

# Forest Heath District Council

**MINUTES** of the **CABINET** held at the District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at 6.00 pm.

## **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	

Also in attendance:

J Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
I Gallin, Chief Executive  
R Mann, Head of Resources and Performance  
C Manning, Families/Communities Manager  
L Watts, Director  
A Wilson, Director  
S Turner, FHDC Cabinet Officer/Committee Administrator

## **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

### 852. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

### 853. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 November 2013 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Leader.

### 854. **MINUTES OF JOINT COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER GROUPS**

The minutes of the following Joint Committee were received:

Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee	12 December 2013
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Items the subject of formal report or proposition were as follows:-

855. **ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 2013 – MINUTE NUMBER 56/13 – NEW PARTNER BUSINESS CASE (AGENDA ITEM 14)**

Members were requested to note the recommendations listed under this item, as it was to be considered by Cabinet later on the agenda under Report No CAB14/130X.

856. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved, duly seconded and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Joint Committee be approved and that authority is hereby given for such action to be taken as necessary to give effect thereto.

**KEY DECISIONS**

857. **MILDENHALL DOME LEISURE CENTRE (REPORT NO CAB14/127)**  
(Decision Plan Reference: Nov13/07)

The Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture presented this report which explained that the Mildenhall Dome Leisure Centre was managed under the terms of a 2001 Legal Agreement which had to be amended as a result of Mildenhall College gaining academy status and transferring from the responsibility of Suffolk County Council to the Academy Transformation Trust in July 2013.

This report sought authority for Officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, to agree and implement the new Agreement in time for the budget setting in February 2014, working closely with the College and Suffolk County Council.

The new Agreement would also encapsulate the wider aims of the Mildenhall Hub project, which included plans for the long-term replacement of the leisure facilities in Mildenhall.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Health, Leisure and Culture and with Anglia Community Leisure (ACL), be authorised to:

1. Negotiate, sign and implement a new Management Agreement for the Mildenhall Dome Leisure Centre ending no later than 30 June 2018, provided that the terms of the new Agreement are consistent with the aims of the Mildenhall Hub Project and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

2. The Council's Management Agreement with Anglia Community Leisure be amended accordingly, if required.

**NON KEY DECISIONS**

858. **DRAFT WEST SUFFOLK FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (REPORT NO CAB14/128)** (Decision Plan Reference: Nov13/02)

The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities presented this report which explained that the West Suffolk Families and Communities Strategy (as set out in the Appendix to this report) provided the framework for reshaping the relationship between the Council, its communities and their families. It aimed to foster resilience in local communities and sought to address the dependency culture which could build up when the Council was seen as the first port of call for any issue. It also deliberately focused on supporting families as providing support early, was a preventative approach which was both better for the families and reduced the demand placed on public services by those in crisis.

The approach outlined was founded on an asset-based approach to working with communities which focuses on the strengths a community already had and could build on, rather than a focus on deficits or problems. It was based in the knowledge that sustainable local solutions could only come from the communities themselves, not from Council generated projects.

At a time of scarce resources it sought to focus resources within communities where the greatest impact could be provided. The thinking behind this Strategy had been reflected in the creation of a Families and Communities Team as part of the Leisure, Culture and Communities restructuring. This Team would provide Locality Officer support to Councillors across both Councils in delivering projects.

This Strategy had also been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 19 December 2013, where it had been recommended for adoption by the Council.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the West Suffolk Families and Communities Strategy be adopted.

859. **REVIEW OF THE DECISIONS PLAN (REPORT NO CAB14/129)**

The Cabinet was asked to review the Decisions Plan for the period January 2014 to May 2014.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the Decisions Plan for the period January 2014 to May 2014, attached as an Appendix to Report No CAB14/129, be noted.

860. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against each item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**KEY DECISION**

861. **PARTNERSHIP WORKING – NEW PARTNER BUSINESS CASE (REPORT NO CAB14/130X) (PARA 3)** (Decisions Plan Reference: Nov13/10)

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Governance and Performance explained that following on from the meeting of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee held on 12 December 2013, each Partner Authority were being asked to recommend that, subject to due diligence, Fenland District Council be admitted as a full Partner, with effect from 1 April 2014.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to due diligence, Fenland District Council be admitted as a full member of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership, with effect from 1 April 2014.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.