

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor J.D. Packman (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 F. Ayers (Cabinet Member for Community Safety);
Councillor G.E. Forsbrey (Cabinet Member for Environment);
Councillor Mrs D.L. Grant (Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture) and
Councillor Mrs. V.J. Leighton (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

Apologies: Councillors C.A. Davis (Cabinet Member for Economic Development) and
Mrs J.M. Pinkerton (Cabinet Member for Communications)

1680. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

1681. MINUTES OF THE SPELTHORNE YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS – 13 JANUARY 2011

Cabinet discussed the Minutes of the Spelthorne Youth Council meeting held on 13 January 2011.

RESOLVED to note the Minutes of the Spelthorne Youth Council meeting held on 13 January 2011.

1682. *DRAFT DETAILED BUDGET 2011-2012 – KEY DECISION

Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer seeking Members consideration of the net Revenue Expenditure Budget for 2011/12 and to consider and formally propose a Council Tax for 2011 for recommendation to the Council for approval. By accurately planning and managing its financial resources the Council is able to maximise the services it provides to the public. The Council is required by law to set a balanced Budget.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council:

1. Consider and approve the growth and savings items as set out in the report.
2. To approve a 0% increase in the Spelthorne Borough Council element of the council tax for 2011/12 the following proposals:
 - a) The Revenue Estimates as set out be approved
 - b) No money, as set out in this report, is appropriated from General Reserves in support of Spelthorne's local Council Tax for 2011/12. £275k to be used from specific reserves.

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c) To agree that the council tax base for the year 2011/12 is 40489.0 calculated in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, made under Section 35(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3. That the following sums be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 and 33 of the Local Government Act 1992.

(a)	£53,777,800	Being the aggregate of the amount which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2)(a) to (e) of the Act
(b)	£42,394,162	Being the aggregate for the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
(c)	£11,383,638	Being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
(d)	£4,609,828	Being the aggregate sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant, increased by the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax surplus) and increased by the sum which the council estimates will be transferred from its collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the collection Fund (Community Charges) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 th February 1994 (Community Charge surplus).
(e)	£167.30	Being the sum (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at (c) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with section 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
111.53	130.12	148.71	167.30	204.48	241.66	278.83	334.60

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the sum which in that proportion is applicable to

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dwelling listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different band.

1683. FEES AND CHARGES– KEY DECISION

Cabinet considered a report seeking Members approval of the schedule of fees and charges 2011/12 which was to be implemented from 1 April 2011. Income from fees and charges is an essential part of funding for the Council and helps ensure that minimum or nil Council Tax rises can be implemented in order to maintain the services provided to as high a level as possible.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the fees and charges as set out in Appendix A to the Report of the Chief Finance Officer.

1684. CAPITAL MONITORING AND PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT 2010/11

Cabinet considered a report on the capital spend against the budget position of schemes which had been included in the capital programme for the period April to December 2010 and the projected outturn position.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the Capital Monitoring and Projected Outturn report 2010/11.

1685. REVENUE MONITORING 2010/11

Cabinet considered a report on revenue spend figures and how resources were spent on providing services for residents for the nine month period, April to December 2010.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the Revenue Monitoring report 2010/11.

1686. SPELTHORNE SAFER STRONGER PARTNERSHIP (SSSP) PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-2014 – KEY DECISION

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the draft Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP) Partnership Plan 2011-2014. The Plan set out the priorities for the Safer Stronger Partnership for the period 2011-2014.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP) Partnership Plan 2011-2014 (shown at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive), in its capacity as a statutory member of the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership.

1687. VEHICLE TENDER UPDATE – KEY DECISION

Cabinet considered a report advising Members of the outcome of the tender for the procurement of street cleansing and refuse collection vehicles.

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The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorises the Head of Streetscene:

1. To issue orders for the procurement of street cleansing and refuse collection vehicles with supplier A, as set out in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.
2. To proceed with either option 3.2 or 3.21 in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, (depending on the outcome of the Cabinet's decision on a food waste collection service)
3. To capital purchase the 7.5T food waste pod in option 3.3 in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, if a food waste collection service is agreed.

1688. SINGLE PERSON DISCOUNT FRAUD POLICY

Cabinet considered a report on the adoption of a Single Person Discount (SPD) Fraud Policy. By advising taxpayers at the initial stage of application that a false declaration could lead to a penalty or prosecution should reduce single person discount fraud.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopts the Single Person Discount (SPD) Fraud Policy for implementation from April 2011.

1689. SAVINGS ON MAJOR CONTRACTS

Cabinet considered a report on changes to the management of the leisure centres contract and the grounds maintenance contract, both of which had been negotiated with two of the Council's major suppliers, in light of spending cuts. By making savings and improvements to the revenue budget the Council will help to ensure front line services to residents are maintained.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorises:

1. The Deputy Chief Executive to agree savings with the suppliers concerned as outlined in the report and
2. The Head of Corporate Governance to enter into such consequential variations on the contracts as are necessary.

1690. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY 2010

Cabinet considered a report on a ten year strategy (2010-2020) that sets out Spelthorne Borough Council's approach to conserving, managing and enhancing Parks and Open Spaces for the local community and visitors. The strategy set out a framework for the future management and development of Spelthorne Borough's Parks and Open Spaces, which would allow costed proposals to be developed for individual parks to support the strategic aims.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopts the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010 and agrees to implement the Action Plan as attached in Appendix 1 to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive.

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1691. LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE

Cabinet considered a report on the progress of the Leisure and Culture Strategy action plan. The action plan outlined how the framework of planned policies, objectives and actions that will guide the provision and opportunities for leisure and culture until 2012, would benefit the health, well-being and enjoyment of residents.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Continues to support the ongoing actions resulting from the Leisure and Culture Strategy.
2. Supports the research required to prepare an up- to-date Strategy for 2012–2016.

1692. SPELTHORNE SINGLE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PLAN

Cabinet considered a report on the Council's responsibility under the new Equality Act 2010 and presenting the updated Single Equality Scheme 2010–2012 and the actions arising from it. The Council had a statutory duty to ensure that its staff and community had equal employment opportunities and that the community were able to participate in services the Council provides and that it recognises the diversity within its community.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the actions achieved and agrees the updated Single Equality Scheme 2010-2012.

1693. URGENT BUSINESS – WAR WIDOWS PENSIONS

The Chairman agreed that this matter be dealt with as Urgent Business, as the decision would have implications for the budget which was due to be considered at the February Council meeting and could not wait until the next meeting of the Cabinet on 22 March 2011.

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to continue supporting a localised housing benefit scheme, which fully disregards the monetary amount received through war disablement and war widows pensions when calculating housing /council tax benefit.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to continue the localised housing benefit scheme which increases benefit payments to war widows and claimants who have suffered any war disablement, for a further two financial years (2011-2012 and 2012-2013).

1694. EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, indicated below.

1695. EXEMPT REPORT – CCTV CONTRACT AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
[Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority)]

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Cabinet considered a report seeking Members approval on the proposed terms for the monitoring and maintenance of the Council's static camera system by Safer Runnymede from 1st April 2011.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees:

1. To enter into a 10 year contract with Runnymede Borough Council from 31st March 2011 on the alternative terms negotiated, and subject to the outcome of contract negotiations between Runnymede Borough Council and Elmbridge Borough Council.
2. To provide one additional camera in Ashford Town Centre, the capital cost to be funded by the Ashford regeneration fund up to a maximum of £13k and the revenue costs to be met from the savings arising from the new contract with Runnymede Borough Council, subject to the outcome of contract negotiations between Runnymede Borough Council and Elmbridge Borough Council.
3. To provide one additional camera at the Depot, the capital cost to be subject to a capital bid in due course, and the revenue costs to be met from the savings arising from the new contract with Runnymede Borough Council, subject to the outcome of contract negotiations between Runnymede Borough Council and Elmbridge Borough Council.

1696. EXEMPT REPORT – WRITE-OFFS

[Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority)]

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to write debts off over the delegated amount contained in the standing orders.

The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the write-off in all cases listed in Appendix 1 to the report of the Chief Finance Officer.

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***

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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 February 2011.*