

Minutes of Cabinet

24 June 2014

Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Human Resources
Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor T.J.M. Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Development
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications and Procurement

Apologies for absence: Councillor D. Patel, Cabinet Member for Parking services and ICT

Councillors in attendance: Councillors I. Beardsmore and F Ayers

2065. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 April 2014 and the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 12 May 2014 were agreed as correct.

2066. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2067. Street cleansing vehicles tender – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to procure five specialist street cleansing vehicles.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Authorises the Head of Streetscene to procure five specialist street cleansing vehicles through a framework agreement for a period of three years commencing in November 2014.
- Delegates the final selection of the vehicles and the contractor to the Head of Streetscene in consultation with the portfolio holder.
- Authorises the Head of Streetscene to continue to use Riverside truck rental to carry out scheduled and unplanned maintenance on all Council owned and leased fleet vehicles.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the consequences of retaining the current fleet of vehicles which, over a short period of time, will deteriorate and be subject to 'down time' and therefore less working time.

2068. Sale of land at Kingston Road, Ashford to Surrey County Council – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to sell the freehold on the piece of land in Kingston Road, Ashford to Surrey County Council.

Councillors Ayers and Beardsmore spoke against the proposal.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorises the Joint Head of Asset Management, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to secure the unconditional sale of the freehold site at Kingston Road, Ashford to Surrey County Council, subject to valuation advice.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the sale of the land would realise an enhanced capital receipt for the Council.

2069. Sale of freehold land at Annett Close – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to sell the freehold title of a small parcel of land at Annett Close, Upper Halliford to Denton Homes Ltd.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to the sale of the freehold title to this small parcel of land to Denton Homes Ltd. for an agreed sum of £165,000.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the sale of this land to the developers will enable a residential development to go ahead.

2070. Treasury Management Annual Report 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report on the treasury management performance during 2013-14.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the contents of the report.

2071. Capital Outturn 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report on the provisional Capital Outturn for 2013-14.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the contents of the report.

2072. Revenue Outturn 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report on the provisional Revenue Outturn for 2013-14.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the contents of the report.

2073. Land adjacent to 355 London Road, Staines-upon-Thames

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to lease the land adjacent to 355 London Road, Staines-upon-Thames.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to accept the tender from Mr Ball in the sum of £10,250 pa for a term of 10 years.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the site has been lying empty for some years and that letting it will bring in additional income for the Council.

2074. Legal Services Partnership with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Cabinet considered a report on a proposed partnership project between Spelthorne and Reigate and Banstead's Legal Services.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Notes the anticipated benefits of the Council's proposed partnership project for Legal Services.
- Endorses, in principle, the Council's commitment to a Legal Services partnership with Reigate and Banstead BC.
- Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to progress the partnership proposal to a more detailed stage.
- Notes that updates will be provided to Cabinet at a future date when progress has been made on the implementation of the project.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the proposed partnership arrangements would mean financial savings for the Council and a better quality of service for residents and councillors alike.

2075. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Surrey County Council Spelthorne Local Committee and Working Groups 2014-15

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed appointments of representatives to Outside Bodies, Surrey County Council Spelthorne Local Committee and Working Groups 2014-15.

RESOLVED that Cabinet appoints representatives to Outside Bodies, Surrey County Council Spelthorne Local Committee and Working Groups 2014-15 as shown in Appendix A of the report.

2076. Leader's Announcements

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

Cllr Joanne Sexton gave an interview to Brooklands Radio on Wednesday 18 June and spoke on a range of subjects including why she became a councillor and issues affecting her ward.

The floods which caused such terrible devastation for the Borough earlier in the year were the topic of discussion at the Community Flood Meeting held on the evening of Thursday 5 June at Spelthorne Leisure Centre. The public meeting, the first of its kind to be organised by a Surrey council, involved all the key agencies responsible for managing the flood crisis and recovery effort and was attended by over 800 people.

The Bulletin magazine was delivered to all homes in the Borough between 7-10 June. It includes the rubbish and recycling calendar and articles about the development of Staines-upon-Thames and the new Housing Allocations Policy.

Agreement has been reached to trial the use of pavement stencils as a way of reminding dog owners to clear up mess left by their pets. It involves spraying the pavement where dog mess has been left with a message warning owners that dog fouling can result in a fine. It will be trialled in the Hengrove area of Ashford.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme continues to work well in the Borough and many businesses are striving to improve their scores. Ashton Lodge, a nursing home in Sunbury, has recently been given a '5' rating (very good) having previously been rated as '1' (urgent improvement necessary).

Waste tonnages are steadily falling which has resulted in lower processing costs for the Council. Waste has decreased by almost 10% in the three years between 2009/10 and 2012/13 and this decrease has continued in the first three quarters of 2013/14 (figures for Q4 not yet available).

The Neighbourhood Supervisor for Stanwell Moor, Stanwell Village, Stanwell and parts of Ashford has reported some success in dealing with fly tipping. Concrete rings have been placed at the edge of the wooded area of Horton Road (near the junction with Leylands Lane) to deter vehicles from entering and tipping. Using the Community Payback team, litter has also been cleared and regeneration work is taking place to help restore this area of semi-woodland to its former glory.

Spelthorne's Environmental Health team recently worked with Surrey Police and A2 Dominion (A2D) to prevent an illegal rave taking place at an A2D property in Sunbury over the weekend of 17-18 May. Surrey Police received intelligence about the party via social media and Environmental Health served a notice on the party organiser to prevent a likely noise nuisance.

Spelthorne's Environmental Health team received thanks from Sunbury residents when it arranged for fly tipped building rubble, left in a communal garage area, to be removed by the Council's Streetscene team.

Amy Webster of Vernon Court Stanwell pleaded guilty to failing to notify a change of circumstances to Spelthorne Council and the DWP in that she had married in 2011. She received a 12 month conditional discharge and 200 hours community service at Guildford Magistrates Court on 7 May. This was the culmination of months of hard work from the Housing Benefit fraud team and DWP.

Joanne Hodgson of 33 Metcalf Road Ashford pleaded guilty to fraudulently claiming Income Support, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit whilst living with an undeclared partner. She will be sentenced at the Crown Court on 27 June.

The Greeno Day Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary on 15 May with an event attended by over 90 local people and the Mayor of Spelthorne.

The Fordbridge Centre organised a railway outing for members on Saturday 14 June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-day and the 100th anniversary of World War I.

An illegal gaming machine was seized from a pub in Shepperton on 12 May. By their very nature, illegal gaming machines often fail to comply with Gambling Act licensing objectives which are aimed at ensuring gambling is conducted fairly and openly, protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and keeping crime out of gambling.

The Council Tax collection rates (cumulative) up to end of May 2014 were:-

- Council Tax: 26.4% (26.4% in May'13)
- Council Tax Support: 17.5% (15% in May'13)
- Business Rates: 24.39% (23% in May'13)
- 6 hardship claims received - 2 approved

Recycling bank improvements have been completed, with more attractive and easier to use bin housings installed. This is already reducing levels of contamination.

Laleham Park - further public consultation is underway and is happening in libraries across the Borough from 16-24 June. The consultation details will also appear on the website and in the noticeboards until 29 June.

18 out of the 20 possible primary and infant schools are now receiving food waste collections. Food waste roadshows at local schools are on-going and continue to be exceptionally well received. A presentation was also recently given to Carers Support to help carers cut down on food waste. Larger roadshows incorporating both food waste and energy efficiency will be starting this week at local supermarkets.

Working with Action Surrey, the Environment team have installed 99 energy efficiency improvements in homes across Spelthorne. A Joint bid with Action Surrey and Green Deal Communities has also been successful and will provide more than £2m to assist homeowners across Surrey.

Cavity wall and loft insulation will be installed at the Fordbridge and Greeno Day Centres and Shepperton Village Hall.

A contractor has been brought in to enforce mooring restrictions at Ryepeck Meadow and Council owned land in Shepperton. The issue of unauthorised mooring has been a source of concern for some time and this action has been welcomed by many.

Four enforcement notices have been served in relation to unauthorised development on Green Belt land near Gleneagles Close in Stanwell.

Spelthorne Council, as part of the Search Moves group, is inviting all residents who are currently on the Housing Register to re-apply. This will allow the Council to re-assess existing housing applications in line with the new Common Allocations Policy which is due to go live on 21 July. The deadline for re-applications is 14 July.

Leisure Services is entering 28 teams (200 children) for the P&G Surrey Youth Games on 21 and 22 June. The teams were selected from more than 500 applicants who participated in the free coaching programme which ran between April and June.

Leisure Services in partnership with the British Tennis Coaching Academy is holding free coaching sessions at Fordbridge Tennis Courts as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend on 28 and 29 June.

The organisers of the Staines 10K road race are giving £6,000 to local charities.

The Spelthorne Summer Events leaflet compiled by Leisure Services has been distributed throughout the Borough advertising many free or low cost activities such as arts festivals, music events, school fetes and Staines-upon-Thames Day.

Housing Benefits and Leisure Services have worked together to provide vouchers toward the cost of summer holiday play schemes to over 150 Spelthorne families in receipt of benefits.

2077. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

2078. Urgent items

There were none.

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 27 June 2014