

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

19TH JANUARY 2017

Present:

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

Councillors -

Sue Coakley Mrs. SL Jepson
Alison Coggins MGE MacKenzie-Charrington
C Hancock

Observers:

SI Andrews

CAB.57 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.58 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th November 2016 be approved as a correct record.

Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.59 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, a question had been submitted and a response provided, as follows:-

(1) From Mr. M Pratley of Cirencester to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council

'Prime Minister Theresa May has promised a crackdown on corporate and personal tax avoidance. She said, "It doesn't matter to me whether you're Amazon, Google or Starbucks, you have a duty to put something back, you have a debt to fellow citizens and you have a responsibility to pay your taxes."

In the Fair Tax Mark campaign for local councils to tackle tax dodging it is envisaged that bidders for local council contracts would be asked

to account for their past tax record. Does Cotswold District Council include any questions about companies' tax practices in their council procurement procedures?'

Response from Councillor Lynden Stowe

'Set out below is an extract from the Crown Commercial Service Standard Selection Questionnaire that we issue with all procurements over £10,000. All potential suppliers are required to complete the questionnaire as part of the tendering process.

2.39(a)

Regulation 57(3)

Has it been established, for your organisation by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions?

2.39(b)

If you have answered yes to question 2.39(a), please provide further details. Please also confirm you have paid, or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the outstanding sum including where applicable any accrued interest and/or fines.

Please Note: The authority reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude a potential supplier where it can demonstrate by any appropriate means that the potential supplier is in breach of its obligations relating to the non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.'

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Pratley asked the following:-

arrangements, 'CDC obviously appear to have robust policy in this respect. However, they have been offered the land at Chesterton, thus allowing them to 'service' Government policy to satisfy housing targets, in the full knowledge that the Bathurst application has been submitted by a trust that legally avoids UK tax through the vehicle of offshore as reported in the WGS July 23rd, 2015.

deal Does CDC, in supporting government policy that everyone including businesses should play their part in tackling tax avoidance, agree that this is a case where such policy should take a concrete form. What reasons would there be for CDC not leading the way, and refuse to with any proposed development that avoids its UK tax obligation?'

Councillor Stowe confirmed that a written response would be provided.

CAB.60 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

CAB.61 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

CAB.62 SAFEGUARDING POLICY - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities introduced this item.

The Cabinet was requested to consider a revised policy and procedure relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It was reported that the Council's existing policy and procedure had been updated to reflect current legislative requirements, and that the revised policy outlined the duties of specific Officers, as well as the training requirements for Councillors and Officers.

The Leader of the Council stated that a lot of work had gone into the putting together of the policy and would be required to deliver it. Another Member welcomed the opportunity for the exercise of professional judgement.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the updated Safeguarding Policy and procedure documents be approved;

(b) the Head of Leisure and Communities, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be authorised to make any subsequent amendments required as a result of legislative or operational changes.

Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.63 AWARD OF OFF-SITE PRINTING AND MAILING CONTRACT - REVENUES AND HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the outcome of a tendering exercise for the off-site printing and mailing of Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits documentation for this Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The Leader drew attention to the potential savings which could accrue to both Councils, and a Member commented that it was encouraging to see that quality and reliability had been taken into account in the tender process.

RESOLVED that the off-site printing and mailing services contract for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits documentation be awarded to Supplier B, identified at Appendix 'A' to the circulated report, for a three-year period from January 2017, on the terms detailed in the circulated report and with the option to extend the contract annually for a further two years.

CAB.64 **Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.**
EXTENSION TO CONTRACT - OFF-STREET PARKING SERVICES

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships introduced this item.

The Cabinet considered a suggestion that the current Parking Management Enforcement contract be extended for a three-year period until March 2020. The Cabinet Member explained that this service was already a shared service, and that Gloucestershire County Council, the lead authority for the contract, had already agreed to the suggested extension. The Cabinet Member stated that there was no guarantee that the savings which would accrue to the Council under the current contact would be achieved if the Council tendered for a new contract, and that it was likely that the existing ICT system would require amendment in the event that a new contract was sought, and existing economies of scale would be lost.

In expressing support for the extension of the current contract, a Member suggested that it should be subject to review in March 2019.

RESOLVED that the current contract for the provision of off-street parking services to the Council be extended for a further period of three years, up to 31st March 2020.

Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.65 TOUR OF BRITAIN 2017

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Cabinet considered a report detailing a proposal for a financial contribution in a sum of £10,000 by this Council to support a bid by Cheltenham Borough Council to host a high-profile Saturday stage of the 2017 Tour of Britain cycle event in the County. The Leader explained that, while details of the final route had yet to be determined it was possible that there could be a stage through the North Cotswolds. It was suggested that there had been an increase in the numbers of people who had taken up cycling after the 2012 London Olympic Games, and that events such as the Tour of Britain encouraged further take-up, as well as promoting the District through television coverage and people visiting to watch the event. It was contended that the proposal constituted a good example of joint working between local authorities, and would represent a good use of money in support of sport, tourism and the economy of the District.

RESOLVED that a financial contribution in a sum of £10,000 be made available to support the bid by Cheltenham Borough Council to host a stage of the Tour of Britain cycle event in 2017, including finishing in Cheltenham, such sum to be met from the Council Priorities Fund.

Record of Voting - for 7, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.66 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 Cabinet Member for Forward Planning, and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities.

CAB.67 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/OR AUDIT

There were no issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit.

CAB.68 DECISION TAKEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

It was noted that, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and appropriate Officers, the Head of Paid Service had exercised his emergency powers (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 38) to proceed with legal action in conjunction with the Local Government Association as part of a national local government action in respect of excessive costs incurred by the Council.

CAB.69 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.25 p.m.

Chairman

(END)