



Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday, 11 December 2015.

PRESENT

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (in the Chair)

Mr. R. Blunt CC	Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. Dave Houseman MBE, CC	Mrs. P. Posnett CC
Mr. J. T. Orson JP CC	Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC	Mr. E. F. White CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC	

In attendance

Mrs. R. Page CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. S. J. Galton CC, Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC, Mrs. C. M. Radford CC

364. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

365. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

366. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC and Mr. R. Blunt CC each declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (North West Leicestershire Local Plan Draft – Consultation Response) as members of North West Leicestershire District Council.

Mr. B. L. Pain CC declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item no. 4 on the agenda (Outcome of Consultation on Community Transport Funding) as an owner of a taxi company and undertook to leave the meeting whilst that item was considered.

367. Outcome of Consultation on Community Transport Funding.

(Mr. B. L. Pain CC, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter, left the meeting whilst this item was considered.)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the outcome of consultation on reduced funding for community transport provision in Leicestershire and a revised funding methodology. A copy of the report, marked '4', is filed with these minutes.

The Cabinet noted comments from Mr. Max Hunt CC and the community transport provider 'John Storer Charnwood', a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

The Director reported that the proposed changes to the funding mechanism for Community Transport had been amended to reflect feedback from the consultation exercise, including a weighting for rural journeys. The Director added that whilst some of the community transport providers would see a fall in grant from the Council during 2016/17, the performance criteria would allow for them to qualify for additional funding in 2017/18 and 2018/19 if they were able to expand their service.

Mr. P. C. Osborne CC welcomed the amended scheme and noted that it would enable community transport providers to access additional funding if they increased their passenger numbers. He said that the implementation of the new arrangements would be monitored and reported to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee upon request.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation with Community Transport operators be noted;
- (b) That the Community Transport budget be reduced by £50,000, phased at £25,000 in 2016/17 and a further £25,000 in 2017/18;
- (c) That the Community Transport budget be allocated on the basis of
 - (i) 90% of available funding being weighted to all schemes on the basis of 33% population and 67% usage, based on the previous year's figures;
 - (ii) 10% of available funding being split amongst schemes on the 33%/67% basis for those areas qualifying for a rural weighting;
 - (iii) No wheelchair passenger weighting or premium being payable;
 - (iv) A series of floors and ceilings being introduced so there is no greater increase than 10% on the preferred budget model in 2016/17, 20% in 2017/18, and 30% in 2018/19 and thereafter;
 - (v) A reduced management allocation of 25% in 2016/17, 20% in 2017/18 and 15% in 2018/19;
- (d) That the phased removal of funding for the Shree Ram Krishna Community Project be approved, with funding reduced to £7,000 in 2016-17, to £3,000 in 2017-18, and totally removed in 2018/19;
- (e) That the changes to Community Transport Funding as detailed in (b)- above be implemented in accordance with the Implementation Plan detailed in Appendix A of the report;
- (f) That the Director of Environment and Transport be requested to hold focus groups for passengers to explain the new funding arrangements and service priorities and seek to minimise the effect of any service changes.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy identified savings from a Service Review of the Sustainable Transport Group including a £50,000 saving from Community Transport.

A review of the way Community Transport is presently funded identified that the levels of funding varied across the County having been developed on an ad hoc basis and recommended that a method be developed to ensure funding is allocated more equitably.

(Mr. B. L. Pain CC then returned to the meeting).

368. Donington le Heath Manor House - Charging and Opening Hours Strategy.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities concerning improvements to Donington le Heath Manor House and proposed changes to admission charges and opening hours. A copy of the report, marked '5', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. R. Blunt CC hoped the improvements would enable the visitor attraction to begin to generate a surplus.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the improvements made to the visitor offer and investments in energy efficiency measures at Donington Le Heath Manor House (DLH) be noted;
- (b) That the preferred charging strategy for DLH as detailed in paragraph 38 of the report be approved in principle;
- (c) That the preferred opening hours for DLH as detailed in paragraph 40 of the report be approved in principle;
- (d) That the Director of Adults and Communities be requested;
 - (i) in the event of support for the proposals from the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to proceed with the new opening hours and charging strategy as set out in the report, or
 - (ii) in the event of concerns being raised by the Scrutiny Committee, to submit a further report to the Cabinet.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Donington le Heath Manor House has seen a decline in visitor numbers in recent years, falling from 13,069 in 2013/14 to 8,323 in 2014/15. This followed a decline in 2011/12, which saw numbers drop from 25,400. The need to increase visitor numbers is a priority.

The preferred charging strategy will support a more cost effective and sustainable operating model and maximise income streams.

The proposed amended opening hours have been informed by the consultation responses. They will still allow for schools and other groups to visit outside of these hours and other events can be held outside of the main opening season.

369. North West Leicestershire Local Plan Draft - Consultation Response.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning a response to the draft North West Leicestershire Local Plan produced by North West Leicestershire District Council. A copy of the report, marked '6', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC congratulated North West Leicestershire District Council for producing a detailed draft plan and hoped the final version would be amended to reflect the County Council's comments.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the detailed comments on the draft North West Leicestershire Local Plan as set out in the Appendix to the report, be submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council as the views of the County Council;
- (b) That the key comments set out in paragraphs 22 to 33 of the report be drawn to the attention of North West Leicestershire District Council.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the County Council provides appropriate input at this key stage in the Local Plan process, so that issues of importance for the County Council are clearly expressed and influence the shape and content of the Local Plan.

370. Sexual Health Needs Assessment and Draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2016-19

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health seeking the Cabinet's approval to consult on a draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy for 2016–19 and to commission services in line with the emerging strategy. A copy of the report, marked '7', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. E. F. White CC welcomed the development of the strategy which he said would result in better services whilst delivering important savings.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work undertaken to date, including the Leicestershire Sexual Health Needs Assessment that informed the draft Strategy, be noted;
- (b) That support be given to the eight key strategic priorities for the development of a sexual health system across Leicestershire as set out in paragraph 22 of the report;
- (c) That approval be given to the development and commencement of a consultation on the draft Strategy, with a wide group of stakeholders, from January 2016;

- (d) That it be noted that commissioning decisions will need to continue to be taken prior to the Strategy being finalised and that the Director of Public Health be authorised to commission services in line with the emerging draft Strategy during this period;
- (e) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 19th April 2016.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Sexual health services and commissioning has become fragmented following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Developing a sexual health strategy that is endorsed by key partners including Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, providers and service users will set an agreed direction for sexual health commissioning across Leicestershire. This will streamline commissioning intentions, improving patient pathways and quality of care. The Strategy will also be aligned with sexual health strategic priorities for Rutland Council and Leicester City Council to provide a wider Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland system approach.

It will be necessary to continue to make commissioning decisions over the coming months before approval of the final Strategy in order for services to continue and to meet Medium Term Financial Strategy targets.

Undertaking consultation on the draft Strategy will ensure it meets the needs of the local population and is aligned with other key stakeholders. It is also in keeping with the Council's corporate standards to ensure that all stakeholders are made aware of the Local Authority's priorities and given the opportunity to make comment upon these at an early stage.

371. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

There were no items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

372. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 5 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act specified below and that, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- Springboard Centre, Coalville

373. Springboard Centre, Phoenix Buildings, Coalville

The Cabinet considered an exempt report of the Director of Corporate Resources seeking approval for the Director, in consultation with the County Solicitor to serve several notices upon the tenant of the Springboard Centre in Coalville. A copy of the report, marked '11', is filed with these minutes. The report was not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 5 and 10 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the County Solicitor, be authorised to proceed to serve the following:
 - (i) A notice under the lease provisions and under the provisions of Section 146 of the Law of Property Act 1925 requiring the Tenant to carry out repairs to comply with its obligations under the lease as set out in Part B of this report;
 - (ii) A notice under Section 40 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 requesting information as to the actual occupiers of the Property;
- (b) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to continue discussions with the Tenant to explore alternative future options to address the repair and maintenance issues and the provision of workspace in the locality.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To meet with the obligations the County Council has as a responsible and commercial landlord as the Tenant has failed to comply with its requirements under the lease to repair the Property allowing the Property to fall into a state of disrepair.

To mitigate the County Council's financial risks.

To meet with the objectives and delivery plan contained in the County Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan 2015/16 with particular reference to the Investment Strategy contained therein.

2.00 - 2.44 pm
11 December 2015

CHAIRMAN