

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

6TH JULY 2017

Present:

Councillor Mark F Annett - Chairman
Councillors -
Sue Coakley (from 4.15 p.m.) SG Hirst
C Hancock MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

Observers:

SI Andrews Jenny Forde (invited to speak on
AR Brassington Minute CAB.17)
T Cheung (invited to speak on Minute
CAB.17)

Apologies:

NJW Parsons

CAB.12 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.13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

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

CAB.14 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been submitted.

CAB.15 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

CAB.16 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader

CAB.17 NOTICE OF MOTION - WOMEN AGAINST STATE PENSION INEQUALITY

The Cabinet was requested to consider the following Motion, referred by the Council from its Meeting on 13th June 2017, that requested the Council to lobby the Government to make fair, transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who, it was contended, had unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension age with a lack of appropriate notification:-

'The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.'

In accordance with the Council's procedures and custom and practice, Councillors Jenny Forde and T Cheung had been invited to attend the Meeting to present and speak to their Motion.

Councillor Forde was invited to address the Cabinet, and formally Proposed the Motion. Councillor Forde stated that, following a debate on this issue, Parliament had agreed to consider cases of financial hardship. Councillor Forde explained that the Motion sought an expression of support from the Council for the principle of making fair, transitional pension arrangements for those women affected by the changes in the State Pension age and to collectively ask the Government to take action to solve that issue.

Councillor Cheung was invited to address the Cabinet, and formally Second the Motion. Councillor Cheung expressed his view that, in addition to supporting the principle of the Motion, the Council could go further by taking the lead and offering women in the Cotswolds who had been affected by the change in the State Pension age some financial recompense if the issue had not been resolved by April 2018. In that connection, Councillor Cheung suggested that such financial recompense could, for example, be by way of a discount on Council Tax. Councillor Cheung contended that the Council should do something positive to help those directly affected by the change in the State Pension age and he suggested that the issue would be resolved by 2020. Councillor Cheung further contended that the affected women had suffered an injustice because, having started work in the 1960s, they had worked, and contributed to their pensions, for over 40 years and had an expectation that they would receive their State Pensions by 2011. Councillor Cheung reminded the Cabinet that this was a 'cash-rich' Council and, in conclusion, stated that it should seek to engage with those affected by the change in the State Pension age.

In response, the Leader of the Council stated that he agreed with the principle of the Motion but that, at this stage, he could not agree with the making of any financial recompense to those women who had been affected by the change in the State Pension age. The Leader suggested that Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP should be requested to raise the issue in Parliament and, depending on the Government's response, the Council could then consider what it could do further to help.

This suggestion was supported by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the Leader of the Council writes to Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, requesting him to raise this matter with the Government.

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

CAB.18 COMMUNITY CONNECTORS TENDER

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure introduced this item.

The Cabinet was requested to consider accepting an opportunity for the Council to deliver the 'Community Connectors' service across the District for a period of five/seven years. The Cabinet Member explained that the Council was already involved to a limited degree through its operation of 'Social Prescriber' teams which were located in four GP surgeries within the District and helped to resolve non-medical issues. The proposed 'Community Connectors' service sought to combine that work with the work of Community/Village Agents and the 'In Touch' grant programme, to create a complete support scheme. The Head of Leisure and Communities amplified aspects of the original scheme, and the opportunity to bid for the new service. In conclusion, the Cabinet Member explained that a successful bid by the Council would involve the transfer of staff to the Council under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

A Member expressed the view that this initiative represented a good example of 'joined-up thinking'.

RESOLVED that:

(a) agreement in principle be given to the Council entering into a contractual arrangement for the delivery of a Community Connectors service, such decision being dependent on the Council being selected as the winning bidder in a tendering process and the agreement of acceptable contract terms;

(b) the Shared Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure, the Group Manager GO Shared Services and the Group Manager Land, Legal and Property, be authorised to enter into this contract.

Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 1.

CAB.19 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS

The Cabinet noted a Schedule detailing a decision taken by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning.

CAB.20 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/OR AUDIT

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

CAB.21 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.17 p.m.

Chairman

(END)