

Cabinet

Minutes

Monday 8 February 2010

PRESENT

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, Leader
Councillor Nicholas Botterill, Deputy Leader (+Environment)
Councillor Paul Bristow, Cabinet Member for Residents Services
Councillor Lucy Ivimy, Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Mark Loveday, Cabinet Member for Strategy
Councillor Greg Smith, Cabinet Member for Crime and Street Scene
Councillor Frances Stainton, Cabinet Member for Parks, Culture and Heritage
Councillor Sarah Gore, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Colin Aherne
Councillor Michael Cartwright

1. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2010

1.1 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 January 2010 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mark Loveday declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 (Ravenscourt Park Station Access) as jointly owning a property affected by the proposed scheme. He left the meeting during the discussion and did not vote on the item.

Councillor Michael Cartwright declared a prejudicial interest in item 17.4 (Appointment of Council representatives to St Paul's Court Ltd) as a shareholder in St Paul's Court Ltd. The item was noted by Cabinet without discussion. He stayed during the item as it was not voted on. The decision had

a) H& F	541.19	631.38	721.58	811.78	992.18	1,172.57	1,352.97	1,623.56
b)GLA	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64
c)Total (Draft)	747.74	872.35	996.98	1,121.60	1,370.85	1,620.09	1,869.34	2,243.20

3. The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2010/11 is set as £184.345m
4. That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.1.
5. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' budget projections to 2012/13 be noted.
6. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' statements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (paragraphs 6 and 7).
7. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services be authorised to collect and recover National Non-Domestic Rate and Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council Schemes of Delegation.
8. That all Chief Officers be required to report monthly on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates (as part of the Corporate Monitoring Report).
9. That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2010/11 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 TO 2014/15

RESOLVED:

1. To approve that the General Fund Capital Programme is £32.768m for 2010/11.
2. To approve that any new receipts which exceed the target of £2.5m per annum be set aside for debt redemption.
3. To approve new borrowing, up to the level of the minimum revenue provision, from 2011/12 onwards.
4. To approve that 25% of future receipts generated for the decent neighbourhoods programme be used to support general capital investment.
5. To approve the following initiatives within the capital programme:
 - The continuation of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance (£2.5m), repairs to carriageways and footways (£2.1m), private sector housing grants (£0.45m) and Disabled Access Works (£0.25m);
 - The establishment of new rolling programmes for Parks Investment (£0.5m), IT infrastructure (£0.8m) and a contribution to the Invest to Save Fund (£0.75m).
6. To note that use of the new rolling programmes will be subject to a formal evaluation process.
7. To approve, subject to agreement of the overall programme, prudential borrowing of £5.6m regarding Building Schools for the Future.
8. To note the level of resource forecast (Table 5) and indicative expenditure for the decent neighbourhoods programme as detailed in Appendix 2.
9. To note the level of resource forecast and indicative expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account as detailed in Appendix 3.
10. To approve that the capital contingency of £2.5m and unused sums regarding the reserve set aside for Imperial Wharf be placed in a capital reserve.
11. To approve the prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.
12. To approve the following annual Minimum Revenue Provision: (Appendix 5).
 - For debt which is supported through Formula Grant this authority will calculate the Minimum Revenue Provision in accordance with current

regulations (namely 4% of the Capital Financing requirement net of adjustment A);

- For debt which has arisen through prudential borrowing it shall be written down in equal instalments over the estimated asset life. The debt write-off will commence the year after an asset comes into use.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

7. CORPORATE PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2010/2011

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2010/2011 Corporate Planned Maintenance Programme and scheme budgets (Appendices A and B to this report) be approved, subject to any amendments as agreed for operational reasons by the Assistant Director Building and Property Management and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services.
2. That the Corporate Planned Maintenance Programme be monitored, including operational changes made by the Assistant Director Building and Property Management and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, via progress reports to the Deputy Leader.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

8. IMPROVING THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE ONLINE

RESOLVED

1. That the customer experience on the H&F website be significantly improved by providing the ability for residents to transact with direct access to their Council tax account, and/or their housing benefits account, together with the ability to complete a visitor parking permit application. This project will also deliver radical improvement in personalisation, accessibility and usability for customers using the website.
2. That capital investment of £600,000 be allocated for website improvements from the Invest to Save Fund.
3. To note the ongoing net revenue savings of £21,620 per annum in year one rising to £71,557 per annum by year three, to be built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
4. To approve that the Invest to Save Fund be topped up with a £1m transfer from the Housing Benefit Reserve.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. To adopt the new CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, with effect from 1 April 2010.
2. To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement and clauses as per paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report.
3. To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies.
4. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2010/11, to approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of this report.
5. To approved the methodology for establishing credit criteria.

6. To delegate future amendments to the credit criteria methodology to Cabinet.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

10. IMPACT OF INCREASED CHILD PROTECTION DEMAND FOLLOWING THE BABY PETER CASE

Councillor Aherne noted that the report highlighted the monthly cost associated with the transportation of looked after children had decreased by an average of 50% during the year with a reduction of 60% in the number of journeys undertaken. He inquired how the reductions had been achieved.

Councillor Gore explained that the Council had encouraged contact with birth parents in the foster care house where possible. Alternatively, Ascham House contact centre was used. This policy had led to a reduction in the number of journeys taken, the disruption to the home routine and associated transport costs. The Council pays for all transport cost.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the service reviews and other mitigating action within Children Services to address spending pressures within the Complex Needs division.
2. To note that the 2010-11 estimates contain a growth proposal of £1m in recognition of the continued spending pressure faced by the Complex Needs division following the Baby Peter case.
3. To approve a virement of £1m in 2009-10 from reserves to support spending pressures faced by the Complex Needs division following the Baby Peter case.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF WORMHOLT AND WHITE CITY COLLABORATIVE CARE CENTRE AND HOUSING SCHEME AND LAND SWAP

In response to a query by Councillor Aherne about the location of the Sawley Road entrance to the park, officers clarified that the entrance will be dealt with in the S106 obligations. Cabinet was reassured that there will be no net loss of green space as a consequence of the scheme.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the proposed swap of land within Wormholt Park with land at Sawley Road and Bryony Road as detailed in Appendix 1.
2. To approve that the additional land required for the Site A scheme as detailed in Appendix 2 be added at nil consideration to the land already leased to Building Better Health (White City) Limited under the lease dated 27 February 2007.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

12. RAVENSCOURT PARK STATION ACCESS

Cabinet were informed that an aspect of the scheme might not be carried out. Members requested a report back on the parts of the proposal which were implemented.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Environment be authorised to take the decision whether or not to implement the improvement works outlined in Section 4, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, following public consultation.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

13. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET STRATEGY 2010-11

RESOLVED:

1. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
2. That an average increase in weekly rent of 1.31%, in line with the rent restructuring system be agreed.
3. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the HRA as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed.
4. That the efficiency proposals set out in the Appendices to this report be approved.
5. That the increases in service charges and other fees and charges as set out in the body of the report be approved.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

14. RIVERSIDE WALK ENHANCEMENT REPORT

RESOLVED:

That the Riverside Walk Enhancement Report attached as the Appendix to this report be adopted as a policy document.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

15. HIRE OF VEHICLES: PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES 2010-2011

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council calls-off the hire of specialised vehicles required for the statutory SEN home-to-school transport service from a supplier on the ESPO framework contract.
2. That the hire arrangement for these vehicles runs until the end of the school academic year, July 2011.
3. That, on urgency grounds, the award of this contract, likely be valued at around £350,000 for a 12-month period and around £500,000 for an 18-month period, be delegated to the Directors of Finance & Corporate Services, Residents Services, and Children's Services.
4. That these Directors be authorised to agree payments in advance to the successful contractor if this is deemed to be in the Council's financial and legal interests.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

16. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Forward Plan was noted.

17. SUMMARY OF OPEN DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS, AND REPORTED TO CABINET FOR INFORMATION

The summary was noted.

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person (including the authority) as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

[The following is a public summary of the exempt information under S.100C (2) of the Local Government Act 1972. Exempt minutes exist as a separate document.]

19. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2010 (E)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 January 2010 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

20. DEVELOPMENT OF WORMHOLT AND WHITE CITY COLLABORATIVE CARE CENTRE AND HOUSING SCHEME AND LAND SWAP: EXEMPT ASPECTS (E)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

21. HIRE OF VEHICLES: PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES 2010-2011: EXEMPT ASPECTS (E)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 7.13 pm

Chairman