

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 August 2014 at 7.00pm

The deadline for call-in is Friday 5 September at 5.00pm

(Please note that the deadline for call-in reflects the fact that the meeting was reconvened until 27 August 2014).

Present: Councillors John Kent (Chair), Barbara Rice (Vice-Chair), Phil Smith and Lynn Worrall.

Apologies: Councillors Tony Fish, Victoria Holloway, Bukky Okunade and Richard Speight.

In attendance: G. Farrant – Chief Executive
A. Lever – Senior Media Officer
F. Taylor – Head of Legal and Democratic Services
S. Cox – Senior Democratic Services Officer

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

“If I can welcome Members and Officers present to the meeting this evening’s Thurrock Council Cabinet meeting, we meet in a sad mood as we reflect on the death yesterday of Councillor Andy Smith, the Portfolio Holder of Regeneration, Highways and Transportation.

Andy was the longest serving Member of Thurrock Council and was a dear friend to many of us. Many Portfolio Holders feel unable to attend this evening; they are not just in the right frame of mind to attend a meeting such as this, so we therefore have apologies from Councillors Speight, Holloway, Fish and Okunade.

There will be time at the next Council meeting to pay proper tributes to Andy, but for the record this evening I would just like to set out that Andy was a member of the Council for very nearly 30 years.

In the old Committee system he served as the Chair of the Housing Committee, he led the Council for 10 years during which time he led the campaign for Thurrock to become a Unitary Authority, which will no doubt go down as Andy’s greatest achievement of that time.

Since 2010 he has served as a Portfolio Holder, at one point for Housing alongside his current functions. What I propose this evening is that we just take a moment’s silent reflection, and then I will formally move that we adjourn the meeting for a period of 2 weeks, to reconvene on 27th August, so now if I just ask people to sit in silence for a moment.”

A minutes silence was held in respect of Councillor Andy Smith.

Following which the Leader thanked those in attendance and formally moved to adjourn the meeting until 7.00pm on 27 August 2014.

Councillor B. Rice seconded the move to adjourn the meeting and all Members indicated their agreement.

The Leader thanked all those in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.05pm on 13 August 2014 and reconvened at 7.00pm on 27 August 2014.

The following were in attendance:

Present: Councillors John Kent (Chair), Barbara Rice (Vice-Chair), Tony Fish, Victoria Holloway, Bukky Okunade, Phil Smith, Richard Speight and Lynn Worrall.

In attendance: K. Jackson – Chief Executive of Thurrock CVS
G. Farrant – Chief Executive
S. Cox – Assistant Chief Executive
D. Bull – Director of Planning and Transportation
C. Littleton – Director of Children’s Services
R. Harris – Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
S. Clark – Head of Corporate Finance
J. Hinchliffe – Head of HR, OD and Customer Strategy
K. Adedeji – Head of Head of Housing, Investment and Development
R. Parkin – Head of Housing
M. Heath – Head of Environment
M. Essex – Head of Regeneration
A. Lever – Senior Media Officer
L. McPherson – Senior Democratic Services Officer
D. Lawson – Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services
S. Cox – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council’s website.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting, held on 2 July 2014, were approved as a correct record.

20. Items of Urgent Business

The Leader advised that one item of urgent business had been received in relation to ‘Waste Disposal Arrangements – Opportunity for Savings’ and stated that it would be taken after item 14 in the printed agenda. A copy of the

report had been circulated to Cabinet Members and published online prior to the meeting, and printed copies were made available in the public gallery.

21. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Fish declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 as he was on the board of Thurrock CVS, a Council appointee to Open Door, a Cabinet appointee to Impulse Leisure and was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Transvol. As no decisions were being made in relation to the above organisations at the meeting, he advised that he would remain in the room during the item.

Councillor Fish also declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 11, as he was a member of the Management Committee for Chadwell Community Hub, and advised that he would leave the meeting room during the item.

Councillor Fish declared a further non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 12, as he was on the Board of Trustees for Transvol, which was one of the organisations based within the Thameside Complex.

Councillor Speight declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, as he was a Council appointed representative of the Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau. He also declared a further non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 12, as he was a Council appointee of Thurrock Arts Council.

Councillor Okunade declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 and 12 as she was a board member of TRUST, which was located inside the Thameside Complex.

30. Investment in Highways Lighting (Decision: 01104315)

Councillor J Kent, the Leader of the Council, first asked Democratic Services to read the questions that had been submitted by Councillor Tolson and Councillor Gledhill and the following responses was received:

- Democratic Services asked the question on behalf of Councillor Tolson, as to what level and type of lighting would be provided from the project.

The Cabinet Member explained that the lighting lamps on the street lighting would be replaced with lower energy Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps which produced a high quality white light which compared favourably with the more yellow light produced by the current sodium lanterns.

- Democratic Services asked the question on behalf of Councillor Gledhill, as to whether there were any plans to work with other

departments, such as housing, to implement LED lighting in order to maximise Thurrock's carbon footprint reduction and savings.

The Cabinet Member explained that yes the Highways and Housing were working together to replace all lighting across the borough, whether on the highway or on housing land with LED lighting.

The Leader then introduced the report, and remarked that this was one of the last projects that Councillor A. Smith did for Thurrock Council, working with the transportation team in order to replace the expensive and inefficient street lighting. Members were advised that the project would take 2 years to complete following the appointment of the contractor, which would provide Thurrock's residents and drivers with improved white light and a saving to Thurrock taxpayers. He commended the work of Councillor A. Smith, who was keen to keep street lights on in Thurrock at a time when Essex County Council were turning lights off in other parts of Essex.

The Leader advised how savings were being realised, and outlined that it cost £800,000 in electricity bills to light 17,000 street lights in Thurrock. It was reported that this was an expensive system as sodium lights needed to be replaced every 4-5 years, and that the interest repayment costs of £430,000 on the capital investment of £6 million required for the project would be offset by the net saving of £680,000 per year in reduced electricity bills.

Councillor Okunade asked whether it was just old street lamps that were being replaced or whether new areas of street lighting were being considered under the project in order to reduce anti-social behaviour. In response the Leader explained that it was sensible that these two areas were examined in parallel.

Councillor B. Rice felt that this was a positive scheme and commended the good work of Councillor A. Smith. She felt it was prudent to spend to save whilst also working to reduce Thurrock's carbon foot print.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That a programme of work to replace the current conventional street lighting lanterns with energy saving Light Emitting Diode (LED) units be approved.**
- 2. That the Head of Corporate Finance to seek £6m of prudential borrowing to cover the cost of the LED Conversion Programme.**

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

The meeting finished at 8.07pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**