



MEETING OF THE CABINET
12 JUNE 2006 - 10.30 PM – 12.12 PM

PRESENT:

**Councillor Terl Bryant
Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright**

Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal – Leader / Chairman

**Strategic Director
Strategic Director (Resources)
Corporate Head of Finance and Resources
Corporate Director, Community Services
Director of Tenancy Services
Solicitor to the Council
Member Services Manager
Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Economic Development Team Leader
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Support Officer
Democratic Support Officer**

Non-Cabinet Councillors: Craft, G. Taylor, Wilks

2 members of the local press

CO13. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Smith.

CO14. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 8th May 2006 were approved as a correct record with the following amendments at minute CO6:

- (10) *That the document should be available on disc. Paper copies would be supplied on request.*
- (11) *8% energy generation within housing would be achievable.*

And that under agenda item CO11, the street name should read: "Old Horse Chestnut Lane".

CO15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

No declarations of interest were made.

CO16. *AIRE ROAD, GRANTHAM

DECISION:

The Cabinet:

1. Note that Nottingham Community Housing Association's bid to the Housing Corporation (NCHA) for grant funding to enable the redevelopment of the Aire Road site was unsuccessful;
2. Agree to officers negotiating with NCHA and others, if necessary, to identify further options for the future redevelopment of the site with a further report to be presented to Cabinet at a later date.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision

- (1) Report number TSE4 by the Housing Services Portfolio Holder that summarises the position with the Aire Road site, Grantham and proposes that further negotiations are held with the Nottingham Community Housing Association (NCHA) following their unsuccessful bid to the Housing Corporation for grant funding;
- (2) Background papers for this project: reports CEX212, PRO267, PRO309 and DRS22;
- (3) Cabinet decision made on 10th October 2005;
- (4) The bid for funding under the National Affordable Housing Programme was unsuccessful because the grant required per property was too high;
- (5) Work on revising costs of the current scheme, considering alternative design options and the potential inclusion of more environmentally sustainable design features would be time consuming;
- (6) As £250,000 from the capital programme was made available to support the unsuccessful bid for funding, the capital programme would need to be reviewed, the further report would need to include costings and funding options;
- (7) Working with a different Registered Social Landlord could provide other options for the Aire Road site.

Other options considered and assessed

1. To leave the site vacant pending the outcome of the tenants' ballot on Stock Transfer and, if a positive ballot results, use the net capital receipt to fund the development. This option was not felt to be suitable as it would be entirely dependent upon the outcome of the Stock and would result in a continued period of uncertainty for local residents.

CO17. LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER UPDATE

DECISION:

The Cabinet note the position regarding the progress towards a ballot of tenants on the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of the Council's Housing Stock.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number CHRR6 by the Corporate Head of Finance and Resources providing an update on the progress towards a ballot for tenants on Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT);
- (2) Report LSVTPM01 to Council on 25th May 2006, which identified arrangements for the approval of the offer to Tenants and consideration of responses following formal consultation. The Formal Consultation Document would be agreed at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 20th July 2006;
- (3) Work on the Offer to Tenants, which has been carried out in consultation with Tenants and Members through various working groups, was progressing towards its final stages. Tenants who had been involved in this process were thanked for their input;
- (4) The financial implications of the Offer to Tenants and the potential impact on the General Fund (of any Transfer of the Housing Stock) were being evaluated and a further report would be made to Cabinet with a copy of the formal Consultation Document;
- (5) Considerations of the Resources DSP;
- (6) Feedback from sessions with the Department for Communities and Local Government. If the Council were to apply early for a place on the transfer programme, indicative information on whether the bid had been successful would be received in advance of the formal decision date. This would mean that there would be no delays in the Council's timetable.

CO18. *NORTHFIELDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MARKET DEEPING

DECISION:

1. **The Cabinet agreed to make a contribution to the project of £160,000, suitable to the objectives of South Kesteven District Council provided from within the Council's Capital Programme subject to the adoption of Whitley Way by the County Council and the sewers by Anglian Water without any cost to the District Council;**
2. **The Council provides for any value from the ransom strip to be considered as a contribution 'in kind' to the project, in line with the Council's priority for economic development.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Report number PLA585 by the Economic Development Portfolio Holder outlining the development of land adjacent to the current Northfields Industrial site. The project was underway with significant funding from Lincolnshire County Council and the report would invite South Kesteven District Council to consider financial support for the project;
- (2) Investment in the project would align with SKDC's Category B Priority: Economic Development
- (3) Lack of employment land in The Deepings area has stifled inward investment and would inhibit the expansion of existing companies in the area;

- (4) The serviced land proposed to be configured would be one six-acre plot for the expansion of a local business and 3 one-acre sites for the attraction of new businesses. The development would provide a highway connection to the A16 and a footpath/cycleway connection to Towngate East;
- (5) The project would offer the opportunity to create employment and commercial space in a market where development could not occur without the pump priming of economic development related agencies;
- (6) Lincolnshire County Council sought legal and survey advice as to any potential ransom strips on the proposed site; whilst it was initially understood that there was a ransom strip to the site from Whitley Way, discussions with Lincolnshire County Council have indicated that they are to adopt Whitley Way (currently owned by the District Council) to the site boundary, negating any ransom;
- (7) Lincolnshire County Council presented a range of options for SKDC to make a contribution, this included equity stakes or a one-off contribution. On 8th August 2005, the Cabinet delegated responsibility to the Economic Development Portfolio Holder to identify the preferred option for supporting the delivery of the project following a detailed financial appraisal of the Director of Finance and Strategic Resources
- (8) The project has been the subject of evaluation against the Council's methodology for assessing capital schemes and ranks highly against other capital projects;
- (9) A sum of £160,000 had been budgeted within the Capital Programme for 2006/07 under the heading Economic Grant;
- (10) Comments of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer made about the ransom strip.

Other options considered and assessed:

- 1. A do-nothing option. In view of the identification of business development as a B Priority, there would be a sound case to support this project in some form.

CO19. EVERY CHILD MATTERS

DECISION:

That, subject to no adverse comments following consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Bryant be nominated the lead Member for young people and a reference point for the County Council and the District Councils at a political level for the future shaping and development of policy across the County.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number DCS44 By the Corporate Director, Community Services on the Every Child Matters Government green paper published in September 2003 as a response to the findings of the Lord Laming Inquiry and the subsequent Children Act 2004, which has provided a legislative framework to ensure measures would be put in place to reform and improve children's care;
- (2) As the Children's Services Authority the County Council must have in place by 2008, arrangements that produce integrated working at all levels from planning through to delivery with a focus on improving outcomes for

- (3) all children and young people;
- (4) All activities would be monitored through a common assessment framework or Joint Area Review (JAR). The first inspection, which would be undertaken in the autumn of 2006 by an inspection team made up of inspectors from four inspectorates including Ofsted, the Health Care Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Audit Commission and if appropriate the Adult Learning Commission;
- (5) The JAR would judge outcomes for children and young people, how services work together and will focus on the five key outcomes from the Every Child Matters;
- (6) Impact on District Council services such as housing, environmental health, community safety and leisure and cultural services;
- (7) The Children Act 2004 placed new duties on District Councils;
- (8) The County Council have proposed that the Lincolnshire Assembly co-ordinate activities and provide the link to Local Area Agreements.

CO20. ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

DECISION:

The Cabinet note the progress being made with regard to the backward looking Annual Efficiency Statement 2005/06.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number CHFR8 by the Corporate Head of Finance and Resources on the Annual Efficiency Statement (AES), which sets out the annual efficiency target and how it should be achieved and would be signed off by the Chief Executive and the Leader;
- (2) The detailed breakdown of how efficiency targets would be met included in the above report;
- (3) The backward-looking statement for which the submission deadline would be 6 July 2006. This deadline had been moved from mid-June to allow councils to close down their annual accounts;
- (4) Ongoing work with relevant service managers to review and evidence actual savings achieved;
- (5) No evidence was available as to the progress of other councils.

CO21. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

DECISION:

The Cabinet:

1. **Note that the Constitution and Accounts Committee have approved, on behalf of the Council, the Statement of Internal Control together with the recommendations for action contained within the Statement of Internal Control;**
2. **Keep the action plan under review and advise the Chief Executive of any further issues to be considered for the action plan as they arise throughout the year.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision:

- (1) Report number CHFR5 by the Corporate Head of Finance and Resources relating to the production of a Statement of Internal Control (SIC);
- (2) CIPFA/SOLACE guidance, of which a key aspect would be the adoption of local corporate governance codes to reflect the requirement to put in place effective risk management systems of internal control and internal audit function;
- (3) The production and publication of a SIC has involved the Council: reviewing the adequacy of its governance arrangements knowing where it needs to improve those arrangements and communicating to users and stakeholders how better governance leads to better quality public services;
- (4) Consultations between the Corporate Head of Finance and Resources and the Monitoring Officer to produce the draft SIC in consultation and on behalf of the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council;
- (5) The SIC requires approval by the Council or delegated committee (Constitution and Accounts Committee), who must be satisfied that it has obtained relevant and reliable evidence to support the disclosures made and must be published with the financial statements;
- (6) A review of Internal Control issues based on Officer Review, Internal and External Audit assessments has revealed areas in which improvements could be made; these are shown within the Action Plan in the SIC;
- (7) Pre-decision Scrutiny by the Resources DSP. The DSP should keep the SIC under review.

CO22. *COUNCIL PRIORITIES

DECISION:

The Cabinet recommends to the Council, the priorities as listed below:

Category A (Step-change):

- **Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Recycling**
- **Access**
- **Town centre regeneration and the development of Grantham as a Sub-regional centre**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Communications**
- **Use of Resources**

Category B (Incremental improvement priorities)

- **Street scene**
- **Business Development**
- **Diversity**
- **Housing Management**
- **LSP and Community Strategy**
- **Maintenance of the Council's Assets**

On the basis of consultations undertaken to date, it is not proposed that there should be any change to the services falling within Category Y (service

minimums) or Category Z (non priorities), other than the addition of Planning & Development Control and Public Toilets to the Y's as a result of the above.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision

- (1) Report number CEX343 by the Chief Executive on the annual review of priorities and non-priorities.
- (2) Report CEX326 considered by the Cabinet on 8th May 2006, which included the results of a residents' survey and the findings of the Gateway Review of priorities;
- (3) The results of consultation with Local Area Assemblies and the on-line citizens jury, which were not available when report CEX326 was considered;
- (4) Residents parking was a major issue for residents of Grantham, however the County Council would not be prepared to make a decision on the decriminalisation of parking for a two-year period and only if all districts within Lincolnshire were supportive of this.

CO23. LEISURE TRUST PROJECT PLAN

DECISION:

1. **That the council proceeds with the creation of a Leisure Trust to deliver leisure centres and sports facilities only at this stage, and gives further consideration to arrangements for the inclusion of arts services into a trust at a later date;**
2. **That the indicative project plan, showing three possible stages of procurement, be approved;**
3. **That the potential for a sequential procurement process, and possibly concurrent process if the leisure trust fails to be feasible, be noted;**
4. **That the consultant's brief attached to report LAC149 be approved in principle, in the event that consultants are required to help the council create a local independent trust;**
5. **That the risk log attached to report LAC149 be noted.**

Considerations/Reasons for Decision

- (1) Report number LAC149 of the Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder stating the need for a project plan, following the Cabinet's acceptance of report LAC148 (plus supplementary), circulated for the meeting held on 8th May 2006;
- (2) The proposed project plan attached to report LAC149;
- (3) In preparing the project plan consideration should be given to further options analysis on the possibility of working with an existing contracting trust;
- (4) Securing services of a Leisure Trust to deliver services would help the Council achieve objectives that had been identified;
- (5) If the District Council was to pursue a leisure trust for sports centres only there could be potential in a contracting trust (existing trusts looking for opportunities to expand);
- (6) To assess viability a feasibility exercise could be carried out by securing expressions of interest;
- (7) By joining a Contract Trust, the District Council could expect to receive all of the financial benefits of a charitable organisation managing its assets without incurring initial consultancy fees;

- (8) The draft consultants' brief attached to report LAC149. Details would need to be revised before any contract was awarded. The contracted consultant would be clearly tasked to provide the required information;
- (9) The creation of a Leisure Trust would generate some financial risk from investment in consultants, the ability to deliver financial savings at a later stage and the expected benefits in front line service delivery. (Risk log attached to report LAC149).

CO24. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LINCOLNSHIRE NHS COMMUNITY SERVICES

DECISION:

1. That the consultation on proposed changes to Lincolnshire NHS Community Services should be referred to the Healthy Environment DSP for them to formulate a response on behalf of the Council;
2. That all individual councillors and community groups should be actively encouraged to make individual and joint responses to express their concerns.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision

- (1) Report number DCS45 by the Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder on the consultation period to gain views on proposals to secure the stability of the local community health services, which proposes some changes in health services;
- (2) The consultation attached as appendix A to report DCS45;
- (3) The aim of the Lincolnshire Local Delivery Plan would be to get the local NHS back into financial balance by establishing a sustainable healthcare system across Lincolnshire by streamlining administrative functions and improving financial management without compromising patient care;
- (4) Changes to services would also be included in further reports; consultation papers on these would be released for comment.

CO25. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE COUNCIL OR THE DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY PANELS

DECISION:

That the Cabinet agreed the following in relation to Local Area Assemblies:

1. Local Area Assemblies should be renamed Local Forums;
2. Meetings will be limited to two hours (7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.) but could be extended at the discretion of the Chairman;
3. A roving microphone should be used at meetings;
4. Presentations should be limited to a maximum of three per meeting, preferably two, on issues relevant to the area. Timing to be tightly controlled by the Chairman. There should be a question and answer session after each presentation;
5. As part of the Public Open Forum, members of the public can speak for no more than three minutes on any topic relevant to the forum;
6. The record of each Forum meeting should be in the style of minutes

incorporating action notes.

Considerations/Reasons for Decision

- (1) Report number DLS77 of the Engagement DSP detailing suggestions for the future format for Local Area Assemblies;
- (2) Visits to other local authority meetings by the Chairman of the Engagement DSP and the Scrutiny Officer (details of which were attached as appendix A to report DLS77);
- (3) Research done into different types of area forums was all outside South Kesteven, so no consideration has been made to the differences within the district;
- (4) Chairmanships should continue to be held by Cabinet members not from the area covered by that Local Forum to allow the meeting to be chaired neutrally as there would be no local political agenda;
- (5) Furniture should be arranged in a way that best suits the venue and the needs of the people attending the meeting;
- (6) Representatives from other agencies were already invited to the majority of meetings;
- (7) No money had been budgeted for the use of assemblies/forums.

CO26. ITEMS RAISED BY CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS ON KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS.

NON-KEY DECISIONS:

Councillor Frances Cartwright: Portfolio – Housing and Organisational Development.

DECISION:

To approve the tender received from Siddle Grimley Hage Ltd, Consulting Engineers of Swan House, Lincoln to provide professional structural engineering services at the following fees:

Chartered Engineer £37.50 per hour
Senior Engineer £31.50 per hour
Technician £27.00 per hour

[Decision Made on 30/05/06]

DECISION:

To approve a contribution to Lincolnshire County Council in the sum of £13,600 to fund the works to provide off-road communal parking at St Paul's Gardens, Bourne.

[Decision Made on 12/06/06]

The Chairman advised Cabinet Members that the next meeting of the Cabinet would begin at 11:00a.m.

DATES DECISIONS EFFECTIVE: The Key Decisions at minute numbers CO16, CO18 and CO22 and the non-key decision made on 12th June 2006 can be implemented on Wednesday 21st 2006 unless subject to call-in by the Chairman of the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel or five members of the Council from

any political group.

Minute number CO22, being a policy framework proposal, stands referred to the Extraordinary Council meeting on 22nd June 2006.

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

Contact: Cabinet Support Officer- Tel: 01476 406119
e-mail l.shuttlewood@southkesteven.gov.uk