

## Minutes of the Cabinet

13 December 2011

### Present:

Councillor Mrs. V.J. Leighton (Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet)  
Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley (Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing)  
Councillor Mrs. J.M. Pinkerton (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Older People and Health Liaison)  
Councillor F. Ayers (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Assets)  
Councillor C. A. Davis (Cabinet Member for Economic Development)  
Councillor T.J.M. Evans (Cabinet Member for Finance)  
Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth (Cabinet Member for Parks and Leisure)  
Councillor R.L. Watts (Cabinet Member for Environment)

**Apologies:** Councillor N. St. J. Gething

### 1757. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

### 1758. Disclosures of interest

There were none.

### 1759. \*Recommendation from the Licensing Committee

Cabinet considered a report from the Licensing Committee on the adoption of legislation to regulate sex establishments.

Cabinet noted that a draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy had been submitted to the Licensing Committee for consideration, subject to consultation with interested parties.

#### **Resolved to recommend that Council agrees to:**

1. Adopt the powers to regulate sex establishments and the proposed fees for the licensing of those venues, subject to the Council advertising its intention to do so; and
2. Approve the proposed policy for sex establishments for public consultation.

### 1760. \*Draft outline budget 2012-13

Cabinet considered a report on the draft outline budget for 2012-13 to 2016-17.

Cabinet noted that the first year forms the framework for the detailed budget for the next financial year.

#### **Resolved to recommend that Council approves the following:**

1. That the net budgeted expenditure (before investment income and use of reserves) for 2012/2013 be set at a maximum level of £11.282m.
2. That, in order to reach this level, the Management Team, identifies a package of options by which the budget can be balanced both in 2012-13 and 2013-14 and over the next three years of the outline period.

3. For planning purposes of the Outline Budget an annual increase of 0% has been assumed for pay and council tax increases for 2012-13 except for staff earning less than £21k per annum.
4. That the Council's use of reserves policy be reviewed with the aim of the Council seeking to take account of the impact of the economic downturn and the reduced potential for capital receipts and the need to maintain a capital programme whilst continuing to maximise the level of its reserves
5. That an agreed total reserves target minimum level (as measured on 31 March each year) be set at a level of £11m for 31/3/13.

#### **1761. \*Treasury Management Strategy 2011-12 update**

Cabinet considered a report updating members on the current advice from our treasury advisors in respect of credit worthiness in order to maintain flexibility in investment decisions.

Cabinet noted the ongoing and uncertain environment in the global, financial markets.

**Resolved to recommend that Council** approves the proposed changes to the creditworthiness criteria within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. Specifically that the minimum required counterparty credit rating be reduced to A- for:

- Deposits and Certificates of Deposit with nationalised and part nationalised UK banks and building societies,
- Deposits and Certificates of Deposit with UK banks and building societies; and
- forward deals and fixed term deposits with variable interest rates and variable maturities, including callable deposits in UK banks and building societies

#### **1762. \*Charging for pre-application planning advice**

Cabinet considered a report on the introduction of fees for pre-application planning advice.

Cabinet noted that the implementation of fees will secure continuity of a high quality service and ensure that the costs fall on those who use the service.

**Resolved to recommend that Council** agrees to the introduction of pre-application fees for householder and other proposals, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, from 3 January 2012.

#### **1763. Customer Services Strategy 2011-14**

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed, revised Customer Services Strategy which showed how the Council intended to enhance the customer experience over the next three years.

**Resolved** that Cabinet approves and adopts the Customer Services Strategy.

#### **1764. Update on St. Martin's Court hall**

Cabinet considered an update report on the outcome of the negotiations and subsequent agreement for the lease of St. Martin's Court hall to The King's Church.

Cabinet noted The King's Church was spending substantial funds to improve St. Martin's Court hall for the benefit of the Council and the community.

**Resolved** that Cabinet gives retrospective approval to completion of the lease to The King's Church, notwithstanding a minor discrepancy with the terms of the Cabinet decision on 23

November 2010, namely that the break clause after two years and at any time afterwards on six months notice is for the tenant's benefit only.

#### **1765. \*Dog Control Order**

Cabinet considered a report on responses to the consultation on making Dog Control Orders for playgrounds, parks and roads within Spelthorne.

Cabinet noted that dog fouling in parks and on pavements had increased and the public was complaining about this issue.

#### **Resolved to recommend that Council:**

- (a) proceeds to make the Dog Control Orders
- (b) delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Governance to publish notices in the newspapers as required by regulations.
- (c) delegates authority to the Head of Corporate Governance to deal with all consultation responses.
- (d) adopts Fixed Penalty Notices for the Dog Control Orders with the Penalty being £75 or reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days.
- (e) delegates authority to the Head of StreetScene to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of the Dog Control Orders.

#### **1766. Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge**

Cabinet considered a report on the QEII Fields Challenge which allowed authorities to designate one or more parks or open spaces for QEII Field status.

Cabinet noted that the project would undoubtedly raise the profile of the borough's parks and open spaces and encourage members of the public to use them.

**Resolved** that Cabinet approves the following parks for nomination as Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust:

1. Orchard Meadow in Sunbury.
2. Stanwell New Start Open Space.

#### **1767. Issues for future meetings**

There were none.

#### **1768. Urgent items**

Cabinet noted the 33-signature petition on Stanwell Health and Community centre but resolved that there was no need to respond directly to Mr. McLuskey in view of the large amounts of officer time and correspondence already expended on this subject.

#### **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 23 December 2011**