

Minutes of Cabinet

24 September 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 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 Corporate Development
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications, ICT and Procurement
Councillor S. Webb, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing

Apologies: None given.

In attendance: Councillor F. Ayers, Leader of the Spelthorne Independent Party

1958. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 July 2013 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 9 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

1959. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

1960. Local Plan Working Party Minutes and Recommendations

Cabinet received the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the minutes and agrees the recommendations of the Local Plan Working Party as follows:

- That the Authority Monitoring Report 2013 is approved.
- That progress on CIL is delayed until the expected new Government Regulations are introduced.
- That the Working Party is asked to progress the work to introduce CIL as quickly as possible once the Regulations are in place.

1961. Economic Development Task Group and Economic Strategy (1st draft) – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the meeting of the Leader's Economic Development Task Group of 5 September 2013 and the 1st draft of the Economic Strategy 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees the draft Economic Strategy for public consultation.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Economic Strategy sets out the actions the Council will be taking over the coming few years to further secure the sustainable growth of the local economy.

1962. *Search Moves Common Allocations Policy – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the Council's housing allocations policy which it has in common with Elmbridge Borough Council, Elmbridge Housing Trust and A2Dominion.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council:

- Approves the proposed policy so the IT provider can be instructed to build the system to facilitate implementation of the new allocation policy.
- Approves the Portfolio holder to be given authority to approve any minor amendments to the policy due to the changing nature of legislation/case law and the changing needs of the community.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that Search Moves is regarded as a success especially by applicants who find the bidding process easier and the allocation of properties more transparent.

1963. Commuted Sums Investment Strategy – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the Commuted Sums Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the Commuted Sums Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Strategy will maximise the Council's opportunities for bringing forward much needed affordable housing in a difficult economic climate.

1964. Statement of Licensing Policy 2014-2019 (1st draft) – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy for 2014-2019.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2014 to 2019 in Appendix A of the Assistant Chief Executive's report to be sent out for consultation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with the timetable outlined in paragraph 7.1 of the report.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the amendments to the policy have been made largely to reflect legislative changes which have been introduced since the current policy was approved in 2011.

1965. Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk Policies – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the updated policies.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Approves the Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk policies.

- Approves a budget of £3000 per annum be allocated to pay casual staff to attend training in the future, and to
- Approve a £1500 supplementary estimate for the remainder of this financial year 2013-14.
- Approves that the portfolio holder will have delegated authority to approve any further amendments to the policy from Surrey County Council.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Council's safeguarding children and adults at risk policies have been updated to comply with a recent statutory self-assessment audit and new guidance.

1966. Gym extension at Spelthorne Leisure Centre – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the request from SLM for a supplementary capital payment of £300,000 to extend the gymnasium at Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves a supplementary capital estimate of £300,000 for payment to SLM for this project in return for an addition to the existing management fee of £4,350 per month over the remaining 7-year term.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that:

- The Council expects to recover the Capital outlay as well as receiving an addition to the existing management fee.
- The gymnasium extension will offer an improved facility to its users.

1967. Capital Monitoring

Cabinet considered a report on the spend figures for the Capital Programme for the period April to July 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the report.

1968. Revenue Monitoring

Cabinet considered a report on the net revenue spend figures to the end of July 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the report.

1969. Local Enforcement (Planning) Policy

Cabinet considered a report on the Council's policy towards dealing with unauthorised development.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopts the policy set out in Appendix 1 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report 'Local Enforcement Plan (Planning) - The Council's policy towards dealing with unauthorised development'.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the importance of adopting the policy in order to manage local enforcement reasonably and proportionately where unauthorised development has taken place.

1970. Housing Options and Housing Benefits Accommodation Works

Cabinet considered a report requesting a £70,000 supplementary capital estimate to cover the estimated cost of works to make the ground floor west wing of Knowle Green suitable to accommodate the Housing Benefits and Housing Options teams.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the estimated £70,000 cost of works to make the ground floor west wing of Knowle Green suitable to accommodate the Housing Benefits and Housing Options teams.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that one of the main outcomes of the proposed works would be to bring the housing benefits and housing options teams together in the one room.

1971. Response to the Independent Airports Commission on submissions for a third and fourth runway at Heathrow airport

Cabinet considered a report on submissions made to the Davies Commission on proposals to add a third and possibly fourth runway at Heathrow airport.

RESOLVED that Cabinet requests the Davies Commission to:

1. Maintain Heathrow's hub status which is the best and most expeditious way of securing the UK's aviation industry and in turn support the UK economy.
2. Support the North West runway options as the quickest, cheapest and least complex full third runway option at Heathrow.
3. Support the dual North West runway option as the most cost-effective and easy to implement of the fourth-runway options.
4. Strongly reject the South West option on the grounds of:
 - a. Cost
 - b. Delay in implementation
 - c. Construction complexity and risk to delivery
 - d. Significant environmental impact on a large number of people, uncertain environmental risks in resolving serious nature conservation and flood issues, and uncertainty over continuity of fresh water supply for London.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the importance of Heathrow's hub status to the local economy – 8.3% of Spelthorne's residents work there.

1972. Outside Bodies appointments

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to appoint a representative and a deputy to the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG).

RESOLVED that Cabinet appoints Councillor Mark Francis as a representative and Councillor Spencer Taylor as a deputy to the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG).

1973. Leader's announcements

The Greeno Centre in Shepperton

The successful intergenerational project at the Greeno Centre in Shepperton – initiated to combat antisocial behaviour by youths congregating near the centre – was recently featured in Street Patrol, a BBC1 documentary series, as an example of good partnership working between Spelthorne Council, the police neighbourhoods team, Surrey Youth Service and the Greeno Centre.

The Engage App

This has just gone live in Spelthorne, the first local authority in Surrey to have one. The top 5 areas which people have been looking at are:

Spelthorne news

What's on in Spelthorne?

Tweets from Surrey Police

Other News

Local Events

Mobile Website

In conjunction with Engage we have also launched a mobile version of the full website. This is specifically designed for use on mobile phones and displays the most commonly requested areas of the full website in a simpler format. The mobile website is automatically displayed when you log in from your mobile phone.

Stanwell meeting on the Heathrow runways issue

The Council has received many positive comments on how well organised the meeting was and how it helped clarify people's understanding of the issues and gave people the opportunity to raise questions.

KPMG's Audit

The Council has just received a very positive report from KPMG on the 2012-13 Statement of Accounts which acknowledged improvements made by Accountancy. KPMG said the audit process went very smoothly.

Celebration of Orchard Meadow

This was a free fun family activity day to celebrate the re-naming of Orchard Meadow to 'The Queen Elizabeth II Field' in celebration of the Jubilee.

Community Centre in Stanwell

The Stanwell Community Centre is now open and a wide range of classes is on offer to local residents including Singing for Wellbeing, chair-based exercise plus games and quizzes.

Planning enforcement

The Council has won an enforcement appeal at the Bugle Returns Public House in Halliford to remove a number of residential caravans on a green belt site. The owner now has six months to remove the permanent residential caravans from the site. If they do not do so, the next stage will be to consider prosecution.

A field to the east of 684, London Road Ashford

The Council has successfully used planning enforcement action to stop the unauthorised use of this site in the Green Belt as a car park. The enforcement action was upheld, the site has now been cleared and the owners have agreed to pay the Council's costs in running up a case at public inquiry which the landowners withdrew from. The Council will be claiming back £14,000 in costs.

South and South East in Bloom

The Council scooped five awards.

Sunbury Walled Garden claimed the top-spot, receiving a Gold award and being declared overall winner in the Small Park category.

Sunbury Cemetery also topped its group as winner of the Small Cemetery category and Staines Cemetery gained a Silver Gilt award in the same category.

The Ash Link Nature Reserve in Shepperton was awarded a Silver Gilt award in the Conservation Area category.

Shepperton High Street was recognised with Silver in the Town Centre class.

1974. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

1975. Urgent Items

There were none.

1976. 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.

1977. Exempt Report – Procurement of support services for temporary accommodation – Key Decision

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 support services for temporary accommodation in the Borough.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to the shortlist of 4 potential suppliers to proceed to the next stage of the procurement process for support services within temporary accommodation:

- A2Dominion
- Home Group Limited
- St. Mungo's Community Housing Association
- The Salvation Army

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the current support arrangement contract is due to end in February 2014 and there is an ongoing need to provide adequate support to homeless households placed in temporary accommodation by the Council.

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 30 September 2013**