

Forest Heath District Council

MINUTES of the **CABINET** held at the District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall on Tuesday 4 September 2012 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

J E Waters (Leader)	S J Edwards
N A Roman (Deputy Leader)	W Hirst
D W Bowman	R J Millar
Mrs R E Burt	

Councillors C Noble, T Simmons and A J Wheble were also in attendance.

Also in attendance:

D Beighton, Principal Planner
A Claydon, Strategic Director (Resources)
I Gallin, Chief Executive
P Heard, Legal Services Manager
N McCurdy, Strategic Director (Services)
J Rees, Head of Corporate Development
H Hardinge, Committee Administrator

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

143. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

144. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2012 were unanimously accepted by the Cabinet as an accurate record and signed by the Leader.

145. **MINUTES OF JOINT COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER GROUPS**

The minutes of the following Working Group were received:

Local Plan Working Group

26 July 2012

146. **LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP – 26 JULY 2012 – MINUTE NO 243. ‘JOINT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES – SUBMISSION VERSION CONSULTATION’ (REPORT NO LOP12/001)**

Members were requested to note the recommendation listed under this item, as it was subject to a report later on the agenda (Report No CAB12/024).

147. **LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP – 26 JULY 2012 – MINUTE NO 245. ‘LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – JOINT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT’ (REPORT NO LOP12/003)**

Members were requested to note the recommendation listed under this item, as it was subject to a future report to be presented to Cabinet on 2 October 2012.

148. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the respective Working Group be approved, as amended, and that authority is hereby given for such action to be taken as necessary to give effect thereto.

KEY DECISIONS

149. **JOINT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES – SUBMISSION VERSION CONSULTATION (REPORT NO CAB12/024)** (Forward Plan Reference JUL12(A)/03)

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Transport presented the latest version of the Joint Development Management Policies, for Members to note before consultation commenced, as the ‘submission version’ to be made to the Secretary of State.

Cabinet was reminded that consultation took place earlier in the year on the ‘preferred options’ and this version of the document sought to comment upon, and respond to where appropriate, the representations received to date.

The Cabinet Member explained that the report had been previously considered by the Local Plan Working Group on 26 July 2012 and the Joint Development Management Policies Committee on 23 August 2012, both of which had endorsed it for formal adoption by Council on 26 September 2012.

Lastly, Cabinet was informed that the report was also to be presented to St Edmundsbury Borough Council’s Cabinet on 12 September 2012.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet note the recommendation of the Joint Development Management Policies Committee, as made at their meeting on 23 August 2012, to agree the Submission Version Development Management Policies Document for consultation.

150. **COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – IMPLEMENTATION (REPORT NO CAB12/025)**
(Forward Plan Reference SEP12/13)

The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities explained that from the Autumn community groups would be able to nominate local land or buildings as 'assets of community value' that could not be sold without the community group first being informed and given an opportunity to prepare a bid.

These new powers were known as the 'Community Right to Bid' and Cabinet was asked to recommend the corporate approach for dealing with nominations under the new Right.

Lastly, Cabinet was informed that the report was also to be presented to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Cabinet on 12 September 2012.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The proposed approach to dealing with the Community Right to Bid as set out in Report No CAB12/025 and Appendices B – C, be agreed;
2. A delegation be made such that nominations under the Community Right to Bid should be handled by Officers, once in force; and
3. Delegated Authority be granted to the Chief Executive or relevant Head of Service, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, to amend minor details of the operation of the Scheme should it be necessary, in light of changes in the Government's final regulations and advice notes.

151. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012 (REPORT NO CAB12/026)**
(Forward Plan Reference SEP12/03)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance presented this report which provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Treasury Management activities for the 2011/2012 financial year.

Cabinet was also requested to recommend an amendment to the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy and supporting Code of Practice.

The Cabinet Member thanked Finance Officers for the production of the report

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The contents of the report be noted; and
2. The Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy and supporting Code of Practice be amended to include an increased limit for the Lloyds Banking Group of £6.5m, as outlined in Paragraphs 7 – 12 of Report No CAB12/026.

NON KEY DECISIONS

152. **HORTICULTURAL AND ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES CONTRACTS (REPORT NO CAB12/027)** (Forward Plan Reference SEP12/10)

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste explained that the current Horticultural and Arboricultural Services contracts were due to expire on 31 October 2012, accordingly the procurement process and timetable had been developed to enable the Council to award the new 5 year contracts with a commencement date of 1 November 2012.

Cabinet was informed that the Council had considered a number of other options, however, it was deemed that the current proposal of a 5 year contract, with a potential two 1 year extensions at the Council's request, was the most effective and efficient solution.

All Cabinet Members had been tabled a copy of the exempt Appendix A of Report No CAB12/027 (listed on the agenda for the meeting as being 'to follow' and excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Act).

Lastly, the Cabinet Members for Environment and Waste and Health, Leisure and Culture jointly commended the robust process that had been undertaken by the Council and thanked the Officers concerned.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The procurement process undertaken be noted; and
2. It be noted that the contracts for the Horticultural and Arboricultural Services Lots 1, 2 and 3 be awarded to the successful bidders as identified in the exempt Appendix 1 (para 3), as tabled to Members of the Cabinet.

153. **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (REVENUE AND CAPITAL): APRIL – JUNE 2012 (REPORT NO CAB12/028)** (Forward Plan Reference SEP12)/08)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance requested that Cabinet review the Council's Revenue and Capital financial performance for the first three months of 2012/2013 and the year end forecast position and recommend the actions as detailed to Council.

The Cabinet Member praised the Council's sound financial management despite challenging times of economic uncertainty and thanked the Finance Officers for the production of the report.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The 2012/2013 revenue and capital budget positions for the first three months of the financial year be noted;
2. The amendments be approved to the Prudential Indicators detailed within Report No CAB12/028 and Appendix G, for the period 2012/2013 to 2015/2016, in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003; and
3. The revenue budget virements as outlined in Appendix E, be noted.

154. **FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REPORT NO CAB12/029)**

The Legal Services Manager explained that the Council was required to review its representation on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee as the Committee was comprised of non-Executive Members from the District and Borough Councils in Suffolk and Forest Heath's current representative (Councillor Mrs R E Burt) was now an Executive Member.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet appoint Councillor T Simmons (Member representative) and Councillor M J Anderson (named Substitute) to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the period from 4 September 2012 to the date of the first Cabinet meeting immediately following the Council's Annual Meeting in 2015 at which appointments to Outside Organisations are made (unless revoked earlier).

155. **REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS (REPORT NO CAB12/030)**

The Leader of the Council asked Cabinet to review the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period September 2012 to May 2013.

The Head of Corporate Development verbally advised Cabinet of amendments to the Plan which had been made since the publication of the agenda.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions, for the period September 2012 – May 2013, attached as an Appendix to Report No CAB12/030, be noted subject to the amendments as advised verbally at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.17pm.