

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor J.D. Packman (Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet, and Cabinet Member - Leader of the Council);
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 S. Bhadye (Cabinet Member for Health and Independent Living);
Councillor C.A. Davis (Cabinet Member for Regeneration);
Councillor Mrs. D.L. Grant (Cabinet Member for Young People and Cultural Services);
Councillor A.P. Hirst (Cabinet Member for Communications and Engagement); and
Councillor Mrs. V.J. Leighton (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services).

Apologies: Councillor G.E. Forsbrey.

1497. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2009 were confirmed as correct record.

1498. PETITION OBJECTING TO STOPPING OF GRASS CUTTING IN SYKES DRIVE, STAINES - REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 23 JULY 2009

The Cabinet considered a report on the petition from Mrs. Helena Weston of 9 Millers Close, Priory Green, Staines objecting to the decision to stop grass cutting in Sykes Drive, Staines which had been referred to the Cabinet by the Council at its meeting on 23 July 2009.

Cabinet Members were reminded that the frequency and amount of grass cutting that now takes place within the Borough [including that in Sykes Drive, Staines] was reviewed and agreed by the former Executive on 20 January 2009, as part of the setting of the specifications for the operation of the new Grounds Maintenance Contract. The options considered were in the main body of the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Mrs. Helena Weston be advised that the decision to stop grass cutting in Sykes Drive, Staines will be reviewed in late 2009 as part of an overall review of all Council Grass Cutting within the Borough.
2. That this review will be commenced by the Officers as soon as the grass cutting season finishes in late 2009, so that they will be able to analyse the full effects of the changes made to the frequency and amount of grass cutting that now takes place within the Borough.
3. That the report by the Officers on the outcome of the overall review of all Council Grass Cutting within the Borough will be reported to Performance Management and Review Committee on 1 December 2009 and then to the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 January 2010.

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1499. GARDEN WASTE SCHEME EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

The Cabinet considered a report on the Garden Waste Scheme Extension and Alterations.

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

RESOLVED to:

1. Proceed with Option 2, which is to extend the current scheme.
2. Waive Contract Standing Orders to allow the order for new bins to be placed directly with the Council's current supplier.
3. Authorise the financial implications and approve a supplementary capital estimate for 2009-2010 of £110,000.
4. Increase the annual charge for one bin to £45.00 and to incentivise early sign-up by charging £40 if residents sign-up before the end of January 2010 and by freezing the price at £40.00 per annum for two years for those that sign up before 31 January 2010.

1500. *HOUSING STRATEGY 2009-2014 – KEY DECISION

The Cabinet considered a report on the Housing Strategy 2009-2014.

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

RESOLVED to note that the Improvement and Development Committee on 3 September 2009 had recommended the Cabinet to adopt the four priorities for the new Housing Strategy 2009-2014 and the Action Plans.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Council adopt the four priorities for the new Housing Strategy 2009-2014 and the Action Plans, as set out at Appendix A to the report by the Deputy Chief Executive.

1501. REPORT SEEKING APPROVAL FOR CAPITAL FUNDING A SALIX PROJECT

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for capital funding a Salix project.

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

RESOLVED to agree £46,000 capital provision for 2009-2010, in order to proceed with the Salix funded projects at the Tothill Multi storey Car Park, on the understanding that the Council's 50% up front contribution of £23,000 towards these projects is reimbursed to the Council prior to or at the end of the two year pay back period.

1502. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN REVISION – KEY DECISION

The Cabinet considered a report on the Emergency Response Plan Revision.

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

RESOLVED to:

1. Note that the Improvement and Development Committee on 3 September 2009 had recommended the Cabinet to adopt the Emergency Response Plan Revision.
2. Approve, in principle, the draft Emergency Response Plan Revision, subject to final approval by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, by 1 November 2009 to allow for any further corrections or amendments to be made to the Plan when all the feedback from Members has been received.

1503. CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY – 2009 TO 2012

The Cabinet considered a report on the Customer Service Strategy – 2009 to 2012.

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

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Customer Service Strategy and action plans as set out at Appendix 1 to the report by the Assistant Chief Executive, subject to the purpose of report and any similar references in the Strategy being amended to read “This report presents the proposed revised Customer Service Strategy, which shows how we will be working to improve customer service delivery over the next 3 years.”

1504. DELIVERY OF SAVINGS BUILT INTO 2009-2010 REVENUE BUDGET – KEY DECISION

The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer on the Delivery of Savings built into the 2009-2010 Revenue Budget.

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

RESOLVED to note the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the Delivery of Savings built into the 2009-2010 Revenue Budget.

1505. 2009-2010 - REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer on the 2009-2010 - Revenue Monitoring.

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

RESOLVED to note the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the 2009-2010 - Revenue Monitoring, with the amended total figure of £84,000 to be inserted in the table shown in paragraph 2.11 of the report.

1506. 2009-2010 - CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer on the 2009-2010 - Capital Monitoring.

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

RESOLVED to note the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the 2009-2010 - Capital Monitoring.

1507. THE CABINET FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED to note the updated version of the Council's Cabinet Forward Plan for the period from 1st September 2009 to 31st August 2010.

NOTES:-

- (1) ***Members of the Improvement and Development and Performance Management and Review Committees are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.2 in the Council's Constitution, 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 Improvement and Development and Performance Management and Review Committees 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 either the Improvement and Development or the Performance Management and Review Committee are able to "call in" a decision which falls within the functions of their own particular Committee;***
- (4) ***To avoid delay in considering an item "called in", an extraordinary meeting of the relevant 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 an 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 their 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.***

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- (6) *The deadline of three working days "for call in" by Members of the Improvement and Development and Performance Management and Review Committees in relation to the above decisions by the Cabinet is the close of business on TUESDAY – 22 SEPTEMBER 2009.*