

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priors Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 13 January 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

G A Porter (Leader of the Council)

C N Worth (Deputy Leader of the Council)	M G Chandler	C J Lawton
P S Przyszlak (Deputy Leader)	R Gambba-Jones	G J Taylor
	H R Johnson	M D Seymour

Junior Portfolio Holders: A Casson, P E Coupland, S-A Slade,

The Executive Director (Place), the Democratic Services and Legal Manager, the Corporate Improvement and Performance Team Leader and Principal member Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors A R Woolf (Junior Portfolio Holder) and A Harrison (Chairman, Policy Development Panel) together with Inspector Jim Tyner (Lincolnshire Police) and Lisa Barwell (Citizens Advice Bureau).

In Attendance: Councillors B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel), G R Aley (Chairman, Governance and Audit) and A M Newton (Independent Group Leader).

Community Representatives: Councillor Reginald Boot (Parish Councils) and Harry Drury (Chamber of Commerce).

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 were signed by the Leader as a correct record.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

35. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE RULE 2.4

No questions were raised under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.4.

36. MATTERS SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

There were no matters subject to call-in.

Action By

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37. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANELS

There were no matters arising from the Policy Development and Performance Monitoring Panels.

38. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Internal Services, Performance and Business Development and the Executive Director (Commissioning and Governance) which provided an update on the delivery against the 2011-2015 Corporate Plan for the Quarter 2 period (1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014).

The Quarterly Performance Overview report, attached as Appendix A within the report, provided councillors and residents with information about the Council's delivery against its Corporate Priorities and on the Council's Corporate Health.

Members referred to the performance indicator relating to the number of successful Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit sanctions and prosecutions. It would be the last time that this performance indicator was reported, as the Department for Work and Pensions had taken responsibility for benefit fraud investigation on 1 October 2014. However, the Council was still active in local fraud investigation. Special initiative funding was available from the Government and the Council was working with Lincolnshire County Council in a bid for funding.

Members also discussed the performance relating to missed bin collections. It was noted that an IT system would assist with the identification of genuine missed collections. Whilst it was accepted that there would always be a few missed collections, the actual numbers were currently very low with the aim of getting them as close to zero as possible.

DECISION:

That the report be noted.

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing; or*
- *Approve the recommendations with amendments.*

Reasons for decision:

- *No recommendations were made. The report was for information and to be noted only.)*

JW

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39. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) DRAFT 2015-16 ESTIMATES

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing Landlord and the Executive Director (Place) which sought consideration of the draft service estimates for 2015-16 and approval of the proposed rent and charges increases.

The appendices, attached within the report, outlined the draft 2015-16 revenue and capital estimates for the Housing Revenue Account; the outline capital programme through to 2019-20 and the 30 year HRA operating account.

A question was raised about asterisks shown in the table relating to Capital Programme in paragraph 9 of Appendix A. Councillor Przystlak agreed to explain the meaning of the asterisks at the Council meeting on 21 January 2015.

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL:

RS PP

- a) That the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2015-16 be approved;
- b) That the proposed average rent increase of 2.2% be approved and the statutory period of notice is served on tenants; and
- c) That the HRA Intensive Landlord service charges, transitional scheme, heating, water and room hire charges be approved.

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing; or*
- *Approve the recommendations with amendments.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To comply with the budget and policy framework.)*

40. DRAFT BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Finance and Strategic Planning, the Portfolio Holder for Internal Services, Performance and Business Development and the Executive Director (Place) (S151) which sought consideration of the Draft Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and Corporate Plan.

The financial documentation and Corporate Plan were attached as appendices A – I within the report.

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Councillor Alcock informed the Cabinet that a special joint meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel was held on 12 January 2015. The comments made on the documents would be fed into the formal consultation process.

DECISION:

That the contents of the draft Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and Draft Corporate Plan be noted.

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing; or*
- *Approve the recommendations with amendments.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To comply with the budget and policy framework.)*

41. WRITE OFFS

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Finance and Strategic Planning and the Finance Manager which recommended writing off irrecoverable debts.

A breakdown of the individual debts were attached as item 13 within the agenda, which was not for publication by virtue of Paragraphs 1 (Information relating to any individual), 2 (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual) and 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Members agreed that, as only the principles of the report would be discussed rather than individual cases; there was no need for the meeting to go into private session.

In considering the figures, members noted that the final sum was made up of not just the amount owed but also the costs of trying to recover the debt.

DECISION:

That the following debts be written off:

Council Tax	£9,052.26
Business Rates	£3,390.59
Accounts Receivable	£17,585.88
Former Tenant Arrears	£3,086.67
Housing Benefit Overpayments	£0

JR, MF

MW

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Total £33,115.40

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing; or*
- *Approve the recommendations with amendments*

Reasons for decision:

- *All recovery methods available had been considered and where appropriate pursued before making the decision to write off.)*

42. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE LEADER DECIDES ARE URGENT.

There were no urgent items.

(The meeting ended at 6.45 pm)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on 15 January 2015. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed above will, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on Friday 23 January 2015 (i.e. after the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication of these minutes), unless during that period a notice which is signed by at least one member of the Council and complies with the requirements of Rules 15(b), (c) and (d) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules is served on the Democratic Services and Legal Manager requesting that the decision be called-in and the Democratic Services and Legal Manager approves the request for call-in. Where a decision is called-in it will firstly be considered by the Performance Monitoring Panel on a date to be fixed.

Any FINAL DECISIONS and any URGENT DECISIONS take effect immediately.

Any RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL detailed above will be submitted for consideration to the meeting of the full Council on 21 January 2015.