

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2012 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor C. Hart (Chairman); Councillors Everitt, Fenner, D Green and Johnston

In Attendance: Bayford, Bruce, Campbell, Driver, Edwards, E Green, King, Moores, W Scobie, S Tomlinson, Watkins, Wells and Wise

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Poole.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

General Announcement: - Report on Arlington House

Councillor C. Hart, the Leader of Council advised Members that a report on Arlington House which was meant to be considered at this Cabinet meeting would now be brought to the next Cabinet meeting.

28. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Having a Risk Management Strategy was a statutory requirement and demonstrated good governance within the Council. Reviewing this strategy was good practice. The Risk Management Strategy detailed the Council's commitment to risk management.

Councillor Wise spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Fenner proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To approve the reviewed Risk Management Strategy.

29. 2012-2013 SECOND QUARTER REPORT ON PROGRESS AGAINST CORPORATE PLAN

The Corporate Plan provided information on the Council's key priorities; related activities and progress made to-date and identified remedial action where appropriate.

Councillors Bayford, Wells and King spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Fenner proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed to note the report.

30. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 - 2012/13

Council produced quarterly budget monitoring reports to inform Members of the budget performance against the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the capital

programme for 2012/13. In this instance Cabinet was receiving a report for the second quarter.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To note the projected outturn position for 2012/13 for the General Fund;
2. To approve the draw down of £40k from the Homelessness Reserve;
3. To note the current Housing Revenue Account position;
4. To note the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes;
5. To approve the use of reserves to cover the shortfall in capital receipts;
6. To approve the draw down of £216k from HRA balances to support the Newington Development project.

31. LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT SCHEME

Government was reducing the funding of Council Tax Benefit by 10% and transferring the responsibility for designing the scheme to each local Council. The new local scheme should be in place by April 2013. East Kent Services were given the authority to design such a scheme on behalf of Thanet District Council, Dover District Council and Canterbury City Council as a joint East Kent Council Tax Reduction Scheme. A public consultation was undertaken which helped inform the options for Council. The EK Services model has been designed to meet the criteria for the Kent wide scheme.

Councillors Driver and King spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To recommend to Council the adoption of the scheme as proposed in the consultation exercise and Option 2.

32. 2013/14 BUDGETS AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013-17

The Councils draft budget proposals for 2013/14 were built in a context of reduced government funding, a limiting economic environment and the need to balance the budget. Fundamental to the budget preparation was the need to craft a four year Medium Term Financial Plan, which forms the Council's overarching Budget Strategy, whose main objective was to create a sustainable budget that will deliver the policies and aspirations of the Council over the medium term.

Councillors Wise and Bayford spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That Members approve the approach being used to develop the budget estimates for the General Fund Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Accounts 2013 – 2017;
2. That Members note the financial risk assessment for the General Fund Revenue Account that will be used to inform the setting of reserves for 2013 – 2017;
3. That Members recommend to Council the draft fees and charges for 2013/14.

33. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Council is required by the 2005 Gambling Act to review its Gambling Policy every three years. A public consultation was carried out in summer and a limited number of responses were received. The updated Policy has to be in place in January 2013.

Councillor Wells spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Fenner proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To recommend that Full Council adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy.

34. THANET ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Thanet Armed Forces Covenant was a statement of mutual support between the civilian community and the local armed forces community. The covenant encouraged support to the armed forces community that work and reside in the District and is in recognition of the sacrifices that are made by military personnel. Thanet District Council was requested to be a signatory to the Covenant.

Councillors Moores and Wells spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Johnston proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That Thanet District Council becomes a signatory to the Thanet Armed Forces Covenant.

35. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a duty to maintain a list of buildings and other lands in its area which are of community value and ensure that when such assets are sold, local community groups have the opportunity to delay the sale to enable them to prepare a bid to buy such assets.

Councillor Wells spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor Everitt proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. To agree the council's approach to this new duty as set out in the report;
2. To delegate responsibility to the Director of Community Services to implement and manage the duties under this legislation. This will include:
 - i. The decisions on whether assets are listed on the register of assets or not;
 - ii. Reviews of decisions to include an asset on the register when requested by the owners. It is proposed that these review decisions are taken with the appropriate portfolio holder;
 - iii. Assessment of compensation claims made by owner or former owners due to losses and expenses incurred due an asset being listed;
 - iv. Reviews of decisions on compensation when requested by the owners;
 - v. The administration of the processes the council is required to carry out under the Community Right to Bid legislation.

36. REVIEW OF EAST KENT ARRANGEMENTS

Over the last 18 months, there has been a decrease in the appetite for continued joint working by some of the participating local Councils. This has led to Shepway District Council withdrawing from EK Services. The remaining partners began to question the current structure of the EKJAC and have expressed the desire for reviewing the arrangements to reflect on the number of changes that have taken place since the formation of these joint arrangements in 2008.

Councillor Fenner proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed to recommend to Council the following:

1. That the East Kent Joint Arrangements Committee and the East Kent Joint Scrutiny Committee be dissolved with effect from the date of the establishment of the Committee referred to in paragraph 8.2 below.
2. That operating arrangements for a Committee relating to functions shared by Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council ('the Continuing Councils') be drafted by the respective Heads of Legal and be submitted to the Continuing Councils for approval with scrutiny being undertaken by the scrutiny committees of the Continuing Councils. Kent County Council and Shepway District Council are to be notified of the date of establishment of the new Committee.
3. That all agreements or arrangements which may need to remain in effect after the dissolution of EKJAC be reviewed by the Heads of Legal of all the Participating councils and they be delegated the power by their respective Councils that if relevant to them they agree the continuation of those matters in such form as they think appropriate.

37. REFRESH OF KENT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012-2021

The review of the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2012-21 was necessitated by the need to reflect the changes that have been achieved since 2007 and the increased targets on recycling that have been adopted by the government and across Europe. However Members were concerned by the Kent County Council decision to close the Richborough Waste & Recycling Facility in Sandwich, on the border with Dover District Council.

The following Members spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1:

Councillor W. Scobie;
Councillor Moores;
Councillor E. Green;
Councillor Driver;
Councillor King.

Councillor C. Hart proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the following:

1. That the refreshed objectives and policies for the Kent Waste Partnership contained in Annex 1 of Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be adopted and supported by Thanet District Council;
2. That the Leader of Council writes to the Leader of Kent County Council expressing disappointment over the decision by KCC to close the Richborough Waste & Recycling Facility and to request a meeting between the two leaders to discuss the issue of the closure and its serious consequences for Thanet.

38. ASSETS FOR DISPOSAL

The Council makes use of its property to deliver its own services and support local community groups to provide a wide range of local facilities and activities. The current Interim Asset Disposal Plan detailed the number of sites for disposal and the process for disposing such assets.

Councillor Wells spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Councillor C. Hart proposed, Councillor D. Green seconded and Members agreed the disposal of the sites listed below:

- i. Former Rose garden, Pysons Road, Broadstairs;
- ii. 41 Hawley Square, Margate;
- iii. Ramsgate Swimming Pool site, Newington Road, Ramsgate;
- iv. Site in Mocketts Wood, St Peters, Broadstairs;
- v. Jewson site, Tivoli Road, Margate;
- vi. 38-40 Grosvenor Place, Margate.

Meeting concluded: 8.55 pm