

Minutes of Cabinet

25 March 2014

Present:

Councillor R.L. Watts, Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Human Resources
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 T. Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor D. Patel, Cabinet Member for Parking services and ICT
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living
Councillor J. Sexton, Cabinet Member for Communications and Procurement

2041. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

2042. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2043. Capital Monitoring 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report giving the spend figures on the capital programme for the period April 2013 to January 2014.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the current spend position.

2044. Revenue Monitoring 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report on the net revenue spend figures to the end of January 2014.

Cabinet noted that the 5.75% interest rate we are getting on the SLM £300k loan is a good rate of return for the Council.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the current spend position.

2045. Annual Grants awards 2014-15

Cabinet considered a report on the support given to voluntary and charitable organisations in the Borough and the proposed annual grant awards for 2014-15.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

1. Agrees the grants awards for 2014-15 as set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive;
2. Notes all other support to the voluntary, charity sector;
3. Notes the performance of our key partners (over £10k per annum) and
4. Confirms that any residual better neighbourhood grants that are not spent by 28 February 2015 be distributed by the Leader of the Council to other worthy causes.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the vital role played by voluntary and charitable organisations in the life of the Spelthorne community.

2046. Food and Health and Safety Service Plans 2014-15

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the adoption of the Food and Health and Safety Service Plans for 2014-15.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopts the Food and Health and Safety Service Plans for 2014-15.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that, since Spelthorne joined the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) national Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme in April 2012, there has continued to be an improvement in, and maintenance of, food hygiene standards in food businesses.

2047. Pensions Policy Statements

Cabinet considered a report on the new Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) which comes into effect on 1 April 2014.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council agrees the Pensions Policy Statements and Flexible Retirement Policy as set out at Appendix 2 and 3 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and that the effects of the new scheme are backdated to 1 April 2014 (the date that the new LGPS regulations come into effect).

2048. Leader's announcements**Leisure**

Leisure Services has raised £21K to resurface the tennis courts in the Stanwell Recreation Ground following a successful application to SITA for funding. Work is expected to be completed by May.

A boccia tournament was held at Spelthorne Leisure Centre on Thursday 20 March. Special guest, Jessica Hunter, GB Paralympian who competed at London 2012 attended the event. Registration has opened for the P&G Surrey Youth Games coaching sessions and 176 entries have already been received.

The Community Garden project has got off to a good start at Hawkedale School in Sunbury. It is being run by a group of volunteers together with an artist, Spelthorne Natural History Society and Spelthorne Tree Wardens.

A "Keep Sakes Project" was held at the Greeno Centre to provide memory books for dementia sufferers.

Community Centre staff are receiving training to help them deliver seated dance sessions for clients who find it difficult to access mainstream exercise.

It has been another good month on Staines Moor and there are still plenty of Lapwing birds which appear to be nesting. A pair of Redshank and a single Brent Goose also arrived recently.

Communications

Cllr Robert Watts was interviewed by Brooklands Community Radio on Wednesday 19 March and spoke about a range of topics including the Corporate Plan, Council Budget, Council Tax, the Eco Park and flooding. Monthly interviews with the Cabinet Members are also being planned.

The frequency of the Bulletin magazine is being reduced from four to three editions per year with magazines now being delivered to residents in March, July and December.

Leaflets are being produced for a variety of projects including recycling promotion, the community toilet scheme and food waste reduction.

3,000 A-Z guides for older people have been produced in conjunction with Independent Living for distribution via community centres, GP surgeries, libraries, voluntary and faith organisations, social services and internal departments.

Finance

The county and local councils together with the Police and Crime Commissioner have agreed that residents who have suffered internal flooding will not have to pay any Council Tax for three months.

The Council has announced that the £14,600 donated to its Flood Relief Fund is to be given to the Community Foundation for Surrey's Flood Recovery Appeal. The Spelthorne contribution will be set aside to support Spelthorne residents. The fund is being administered by Runnymede and Spelthorne Citizens Advice Bureau and is currently open to anyone whose home has been flooded.

Environment

The Council held its 11th Eco Conference for primary school pupils in February which was attended by 7 primary schools. The feedback from teachers was overwhelmingly positive and the pupils went home freshly inspired to set up new environmental initiatives within their schools, focusing particularly on the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair). The Secondary school conference takes place in July.

The automated toilets in Ashford closed in December and a Community Toilet Scheme was launched. No complaints have been received regarding their closure and considerable savings will be made going forward.

Planning

Planning is running a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) consultation. The deadline for comments is **Thursday 10 April**.

2049. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

2050. Urgent Items

There were none.

2051. 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.

2052. Exempt report – Ashford multi-storey car park – 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 Ashford multi-storey car park.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to instruct the Joint Heads of Asset Management to proceed with this matter.

2053. Exempt report – Council Tax and Business Rates write-offs

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 a proposal to write off some bad debts where recovery was no longer possible.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to the write-off of the bad debts listed in 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 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 31 March 2014