

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3RD JULY 2014

Present:

Councillor Lynden Stowe - Chairman
Councillor NJW Parsons - Vice-Chairman

Councillors -

John Burgess C Hancock
David Fowles Mrs. SL Jepson

Observers:

DC Broad SG Hirst
RW Dutton AJ Lichnowski

Apologies:

Mrs. CH Topple

CAB.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members or Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct from Officers.

CAB.14 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th June 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

CAB.15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

CAB.16 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

CAB.17 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader explained that Councillor John Burgess had decided to stand down from the Cabinet. Councillor Burgess had served on the Cabinet since its inception in 2004 and had taken on various roles, including representing the

Council at Meetings of the GO Shared Services Project Board, which had been a 'launch-pad' for the 2020 Vision. Councillor Burgess had also served as Chairman of the Joint Consultative Committee since June 2006, and the Leader reminded the Cabinet of the importance of that role in maintaining relationships with the staff.

On behalf of the Cabinet, the Leader thanked Councillor Burgess for all his work.

CAB.18 PENSION DISCRETIONARY POLICY

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Support Services introduced this item.

The Cabinet was requested to consider a revised Pension Discretionary Policy. The Cabinet Member explained that the Council was required to prepare a written statement of its policy in respect of the exercise of various pension discretions under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014. No changes had been made to the existing Policy and the Cabinet Member reminded the Cabinet that the Council only implemented individual discretions on a case-by-case basis, when there was a sound business case for doing so. This item had been considered by the Joint Consultative Committee at its Meeting on 26th June 2014 and the Cabinet Member reported that the Committee had supported the revised Policy.

In response to questions from Members, it was reported that reviews of the policy were generally triggered by changes in legislation in order to ensure that the Council was compliant with employment law.

RESOLVED that the revised Pension Discretionary Policy be approved and forwarded to Gloucestershire County Council's Pension Section.

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

CAB.19 REQUEST FOR LOAN - BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER PARISH COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Cabinet was requested to consider and determine an application from Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council for a loan in a sum of £100,000 in relation to the purchase of the former Moore Cottage Hospital building for use as a Community Centre. The Leader reminded the Cabinet that, at its Meeting on 9th September 2010, it had approved the principles under which temporary loans of up to £50,000 could be advanced to Town/Parish Councils within the District (Minute CAB.44 referred). The Leader explained that this application had been referred to the Cabinet for determination because the amount of the proposed loan was in excess of £50,000. The Leader also explained that, if the Cabinet was minded to approve this application as recommended, the charging policy in the proposed loan agreement would address any issues caused by a delay in the completion of the sale of the Parish Council's existing premises.

In response to questions from a Member, it was reported that the period of the loan would be specified in the loan agreement; the Parish Council was seeking a bridging loan in order to address an issue of cash flow pending the sale of its

existing premises; and the application had been referred to the Cabinet for determination as an exception to the Council's policy because of the amount of the loan requested by the Parish Council.

The Cabinet considered that the future use of the building, as proposed by the Parish Council, represented a good community initiative.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the application by Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council for a loan of £100,000 be approved;**
- (b) the loan offer be subject to an interest rate of 1½% over base rate (variable) for the period of the loan;**
- (c) the Head of Finance, Audit and GO Shared Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Property Services, be authorised to enter into a loan agreement with Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council.**

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

CAB.20

PROPERTY REVIEW - COUNCIL OFFICES, TRINITY ROAD, CIRENCESTER

The Deputy Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Deputy Leader reminded the Cabinet that, as a result of the various joint working initiatives, some surplus space had been identified in the Council's Trinity Road offices. A review and rationalisation of the office space required for staff would enable the vacation of the south wing of the building which, following some refurbishment works, could then be let on the open market to commercial and non-profit making organisations. The Deputy Leader explained that the Council had a good track record of letting small spaces, and amplified aspects of the refurbishment works required prior to marketing and income potential. In response to questions from Members, it was reported that any tenants would be allocated spaces in the 'green' car park, which was adjacent to the Trinity Road site.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the project to review and relocate staff within the Council's offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester, and the letting of the vacant space to external organisations, be approved;**
- (b) the letting of the office space by private treaty be approved, subject to this providing additional benefits to the community/customer and/or the Council;**
- (c) the allocation of up to £175,000 from the Council Priorities Fund in connection with this project be approved.**

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

CAB.21 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS

The Cabinet noted a Schedule detailing decisions taken by the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing.

CAB.22 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM AUDIT AND SCRUTINY

There were no issues arising from Audit and Scrutiny.

CAB.23 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

CAB.24 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under **Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972** the public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act set out below and that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Reason</u>
(14)	CAB.25	(5)	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
(15)	CAB.26	(3)	Information relating to financial or business affairs

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

CAB.25 LAND CHARGES - LITIGATION

No decision was needed by the Cabinet as the matter had been dealt with by the Chief Executive using his emergency powers, because (subsequent to the despatch of the agenda papers) the deadline for a response had been confirmed as being 1st July 2014, which was in advance of the date of this Meeting. Instead, the Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive had made the decision in line with the Officer Recommendations, as detailed in the circulated report.

CAB.26 BUSINESS CASE - SHARED LEGAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

The Deputy Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Support Services, introduced this item.

The Deputy Leader amplified various aspects of the circulated report, drawing attention to the potential savings that could accrue to the Council as a result of this initiative.

RESOLVED that the business case for shared Legal and Property Services, to commence with effect from 1st August 2014, be approved.

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.

The Meeting commenced at 4.05 p.m. and closed at 4.25 p.m.

Chairman

(END)