

## Minutes of Cabinet

28 January 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 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 for absence:** Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture

**In attendance:** Councillor D. Saliagopoulos

### 2018. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 December 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2019. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

### 2020. Corporate Risk Management – recommendation from the Audit Committee

Cabinet considered the recommendation of the Audit Committee on the review of the Corporate Risk Register.

Cabinet thanked Deanna Harris and her team for their hard work and commended them on the brevity of the report.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet approves the Corporate Risk Register as submitted.

### 2021. Minutes and Recommendations of the Local Plan Working Party

Cabinet received the minutes and the recommendations of the meeting held on 6 January 2014.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agrees:

- (a) The report on public consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (Appendix A)
- (b) The draft Charging Schedule (Appendix C)
- (c) The supporting documents:
  - i) Appendix B - Addendum to the viability study
  - ii) Appendix D - Draft Charging Schedule – Technical Background Document

- iii) Appendix E - Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- iv) Appendix F- Draft Regulation 123 list
- (d) That officers are authorized to make any necessary editorial adjustments to the above documents and such factual adjustments as may be required for the 'submission'.
- (e) That the need to report any suggested changes to the Draft Charging Schedule arising from public consultation be determined by the Cabinet Member for Planning in conjunction with the Chairman of the Local Plan Working Party.
- (f) To note the additional areas of work required

## **2022. \*Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2014-15 – Key Decision**

Cabinet considered a report on the current treasury position, the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014-15, and the Prudential Indicators for 2014-15 to 2016-17.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that Council:

- Approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15 as set out in the report of the Chief Finance Officer.
- Approves the Prudential Indicators for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Chief Finance Officer.

### **Reason for the decision:**

Cabinet noted that the Council's ability to generate maximum, net investment returns with minimal risk provides significant resources for the General Fund revenue budget and the subsequent financing of the Council's services to local residents.

## **2023. \*Annual Pay Policy Statement 2014-15 – Key Decision**

Cabinet considered a report on the Pay Policy Statement for 2014-15.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2014-15.

### **Reason for the decision:**

Cabinet noted that the Localism Act 2011 required local authorities to publish an annual pay policy statement to increase transparency regarding the use of public funds to pay Council staff

## **2024. Leader's announcements**

### **Planning**

The Council gave a clear lead on behalf of local residents about the future of Heathrow following an extraordinary Council meeting on Thursday 16 January. The Council reaffirmed its support for a further runway to the north west of Heathrow to best meet local and national economic interests and the importance of working with appropriate parties to resolve environmental and transport issues.

The Council secured the conviction of Mr Javed Iqbal at Staines Magistrates' Court on 20 December for failing to comply with a planning enforcement notice requiring him to remove an unauthorised external shutter at his Costcutter premises in Ashford. Mr Iqbal was fined £100 and ordered to pay £586 in council costs.

The Council has successfully argued for an extension to an injunction originally made in September 2012 protecting the land at Sheep Walk by preventing anyone from putting caravans or mobile homes on the land, storing vehicles overnight, importing or processing waste, putting down hard standing or depositing rubble or waste. The owners of the land were ordered to pay the Council's costs (£11,095).

#### Communications

The Council's website and social media pages proved invaluable during the recent floods. The website received over 5000 hits and we gained 100 new social media followers (Facebook and Twitter).

Agreement has been reached to reduce the number of annual editions of the Bulletin from four editions to three when the current contract expires in May.

#### **Independent Living**

The Meals on Wheels service has now been extended to include Bank Holidays, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The Keepsake project has started at the Greeno Centre. An artist is working with people suffering with dementia to trigger memories by discussing items placed inside memory boxes.

#### **Leisure**

During National Obesity Awareness Week (13-19 January), a group of students from Bishop Wand School enjoyed a trip to the newly refurbished gym at Sunbury Leisure Centre.

On Thursday 9 January, the Mayor and Steve Parry (2004 Athens Olympic Medallist) officially opened the new gym development at Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

The Leisure team will be holding a Cycling Festival on Tuesday 8 April at Lammas Recreation Ground in Staines. The event is free to attend and there will be activities available for all ages.

A new scheme is being launched to encourage residents to improve their health and well-being by cycling. This scheme is aimed at older adults offering led rides of around 7-12 miles during the week and is free of charge.

The Back to Netball sessions set up by Leisure Services in September have been so successful that Didasko Netball Club has taken on the management. This secures the longer-term delivery of the programme.

#### Environment

Thanks to recent shrub clearance work, record numbers of Little Egret birds (a small white heron) have been recorded on Staines Moor over the last few weeks (seven in total).

Working with Action Surrey, the Council has helped a local Spelthorne resident make significant savings on future energy bills, by assisting her to insulate her solid wall property. Mrs Hay who lives in Ashford was concerned about rising energy bills which had been made worse by living in a 1920s period property.

To address residents' concerns about the cost of food waste liners, the Environment team are now bulk purchasing the liners and selling them at competitive prices via supermarkets, libraries, day centres and the council offices.

During the recent floods, the Environment and Leisure teams helped to prepare the rest centre at Greeno and staff the BEC operations. Staff also visited concerned residents in Baden Close, Grosvenor Road, Duncan Gardens and Knightsbridge Crescent. The visits were greatly appreciated by the residents.

Food waste collections have been rolled out to 20 local schools.

The number of recycling sites has been rationalised.

### **Business Development**

Spelthorne's attractiveness for businesses has been endorsed by a recently published 'UK Competitiveness Index' which placed Spelthorne 13th out of 379 local authorities across England and Wales. It was also ranked as the 4th most competitive in the south east region (compared with 67 other local authorities).

The inaugural Spelthorne Business Plan Competition took place in December. The event was based on an idea by Kwasi Kwarteng MP to help promote and identify budding entrepreneurs from within the Borough. Helen Hicks, aged 22, from Sunbury-on-Thames was chosen as the competition winner for her plan to provide a personal pet funeral service for bereaved pet owners.

### **2025. Issues for Future Meetings**

There were none.

### **2026. Urgent Items**

There were none.

### **2027. 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.

### **2028. 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.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet awards a contract for support services for temporary accommodation for a period of three years, with a potential to extend for a further two years, from 11 February 2014.

**2029. Exempt report – Catering at Staines-upon-Thames Community Centre**

**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 catering at Staines-upon-Thames Community Centre.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- Approves the selected shortlist of two suppliers to be taken forward to the Invitation-to-tender stage.
- Authorises the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Independent Living, to proceed with selecting the successful tenderer and awarding the contract.

**NOTES:-**

- (1) ***Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, 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 January 2014***