

**CABINET MEETING
2 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Present: Councillor R. F. Spencer (Chairman)

Councillors: A A Clarke
Feeney
Gollop
Golland
Nicholson
Poynter

Observers: Councillors Gillam, Griffiths and Parr

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2004 having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. A. Clarke declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 (provision of Council Services at Netherfield Access Centre).

53. INTRODUCTION OF CHARGING FOR CAR PARKING

The Head of Engineering and Property on behalf of the Direct Services and Property Portfolio Holder advised the Cabinet of the current position concerning the introduction of charges for car parking, particularly in respect of the consultation process that had not been completed.

It had been originally envisaged that the outcome of the consultation process would have been available for this meeting. Whilst the General Public, Traders and Community Groups and Partner Organisation consultations had been completed, the meetings with Larger Stores had yet to be concluded. It was proposed therefore to report this to the Cabinet meeting on 7 October 2004 and accordingly the target date for the Forward Plan decision 456 would also need to be revised.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED:

1. To defer consideration of the introduction of charging for car parking to the October meeting.
2. To revise the target date of Forward Plan Decision No. 456 to 7 October 2004.

54. MID-TERM REPORT ON CAPITAL DISPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Engineering and Property providing information on progress made on the sale of land and property during financial year 2004/05.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

55. GEDLING CRIME AND DISORDER PARTNERSHIP – CRIME, DISORDER AND DRUGS AUDIT 2004

The Director of Community Services reported that the Gedling Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) was required by law to carry out an audit of crime, disorder and drugs in the Borough every three years. Once completed, the information provided and consulted upon with the wider community was used to develop and produce a Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy for 2005-2008.

The report of the Director of Community Services outlined the purpose and how to complete the audit.

The report detailed the consultation methods that was proposed and also detailed the various agencies that would be involved.

All partners would be asked to consider participation in the whole process and it was intended that the Broad and Shallow Audit in full, and the summary, would be sent to all Members. The level of audit would focus on all the individual wards thereby ensuring all members had relevant data for their wards.

Details of the Consultation Plan and Timetable would be shared with all members. Members were also invited to attend meetings in their areas and it was hoped that they would help promote the events in the community.

The consultation meetings were being called by the CDRP in order to gauge public opinion. Members would be informed of meetings and were welcome to attend but, bearing in mind that members would have other opportunities to contribute to the process, it was not anticipated that members would participate in the consultation events.

The Broad and Shallow Audit report would be placed before Cabinet and Community & Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee for information and consultation in October.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED: To note the information contained in the report.

56. **BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN 2005/06**

The Head of Cabinet Office and Head of Finance submitted a report setting out issues to be addressed in the development of next year's Budget and Service Plan, and also outlined an approach to its development for Cabinet consideration.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the use of a draft scoring methodology as submitted in (Appendix A) and associated weightings (Appendix B) for prioritising budget development.
2. To request Scrutiny Committee to consider what areas as part of their input into the 2005/06 budget were not considered to be priorities so that services are challenged to release resources to meet the priorities in other areas.
3. To require future best value reviews to specifically address how closely current based budgets fit with the Council's priorities

57. **AUDIT COMMISSION CONSULTATION PAPER
" A MODERN APPROACH TO INSPECTING SERVICES"**

The Head of Cabinet Office submitted a report drawing members' attention to the Audit Commission's recent consultation paper "A Modern approach to inspecting services" setting out its future plans for the inspection of public services.

The report also wished members to consider whether the Council wished to make any response to consultation on the document. Submitted at Appendix A was a summary and key issues arising from the document.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED: To make comments on the consultation document based on the summary and key issues contained in Appendix A.

58. EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – INTEGRATED REGIONAL STRATEGY (IRS) FRAMEWORK – CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Head of Cabinet Office drew members attention to the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) Framework – Consultation Draft. Members were requested to consider whether the Council would wish to make any response to consultation on the document.

Submitted at Appendix A was a summary of the key points from the East Midlands Regional Assembly Integrated Regional Strategy Consultation Draft Document. It highlighted the key challenges for the region, local community strategies and the regional sustainable development objective.

The report also considered how the Council and Gedling Partnership priorities complimented and conflict with the sustainable development objectives for the region.

It was reported that officers observations were being sought through Senior Management Team at its meeting on 9 September.

RESOLVED: To note that members' comments be invited on the response to the consultation exercise.

59. WOMEN AS LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS

Consideration was given to a report of the Conservative Cabinet Observer on the results of survey work about women Councillors at Gedling Borough and to seek Cabinet views on the way forward.

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 July 2003, Cabinet had given its support to a proposal to carry out survey work looking at issues around the proportion of women councillors serving on the Council, and at any issues that might be preventing more women from seeking election as councillors.

The report submitted a number of conclusions and it was:

RESOLVED:

1. To forward a copy of the report to Scrutiny Chairs for consideration.
2. That a copy of the report be forwarded to the Gedling Political Associations.

60. PROVISION OF COUNCIL SERVICES AT NETHERFIELD ACCESS CENTRE

The Head of Personnel and Organisational Development reminded members that at a meeting of the Cabinet on 21 July a report had been presented outlining the new task of developing an access strategy which

was within the remit of the Portfolio Holder for E-Government and Member Services. The Portfolio Holder had been requested by Councillor Alan Clarke as Chair of the Netherfield Access Centre to consider installing a citizen access system called "Tellytalk". As the overall access strategy had not yet been completed it could not be determined whether such an approach would fit in with all other available options and within the strategy for the Borough as a whole.

However, Cabinet had asked for a more detailed report on the costs and benefits to be brought back to this meeting in order that an informed decision could be made.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet emphasise their commitment to Netherfield Access Centre but to make no decision on the installation of an interactive video conferencing system until the access strategy for the Borough is complete.

61. REDEVELOPMENT OF PODDER LANE FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Planning & Environment recommending that compulsory purchase of a very small site was required in order to secure the redevelopment of Podder Lane for residential purposes.

RESOLVED: That the compulsory purchase of the site be authorised subject to Officers negotiating a suitable agreement with Standen Homes.

62. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Personnel & Resources Committee had considered the Annual Internal Audit Report at their meeting on 23 August 2004. During consideration of the item, Cabinet had been asked to note the decision of the Personnel and Resources Committee and that any necessary amendments to the Constitution would be made.

After consideration it was:-

RESOLVED:

1. To accept the report.
2. That the report be referred back to Personnel & Resources Committee for the creation of an Audit Sub-Committee.

63. **FORWARD PLAN – 1 OCTOBER 2004 TO 31 JANUARY 2005**

RESOLVED: To approve the Forward Plan.

64. **PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PROGRESS REPORTS**

Agenda 21 and Crime Reduction

- Crime and Disorder Audit
- New Communications Officer – Rose Lucas
- Town Centre Crime Reduction – work ongoing
- Shop and pub-watch scheme progressing
- Car park consultation progressing
- Footpath issues proposed closures
- ASBOs (and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts)
- Dale Avenue proposed ASBO
- LSP Executive – regular meetings

E-Government

- Consultation on Parish Funding
- Electronic office admin system
- Councillors' PCs – budget provision
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – E-Government information
- Telephone system – strategy

Development & Economic Regeneration

- Pub watch and shop watch successful
- Severn Trent works in Arnold two months behind schedule
- Planting in Eagle Square

Housing

- Reports to members on Housing Services

Leisure

- Gedling Show – support
- Arnold Festival – forward planning
- Breckhill Football Tournament

Direct Services

- Wheelie bin delay in Calverton and Woodborough
- Garden waste organic waste charges

- Grounds maintenance – difficulties due to weather
- Increase in fuel charges - £2,000 per month to Direct Services
- Highways – storage of materials for Notts. County Council

Finance

- Budget process commencing
- New Banking contract agreed with HSBC
- Civic Centre – recent break-ins
- Paul Whitworth Level 2 Management Paper success -
Congratulatory

RESOLVED: To note the information.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.