

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

6TH NOVEMBER 2014

Present:

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

Councillors -

Sue Coakley Mrs. SL Jepson
C Hancock Mrs. CH Topple

Observers:

JGK Birch (until 4.30 p.m.) DJ Nash (invited to speak on Minute
DC Broad (from 4.10 p.m.) CAB.57)
Sir Edward Horsfall Jim Parsons

CAB.41 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 for Officers.

CAB.42 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 2, absent 0.

CAB.43 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

CAB.44 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

CAB.45 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed Councillor Sue Coakley to her first Meeting of the Cabinet in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities.

The Leader referred to the decision by Councillor David Fowles in October 2014 to stand down from the Cabinet in order to concentrate on his work commitments. Councillor Fowles had served on the Cabinet since May 2004 and had taken on various roles, including overseeing the building of the new

Cotswold Leisure Centre and its subsequent refurbishment after the flood in July 2007; various other flooding issues; and waste projects.

On behalf of the Council, the Leader thanked Councillor Fowles for all his work.

CAB.46 DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2018/19

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

In updating the circulated report, the Leader explained that the suggested contribution towards the potential development of the Corinium Museum at paragraph 8.3 was £50,000.

It was noted that the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) would be subject to consultation in advance of the budget proposals for the financial year 2015/16. The Leader drew attention to the key items detailed in the report and stated that the efficiency measures previously adopted by the Council would enable delivery of a 3% cut in this Council's element of Council Tax during the next financial year. The Leader reminded the Cabinet that it would be the third consecutive year the Council had delivered a cut in its Council Tax element.

The Leader apprised the Cabinet of issues relating to New Homes Bonus and business rates, including renewable energy business rates, and reported that no increases were being proposed for the next financial year in respect of parking charges, weekly garden waste collections, and admission to leisure facilities and the Corinium Museum. The Leader reiterated that the Council was able to do this due to the previous, difficult decisions it had taken in relation to efficiency savings, including the introduction of shared services. On behalf of the Council, the Leader expressed thanks to Officers, and the Council's contractors, for helping to deliver such savings, and increasing income streams and visitor numbers.

The Leader also amplified aspects relating to the Local Council Tax Support Grant for Town/Parish Councils and concluded by reminding the Cabinet that further savings would accrue to the Council from May 2015 when the number of elected Members would reduce from forty-four to thirty-four.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and the proposed budget consultation process be approved;**
- (b) the allocation of Local Council Tax Support Grant to the Town and Parish Councils, detailed at Appendix 'B', be approved.**

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

CAB.47 FUNDING FOR LOCAL PLAN PREPARATION

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning introduced this item.

The Deputy Leader reminded the Cabinet that, at its Meeting held on 27th February 2014, the Council had allocated £500,000 from the Council Priorities Fund towards development and examination of the Local Plan. The Cabinet

was requested to consider making available a sum of £250,000 from that allocation for development of the Local Plan in 2014/15.

It was noted that this would be the first allocation of the earmarked funding and the Deputy Leader reminded the Cabinet of the monumental task being faced by the Council to produce a consultation draft of the Local Plan by the end of 2014. The Deputy Leader expressed the hope that the Council's critics would understand the process that had to be followed, including production of a comprehensive evidence base and objectively-assessed housing need. The Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure commented that, at a Meeting of the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Executive Committee held earlier in the day, it had been reported that all local authorities in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty had been criticised for progress on their Local Plans.

RESOLVED that:

(a) financial resources in a sum of £250,000 be approved from the Council Priorities Fund to enable the commissioning of further external studies, etc. and for resourcing additional staff to help deliver the Local Plan as soon as possible;

(b) any future contributions received from third parties towards these one-off costs be appropriated to the Council Priorities Fund.

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

CAB.48

CORINIUM MUSEUM COMMUNITY DISCOVERY PROJECT

The Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure introduced this item.

The Cabinet was requested to approve submission of an application by Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) for a Heritage Lottery grant to fund building improvement works at the Corinium Museum. The Cabinet Member explained that the proposed project would help to enhance the fabric of the building for the future, as well as enabling the Museum to move with the times and improve its methods of interpretation. The proposed works had been included in the five-year plan for the Museum, which had been adopted prior to SLM taking over responsibility for its management, and it was considered that, as well as improving the customer journey through the Museum, the project would enable the display of additional artefacts, provide a flexible space, and enable conservation work to be observed.

The Cabinet Member reminded the Cabinet that the Prehistory, Iron Age and Early Roman Galleries had not been included in the 2002 refurbishment of the Museum. The Cabinet Member also explained that the proposed changes to the main entrance would address issues of access and would facilitate 'out of hours' community use.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Corinium Museum Community Discovery Project be supported;

(b) SLM be authorised to draft a Heritage Lottery Grant application for submission by the Council;

(c) an 'in principle' allocation in a sum of £50,000 from the Council Priorities Fund be approved to facilitate submission of the application;

(d) if the grant application is successful, a further report be presented to a future Meeting of the Cabinet detailing the mitigation strategy for financial risks to the Council.

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

CAB.49

REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS 2015/16

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Leader reminded the Cabinet that reforms to Council Tax discounts had been introduced with effect from April 2013, with additional changes taking effect in April 2014 to enhance the previous changes. Those changes had not resulted in any Council Tax collection difficulties and no formal complaints had been received.

The Cabinet considered that the scheme worked very well, offering limited subsidy in respect of empty properties but short-term assistance to enable such properties to be brought back into use.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the local Council Tax discounts, as set for 2014/15, remain unchanged;

(b) the Long Term Empty Premium be maintained at 50%.

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

CAB.50

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure introduced this item.

The Cabinet Member reminded the Cabinet that the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 had come into force with effect from 20th October 2014. The circulated report outlined those provisions, the implications on the Council's community safety and environmental crime duties, and suggested a scheme of delegation to enable Officers to carry out those duties. The Cabinet Member amplified various aspects of the new legislation, drawing attention to the measures by which victims and communities could influence the ways in which anti-social behaviour was dealt with.

It was noted that the new powers would sit alongside existing powers and could be used by Officers and the Police to address complaints of nuisance.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the report be noted;

(b) the Head of Public Protection be authorised to deal with the matters detailed at paragraph 19 below;

(c) the approved delegations be incorporated into the Scheme of Officer Delegations contained in the Council's Constitution;

(d) the level of Fixed Penalty Notice be set at £100 with an option to pay a reduced fee of £60 within fourteen days.

Record of voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.51 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships introduced this item.

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the outcome, and action taken, following an inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in November 2013. The Cabinet Member explained that the circulated report was a technical one, which had been required in order to ensure compliance with the legislation. The Cabinet Member amplified aspects of the circulated report and advised the Cabinet that the suggested changes had already been addressed. The Cabinet Member concluded by thanking the Head of Legal and Property Services for her input, which had been recognised by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the report be noted;

(b) the changes following the inspection made to the Procedure Guide, and detailed in the circulated report, be noted;

(c) a briefing note be provided to update Members on the changes to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000;

(d) a report be presented to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on the number of authorisations granted each year (such report to be made available to all Members of the Council on a quarterly basis).

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

CAB.52 WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities introduced this item.

The Cabinet Member reminded the Cabinet that the Joint Waste Committee's (JWC) Action Plan had been in place for approximately six months and amplified various aspects in respect of progress on that Action Plan. The Cabinet Member drew attention to the 'gRRReen Communities Award', which would be sponsored by Ubico Ltd., and presented opportunities for the development of ideas and initiatives suggested by local communities. The Cabinet Member reminded the Cabinet that textile recycling was undertaken in partnership with the Salvation Army and reported that the refreshed communications campaign should be launched by Christmas 2014. It was noted that the two Notices of Motion, which had been referred to the Cabinet by the Council on 13th May and 23rd September 2014, would be considered by

the Cabinet at its next Meeting, which was scheduled to be held on 4th December 2014.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the actions, future plans and activity being undertaken by the Joint Waste Committee, Ubico Ltd. and Council Officers in relation to the on-going promotion and improvement of recycling performance across the District be noted;

(b) the update in respect of the waste/recycling-related Motions submitted at the Council Meetings on 13th May and 23rd September 2014 be noted.

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

CAB.53 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.54 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM AUDIT AND SCRUTINY

There were no issues arising from Audit and Scrutiny.

CAB.55 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

CAB.56 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph (3) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (Information relating to financial or business affairs) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

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

CAB.57 LAND IN CIRENCESTER

The Deputy Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Cabinet considered a report detailing proposals for the disposal of an area of land owned by the Council in Cirencester. The Deputy Leader amplified various aspects of the circulated report, including in relation to land values and conditions of sale.

The Cabinet noted the comments of Councillor DJ Nash, who had been invited to speak on this item.

RESOLVED that:

(a) Officers be authorised to pursue the disposal of the area of land identified in the circulated report;

(b) the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Head of Legal and Property Services and the Chief Finance Officer, be authorised to agree the final terms for the disposal and legal agreements for the site and/or for the purchase of an adjoining site, should the Council be able to acquire it under pre-emption rights;

(c) the capital and revenue funding previously allocated by the Council at its Meeting on 24th September 2013 be retained until completion of any disposal/the end of the pre-emption period, for the purpose of the acquisition of the identified site, if the Council is able to progress this under its pre-emption rights to acquire that site.

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

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.57 p.m.

Chairman

(END)