

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 22 March 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

C N Worth (Deputy Leader)
M G Chandler (Deputy Leader)

A Casson
P E Coupland

R Gambba-Jones
C J Lawton

S-A Slade
G J Taylor

Cabinet Support
Members:

E J Sneath and A R Woolf.

Chief Executive, Executive Manager – Governance, Corporate Improvement and Performance Manager, Client-Side Contracts Officer, Interim Chief Accountant and Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Leader), Councillor A M Newton (Independent Group Leader), Councillor M D Seymour (Chairman, Policy Development Panel) and Councillor R Boot (Community Representative, Parish Councils).

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel) and Councillor G R Aley (Chairman, Governance and Audit Committee).

46. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were signed as a correct record.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 11 – Procurement item

Councillor Worth informed the meeting that although he did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, in the interests of transparency he wished it to be recorded that he was a County Councillor, and member of the Executive.

48. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (STANDING ORDERS)

No questions were raised under the Council's Constitution (Standing Orders).

49. MATTERS SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

There were no matters subject to call in.

Action By

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

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

51. COUNCIL TAX SECTION 13A POLICY

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which sought approval of a policy in respect of applications for discretionary reduction under Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

It was noted that the Policy Development Panel had considered the draft Council Tax Section 13A Policy at its meeting on 9th March 2016 and had no comments for Cabinet.

DECISION:

That the Council Tax Section 13A Policy be approved.

SH

(Other options considered:

- *To approve the recommendation with amendments; or*
- *Not to approve the recommendation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *Having a Policy in place would ensure that the Council had a fair approach to dealing with applications for discretionary reduction in Council Tax, and the criteria to which regard would be given.*
- *The policy was designed to consider discretionary relief only in exceptional circumstances, and ensured through the decision making process that all reasonable steps had been taken to resolve personal situations, and that all other eligible reductions had been identified and awarded first.)*

52. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT ANTI FRAUD POLICY

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which sought approval of the anti-fraud policy in relation to the Council Tax Support scheme.

DECISION:

That the Council Tax Support Anti-Fraud Policy be approved.

SH

(Other options considered:

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- *To approve the recommendation with amendments; or*
- *Not to approve the recommendation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To ensure that the Council was transparent and pro-active in its approach to tackling Council Tax Support fraud. This could act as a deterrent to potential fraudsters.)*

53. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE LEADER DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no urgent items.

54. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

That, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

55. PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services and the Executive Director Strategy and Governance which considered current and future delivery of procurement support to the Council.

Councillors discussed issues around service provision, and the potential for the Council to deliver this service in house.

It was noted that due to the timescales involved, this decision would be implemented before the expiration of the call-in period. The constitution allowed for this in urgent circumstances where the Access to Information Procedure Rules had been complied with; which they had in this case.

DECISION:

- a) That notice be given before 31 March 2016 to end the current contract on 31 March 2017; and
- b) That Procurement governance and day to day workloads be provided 'in house' by staff already in-post - the shared Client Side Contracts Officer and the Shared Corporate Improvement and Performance Manager.

(Other options considered:

GP, RS

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- *To approve the recommendation with amendments; or*
- *Not to approve the recommendation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *Value for money and performance improvement, as detailed in the report.*

(The meeting ended at 6.55 pm)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on Thursday 24 March 2016. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed above will, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on Tuesday 5 April 2016 (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 the Council's Constitution is served on the Executive Manager Governance requesting that the decision be called-in and the Executive Manager Governance 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 Wednesday 30 March 2016.