



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET
26 MARCH 2008 - 10.04 AM – 11.04 AM

PRESENT:

Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mrs Maureen Spencer-Gregson O.B.E.

Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal - Chairman

Chief Executive
Strategic Director (BA: for start of meeting only)
Strategic Director (IY: from minute C088)
Director of Tenancy Services
Corporate Head Finance & Resources
Assets & Facilities service manager
Legal services manager (Monitoring Officer)
Repairs & Improvements service manager
Democracy service manager
Team Leader, assets & facilities

Non-Cabinet Members : Craft and Thompson

CO82. ADJOURNMENT

DECISION: To adjourn the meeting for 30 minutes pending the arrival of the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Councillors Auger, Smith and Mrs Spencer-Gregson were present at the publicised start of the meeting which was 10.00am.



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Although the Cabinet was quorate, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for 30 minutes to await the arrival of the Leader and Deputy Leader.

The adjournment took place between 10.05am and 10.35am.

CO83. APOLOGIES

At the resumption of the meeting, the Leader apologised for her late attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carpenter and Mrs Cartwright.

CO84. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10th March were confirmed as a correct record.

CO85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CO86. FEEDBACK ON STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON CAR PARK CHARGES

DECISION:

- (1) Having considered the representations made by Stamford Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Stamford Town Council in response to statutory consultation, to endorse the variation of car parking charges as approved by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March 2008 (as set out in appendix C to report CHFR91);**
- (2) The varied charges be implemented with effect from 7th April 2008.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Statutory provisions enabling the Council to vary car parking charges require public and on site advertisement and a statutory consultation period before implementation;
- (2) In response to this consultation, the Stamford Chamber of Trade and Commerce wrote to the Cabinet members proposing an

alternative method of charging. The Stamford Town Council submitted written representations to the Corporate Head of Finance & Resources to express strong concern at increases proposed in Stamford. The correspondence did not evidence their assertion that the proposed increases would be "demonstrably detrimental to the town". The Chamber of Trade proposed a two tier charging regime. In reaching its decision, the Cabinet took account of the fact such a regime had been previously trialled by the Council in Stamford but did not result in an increase in usage or behaviour change as suggested by the Chamber;

- (3) A modelling exercise had been used based on actual and assumed usage to compare the proposed changes by the Chamber of Trade and that of the Council. This exercise indicated that the Council's proposed variation in charges would provide a better rate of return.

CO87. CORPORATE DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

DECISION:

- (1) To approve the draft corporate debt management policy as appended to report CHFR93 for consultation purposes with the Resources PDG, relevant service managers, and other interested parties such as tenant and landlord groups;**
- (2) To delegate authority to the Resources & Assets portfolio holder in consultation with the Corporate Head of Finance & Resources to approve any amendments to the policy following the consultation period.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Report number CHFR93 by the Resources & Assets portfolio holder and appended draft policy document which seeks to provide clearly defined policies applicable to all types of debt the authority incurs. Adoption of the policy will further improve the authority's effective debt management by providing a coherent and consistent framework for debt enforcement and recovery across the authority. It will ensure debts are treated in a uniform manner;
- (2) The policy links into the Council's financial regulations; its application will need to follow statutory requirements in relation to the recovery of council tax, non domestic rates, and housing rents;
- (3) Delegated authority is sought to enable the officer and portfolio holder to make any changes necessary arising from the consultation and to allow prompt implementation of the policy thereafter.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) it was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because of the likelihood that otherwise exempt information, as described in paragraph 3 of the Act (as amended) would be disclosed to the public.

CO88. *LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT - SELECTION OF PREFERRED BIDDER

DECISION:

- (1) To award preferred bidder status for the provision of the leisure management contract to Leisure Connection and to confirm the named reserve bidder;**
- (2) To grant delegated authority to the Assets & Facilities service manager, in consultation with the Healthy Environment portfolio holder, to conclude the negotiations and proposed transfer of the facilities to the Leisure Trust;**
- (3) To recommend to Council that the transfer of the Council's facilities on a lease to the proposed Leisure Trust subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations referred to in exempt report AFM0051.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Taking into account the outcome of the evaluation of the final tender submissions from the remaining two bidders for the leisure management contract, which accounted for the net cost, risks and level of service to be provided; the most economically advantageous tender selection criteria used, and the summary of bid prices submitted and their subsequent evaluation;
- (2) Details of the trust model proposed by the preferred bidder;
- (3) Noting comments made at the meeting by the Vice-Chairman of the Communities PDG relating to quality of service and performance issues
- (4) Delegated authority to the officer in consultation with the portfolio holder is sought to enable the conclusion of negotiations with the preferred bidder. It was noted that it would be necessary to retain the specialist advisors throughout this stage, the cost of which would be met from savings accrued from the extension of the existing contract;
- (5) Noting the Cabinet's thanks to the Assets & Facilities service manager and the Team Leader, assets and facilities for their diligence over the last 12 months associated with monitoring the

existing contractor.

Other options considered: At its meeting on 10th March 2008, the Cabinet had agreed to a short term extension of the contract with the present incumbent, Leisure Connection. Following identification of the preferred bidder, it would now be inappropriate not to proceed with the finalisation of a new leisure management contract.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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CO89. *GAS SERVICING, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2008-13

The Leader agreed to take this item as a matter of urgency because the existing contract expires on 31st March 2008. A three month extension may be required to ensure the award of contract complies with the Public Contract Regulations requiring 10 days standoff from award of contract to commencement. Report number RIM112 was circulated at the meeting.

DECISION:

- (1) To accept the most economically advantageous tender received from William Freer Ltd., Leicester for the provision of gas servicing, repairs and maintenance of the council owned housing stock;**
- (2) To extend the current gas service and maintenance contract for a further 3 month period in order to ensure a smooth transition from the termination of the current contract and the start of the new contract at the beginning of July, and hand over to the successful contractor.**

Considerations/Reasons for decision:

- (1) Exempt report number RIM112 by the Housing portfolio holder containing information about the existing contract, the need to test the market in order to ensure value for money is being provided, and details of the outcome of the contract being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union;
- (2) Noting the evaluation criteria and the outcome of the scoring procedure for the tenders returned;

- (3) There is sufficient budget within the relevant service area for 2008/09 to meet the new contract sum required based on the award to the recommended tenderer.

DATE DECISIONS EFFECTIVE:

Decisions at minutes CO85, CO86, and CO88(1) to CO87(3), and CO88 made on 26th March 2008 can be implemented on 4th April 2008 unless subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Committee Chairman or any 5 members of the Council.

Decision at minute 87(4) is a policy framework proposal and stands referred to the Council at its meeting on 17th April 2008.

Decision at minute CO89 was made under the access to information procedure rule 16 as a key decision of special urgency. It can therefore be implemented immediately.

**South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill,
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Minute Item 89

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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