

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 16 February 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Leader)
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

Junior Portfolio Holders: E J Sneath and A R Woolf

Chief Executive, Executive Manager - Governance, Interim Executive Manager Growth, Interim Chief Accountant and Democratic Services Officer.

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

Community Representatives: J Whitbourn (Business Organisations), G Scorthorne (South Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service) and Councillor R Boot (Parish Councils).

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 were signed by the Leader as a correct record.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

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

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

40. MATTERS SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

There were no matters subject to call in.

Action By

CABINET - 16 February 2016

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

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

42. OPEN FOR BUSINESS ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to the joint Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation and Executive Manager Growth which sought approval of the 'Open for Business' Action Plan. The Plan was attached as an appendix to the report and was developed following consultation with partners and local businesses, an external economic analysis and an internal review of local economic indicators.

Members noted the challenges of creating high skilled jobs, that the impact of the living wage is driving unprecedented focus on automation and that the types of such jobs that would be created included engineers and IT technicians that specialised in the food industry.

Councillor C J Lawton suggested that it might be useful to look at building links with the migrant workers in the area. Councillor C N Worth agreed to take that on board.

The Chief Executive advised that it was important to look at the overall approach as there was strength in South Holland's alliance with Peterborough due to Peterborough's strong profile and the joint inward investment package that could be created. The report focussed on what South Holland could do as a district and the action plan focussed on where interventions were required.

Councillor A R Woolf referred to apprenticeships and stated that it was important to offer apprenticeships to young people with skills, in areas such as farming, and then to encourage them to stay and work in the district. Councillor Worth advised that it was dependent upon colleges providing the skills required by local businesses.

DECISION:

That the 'Open for Business' Action Plan be approved.

(Other options considered:

- *Not to adopt the 'Open for Business' approach; or*
- *To adopt the 'Open for Business' approach with amendments.*

JK, TM, NB

CABINET - 16 February 2016

Reasons for decision:

- *The Council was already pursuing its pivotal role within the district's growth*
- *agenda to fulfil its commitment within the corporate priority 'To support the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth';*
- *The Council had an opportunity to refresh its approach to economic and business growth to ensure it met local business needs and maximised its contribution to the prosperity of the district.*
- *The action plan would form the basis of the Council's approach to facilitating and enabling business and economic growth for the District. It would be the primary document employed by the Council's Inward Investment Team in defining their Service Plan and would inform the Service Plans of other growth-related teams.)*

43. FINANCIAL FORECAST OUTTURN QUARTER THREE 2015-16

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which provided information on the draft year end financial position of the Council, as at 31 December 2015, and proposed a number of recommendations to full Council. The Financial Report for the quarter ending 31st December 2015 was attached as Appendix 1 within the report.

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL:

- a) That the report and Appendix 1 be noted;
- b) That £164,000 of Local authority useable capital receipts be used for any capital purpose within the Council as defined by the Local Government Act 2003 (as Amended);
- c) That £1,660,000 of Accelerated funding of the Minimum Revenue Provision (borrowing repayment in year) be agreed in accordance with paragraphs 5.1.5 and 5.1.6 within the report which included a £723,000 contribution from the Council Tax reserve, use of in year savings of £773,000 and application of £164,000 of useable capital receipts;
- d) To agree that useful life criteria as identified in paragraph 5.1.7 within the report be adopted for current and future use;
- e) To agree the establishment of £100,000 in the Council Tax reserve in respect of potential additional costs from a revised specification of the Grounds maintenance and Street cleansing services as per paragraph 5.1.8 within the report; and

JK, KT

CABINET - 16 February 2016

- f) To agree in principle to the restructuring of council reserves in line with paragraph 5.1.9 within the report.

(Other options considered:

- *To note the report and to approve the recommendations detailed within the appendix with amendments; or*
- *To note the report and not approve the recommendations detailed within the appendix.*

Reasons for decision:

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

44. COMMUNITY ASSETS IN THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) setting out a business case which sought approval for the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) to pursue the appropriation of garages and commercial properties from Housing to Operational assets.

DECISION:

That the Executive Director – Commercialisation be authorised to appropriate garages and parking spaces from Housing to operational asset use.

(Other options considered:

- *To note the report and to approve the recommendation with amendments; or*
- *To note the report and not approve the recommendation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To appropriate underperforming assets no longer required for their original purpose as part of a wide ranging asset management review to redefine the commercial framework and increase usage and income in the future.)*

45. DRAFT BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which sought consideration of the draft capital and revenue budget estimates, the medium term financial plan and the capital strategy to be recommended to full Council.

JK, KT

CABINET - 16 February 2016

The following documents were appended to the report, which had been circulated with the agenda:

- Appendix A - Budget estimates and medium term financial plan
- Appendix B - Budget Summary 2016/17
- Appendix C - Spalding Special Expenses
- Appendix D - Reserves
- Appendix E - Capital estimates
- Appendix F - Capital strategy
- Appendix G - Treasury Strategy
- Appendix H - Fees & Charges

Councillor P E Coupland referred to a paper, that was circulated prior to the start of the meeting, which provided details of amended wording to recommendation 5 in respect of Spalding Special Expenses, and an additional recommendation 11 to enable the Interim Chief Accountant to make amendments to the report and appendices, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, prior to submission to full Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

JK, KT

- a) That the revenue estimates for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Spalding Special Expenses for 2016-17 and outline position through to 2019-20 (as set out in Appendices A, B and C within the report) be approved;
- b) That the rent setting for social housing be delayed until receipt of a national rent policy, as defined in the Welfare Reform & Work Act 2016, from the Government;
- c) That the fees and charges (as set out in Appendix H within the report) for adoption 1 April 2016 be approved;
- d) That the Council Tax for a Band A property in 2016-17 be set at £106.56, a £3.33 per annum increase on 2015-16 levels (Band D £159.84, a £5 per annum increase on 2015-16 levels);
- e) That the Spalding special expenses for Band A be set at £15.33 (£15.40 for 2015/16) (Band D £22.99, £23.10 for 2015/16);
- f) That the medium term financial plan (as set out in Appendices A and B within the report) be approved;

CABINET - 16 February 2016

- g) That authority be delegated to the S151 Officer to apply for the four year settlement from central Government when all relevant information was made available;
- h) That the capital strategy and capital programme (as set out in Appendices E and F within the report) be approved;
- i) That the Treasury Management strategy, including the Minimum Revenue Provision policy and annual investment strategy (as set out in Appendix G within the report) be approved;
- j) That the release of budget, as shown in the capital programme for Economic Development from investment and growth funds, be delegated to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to approve projects on receipt of detailed and appropriate business cases which generate an agreed ongoing return and contribute to council objectives; and

DECISION:

KT

- k) That authority be delegated to the Interim Chief Accountant (Deputy S151 Officer) to make amendments to the report and appendices prior to submission to full Council in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, provided that the Revenue budget requirement of £11,594,000 and the General Fund capital budget remained unaltered.

(Other options considered:

- *To note the report and to approve the recommendation with amendments; or*
- *To note the report and not approve the recommendation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To comply with the budgetary and policy framework.*

(The meeting ended at 7.17 pm)

(End of minutes)

CABINET - 16 February 2016

These minutes are published on Friday 19 February 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 Monday 29 February 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 24 February 2016.