

MINUTES

CABINET

THURSDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2018



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

THE LEADER: Councillor Matthew Lee (Chairman)

THE DEPUTY LEADER: Councillor Kelham Cooke

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Helen Goral
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Councillor Nick Neilson
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Jacky Smith
Councillor Adam Stokes

NON-CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Aidan Rave)
Strategic Director, Growth (Paul Thomas)
Strategic Director, Resources (Debbie Muddimer)
Solicitor to the Council (Lucy Youles)
Assistant Chief Executive, Transformation & Change (Lee Sirdifield)
Assistant Director, Commercial & Operational (Ian Yates)
Assistant Director, Growth (Jane McDaid)
Assistant Director, Housing (Harry Rai)
Assistant Director Resources (Richard Wyles)
Head of Communications (Adrian Smith)
InvestSK (Steve Bowyer)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

CO57.APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neilson and Robins.

Councillor Exton, the Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, also apologised as he was unable to attend the meeting.

CO58.MINUTES FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

CO59.DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)

No interests were disclosed.

CO60.FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2018/19: MID-YEAR UPDATE (RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented report number CFM480 which gave Cabinet members the full year forecast position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for 2018/19 as at the end of Quarter 2 (30 September 2018). He drew Members' attention to the table that showed the General Fund budget position by directorate and the information about the business rate pilot scheme and proposals for the use of financial gains arising from that.

Reference was made to the benefits of having a property maintenance reserve, which included provision for any necessary repairs to be carried out more expediently.

A question was raised about the payback period for projects and activities funded from the 'invest to save' reserve. While reference was made to a guideline payback period of 3 years, the actual payback period would be business case and circumstance specific. It was also noted that the reserve could be used for both capital and revenue activity.

Discussions also ensued about the governance arrangements to support those decisions that were delegated to individual Cabinet Members in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer. Bids for funding from the 'invest to save' reserve would require the submission of a business case and it was anticipated that any decision to approve funding would follow the Council's normal decision-making arrangements, which would provide Members with an opportunity to call-in decisions and mean that any decisions that had been taken would be reported to the Cabinet. Where an item was considered potentially controversial, it was suggested that it may be appropriate if it was subject to pre-decision scrutiny, there was however recognition that there were occasions where decisions needed to be made quickly. It was suggested that the committees and governance working group could consider the arrangements for how these delegated decisions could be made including whether they might appear on the Forward Plan.

Cabinet members agreed that to ensure consistency of language with other decisions of Council, those decisions that were delegated to individual Cabinet Members should be taken "in consultation with" the Section 151 Officer.

The Cabinet **AGREED** to note the forecast 2018/19 revenue and capital outturn position for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account as at the end of Quarter 2 and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**:

1. The allocation of the projected business rate financial growth as set out at paragraph 5.9 of report number CFM480

2. The changes to earmarked reserves as set out at paragraph 5.13 of report number CFM480
3. That approval to utilise the Invest to Save reserve be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance in consultation with the Section 151 Officer
4. That approval to utilise the property maintenance reserve and the ICT reserve be delegated to the Deputy Leader of the Council in consultation with the Section 151 Officer

CO61.COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019/20 (RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented report number CFM477 which asked the Cabinet to recommend the Council Tax base for 2019/20 and set the collection rate for council tax.

The Cabinet:

1. **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** the approval of the tax base for the year 2019/20 as detailed at Appendix A of report number CFM477 equating to 47,125.70
2. **APPROVED** the collection rate for Council Tax is set at 98.80%

CO62.JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE (KEY DECISION)

The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (appended to report number ENV710) had been brought to Cabinet for ratification. The Strategy had been developed by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, which comprised all of the collection authorities in Lincolnshire together with Lincolnshire County Council as the disposal authority and the Environment Agency. The partners were keen to ensure that the service provided in Lincolnshire represented value for money; the strategy also emphasised innovation and reducing materials entering the waste stream.

Reference was made to the food waste pilot that was underway in South Kesteven and the announcement of the Government's waste management strategy. Cabinet Members asked whether there were any trends in the kind of authorities that had food waste collection schemes. As an alternative to food waste recycling schemes, one non-Cabinet Member asked whether consideration would be given to supplying composters at the cost of the bin.

Cabinet Members noted that when the strategy was considered by Lincolnshire County Council it had received unanimous support.

Whilst there were discrepancies in the materials that were accepted for recycling in each local authority area, discussions were underway to streamline the materials that were accepted so that there was greater consistency.

Cabinet Members asked that their thanks to the Cabinet Member for Environment, the Assistant Director, Commercial and Operational and the Head of Street Scene be placed on record.

The Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire as set out in Appendix 1 of report number ENV710.

CO63.MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Report number LDS333 of the Leader of the Council summarised the activity of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report was presented to Cabinet on 1 November 2018.

Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee stated that the meeting that had been scheduled for December 2018 had been cancelled. The Committee was next due to meet on 12 February 2019 when Chief Superintendent Chris Davidson from Lincolnshire Police would attend to talk about modern slavery and the Lincolnshire Community Safety Team. Reference was also made to a presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner on modern slavery, to which Members of the Council would receive an invitation. He added that the Committee had been due to be addressed on the NHS 5-year plan by John Turner, but this had been delayed because of the impact of the negotiations regarding the exit of Great Britain from the European Union.

Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman had nothing to add to the contents of report number LDS333.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not in attendance at the meeting.

One non-Cabinet Member who was present at the meeting asked about the work that the Committee had done in respect of street lighting; Cabinet Members state that they were happy with the general policy that the Committee had proposed however additional work was required with regard to financing. Through dialogue there was an indication that once this work had been completed it would be welcomed for the policy to be brought directly to Cabinet for decision rather than being returned to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not in attendance at the meeting.

Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee said that its focus going forward would be loneliness. He also commended a presentation that had been given by the Head of Arts at the Committee's previous meeting. Attention was drawn to two grant schemes (one for heritage and one for arts) on which members of the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been briefed.

The Committee had also received an update on the use of the promotional trailer; where the trailer was unable to access villages because of its size, a gazebo or marquee was being deployed instead.

CO64.ITEMS RAISED BY CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS ON KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS.

Report number LDS334 of the Leader of the Council informed the Cabinet of decisions that had been taken by individual Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet was held on 1 November 2018.

- **Appendix 1:** Approval of a new lease with Stamford Cricket Club, Uffington Road, Stamford
- **Appendix 2:** Extensions to mid-Lent fairs in Grantham and Stamford
- **Appendix 3:** Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy
- **Appendix 4:** Funding proposals following changes to the senior management structure

CO65.REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON CABINET MEMBERS

Report number LDS335 of the Leader of the Council informed the Cabinet that no non-Cabinet Members had submitted requests to make representations prior to the publication of the agenda for this meeting. Since the agenda was published, one non-Cabinet Member had indicated that they wished to make representations.

Councillor Baxter referred to land that had recently been acquired by the Council. Reports had been presented to recent meetings of Cabinet and Council, both of which were exempt under paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Councillor Baxter asked whether it would be possible to confirm in public session the location of the land together with the status of the acquisition. The Leader would update Councillor Baxter outside the meeting since the information was still classified as commercially sensitive. The Leader stated that once the acquisition process was complete and as soon as it was possible, details would be publicly announced.

Councillor Baxter also asked whether there was any update on the location of the new leisure centre for the Deepings and a disposal strategy for the current centre. The Leader stated that a number of sites were being actively considered and it was his intention to bring a full report to the February meeting of Cabinet.

Finally, Councillor Baxter asked about an outline planning application for land adjacent to Millfield Road in Market Deeping, which had been submitted by Lincolnshire County Council. The land to which the application related was subject to a current application for designation as a village green. The Leader stated that he

was aware that the planning application had been submitted and that he did not know the date by which the village green application would be determined. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Communications and the Strategic Director, Growth were asked to update Councillor Baxter outside the meeting.

CO66.CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Report number LDS336 of the Leader of the Council gave an indication of the items that would be presented to Cabinet over the following twelve-month period. The report also included items that were scheduled to be considered at Council meetings during the municipal year.

Members noted that an update to the plan was required in respect of the asset management strategy; the date by which the item was due to be considered by Cabinet had been changed to allow prior consideration by the Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members also noted that the report and recommendations of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on street lighting were scheduled to be brought before Cabinet early in 2019.

CO67.CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 15:00.