



MEETING OF THE CABINET
1 JULY 2013 - 11.00 AM – 11.50 AM

PRESENT:

Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mike Taylor
Councillor Terl Bryant
Councillor Bob Adams

Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal - Chairman

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Director Corporate Focus/Section 151 Officer
(Daren Turner)
Strategic Director Community & Environment Focus
(Tracey Blackwell)
Head of Finance (Richard Wyles)
Economic Development and Regeneration Lead - Economic
Development & Investment Service (Corrine Garbett)
Head of Legal & Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer
(Lucy Youles)
Cabinet Support Officer (Lucy Bonshor)

Non-Cabinet Members : (Councillor Nick Craft)

CO5. APOLOGIES

Apologies for Councillor Terl Bryant were submitted but he attended the meeting from 11.04am.

CO6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

Councillor Mrs Neal referred to an e-mail that she had received concerning a change to the minutes but stated that the minutes were agreed as to their accuracy and nothing could be added which was not said at the meeting. The Development Control Committee would look at all relevant material considerations for each application with regard to the Wind Energy SPD.

CO7. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)

None disclosed.

CO8. CULTURAL STRATEGY 2013/14

Decision:

That Cabinet approve the Council's first medium term Cultural Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16 as appended to report ED927.

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- 1) Report ED927 from the Portfolio Holders' Grow the Economy and Economic Development and Arts and Leisure.
- 2) The Cultural Strategy responds to the Council's priorities by ensuring a coordinated approach to improving the cultural offer in South Kesteven. It provides a framework to help address local needs and describes how aims and priorities can be delivered by working together with partners.
- 3) A clear vision for the district is outlined and descriptions of what the strategy will deliver for each of the towns and the rural hinterland.
- 4) Consultations have been undertaken through different forums comprising of officers, businesses and the public.
- 5) The document was taken to the Communities PDG on 16th May who following minor text amendments endorsed the document.
- 6) Comments made by Portfolio Holders on the visual quality of the document and the need to distribute the document to a wider audience.

Other options considered:

To revise the existing council policies such as the Economic Development Strategy to include the cultural agenda, however, this was not considered appropriate due to the wide areas the cultural strategy covered. It was felt that a dedicated cultural strategy was needed.

CO9. DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX PAYMENT POLICY

Decision:

That Cabinet approves the proposed Discretionary Council Tax Payment Policy.

(The policy is based upon the existing Discretionary Housing Payment

scheme (DHP) which is funded by government grant.)

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- 1) Report HOF237 from the Head of Finance.
- 2) The abolition of council tax benefit from April 2013 and that Discretionary Housing Payment Schemes can no longer be made towards Council Tax liability.
- 3) That Council as part of its budget proposal for 2013/14 had approved a locally funded scheme to be set up to help with cases of extreme hardship that may arise following the introduction of the local Council Tax Support scheme (CTS).
- 4) The proposal was discussed at the Resources PDG at their meeting on 28th March 2013 and was given their full support.
- 5) The proposed scheme followed the guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- 6) Comments made by Portfolio Holders that the funding pot was for one year only and would not be an ongoing benefit.
- 7) Regular sessions to be held with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Resources to monitor the funds held.

CO10. LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME - SCHEME EXTENSION

Decision:

Cabinet recommends to Council:

- 1) **That the LAMS scheme is extended and a further amount of £1M is given to the Lloyds TSB Bank Plc scheme;**
- 2) **That additional lenders be included such as Teachers Building Society**
- 3) **That the maximum loan size per application is increased to £147,250.**

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- 1) Report HOF240 by the Head of Finance.
- 2) Council approved the implementation of a local scheme in March 2012 in partnership with Lloyds Banks plc up to a limit of £1M and approved plans to extend the scheme across other lenders as they enter the scheme up to a total of £5M.
- 3) The success of the scheme to date and the need to promote the scheme more widely in the south of the district.
- 4) Comments made by the Portfolio Holder Good Housing concerning the interest from the loans.
- 5) Comments made by the Strategic Director Corporate Focus concerning accounting guidance concerning the scheme.

CO11. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE COUNCIL, SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OR THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Defibrillator provision within South Kesteven District Council

Decision:

In principle the Cabinet supports the installation of automatic external defibrillators in its buildings across the district and thank the Scrutiny Committee for the work done to date and the brilliant paper that they submitted. However, before making a final decision the Cabinet wished the Scrutiny Committee to do further work on the following:

- 1) Health and Safety implications and implementation.**
- 2) Budgetary considerations – options for funding**

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- 1) The Scrutiny Committee's Defibrillator provision within South Council District Council's Review document.
- 2) No budget provision for the current year.
- 3) The need for funding options to be resourced and evidenced.
- 4) The need to better understand the Health and Safety implications for the Council.
- 5) The usage of the defibrillators by possibly different people (staff/members of the public) and how this would affect the council's indemnity.
- 6) Comments made by Portfolio Holders whose parishes they covered had defibrillators installed in them.

DATE DECISION EFFECTIVE:

Decisions CO8, CO9, CO11 as made on 1st July 2013 can be implemented by Wednesday 10th July, unless subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Committee Chairman or any five members of the Council from any political group.

Decision CO10 as made on 1st July 2013 stands referred to Council on 11th July 2013.

South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6PZ

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