

MINUTES of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 December 2013

Present: Councillors John Kent (Leader and Chair),
Angie Gaywood, Victoria Holloway (from 7.15 p.m.),
Val Morris-Cook (until 7.55 p.m.) Bukky Okunade,
Phil Smith, Barbara Rice, Andy Smith (from 7.04 p.m.)
and Lynn Worrall.

In attendance: Ms Andrea Stark, Chief Executive, High House
Production Park.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Leader informed all in attendance at the meeting that the meeting would be recorded for publication to the internet.

78. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting, held on 13 November 2013, were approved as a correct record.

79. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

80. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

During the course of Item 15, Education Commission, Councillor Gaywood declared a non pecuniary interest as she is a governor of a school in Thurrock.

81. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER

The Leader took the opportunity to thank Neil Speight and the Thurrock Enquirer for the campaign they led in support of the funeral of Mr Stan Franks who served as an airman in World War II.

82. CORPORATE PLAN MID-YEAR PROGRESS AND SCORECARD PERFORMANCE REPORT – UP TO END OF SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor P. Smith, Cabinet Member for Central Services, introduced the item which provided Members with a mid-year report on the progress and performance of key activities and performance measures in relation to the council's corporate objectives.

It was highlighted that at the mid-year point, 88.67% of key performance indicators were either being met or within an acceptable

tolerance of their target and 98.75% of Year 1 deliverables were progressing in line with projected timelines or within tolerance.

It was noted that Thurrock had achieved top scores in four areas in comparison with the Eastern Region in the recent Carers Survey of Adult Carers in England.

It was further noted that 'Access to services for people with learning disabilities' would remain 'red' until the Health and Well-being Board were confident that those entitled to a health check could receive one and that measures were in place to support and monitor these health checks.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Acknowledges and commends services where there is good delivery against priorities.**
- 1.2 Notes that 98.75% of Year 1 deliverables are progressing in line with projected timelines or within tolerance.**
- 1.3 Notes the performance and progress in areas of concern and identifies, where it feels necessary, any further areas of concern on which to focus.**
- 1.4 Recommends the areas In Focus to be circulated as appropriate to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs.**
- 1.5 Notes the overall positive performance of Thurrock in the ASCOF national framework of performance outcome measures for adult social care.**

83. PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no petitions submitted.

84. QUESTIONS FROM NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The Leader informed the Cabinet that no questions had been submitted.

85. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET FOR CONSIDERATION BY AN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Leader informed Members that no matters had been referred to the Cabinet by an overview and scrutiny committee.

It was agreed that Item 12, Update on CCTV Enforcement, would be taken as the next item.

86. DECISION 01104254 – UPADTE ON CCTV ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE TRIAL

Councillor Gaywood, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, introduced the report which provided Cabinet with an update on the CCTV enforcement vehicle trial and recommended a way forward.

Members were advised that it would be likely that PIPPA would create a shortfall in revenue, however it was not the intention for the vehicle to create revenue surplus but to assist child and pedestrian safety and the safety of other road users, by keeping school areas, dropped kerbs and pedestrian crossings clear, preventing illegal and dangerous parking of HGVs on pavements and verges and tackling congestion.

Councillor Gaywood informed the Cabinet that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had requested that a consultation be undertaken on the use of CCTV Enforcement Vehicles, and on that basis, she proposed the following recommendation:

‘That Cabinet approves a further 6-month trial of the CCTV enforcement vehicle through a short-term lease agreement with a parking management company.’

Councillor Gaywood advised Members that by agreeing to this recommendation, officers would be given the opportunity to gauge seasonal changes and overall effectiveness of PIPPA on an annual basis and that a further report would be presented to Cabinet in 6 months, by which time the outcome of the Governments consultation would be available.

During questioning, Members were advised that although there was a good collection rate for fines issued, some fines remained outstanding and that a process for collection of these fines was currently being considered with Serco. Furthermore, arrangements with a company which specialised in the collection of fines from overseas registered vehicles was being considered.

Councillor Gaywood explained to Members that the number of fines issued by foot patrol officers was minimal, due to drivers moving their illegally parked vehicles when they had sight of an officer and that PIPPA allowed for enforcement to be increased.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves a further 6-month trial of the CCTV enforcement vehicle through a short-term lease agreement with a parking management company.

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report

This decision is subject to call-in

87. DECISION 01104252 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2012-13 – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor A. Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation, introduced the report which sought Cabinet's agreement to and publication of the Thurrock Annual Monitoring Report of the Local Development Framework for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that there were issues with the core strategy in respect of lack of houses being built, however advised that consent had been granted for 9,000 properties and the issue would be reviewed in the New Year.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve the Annual Monitoring Report for 2012-13.

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

88. DECISION 01104253 – THE VISION FOR TILBURY

Councillor A. Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation, introduced the report which sought Cabinet's endorsement for the proposed Tilbury vision.

Councillor Worrall welcomed the report and the thorough consultation process undertaken.

Members discussed employment opportunities which the regeneration would create, particularly in relation to DP World and it was noted that a large percentage of the current workforce at DP World were from Tilbury and the surrounding area. The Leader informed Members that although the Council could not instruct DP World to employ local people, the mapping and publication of Thurrock's workforce could promote transparency, making available the opportunity to challenge DP World and others to do similar.

Members questioned whether it would be possible to include the development of the landing stage at Tilbury, similar to that at Gravesend, in the Vision, although the Cabinet Member supported such a development, he advised that the stage was not council property and therefore a development would prove difficult.

The Portfolio Holder informed the Cabinet that over the forthcoming 12 months, there would be work undertaken on the Civic Square in Tilbury and regeneration of Council owned land in the area.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet note the work completed to date and endorse the draft vision for Tilbury.

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

89. DECISION 01104255 – A13 CARRIAGEWAY WIDENING – AGREEMENT TO PROCEED TO TENDER FOR DETAIL DESIGN PACKAGE

Councillor A. Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation, introduced the report which sought Cabinet's approval to procure a consultancy service for the detail design of the A13 carriageway widening between the A128 (Orsett Cock) and the A1404 (The Manor Way).

Members expressed concern of the likely disruption caused to motorists and residents during the widening works, however excepted that the result would be beneficial to residents.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approves to progress the tender in order to secure consultancy services for the delivery of the A13 Widening Detail Design Package and other related design work. Cabinet will be informed of the results of the tender process.**
- 1.2 Approves to work with DPW London Gateway, using powers already agreed through the Harbour Empowerment Order (HEO), to progress all issues leading to the implementation of the A13 widening, including public consultation on the preferred design.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

90. DECISION 01104256 – SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillor J. Kent, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, introduced the report which provided Cabinet with an update on progress of the school capital programme and temporary accommodation for September 2014 and which reported back on any authorised revisions to previously approved schemes.

Members were informed that the Council had a robust and deliverable pupil place plan which provided the fundamental building block for Thurrock schools and that this plan would be under constant review.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Notes the progress and current position with each of the schemes in the previous and new school capital programme (Appendix A, B and C).**
- 1.2 Notes the temporary accommodation works that have been completed to ensure sufficient pupil places for September 2013.**
- 1.3 Notes the revisions made to schemes within the new school capital programme to ensure demand for additional pupil places is met.**
- 1.4 Notes an update on the tender process for the new school capital programme.**
- 1.5 Agree that delegated authority is given to the Director of Children's Services to execute any legal agreements and/or documents pursuant to the new Schools Capital Programme and the New School Grays West.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

91. DECISION 01104257 – EDUCATION COMMISSION

Councillor J. Kent, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, introduced the report which updated Cabinet on the Thurrock Education Commission and which sought guidance on investment.

The Leader spoke in depth on the report, during which he informed Members that the annual OfSTED report stated that Thurrock primary schools had seen a 10% improvement over the previous year and that Thurrock's secondary schools were not only among the top fifth performing schools nationwide, but were also the top performing secondary schools in the Eastern Region and in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership area.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Support the recommendations of the Thurrock Education Commission.**
- 1.2 Comment on the initial actions following the Education Commission.**
- 1.3 Considers areas for potential investment to address issues arising from the Commission.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

92. DECISION 01104258 – SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNESHIP – STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

Councillor J. Kent, the Leader of the Council, introduced the report which sought to update Members on the development of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan. The report further sought Member's views on the Thurrock based projects being promoted within the Plan.

The Leader informed Members that Thurrock were seeking £357m of government funding matched by £386m from the Council and partners in the form of cash and assets to secure the delivery of the £6bn growth agenda described in the Local Development Framework which would create new jobs and new homes.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Endorse the priorities identified within the Thurrock Growth Story in support of the Council's input into the development of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan.**
- 1.2 Support the Council's continuing work with Thames Gateway South Essex partners to prepare its input to the SEP's Thames Gateway chapter and continue its direct dialogue with SELEP on project prioritisation and funding.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

93. DECISION 01104259 – UNLEASHING CREATIVE AMBITION – A STRATEGIC ROLE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN THURROCK

Councillor Worrall, Cabinet Member for Transformation and Community, introduced the report which set out a strategic role for arts and culture in relation to key priorities and future plans.

The Leader invited Ms Andrea Stark, Chief Executive, High House Production Park to address the Cabinet, upon which she spoke passionately about the creative industry in Thurrock.

Members praised the report and the many opportunities that were available to young people in Thurrock.

The Leader informed Members that a memorial for the boys, who died when the training ship 'Goliath' caught on fire whilst moored off Grays on 22 December 1875, was planned for 2014.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Endorses the strategic role for arts and culture in Thurrock and the three practical propositions set out in the paper, and;**
- 1.2 Agrees that the necessary steps are put in place to develop and deliver the strategic role and propositions for arts and culture to successfully implement a new brief for arts and culture.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report
This decision is subject to call-in

The meeting finished at 8.17pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Victoria Freeman, telephone (01375) 652205,
or alternatively e-mail VEFreeman@thurrock.gov.uk**