

Minutes

Cabinet

Tuesday, 13 October 2020



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

**This meeting was held virtually using
Skype for Business**

The Leader: Councillor Kelham Cooke, The Leader of the Council (Chairman)

The Deputy Leader: Councillor Barry Dobson, The Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairman)

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

Councillor Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Councillor Adam Stokes, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy

Non-Cabinet Members present

Councillor Ashley Baxter

Councillor Phil Dilks

Officers

Chief Executive (Karen Bradford)

Assistant Chief Executive, Housing Delivery (Ken Lyon)

Interim Director of Finance (Richard Wyles)

Strategic Director, Commercial and Operations (Gary Smith)

Director of Law and Governance (Shahin Ismail)

Head of Leisure (Karen Whitfield)

Head of Governance (Jo Toomey)

Scrutiny Officer (Zena West)

Democratic Officer (Lucy Bonshor)

1. Register of attendance and apologies for absence

All Cabinet Members were present.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

In response to a question it was confirmed that an all Member briefing would be held on 21 October 2020 to discuss leisure provision in the district. This would be followed by a meeting to look specifically at the proposals for the Deepings Leisure Centre.

3. Disclosure of Interests (if any)

None disclosed.

4. Review of Public Space Protection Orders

The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations presented the report on the statutory requirement to review Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) every three years. He stated that Public Space Protection Orders were an efficient tool to be used to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Council's PSPOs covered dog control and anti-social behaviour relating to alcohol in designated public spaces. The only changes proposed to the Orders related to the realignment of boundaries to coincide with the Council's Ward boundaries, which had been changed since the PSPOs were put in place. A representation had been received from Market Deeping Town Council to include The Spinney at Market Deeping within a PSPO.

A four-week consultation had been undertaken as required by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 including the proposal for The Spinney at Market Deeping. The consultation showed support for the original PSPOs including the proposal for The Spinney at Market Deeping.

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED** that Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the results of the public consultation on the extension of the existing Public Space Protection Orders and proposed Public Space Protection Order to control dogs at The Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery.
- 2) Approves the Public Space Protection Orders relating to dog fouling and the requirement for dogs to be placed on leads on order of an officer for a three year period from 20 October 2020.
- 3) Approves the Public Space Protection Order relating to alcohol control for a three year period from 20 October 2020.
- 4) Approves the Public Space Protection Order excluding dogs from enclosed children's play areas for a three year period from 20 October 2020.
- 5) Approves the implementation of a new Public Space Protection Order requiring dogs to be kept on leads of no more than 1 metre in length in The Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery for a period of three years from 20 October 2020.

5. Community Funding

The Cabinet Member for Communities presented the report on community funding. She highlighted the proposed changes to the eligibility of the SK Community Fund following the review, which had been discussed at the Rural and Communities

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 September 2020. The proposed changes included the introduction of a new grant category, eligibility, the maximum grant allowance to reduce from £10,000 to £5,000 and the reduction in the time period for groups to claim awards from two years to one year. The proposals also included the removal of the ability for Parish and Town Councils to access the fund.

Cabinet Members supported the proposed changes but there was consensus that Parish and Town Councils should not be excluded.

A question was asked about InvestSK grants to which the Leader responded. A further question was asked about publishing details of grants that had been awarded and it was confirmed that these were published on South Kesteven District Council website and circulated in the Members newsletter.

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED** that Cabinet:

1. Approves the changes to the SK Community Fund relating to eligibility, maximum grant allowed and the capping of the claiming period for awards to one year as per the amended grant criteria appended at Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities subject to parish and town councils being included within the eligibility criteria.
2. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director, Commercial and Operations, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, to finalise arrangements with the Lincolnshire Community Foundation/similar groups and, if appropriate, to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Council for a proportion of the budget allocated to the SK Community Fund to be utilised to enable greater pound-for-pound matching of grant funding.

6. Planning White Paper Consultation Response

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning presented the report which included a draft response to the Planning White Paper. The response to the consultation was due to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by 29 October 2020.

He explained that the intention of the White Paper was to overhaul the planning system, streamlining the planning process, cutting red tape, harnessing technology to build homes faster, protecting green spaces and building more on brownfield sites.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning felt that the Planning White Paper lacked detail and was selective with the evidence that it used, making it difficult to respond to the consultation.

Areas highlighted included:

- How plans would be made in the future and whether decision-making and plan-making would be an integral part of the system.
- Whether development management could be dealt with through one policy as each area of the country had its own specific characteristics.

- More detail was needed for plans to look beyond the current ten years especially in relation to major developments which required additional infrastructure.
- Proposals for growth and renewal area zoning had some merit.
- Faster decision making – changes should be well designed for a speedier and simplified process.
- Planning information to be readily accessible.
- Concerns that community engagement restricted the opportunity for communities to engage in the planning system.
- Concern that fully adopted Neighbourhood Plans were not being given the necessary consideration within the planning reforms as contained in the White Paper consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning acknowledged the large amount of work undertaken by communities in compiling a Neighbourhood Plan. He stated that Neighbourhood Plans should be given due consideration within the planning process.

Cabinet Members agreed that Neighbourhood Plans should be given weight within the planning process. They also felt that more detail was required around climate change within the planning process.

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED**:

That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning for submitting a response to the Government White Paper on Planning Reform by 29 October 2020.

7. Award of Contract to Tunstall for Sheltered Housing Telecare System

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning presented the report on awarding the contract for the annual sheltered housing telecare and maintenance and digitalisation of the telecare equipment. Currently the Sheltered Housing Schemes used a BT analogue phone system. BT expected to have changed all UK phone lines to an IP/digital connection by 2025.

Cabinet Members noted that the current Tunstall equipment needed upgrading to enable the Council to deliver the alarm monitoring service and meet the new digitalisation programme. At the same time the annual alarm maintenance and monitoring contract would be put in place to enable them to be combined for a five-year period.

Cabinet Members were supportive of the awarding of the contract.

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED**:

1. To approve the award of the digitalisation and maintenance contracts to Tunstall Healthcare (UK) Ltd for a contract period of five years through a direct award from the Procurement for Housing framework.

2. That the total contract values in respect of the digitalisation and maintenance contracts is £500,000 and £780,000 respectively, totalling £1,280,000 over the five-year period.

8. Lease of Linchfield Road

The Deputy Leader presented the report on the lease of Linchfield Road Playing Field site as the preferred site for the new Deeping Leisure Centre. Discussions had been undertaken with Deeping St James Parish Council and the Anthem Schools Trust who had a legal interest in the parcels of land making up the site.

Cabinet Members noted that the Council had been invited to submit a grant application to the Football Foundation, which had identified the Deepings as a priority area for the provision of an artificial turf pitch. If the application was successful a new pitch could be in place on the site by October 2021.

Members welcomed the progress made in relation to the project. Concern was expressed about the loss of the hockey pitch and comments made in relation to acquiring land adjacent to the site for an extra pitch or car parking. A question was also asked about whether the Deepings Special Expense Area would be abolished.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that the Special Expense Area would be considered by the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Deputy Leader stressed that once the lease had been agreed further topographical survey work would need to be undertaken in relation to the site. Once the survey had been undertaken further meetings would take place with all relevant stakeholders, interested parties and Councillors.

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED**:

1. To note the content of the Deputy Leader's report and approve the Council entering into a leasehold arrangement to secure the Linchfield Road Playing Field site for development and to agree to meet third parties' legal costs.
2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree the final terms of the lease subject to survey.
3. To agree to provide a Letter of Intent to the Football Foundation in order to commence an application for funding to develop an Artificial Turf Pitch on the site.

9. Matters Referred to Cabinet by the Council or Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations briefly outlined the recommendations that had been made by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 October 2020 and the Climate Change Task and Finish Group which were detailed in the Leaders report. The recommendations were seconded.

On being put to the vote, it was **AGREED** that Cabinet:

1. Directs the Climate Change Reserve Fund towards an upgrade of light fittings at the Guildhall Arts Centre, with the remainder directed towards the acceleration of the existing upgrade of streetlights project across the District.
2. Notes that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested that another Climate Change Reserve, of at least £20,000, be considered in the 2021/22 budget.
3. Notes that other recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committees are included within separate reports before Cabinet.

10. Key and Non-Key Decisions taken under Delegated Powers

The Leader of the Council presented his report on Key and Non-Key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet. Only one Non-Key decision had been taken on the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding.

11. Representations and questions from Non-Cabinet Members

A non-Cabinet member asked about the process for appointing an Interim Director of Growth and Culture and whether the Employment Committee would be involved. The Chief Executive stated that the interim appointment would only be for a short period of time and did not require input from the Employment Committee. Three recruitment agencies had been contacted in relation to permanent appointments and the Employment Committee would become involved once candidates had been shortlisted.

12. Cabinet Forward Plan 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021

Cabinet Members noted the Forward Plan for 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 which was appended to the agenda. The Forward Plan listed items to be presented to Cabinet in the next 12 months.

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during consideration of the following item of business because of the likelihood that otherwise exempt information, as described in paragraph 3 of the Act would be disclosed to them.

13. St Martin's Park, Stamford project update

To approve the recommendation as set out within exempt report of the Leader of the Council.

The report contains exempt information under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 15:35.