

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 July 2015 at 7.00 pm**

**The deadline for call-in is Friday 17 July 2015 at 5.00 pm**

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- Present:** Councillors John Kent (Chair), Barbara Rice (Vice-Chair), Terry Brookes, Oliver Gerrish, Victoria Holloway, Bukky Okunade, Gerard Rice and Richard Speight
- Apologies:** Councillor Lynn Worrall
- In attendance:** Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive  
Barbara Brownlee, Director of Housing  
Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning  
Sean Clark, Head of Corporate Finance  
Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care  
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy & Communications  
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer  
Kenna-Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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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.

### **20. Minutes**

The Minutes of Cabinet, held on 10 June 2015, were approved as a correct record.

### **21. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **22. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Speight declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 13, Asset Management Delivery Plan Update, as a family member was a secretary of East Thurrock Football Club.

Councillor Kent declared two non-pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda Item 13, Asset Management Delivery Plan Update, in relation to recommendation 1.4 as he was the honorary president of East Thurrock Football Club and recommendation 1.5 as one of the potential parties affected was a family friend.

### **23. Statements by the Leader**

There were no statements made by the Leader.

## **24. End of Year Progress and Performance Report 2014/15**

Councillor Holloway, Cabinet Member for Central Services, introduced the report which provided an update on the Council's progress and performance against the Corporate Scorecard with progress against the related deliverables outlined in the Corporate Year 2 Delivery Plan.

In introducing the report the Cabinet Member highlighted the following key points:

- The report showed that 92% of all performance indicators were either meeting or were met within tolerance of their target;
- 100% of deliverables progressed were in line with project timelines and;
- The Cabinet Member brought fellow Members attention to page 26 of the agenda that highlighted the many successes and achievements within the last year; she continued to inform members that these particular performance highlights were very pleasing given the impact on of stretched finances, reduced resources and national austerity measures.

Councillor Okunade commented that it was pleasing to note the improvements and green ratings especially within Children's Services for troubled families.

Councillor J. Kent agreed that the successes reflected on page 26, showed the significant success efforts made throughout the year. The leader then took the opportunity to congratulate all staff for their achievements.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the progress against the corporate priorities and level of performance achieved in respect of key performance indicators and outcomes for 2014/15 is noted.**
- 2. That where the progress or performance outturn has met or exceeded target that this is acknowledged and service staff are commended.**
- 3. That the corporate scorecard indicators and targets as detailed in Appendix 2 be noted.**

## **25. Petitions submitted by Members of the Public**

There were no petitions submitted. There were no petitions submitted. There were no petitions submitted.

## **26. Questions from Non-Executive Members**

The Leader of the Council advised that one question had been submitted and that the question would be taken with the corresponding agenda item in the usual manner.

## **27. Matters Referred to the Cabinet for Consideration by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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

## **28. Shaping the Council and Budget Update (Decision: 01104404)**

Councillor J. Kent, the Leader of the Council, introduced the report which set out the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the need to meet an estimated budget gap of over £26 million for the four years between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

In introducing the report the Leader of the Council made the following key observations:

- The growing population, pupils and homelessness within Thurrock;
- Future changes to the Care Act and;
- The strain on reserves

The Leader explained that there had been cross-party groups, including group leaders looking at the budget.

Councillor Gerrish enquired as to whether the emergency budget was an indication of the budget in following years. Councillor J. Kent explained there would be no in year cuts and that interesting information regarding business rates would result in the cost being neutral.

The Leader continued to explain that the potential 1% reduction in housing rates over the next 4 years was good news for housing tenants as it would mean a slight reduction in rent costs.

### **RESOLVED:**

#### **That the Cabinet:**

- 1. Note the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).**
- 2. Endorse the approach to Shaping the Council and budget planning for 2016/17 and beyond including the establishment of a cross-party Budget Review Panel.**

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

**29. Thurrock Local Plan Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)  
(Decision: 01104405)**

Councillor Speight, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, introduced the report which detailed how the community was to be involved in decisions on the preparation of Local Plans and planning applications in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which was adopted in 2007 and now required updating to reflect recent changes in Government planning policy and legislation.

He continued, by explaining it was important to find new ways to communicate with residents and to keep them informed of updates within the Local Development Plan.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That Cabinet approve the Thurrock Local Plan: Draft Statement of Community Involvement for a 6 week consultation commencing on 27th July 2015.**
- 2. That a Report of Consultation be submitted alongside the final Statement of Community Involvement for approval by the Council prior to adoption.**

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

**30. Adoption and Permanence Services Partnership (Decision: 01104406)**

Councillor Okunade, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, introduced the report which proposed that Thurrock enter into a partnership with Coram for a 3 year period through a grant agreement to enable benefit realisation for Thurrock's children, timely delivery and responsiveness to the agenda for change/improvement and identified key performance indicators.

In introducing the report Councillor Okunade, continued to highlight the main points:

- That by entering into a partnership with Coram, would ensure the that the best interests of Thurrock's Children were taken into account;
- There had been an increase in adoption in 2014/2015 with the new Care Plan;
- Currently it took 507 days to complete an adoption, which the Cabinet Member stated was too long;
- The Coram Partnership had been given the rating 'outstanding' by a recent Ofsted inspection.

Councillor B. Rice enquired as to whether by entering the partnership, would reduce the amount of time it took to adopt a child. Councillor Okunade, confirm that by entering the Coram Partnership would benefit Thurrock children. It would enable officers to see a larger pool of adopters to match with children in Thurrock.

**RESOLVED:**

**That members agree to the development of a partnership by way of a grant agreement to provide an integrated programme of activity to optimise adoption outcomes for children.**

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

*Councillors J. Kent and Speight left the room at 7.15 pm during the consideration of the next item.*

**31. Asset Management Delivery Plan Update (Decision: 01104407)**

Councillor B. Rice, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the report which provided an update on the progress of the Asset Management Delivery Plan since it was last referred to Cabinet in September 2014 and set out further property related decisions in pursuit of the Council's rationalisation of property use.

The Deputy Leader asked Democratic Services to read out the question which had been submitted by Councillor Hebb, in his absence. The response was as follows:

We can see from the present paper that officers are being asked to bring a further report to Cabinet in September if insufficient progress is considered to have been made. If this was the case cabinet will be asked to revisit the decision taken in April 2014.

Cabinet requested that officers give further consideration to recommendation 1.9 which is the disposal of the Warren Fishery.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet:**

- 1. Note that property disposals under the Asset Management Delivery Plan have to date resulted in capital receipts of £5,322,300.**
- 2. Note the disposals of two commercial properties in Bridge Road, part of Grays Beach Park, the former Graham James Infant School, and the transfer of 29 St Mary's Road to the HRA for use as Council accommodation since the last update report in September 2014.**

- 3. Note that the sales of the former Treetops School and the “corner site” at the junction of Dell Road and Orsett Road, Grays are progressing via a planning application being made by the potential purchaser.**
- 4. Request officers to review the progress of East Thurrock United Football Club’s proposed move to Billet Field over the Summer, and bring a further report to Cabinet in September 2015 if insufficient progress is considered to have been made.**
- 5. Authorise officers to negotiate a partial disposal of the Council’s ownership of the Hogg Lane sites to the neighbouring car dealership, at the best consideration that can be reasonably obtained as defined by professional valuation.**
- 6. Amend its previous decision to declare the former Knightsmead School site surplus to requirements, and to designate it for future educational use.**
- 7. (In relation to Lakeside Sports Ground):**
  - delegate to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to enter into a new 25 year lease of the Lakeside Sports Ground with Thurrock Association Sunday League, on terms to be agreed.**
  - authorise officers to, jointly with Thurrock Association Sunday League, enter into an agreement with the Football Foundation to adhere to the various grant conditions**
  - waive the Council’s usual specific procurement requirements by appointing contractors, identified by an OJEU compliant framework and mini competition run by the Football Foundation and FA, for the project management and development of a fourth generation synthetic pitch at Lakeside Sports Ground.**
- 8. Declare 30A Kings Walk, Grays surplus to the Council’s requirements and agree its disposal for £170,010.**

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

**The meeting finished at 7.21pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**