

Minutes of Cabinet

16 July 2013

Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Corporate Governance
Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications, ICT and Procurement

Apologies: Councillor T.J.M. Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Corporate Development
Councillor T. Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor S. Webb, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing

In attendance: Councillors M. Bushnell, D. Grant and A. Patterson

1944. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

1945. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

1946. *A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough.

Councillor Grant queried the omission from the report of the cost of extending the football season and whether the cost would now be included.

The Sports and Facilities Manager responded that the Council is currently in discussions with Lotus about the cost per game if the season were to be extended.

The Leader added that report would not be changed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy for implementation.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that a new Strategy is essential in order to inform decisions regarding pitch provision and the best use of open space for sport in all areas of the Borough.

1947. Manor Park café and Beresford House

Cabinet considered a report requesting the approval of two Leases of Council land.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to the grant of a Lease, in accordance with the terms as set out in the report, to:

- (1). Mr. and Mrs. Rowe for the purpose of a new community café in Manor Park, Shepperton, and
- (2). Spelthorne Mental Health Association for the use of Beresford House within Fordbridge Park.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that both schemes support economic development, employment and additional community facilities for local residents at no financial cost to the Council.

1948. Assets of Community Value

Cabinet considered a report on new legislation which gives community groups greater powers to formally identify assets which are of community value within the local authority's area.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees that the following proposals are put in place in order to effectively deal with requests under the scheme:

1. To create a new Member Panel to be referred to as the Assets of Community Value Member Panel, with the remit and terms of reference as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.
2. The Leader to be delegated authority to assess and determine recommendations made by the Assets of Community Value Member Panel.
3. The Head of Corporate Governance be delegated the authority to be the senior officer responsible for internal reviews of nomination decisions made under the Act and the Regulations.
4. The Chief Executive be delegated the authority to be the officer responsible for internal reviews of compensation decisions made under the Act and the Regulations.
5. The Head of Corporate Governance to agree all other processes and procedures for dealing with any applications made under this scheme.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that these regulations bring in some important detail for local authorities about the processes they need to have in place to deal with this legislation.

1949. Lease of office premises at Knowle Green to Surrey County Council

Cabinet considered a report requesting approval of a new Lease to the County on their use of office space at Knowle Green.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves a new Lease to Surrey County Council for office space at the Council offices, Knowle Green for five years until 4 December 2016.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the primary purpose of granting a new Lease is to achieve more office space for the County Council's growing needs.

1950. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

1951. Urgent Items

Cabinet acknowledged the excellent work of the Leisure team with particular reference to the following:

Team Spelthorne secure second place at P&G Surrey Youth Games 2013

Spelthorne Youth Achievement Awards

Free beginners squash course

Walking for Health scheme

Help for families on benefits

Helping young people in Spelthorne into employment

Opening of the wellbeing Centre at the Greeno

Cabinet also noted the following, upcoming free events:

Saturday 20 July the Spelthorne Museum hosts "Up pontes!" fun and games in Roman Spelthorne.

Saturday 27 July the resource centre in Staines-upon-Thames is holding a free craft open day for families with children from 5-11years from 10am-2pm.

Wednesday 7 August National play day is being held in Ashford Recreation Ground from 12noon-4pm.

Tuesday 20 August a celebration of Orchard Meadow in Sunbury becoming a Queen Elizabeth II field as part of the Diamond Jubilee. There will be activities for all ages.

1952. 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.

1953. Exempt Report – *Meals-on-wheels procurement of new vehicles

Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).

Cabinet considered an exempt report on the procurement of new vehicles for the meals-on-wheels service.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees the contract to provide new vehicles for the meals-on-wheels service.

1954. Exempt Report – *Property Searches Litigation

Paragraph 5 – Information relating to legal proceedings or instructions to/the opinion of Counsel.

Cabinet considered an exempt report on the procedure relating to searches of the local land charges register.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees a delegation to allow the Head of Corporate Governance to have unlimited financial authority to settle claims, in consultation with the Leader and the Chief Finance Officer, in respect of any claims arising from the Property Searches Litigation.

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 22 July 2013**