

Minutes of Cabinet

26 November 2013

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 Governance
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

Apologies: None given.

In attendance:

1978. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

1979. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

1980. Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorses the aims of the draft Strategy and the principle of multi-agency joint working to deliver them.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Strategy is about mitigating risk and therefore these aspects are incorporated in the delivery process of the Strategy.

1981. Parking fees and charges – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on a review of car parks fees and charges.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to:

- Authorise the Head of Sustainability and Leisure to proceed with proposals made in the revised report of the Assistant Chief Executive dated 26 November 2013.
- Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to publish a notice of proposal to advertise the proposed changes.

- Delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Head of Sustainability and Leisure and the Cabinet Member for parking services to deal with any responses to the proposed changes.
- Delegate authority to the Head of Sustainability and Leisure, in consultation with the cabinet Member for parking services to amend the proposals following consultation.
- Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to publish a notice of making once the final decision is made.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that there is a cost to maintaining and operating car parks and a balance needs to be struck between covering costs and the provision of a good service.

1982. *Leisure and Culture Strategy 2014-16 – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the Council's revised Leisure and Culture Strategy for the period 2014 to 2016.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council approves the revised Leisure and Culture Strategy for 2014-16.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that a revised Strategy is essential in order to outline the priorities of the Leisure team for the period 2014-16.

1983. Staines-upon-Thames programme – Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed programme to develop key sites within Staines-upon-Thames.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Agrees the preferred options for Bridge Street (**para 3.6**), Tothill (**para 3.16**), Riverside (**para 3.27**), Elmsleigh surface (**para 3.37**) car parks.
- Agrees to **develop a promotional document** for Staines Upon Thames and commit to an Area Action Plan for Staines upon Thames when the Local Plan is reviewed (**para 3.45**).
- Agrees to formally **set up a sub-committee of Cabinet** with the appropriate delegations (**para 3.52**).

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that Staines-upon-Thames is a key priority project.

1984. Treasury Management half-yearly report 2013-14

Cabinet considered an update on Treasury Management activities for the first half year to 30 September 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the Treasury position achieved during the first six months of 2013-14 and the financial environment in global markets.

1985. Capital monitoring report 6-months' update

Cabinet considered a report on the spend figures on the Capital programme for the period April to the end of September 2013.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Notes the current spend position.
- Agrees that the Capital Programme provision for Kenyngton Manor Pavilion be re-phased with the 2013/14 provision reduced by £33k and the provision for 2014-15 increased by £33k.
- Agrees that the budget for the Stanwell CCTV project is increased by £18,110 to cover the actual expenditure incurred which is offset in full by increased funding from A2D.
- Agrees that the Budget for Meals on wheels vans is no longer required and the 2013/14 programme should be reduced by £50k.

1986. Revenue monitoring and projected outturn report

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

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the report.

1987. Outline Budget 2014-15 to 2017-18

Cabinet considered a report on the Outline Budget for 2014-15 to 2017-18 and issues to be addressed as part of the first draft of the detailed Revenue Budget for 2014-15.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Agrees that the net budgeted expenditure (before investment and use of reserves) for 2014-15 be set at a maximum level of £12.45m.
- Agrees that, in order to reach this level, the Management Team, the Leader and Cabinet, identify a package of options by which the budget can be balanced both in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and over the following three years of the outline period.
- Agrees that an agreed total reserves target minimum level (as measured on 31 March each year) be set at a level of £11.5m for 31/3/15.
- Agrees that the financial health indicators set out in paragraph be agreed.

1988. Welfare Reform

Cabinet considered a report on the impact of welfare reform on Spelthorne's community to date.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Notes developments in the Welfare Reform agenda.
- Gives a steer to officers in an attempt to achieve a workable balance between incentivisation and assisting claimants with the use of Discretionary Housing Payments in limited circumstances as described in Option 3.3 of the report from 01/01/2014.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Government's aims are to incentivise work, simplify the current system of benefits, and promote personal responsibility amongst claimants.

1989. Sustainable funding for the Surrey Waste Partnership

Cabinet considered a report on proposed funding changes to ensure future support for the Surrey Waste Partnership.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Agrees to pool 2% of the annual 3% rise in recycling credits in the financial year 2014/15.
- Notes a new base level of recycling credit payments as a consequence of this reduction, thereby allowing a similar contribution to be made in subsequent years, subject always to annual approval by Spelthorne BC and
- Anticipates a 3% increase in this new base for recycling credits from April 2015, and in other subsequent years.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the Council has been an active partner in the Surrey Waste Partnership and has benefited from it over the last ten years.

1990. Moorings

Cabinet considered a report on a review of the situation with moorings in Spelthorne.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Notes the report and await the outcome of the Environment Agency trial to implement a Thames-wide and consistent approach to enforcement and licensing of landing stages.
- Takes forward enforcement at Ryepeck Moorings in March 2014.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the increased costs of enforcement.

1991. Future arrangements for Spelthorne pay awards

Cabinet considered a report on proposed arrangements for making pay awards in future years.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council:

- Confirms that Spelthorne will implement national pay awards for local government services.
- Confirms that pay awards for senior staff will be in line with the national pay awards for local government services.
- Agrees to the setting up of an Officer/Councillor/Staff informal advisory group to consider other pay issues as required.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the level of pay awards can influence recruitment and retention of staff and staff morale.

1992. Staines-upon-Thames market Contractor update

Cabinet considered an updated report on the appointment of the contractor for Staines-upon-Thames market.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the result of the tender exercise and the appointment of the contractor Ritagate Ltd t/a Bray Associates.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that the award of the contract to the preferred partner should result in stability of income generated from the letting of market stalls.

1993. Catering contract at Staines-upon-Thames Community Centre

Cabinet considered a report on a request to extend the current contract by four months.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to an extension of the catering contract at Staines-upon-Thames Community Centre with Myers Catering by four months to 30 April 2014.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted that this was an interim measure to bridge the gap until the new contract starts on 1 May 2014.

1994. The appointments process for the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for the Members' Allowances Scheme 2014-15

Cabinet considered a report on the recruitment process for a new IRP.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that Council approves the appointment of the three candidates as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet noted the latest Government guidance on the length of time that panel members should serve, e.g. between 3 and 5 years, and that the previous panel had been in place for more than 10 years.

1995. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2013-14

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to appoint representatives to (a). The Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC), and (b). Voluntary Action in Spelthorne (VAIS).

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the appointment of representatives to (a). The Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC), and (b). Voluntary Action in Spelthorne (VAIS).

1996. Issues for Future Meetings

There were none.

1997. Urgent Items

The Leader of the Council made the following announcement on good news stories:

Spelthorne Sports Awards 17 October 2013

Sporting success across Spelthorne was celebrated at the annual sports awards. Awards were presented to local players, coaches and volunteers to reward them for their achievements, effort and dedication to sport in Spelthorne. Five nominees from Spelthorne have now been shortlisted for the Surrey Sports Awards in December.

New Boccia club for adults and young people aged 14+

Spelthorne Borough Council has received funding from Sport England to run boccia sessions for adults and young people aged 14 and over with a disability in the Spelthorne area.

Roller Disco

On Saturday 14th December there will be a Christmas Fancy Dress Roller Disco at Spelthorne Leisure Centre. This is provided by a private contractor.

Exciting new development at Spelthorne Leisure Centre

Spelthorne Leisure Centre is investing £500,000 in a gym extension. The existing gym will be closed from 16-24 December and the extension is scheduled to be open by January 2014.

Leisure Centre Success at National Health Club Awards

Everyone Active, operators of Spelthorne and Sunbury Leisure Centre's have been voted "best national chain" in the member's choice health club awards for the second year running. Spelthorne Leisure Centre also won a silver award in the regional category.

New Community Centre in Stanwell

A range of activities are now on offer at the newly built Stanwell Community Centre in Mulberry Avenue, Stanwell. Spelthorne Borough Council has use of the centre for several hours each week for community activities.

Smoothie Bike

After the success of the smoothie bike at the Spelthorne together assembly, the bike is now available for local schools, clubs and organisations to hire from Leisure Services. It helps to promote the physical activity and healthy eating message.

The Santa Trail – A walk with interactive stories about Christmas

Santa will have a special prize for the child with the best festive outfit. Santa suits can be purchased in advance from Customer Services.

The venue and times of the walks are as follows:-

Sunbury Cross Clock, Saturday 7 December 2013 at 2pm
Manor Park, Shepperton, Sunday 15 December 2013 at 11am
Fordbridge Park, Ashford, Sunday 15 December 2013 at 2pm

The Leader also announced that the Council has just launched a prize draw competition offering resident who use or new online Council Tax and Housing Benefits services the chance to win a Christmas hamper.

1998. 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.

1999. Exempt Report – Airport parking, Stanwell Moor – 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 airport parking project at Stanwell Moor.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees:

- That officers take the necessary steps to progress this matter, and
- That a further report is presented to the Cabinet in October 2014.

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 5 December 2013