

Forest Heath District Council

MINUTES of the **CABINET** held at the District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N A Roman (Deputy Leader)
D W Bowman
Mrs R E Burt

S J Edwards
W Hirst
R J Millar

Councillor T Simmons was also in attendance.

Also in attendance:

J Bowes, Head of Legal & Democratic Services
I Gallin, Chief Executive
P Heard, Legal Services Manager
R Mann, Head of Resources and Performance
M Walsh, Head of Waste Management & Property Services
H Hardinge, Committee Administrator

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J E Waters (Leader).

413. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

414. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2013 were unanimously accepted by the Cabinet as an accurate record and signed by the Leader.

KEY DECISIONS

415. **SUFFOLK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (REPORT NO CAB13/061)** (Key Decision Reference FEB13/05)

The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities explained that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 required Suffolk County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority for Suffolk) to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in the county.

This report presented the final version of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy for adoption by the District Council.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

416. **NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES FORECAST (NNDR1 RETURN) AND SUFFOLK POOLING UPDATE (REPORT NO CAB13/062)** (Key Decision Reference JAN13/03)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance presented this report which provided Cabinet with an update on the new Suffolk Business Rates Retention Pool which was due to come into place on 1 April 2013 and also set out a Business Rates forecast for 2013/2014 for noting.

Councillor T Simmons addressed the meeting and asked that the Cabinet Member ensure that the Anglia Revenues Partnership continued to act in a timely manner in respect of NNDR collection. The Cabinet Member responded and explained that the Partnership had taken on additional resource in order to address the changes brought about by the implementation of the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the update report be noted, including the Business Rates forecast for 2013/2014 (NNDR1 return), which had been submitted to the DCLG, by 31 January 2013, by the Council's Chief Financial Officer.

417. **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2013/2014 (REPORT NO CAB13/063)** (Key Decision Reference FEB13/02)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance presented this report which asked Cabinet to consider the budget for the Authority and to recommend to Council the level of Council Tax required to fund the budget.

The Cabinet Member had great pleasure in presenting a recommended Council Tax freeze for 2013/2014. He also commended the Council's Officers for presenting a balanced budget despite a 6% reduction in grant from Central Government.

Attention was drawn to the savings brought about by way of the Shared Services agenda and Cabinet was assured that work in this respect was ongoing; with the Medium Term Financial Strategy continuing to be revisited.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The net revenue budget for 2013/2014 (set out in Appendix 1 of Report No CAB13/063), together with the shared services and local savings proposals, be approved;

2. The revised five year capital programme, attached as Appendix 2 of Report No CAB13/063, be approved;
3. The Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 9 of CAB13/063 be approved and the statutory notices be placed where required;
4. Having taken into account the conclusions of the Head of Resources and Performance's report on the adequacy of reserves and the robustness of budget estimates (Appendix 7 of Report No CAB13/063), including the Scenario Planning and Sensitivity Analysis (Appendix 3 of Report No CAB13/063) and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) attached (as Appendix 4 of Report No CAB13/063) and all the other information contained in the report, Cabinet establish the level of council tax for 2013/2014; and
5. The Head of Resources and Performance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Governance and Performance, be authorised to transfer any surplus on the 2013/2014 revenue budget to the General Fund, and to vire funds between existing Earmarked Reserves (as set out at Appendix 6 of Report No CAB13/063) as deemed appropriate throughout the year.

NON KEY DECISIONS

418. **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY STATEMENTS 2013/2014 (REPORT NO CAB13/064)** (Key Decision Reference FEB13/01)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance sought approval for the formal adoption of the proposed Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements 2013/2014.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements 2013/2014, as set out in Report No CAB13/064, be approved; and
2. The Head of Resources and Performance be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Governance and Performance, to make investments with BBB+ or a BBB rated institution following.

419. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT CODE OF PRACTICE 2013/2014 (REPORT NO CAB13/065)** (Key Decision Reference FEB13/01)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance sought approval of the Treasury Management Code of Practice for 2013/2014.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the Treasury Management Code of Practice 2013/2014, as set out in Appendix 1 of Report No CAB12/065, be approved.

420. **THE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS (REPORT NO CAB13/066)** (Key Decision Reference FEB13/01)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance sought approval of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2013/2014 and of the Prudential Indicators for the period 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 in line with requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That:-

1. The Prudential Indicators for the period 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 be in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003; and
2. The use of the CFR method for calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision for supported capital expenditure be approved.

421. **MILDENHALL FACILITIES PROJECT (REPORT NO CAB13/067)**

This report outlined an initial framework for a major corporate and partnership project to identify the most effective way to provide the current range of public services in Mildenhall, in terms of efficient management of the public estate and outcomes for the community.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the initial approach to managing and communicating the Mildenhall Facilities Project, as outlined in Report No CAB12/067, be approved.

422. **REVIEW OF THE LIST OF KEY DECISIONS (REPORT NO CAB13/068)**

Cabinet was asked to review the list of Key Decisions to be considered by Forest Heath District Council for the period February to May 2013.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the list of Key Decisions, for the period February – May 2013, attached as an Appendix to Report No CAB13/068, be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.18pm.