

## **CABINET**

**6 OCTOBER 2005**

Councillor I.S. Gollop (Chairman)

Councillors:	R.F. Spencer	P. Feeney
	W.H. Golland	V. McCrossen
	R.J. Nicholson	R.A. Poynter
Observers:	A.J. Gillam	G.J. Griffiths
	J.M. Parr (a)	

### **88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Parr.

### **89 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2005.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **90 PUBLIC SERVICE RESTRUCTURING**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that referred to the proposed restructuring of the Primary Care Trusts in Nottinghamshire and the publication of a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on the structure of police forces in England and Wales which had concluded that police forces should move towards a more 'strategic' organisation, coupled with a strengthening of the neighbourhood policing role performed by the basic command unit.

Members were also reminded that the Minister for Communities and Local Government had also announced in September that he had postponed reform of local government finance and the council tax revaluation until consideration had been given to the functions and future role of local government.

All of the above issues plainly had far reaching implications for public services in Gedling, joint work undertaken by the various agencies working in the Borough and services provided on a joint basis, as well as potentially for the Council itself. Further reports would be presented as more details emerge of proposals in the various areas of review.

Given the very tight timescales involved, it would be difficult to secure full Cabinet involvement at every stage, but it was important to ensure that all Members were kept informed and that the Council were in a position to respond effectively to any consultation and to engage as actively as possible with the process. It was recommended that a copy of this report be referred to Scrutiny Chairs in order that they might consider whether and to what extent the Scrutiny Committees should be involved.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and to agree that it be referred to Scrutiny Chairs for their consideration.

**91 GEDLING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2005/06 - 2007/08 - FINAL DRAFT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that outlined proposed changes to the Draft Gedling Community Strategy, following recent consultation with partner agencies and the community.

The report had been written for consideration at the Gedling Partnership Executive meeting on 29th September and for consideration by the Cabinet on 6th October for approval by Council, given the statutory responsibility the Council had for producing a Community Strategy.

A verbal update from the Gedling Executive Partnership meeting was given at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To recommend adoption of the Strategy as amended to the Council on 26th October 2005, subject to changes made at the Gedling Partnership Board on 12th October.

**92 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Councillor Wendy Golland submitted a report that advised Members of work being undertaken to provide a development plan for parks and open spaces and to agree a consultation process for implementation of the plan.

RESOLVED:

1. To instruct officers to provide a copy of the ten-year delivery plan for outline approval by Cabinet.
2. To agree that, twelve months prior to project implementation, residents living within 800 metres of a development site will be consulted and if necessary the project plan amended.
3. To agree the inclusion of Members on project teams for developments within their Ward areas.

**93            PROPOSED MERGER OF NOTTINGHAM CITY HOSPITAL AND QUEENS MEDICAL CENTRE NHS TRUSTS - TRENT STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY CONSULTATION**

The Policy Officer submitted a report that informed members of the proposed merger of the Nottingham City Hospital and Queens Medical Centre NHS Trusts, and the public consultation process which was now under way.

RESOLVED:

To note the information.

**94            FORWARD PUBLICITY PLAN - AUTUMN/WINTER 2005**

The Head of Cabinet Office submitted a report advising that members of proposed publicity initiatives planned for coming months and of the related proposals to support delivery of the IDeA/LGA "Reputation" agenda.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

**95            MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Councillor P. G Barnes asked Councillor Poynter about the timescale for improvements to the sound system in the Council Chamber.

Councillor Poynter indicated that a budget bid in the sum of £25 - 50,000 would be included in the estimates for consideration by Council. If the bid were successful, then the replacement of the system could commence in April 2006.

**96            REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCE**

The Head of Finance submitted a report that set out the Budget and Service Plan Process for 2006/07.

The report sought Members views on the proposed response to the Government's Formula Grant Distribution Consultation for 2006/07.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Council's response to the Formula Grant Distribution Consultation 2006/07, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

## **97 CONCESSIONARY FARES CHANGES**

The Head of Finance submitted a report that informed Cabinet of the preferred option for concessionary fares provision in Nottinghamshire from April 2006.

The report also sought approval to enter into agreements with scheme partners and transport providers and to publish the new scheme on 1 December 2005. The proposals in the report followed a major policy change introduced by Central Government which would have significant implications for Nottinghamshire.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the appropriate funding being allocated, Cabinet approve:-

- a) The basis for the new one year Concessionary scheme from April 2006 based on option 3.
- b) The publication of the new scheme by 1 December 2005;
- c) New Partnership agreements with the District Councils and Transport Operators;
- d) A review of the scheme during 2006/07 and the preparation of proposals in autumn 2006 for a permanent scheme from April 2007

## **98 PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

The following progress reports on items within their purview were received from Portfolio Holders:-

- **E Government and Member Services**

Problems with down time - Core IT system  
Member Information Officer leaving the Authority - review of post

- **Development and Regeneration**

Arnold Master Plan proceeding  
Consultation with Business Forum regarding proposed car park charges  
31 October - Business Crime Awards  
Local Plan - planning applications now being received

- **Housing**

Stock Transfer progressing  
Low Demand Units under consideration

- **Leisure**

King George 5th, Standhill Road and Burton Rd Recreation Grounds all subject to Budget bids  
Willow Park scheme decided upon  
Tenders accepted for Standhill, Muirfield and Newstead play area - consultations to be held with schools.  
Proposals for New Bye Laws progressing to safeguard open spaces.  
Problems of cycling in Parks.  
New edition of the bulletin to be issued.

- **Finance**

Problems with the Housing Benefit System  
Problems with employee payments  
Council Tax re-valuations deferred.  
Budget process to be considered by Scrutiny Committees

- **Agenda 21 Crime and Community Development**

Replacement ASBO co-ordinator appointed  
Public meetings with residents of College Road and Edison Way  
PCSOs to be given additional powers under pilot scheme  
Police to be asked to be more pro-active in dealing with Anti Social Behaviour.

RESOLVED:

To note the reports.

**99 FORWARD PLAN 01 NOVEMBER 2005 - 28 FEBRUARY 2006.**

RESOLVED:

To approve the Forward Plan.

**100 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.**

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the ensuing report on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

The Head of Finance submitted a report that updated members on the Council's collection procedures following recent member and media enquiries regarding recovery of Council Tax arrears.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm