

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priors Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 21 July 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

C N Worth (Deputy Leader, in the Chair)

M G Chandler (Deputy Leader)	G J Taylor	S-A Slade
R Gambba-Jones	A Casson	
C J Lawton	P E Coupland	

Junior Portfolio Holders: E J Sneath

Chief Executive, Executive Director - Commercialisation, Executive Director - Place, Interim Executive Manager - Governance and Democratic Services Officer.

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel), Councillor G R Aley (Chairman, Governance and Audit Committee), Councillor M D Seymour (Chairman, Policy Development Panel) and Councillor J Tyrrell, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Communications Manager and Communications Officer.

Community Representatives: Councillor R W G Boot (Parish Councils)

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors G A Porter (Leader of the Council), A R Woolf (Junior Portfolio Holder) and A M Newton (Leader of the Independent Group), together with Community Representative: Phil Scarlett (Local Business Organisations).

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2015 were signed by the Deputy Leader as a correct record.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

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

No questions were raised under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.4.

11. MATTERS SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

There were no matters subject to call in.

Action
By

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

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

13. OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation which sought approval to adopt the 'Open for Business' approach to support the delivery of the Council's business and economic growth priorities.

The Deputy Leader expressed his thanks to the Civic Society for their letter expressing support for the project.

Councillor Alcock stated that he was pleased the procurement policies and procedures were going to be reviewed.

The Executive Director, Commercialisation advised that work was being carried out to ensure there was a commitment to local suppliers to enable them to bid for work. She added that a performance indicator would be created to ensure that the information was captured within reports to Scrutiny and Council.

Councillor Alcock referred to the potential project of the dualing of A16 and hoped that more importance would be given to it as it was a particular cause of concern. The Deputy Leader gave assurance that it was a high priority which had also been highlighted strongly by local businesses.

DECISION:

- 1) That the 'Open for Business' approach, as set out within the report, be adopted;
- 2) That in recognising the importance of providing opportunities for local business across our District, Cabinet supported the 'Meet the South Holland Buyer Event', as set out in section 3.4 within the report;
- 3) That the key areas for action, as set out in section 4.0 within the report, be approved in principle and that an action plan to achieve the key actions be developed; and
- 4) That officers review the Council's procurement policies and procedures in order to be as inclusive as possible.

NW, NB

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(Other options considered:

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

Reasons for decision:

- *The Council was already pursuing its pivotal role within the district's growth agenda to fulfil its commitment within the corporate plan priority 'To support the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth'.*
- *The Council had the opportunity to refresh its approach to economic and business growth to ensure local business needs were met and the contribution to the prosperity of the district was maximised, this was in a context where the GLLEP (and GCGPLEP) had major resources to commit to local and national economic growth priorities.)*

14. DELEGATIONS FOR THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Development and the Community Development and Health Manager which sought delegated authority for various officers in respect of powers pursuant to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

DECISION:

- 1) That the new delegations and amendments to existing delegations as a result of the enactment of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 be approved in accordance with Appendix A within the report; and
- 2) That the Executive Director – Commissioning and Governance and the Executive Manager – Governance, be authorised to make such amendments to these delegations as may be required to reflect changes in staffing structures and post titles.

(Other options considered:

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

Reasons for decision:

- *To enable the Council to manage Anti-Social Behaviour cases effectively utilising the powers available to the Council under the new legislation.)*

(The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer left the meeting at 6.41 pm, following consideration of the above item.)

GT, DB

MO'M,
MS

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15. VARIOUS AREAS OF HOUSING LAND

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Housing Manager which sought authority to appropriate existing Council owned land from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund.

Councillor C J Lawton advised that a competition had been held to determine the name of the company which, subject to approval by the Shareholders and Companies House, had been agreed as Welland Homes, and the joint winners were being awarded a prize.

DECISION:

- 1) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director, Commercialisation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to appropriate such HRA land held for Part II Housing Act 1985 purposes as may be suitable (as described within the report and as may be identified in the future) to the general fund for development purposes pursuant to the Town & Country Planning Act 1991;
- 2) That the HRA be credited at full market value from the general fund in respect of any land appropriated under (1) above;
- 3) That notice of any intended appropriations of land be advertised as required by legislation and that the Executive Director, Commercialisation give due consideration to any consultation responses before exercising the delegated authority in (1) above; and
- 4) That, subject to (1) and (2) above, delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director, Commercialisation to proceed with subsequent disposals of such land to the Council's housing company.

(Other options considered:

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

Reasons for decision:

- *To enable the Council to ensure its assets are held in the most appropriate location, reflecting the purpose they are held for.)*

CL, JK,
RS

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16. WRITE OFFS

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Executive Director, Commercialisation (S151) which recommended writing off irrecoverable debts.

A revised report was tabled at the meeting as the previous version contained some minor errors. Members noted that the report contained a breakdown of the individual debts within Appendices A – E, which were 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)).

DECISION:

That the following debts be written off:

Business Rates	£12,327.79
Accounts Receivable	£15,877.19
Former Tenant Arrears	£6,233.88
Housing Benefit Overpayments	£5,437.02
Total:	£39,875.88

(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.)*

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

To consider resolving that, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

18. WRITE OFFS APPENDIX

Consideration was given to the appendices relating to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Executive Director, Commercialisation (S151) which sought approval to write off irrecoverable debts.

JK

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Members discussed the process of write offs and observed that the write offs were primarily an accounting requirement and that a formal write off of a debt did not mean efforts could no longer be made to collect the debt, provided the debts were less than 6 years old. all other measures to retrieve the monies had been exhausted. Members noted that although the debts had been approved for write off, should any of the individual debtors be located they would still be expected to pay what they owed.

(The meeting ended at 7.06 pm)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on Friday 24 July 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 Monday 3 August 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 Interim Executive Manager – Governance requesting that the decision be called-in and the D Interim 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 29 July 2015.