

From 12 June, new vehicles will be used to collect unwanted textiles and small electrical items weekly with food waste making it easier for residents to recycle. Rubbish and recycling collections will continue to be collected on alternate weeks. For the majority of residents, the day of their bin collection will remain unchanged but letters are being sent to those who will have a new collection day.

2373 Urgent items

There were none.

2374 Exempt Business

Resolved to move the exclusion of the Press and Public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**2375 Exempt Report - Single Allocation Policy and Search Moves
Partnership agreement - Key Decision**

Cabinet considered a report on the Single Allocation Policy and Search Moves Partnership agreement.

The Search Moves partnership agreement and the contract with Locata Housing Services both expire in July 2017. Search Moves partners have been in discussion since Autumn 2016 to explore options for ongoing partnership arrangements.

Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet:

- Retain the status quo

Resolved to:

1. Undertake a public consultation on proposed changes to Spelthorne's Housing Allocations Policy to reflect changes to the Search Moves partnership agreement;
2. Extend and revise the Search Moves Partnership agreement to July 2020;
3. Extend the I.T. contract between Locata Housing Services and the Search Moves partnership to July 2020.

Reasons for the decision:

1. To ensure best use of social housing resources within Spelthorne by adopting an independent Allocations Policy which takes into account the local housing situation and legislative and case-law changes.
2. To provide continuity and contractual clarity between the partners and the I.T. provider.

2376 Exempt Report - Update to Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer agreement - Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on an update to the Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) agreement.

Resolved to:

1. Delegate authority to the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Joint Heads of Community Wellbeing to commence negotiations with A2D, to vary the 1996 LSVT agreement between the Council and Spelthorne Housing Association (now A2D); and
2. Agree the recommendations in the report.

Reason for the decision:

To secure Spelthorne Council's position to ensure the best use of social housing resources as a result of changes to the housing market and to Spelthorne Housing Association since 1996.

2377 Exempt Report - Knowle Green Estates Ltd

Cabinet considered a report on Knowle Green Estates Ltd.

The report explained that the Company has been set up in part as a response to the challenge the Council faces to substitute the removal of the Revenue Support Grant by 2017/18 and to address emergency and affordable accommodation pressures both in terms of supply and impact on the Revenue Budget.

Resolved to:

1. Note the incorporation and initial activities of Knowle Green Estates Ltd ("the Company"), as described in this report;
2. Note progress towards the first business plan;
3. Exercise the Shareholder function of the Council at Cabinet;
4. Exercise the Council's shareholder rights to pass a special resolution of the Company to adopt the revised Articles of Association;

5. Delegate Reserved Matters under the Shareholder Agreement to the Leader of the Council, and where the Leader deems the matter of controversy or requiring further discussion, he may ask Cabinet to deal with the Reserved Matter;
6. Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to finalise and document the following arrangements between the Council and the Company:
 - a. The draft Shareholder Agreement
 - b. The draft Loan and Drawdown Agreement
 - c. The draft Resourcing Agreement for the Company to use Council staff and facilities in furtherance of its business

Reason for the decision:

To document the relationship between the Council and the Company and to provide a source of funds to the Company so that it can undertake various projects for the Council which will help achieve the Council's Corporate Plan objectives of (a) providing another source of income for the Council and (b) providing more housing in the Borough.

NOTES:-

- (1) ***Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16, 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 five 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 five 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 22 May 2017.***