

## **Minutes of Cabinet**

**25 September 2019**

### **Present:**

Councillor I.T.E. Harvey, Leader and Council Policy co-ordination  
Councillor A.C. Harman, Deputy Leader and Finance  
Councillor M.M. Attewell, Community Wellbeing and Housing  
Councillor R.O. Barratt, Environment and Compliance  
Councillor J.R. Boughtflower, Corporate Management  
Councillor O. Rybinski, Economic Development, Customer Service, Estates  
and Transport

**Councillors in attendance:** Councillor C. Bateson

### **2630 Minutes**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2019 and the two extraordinary meetings held on 11 September 2019 were agreed as correct records.

### **2631 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

### **2632 Leader's announcements**

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

The Council has submitted a detailed response to the Heathrow consultation making it clear that Spelthorne can only continue to support expansion if a) the 16 requirements outlined by the O&S Committee are adequately addressed b) impacted communities are properly compensated via the Wider Property Offer Zone and c) the Heathrow West proposal is explored further.

The application to develop a hostel for single homeless people on the site previously occupied by the White House on Kingston Road in Ashford was approved by the Planning Committee on 18 September. The Committee also approved an application to create a patio area for the Greeno Centre in Shepperton.

A planning application has been submitted for the redevelopment of surplus land at Ashford Hospital. The project includes 115 residential homes, some of which will be reserved for key workers.

Preparations are underway for Living Well Week which aims to encourage older adults to take up exercise. The Community Centres and Leisure Centres will be running classes and activities, some of which will be free.

The Council has secured the conviction of Tracey Bulley from Ashford for fraudulently claiming housing benefits for almost nine months. She received a 12 month community order, must carry out 100 hours of un-paid work, complete 15 rehabilitation days and repay £8544.38, plus the Council's costs of £3500.

The finalists for the Spelthorne Means Business Awards have been short-listed and a black tie dinner will be held on 17 October to announce the winners.

The 2019 Spelthorne Skills and Careers Fair was held on Thursday 19 September at Kempton Park Racecourse. Over 50 of Spelthorne's leading employers and skills providers exhibited at the event. Free buses to the event were provided from Staines and Ashford.

The Housing Options team has sent a survey to 2000 clients to gain feedback on its housing advice services as part of the Homelessness Strategy review. All councillors have been invited to attend the Stakeholder events being held on 24 September and 14 October.

The Council has been running a consultation on plans to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for mooring along the Thames. It follows an increase in the number of boats overstaying or mooring in authorised areas. The consultation closes on 30 September.

Spelthorne Leisure Centre has been declared 'outstanding' by Quest – Sport England's national quality scheme. Quest is the best-known improvement programme within the leisure industry and its rigorous assessments look at all aspects of a leisure centre's performance.

The Council has been awarded a share of a £1.2 million grant to install energy efficient measures into homes. The money will be made available to the Council and four other local authorities.

Over 1,000 year 6 pupils from 20 Spelthorne primary schools attended this year's Junior Citizen programme at Walton Fire Station which aims to help children stay safe and learn important life skills.

Sunbury Cemetery was declared the overall winner of Cemetery of the Year at the South East in Bloom awards, with Ashford and Staines Cemeteries also picking up Gold awards in the same category. There was also more good news for Sunbury, with the ever-popular Sunbury Walled Garden claiming Gold in the Small Park category.

The Council has convicted two individuals for offences related to fly-tipping. Mr Mohammed Bhatti from Hounslow pleaded guilty to one offence of 'breach of duty of care in the disposal of waste' in Hithermoor Road, Stanwell Moor in August and was fined £1172 and ordered to pay costs of £700 plus a victim surcharge of £117. Mr Dean Beldom from Slough pleaded guilty to two

offences of fly-tipping in Sheep Walk, Shepperton in May and June 2018 – he was fined a total of £4840 and his vehicles forfeited.

**2633 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

Cabinet received and noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/20.

**2634 Recommendation from the Audit Committee on Corporate Risk Management**

Cabinet considered the recommendation of the Audit Committee and

**Resolved** to approve the revised Corporate Risk Register.

**2635 Recommendations from the Local Plan Working Party**

Cabinet considered the recommendations from the Local Plan Working Party and noted there would be further opportunities to amend and adjust the documents as work on the Local Plan progressed.

**Resolved to agree:**

1. the Consultation Strategy, with minor amendments to be delegated to the Strategic Planning Manager and changes of any significance to be referred to the Working Party for agreement;
2. the general content and scope of the draft policies to be published for consultation, subject to the final wording of the draft policies to be agreed by the Working Party prior to consultation;
3. the draft allocations to be published for consultation, subject to inclusion of the changes agreed to at the supplementary meeting and final wording to be agreed by the Working Party prior to consultation; and
4. the evidence base documents be published to support the consultation.

**2636 Capital Monitoring Q1 (April to June)**

Cabinet considered a report on capital expenditure covering the period April to June 2019.

**Resolved** that Cabinet notes the current level of capital spend.

**2637 Revenue Monitoring Q1 (April to June)**

Cabinet considered a report on revenue expenditure covering the period April to June 2019.

**Resolved** that Cabinet notes the current level of revenue spend.

**2638 Proposed new extension to Fordbridge day centre**

Cabinet considered a report on a proposed new extension to the Fordbridge Day Centre.

The extension would increase the capacity of the dining room to seat 101 visitors and provide a flexible area for other activities such as classes, games or exercise to take place.

Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet:

- Do nothing

**Resolved to**

1. **\*Recommend to Council** a supplementary capital estimate of £130,000 for the proposed extension at the Fordbridge Centre, and its inclusion in the 2019/20 capital programme;
2. Approve the capital spend of £130,000 for the extension; and
3. Agree to proceed with Option 3 as set out in Appendix 1

**Reason for Decision**

The Centre is operating at full capacity and cannot currently accommodate additional visitors. The Centre has requested a ground floor extension in order that it can accommodate more visitors for lunch and to access the Centre facilities/activities.

**2639      \*Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel member**

Cabinet considered a report on the appointment of a member to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Resolved to recommend** that Council approves the appointment of Alison Osmond to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Reason for decision**

The Council is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel consisting of at least three members, none of whom is formally connected with the Council.

**2640      Urgent Action**

Cabinet noted the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader on 3 September 2019, to agree one letting within the Thames Tower, Reading. The matter, which was not a Key Decision, was considered as urgent action because the proposed tenant required completion of the letting before the Cabinet was next due to meet.

**2641      Urgent items**

There were none.

**2642 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.

**2643 Exempt report - Investment acquisition X - Key decision**

*Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

Cabinet considered an exempt report on an opportunity to acquire a site for strategic regeneration within the Borough.

The Asset Manager gave a presentation on the proposal setting out the rationale for acquisition, the costs involved, due diligence process and the business plan for the site.

Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet:

- Not to submit a bid for the site.

**Resolved to:**

1. Approve the acquisition of the site for strategic regeneration within the Borough;
2. Agree the offer submitted for the acquisition, and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance to undertake any necessary subsequent negotiations (including a further bid if required) and complete the acquisition of the asset;
3. Authorise the Chief Finance Officer to decide (i) the most financially advantageous funding arrangements for the purchase, (ii) the most tax efficient method of holding the asset, and overall to ensure the acquisition is prudentially affordable;
4. Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire the asset;
5. Agree to exempt Contract Standing Orders in respect of our Property Advisors;
6. To delegate the selection of the external property manager, design team and the contractor for the Phase 1 enhancement works to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder; and
7. \*To recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary Capital provision of £42m to provide sufficient headroom in the Capital

Programme for the acquisition and for the appointment of the design team and the contractors for enhancement projects.

### **Reasons for Decision**

This acquisition will enable the Council to directly address the longer term sustainability and regeneration of the Borough. It is a strategic asset which has the potential to improve the environmental and economic well-being of the area. The site is prone to be considered for numerous diversified uses all of which have the potential to help the Council achieve its strategic objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan.

### **NOTES:-**

- (1) *Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16, 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 five 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 five 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 3 October 2019.***