# Minutes

**Cabinet**
**Tuesday, 11 June 2019**

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**The Leader:** Councillor Matthew Lee, The Leader of the Council (Chairman)
**The Deputy Leader:** Councillor Kelham Cooke, The Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairman)

**Cabinet Members present**

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations
Councillor Helen Goral, Cabinet Member for Growth
Councillor Nick Robins, Cabinet Member for Planning
Councillor Adam Stokes, Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Barry Dobson, Cabinet Member for Housing

**Non-Cabinet Members present**

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

**Officers**

Chief Executive (Aidan Rave)
Strategic Director, Growth (Paul Thomas)
Strategic Director, Resources (Debbie Muddimer)
Strategic Director, Commercial & Operational (Gary Smith)
Assistant Chief Executive, Housing Delivery (Ken Lyon)
Assistant Director, Commercial & Operational (Ian Yates)
Assistant Director, Housing (Harry Rai)
Assistant Director Resources (Richard Wyles)
Interim Head of Legal (Shahin Ismail)
Head of Communications (Bron Madson)
InvestSK (Steve Bowyer)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

## 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Reid and Westropp.

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

## 3. Disclosure of Interests (if any)

No interests were disclosed.

## 4. Street Lighting (Key Decision)

The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations presented his report on the utilisation of the Invest to Save Reserve for energy efficient LED replacements for South Kesteven District Council's street lighting stock. He explained that the Council had approximately 3,500 streetlights that sat within the General Fund. The lights, which were generally found in villages, were maintained on a rolling 3-year cycle.

Reference was made to the recommendations of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which had initially been considered by Cabinet on 12 July 2018. The draft policy, which was presented at that time, had been considered sound but work was required on the financial aspects of the Committee's proposal. Following the completion of that work, Cabinet was being asked to approve £100,000 from the Invest to Save Reserve to kick-start a self-perpetuating replacement scheme where savings could be reinvested so that each subsequent year there would be more, cheaper, energy-efficient lights until the full stock had been replaced. During debate, Members expressed support for the proposed levels of investment based on the projected payback period of different levels of investment.

In addition to the General Fund stock, there were also approximately 300 lights that sat within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It was proposed that all HRA lights were replaced with energy efficient LED fully-funded through the HRA at a cost of approximately £80,000.

The emphasis within the proposed policy was keeping lights turned on and providing illumination when and where required that was safe, efficient and well-maintained.

Cabinet members were interested in arrangements for the installation of street lights that complemented an area's heritage. The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations stated that it was for parish or town councils to invest in the street furniture inside which SKDC would fit the necessary equipment.

Reference was made to the Council's digital strategy and how the proposed approach gave the Council sufficient time to explore 'the internet of things' through which SKDC was looking to create a small network of intelligent street lights.

Given that the majority of the Council's lighting stock was in villages, Members recognised the proposals as an opportunity for the Council to show its support for rural communities.

The Cabinet **AGREED** to:

1. The allocation of £100,000 from the Invest to Save Reserve to facilitate the process of converting the General Fund street lights to energy efficient LED as part of a 12-year overall programme

2. The replacement of Housing Revenue Account street lights to energy efficient LED fully funded from the HRA (at a cost of approximately £80,000)

3. The procurement process and award of the contract/s for the works and maintenance (at a whole life contract/s cost of approximately £1,100,000), with authority delegated to the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

4. Approve the Street Lighting Policy appended to the report of the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

**5. Proposed Statement of Common Ground - Stamford North (Key Decision)**

The Cabinet Member for Planning presented his report on the draft Statement of Common Ground in respect of proposed development at Stamford North. He explained that in 2015 the Council commissioned a capacity study to identify potential development sites in Stamford. That study identified a 153-hectare parcel of land to the north of Stamford that extended into Rutland.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Localism Act 2011 introduced the 'Duty to Co-operate' while the National Planning Policy Framework placed a requirement on local planning authorities to co-operate with one another to masterplan and ensure a co-ordinated approach for cross-boundary development.

A development brief would be prepared for the site, which would be brought to each Council's Cabinet. Following public consultation, this would be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Cabinet Member for Planning drew Members' attention to the draft Statement of Common Ground between South Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Rutland County Council, which was appended to his report.

Members noted the comments and recommendations made by the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which were circulated at the meeting. It was noted that Appendix C to the draft Statement of Common Ground would be supplied following its agreement with other partners on the way in which costs would be managed.

Cabinet members were being asked to approve the draft Statement, and because South Kesteven was the first authority of the three signatories to consider the document, delegate making any minor amendments and the approval of the final document to the Cabinet Member for Planning in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Strategic Director, Growth. This was to provide an opportunity to update the Statement of Common Ground with any minor changes required by

decision-makers at Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council without having to re-present the report to the Cabinet.

In commenting on the proposals, Cabinet Members recognised the importance of co-operating across local authorities both in respect of planning matters and economics.

It was **AGREED**:

1. Cabinet approves the Statement of Common Ground between South Kesteven District Council, Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council regarding the planning arrangements to be established for the proposed development at Stamford North

2. Cabinet delegates the making of any minor modifications that may be proposed by Rutland County Council or Lincolnshire County Council and the sign-off of the final, amended version of the document, to the Cabinet Member for Planning in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Strategic Director, Growth

## 6. Matters Referred to Cabinet by the Council or Overview & Scrutiny Committees

The report of the Leader of the Council informed Cabinet Members that no matters had been referred to it by the Council and summarised those matters that had been considered by overview and scrutiny committees since the Cabinet's last meeting on 7 March 2019.

## 7. Representations and questions from Non Cabinet Members

The Cabinet Member for Planning was asked for an update on the adoption of roads and open spaces on the Persimmon development in Market Deeping. The Cabinet Member for Planning said that adoption of roads by Lincolnshire County Council would only take place where roads were built to an adoptable standard. Reference was made to the practice that had been employed by the developer in other instances, where open spaces were handed over to an in-house company. Members noted that the development also included allotments, which would become the responsibility of the town council. The Cabinet Member for Planning promised to find out the current position and provide an answer to the member.

A question was put to the Cabinet Member for Growth which asked for an update on when details would come forward for the new leisure centres proposed for the Deepings and Stamford. The Councillor was advised that negotiations were underway on potential sites. The timing of the announcement of the site would depend on the progress of those negotiations. Members were advised, however, that a report would be brought to Council on 27 June 2019 seeking budget to progress the project through the development of a business case for the leisure programme with a report being brought back to Cabinet later in 2019.

One member referred to the earlier agenda item on street lighting, asking about arrangements for provision of heritage street lights in conservation areas and how that could be accommodated in Grantham, where there was no parish or town council to make that request or provide the street furniture. A question was also asked about the Council's policy for keeping lights turned on overnight. The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations was asked to talk to the Member about those matters outside the meeting.

A final question was put to the Leader concerning information that had been requested during the previous term by the Rural Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the priorities and deliverables for InvestSK. The Leader responded stating that the matter was reserved for the new Companies Committee, the role of which would be to look at all the Council's companies and understand how they were performing. Issues around business plans would be dealt with through the Companies Committee together with how the companies manage their performance and targets. The Leader also stated that if information was not forthcoming when requested by an overview and scrutiny committee, the matter should be taken up with the Chief Executive.

## 8. Cabinet Forward Plan

Cabinet Members noted the report of the Leader of the Council, appended to which was the Cabinet's Forward Plan. The Forward Plan gave an indication of the items that would be presented to Cabinet over the following 12-month period. The plan also included items that were scheduled to be considered at meetings of the Council during that period.

## 9. Items raised by Cabinet Members including reports on Key and Non-Key Decisions taken under Delegated Powers.

The Cabinet noted the report of the Leader of the Council which informed Cabinet Members of decisions that had been taken by individual Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet was held on 7 March 2019.

## 10. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 16:36.