

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

G A Porter (Leader of the Council)

C N Worth (Deputy Leader  
of the Council)  
P S Przyszlak (Deputy  
Leader)

M G Chandler  
R Gambba-Jones

H R Johnson  
C J Lawton

Junior Portfolio Holders: A Casson, P E Coupland, S-A Slade and A R Woolf.

The Chief Executive, the Executive Director (Place), the Democratic Services and Legal Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors G J Taylor, together with Lisa Barwell (South Holland Citizens Advice Bureau) and Maureen Scantlebury (Welland Seniors Forum).

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman Performance Monitoring Panel), Councillor G R Aley (Chairman, Governance and Audit Committee), Councillor A Harrison (Chairman Policy Development Panel), Councillor A M Newton (Independent Group Leader) and The Press.

Community Representatives: Reginald William George Boot (Parish Councils).

**43. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015 were signed by the Leader as a correct record.

**44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**45. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE RULE 2.4.**

No questions were raised under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.4.

**46. MATTER SUBJECT TO CALL-IN**

There were no matters subject to call-in.

Action By

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**47. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANELS**

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

**48. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE QUARTER 3 2014-15**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Finance and Democratic Services and the Executive Director (Place) (S151) which provided information on the draft year end financial position of the Council, as at 30 December 2014. The report was for information and asked members to approve recommendations. A copy of the Financial Report for the quarter ending 30 December 2014 was attached as Appendix 1 within the report.

**DECISION:**

That the report and Appendix 1 be noted.

MF, AH, JK

*(Other options considered:*

- *Do nothing; or*
- *To note the report and approve the recommendations detailed in appendix 1 with amendments..*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *To provide timely information to Members on the overall finances of the Council and to make the best use of resources available.)*

**49. 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, Portfolio Holder for Internal Services, Performance & Business Development and the Executive Director (Place) (S151) which sought consideration of the Draft Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and Corporate Plan and to make recommendations to full Council. Copies of the relative appendices were attached as Appendix A – J within the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Finance and Strategic Planning advised that an additional item for a £30,000 spend on an air quality monitoring system in Spalding was to be added to the Capital Programme, and that this would be considered by Council at its meeting on 25 February 2015, alongside the recommendations to Full Council detailed within the report under consideration.

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The following comments were made:

- The Corporate Plan and priorities had been well-scrutinised, having been considered by both the Performance Monitoring and Policy Development Panels, and having gone through a consultation process.
- Council Tax payers would now have the opportunity to spread their payments over 12 months rather than 10, and as many people as possible should be encouraged to do this.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

- a) That the General Fund revenue estimates (Appendix A), use of reserves (Appendix D) and Fees and Charges (Appendix H) be approved;
- b) That the Council Tax for a Band D property in 2015-16, to be set at £154.84, be approved;
- c) That the Spalding Special Expenses estimates (Appendix C) be approved;
- d) That the Spalding Special Expense for a Band D property in 2015-16, to be set at £23.10, be approved;
- e) That the Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendices A and B) be approved;
- f) That the Capital Strategy and Programme (Appendices E and F) be approved, including the delegation to the Chief Executive to purchase land or property assets that support the Council's priorities, and to also include the information raised by the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Finance and Strategic Planning, with regard to the additional spend of an air quality monitoring system for Spalding, to be incorporated within the Capital Programme;
- g) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix G) be approved;
- h) That the authority extends its discretionary business rates relief scheme to include the extension of transitional relief to business premises with a rateable value equal to or less than £50,000 in accordance with Government guidelines, delegating to the Section 151 Officer the development and inclusion of an addendum to the current Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to cover this scheme; and

MF, AH, JK  
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- i) That the Corporate Plan and priorities be approved.

*(Other options considered:*

- *Do nothing; or*
- *To note the report and approve the recommendations without amendments..*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *That the draft capital and revenue budget estimates, medium term financial plan and capital strategy were noted as part of the consultation. Any feedback as a result of the consultation had been considered before the final position was presented to Cabinet and full Council in February; and*
- *To comply with the budgetary and policy framework.)*

**50. 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 12 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.

Comment was made that if it was clear that older debts could not be recovered, they were written off against the bad debt reserve and came off the list of debtors. However, a record was still kept in case of any possible future recovery. It was also stated that in the attempted recovery of debts, although information was not shared with other authorities, credit reference agencies were used.

**DECISION:**

That the following debts be written off:

Council Tax	£ 4,362.26
Business Rates	£ 17,983.98
Former Tenant Arrears	£ 1,306.33
Total:	£ 23,652.57

JP, MW

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*(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.)*

(The meeting ended at 6.38pm)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on 20 February 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 2 March 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 25 February 2015.