

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **11th May 2017**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Clokie, Galpin, Shorter, White.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bradford, Chilton, Knowles, Link.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Mrs Blanford, Buchanan, Burgess, Heyes, Hicks, Ovenden, Pickering, Smith.

Chief Executive, Director of Place and Space, Head of Corporate Property and Projects, Head of Culture, Head of Finance and IT, Head of Health, Parking and Community Safety, Head of Housing, Head of HR and Customer Services, Economic Development Manager, Facility Development Manager, Health, Parking and Community Safety Manager, HR Manager, Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development), Team Leader – Parking, Corporate Scrutiny and Overview Officer, HR Officer, Communications and Marketing Manager, Senior Member Services Officer.

404 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6th April 2017 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

405 Leader's Announcements

The Leader advised that unfortunately the sad issue of child deaths had been in the news recently and he wanted to announce that Ashford Borough Council would ensure that there would be no burial fee, associated permit fee or grave digging fee payable for any resident of the Borough under the age of 18 years who passed away.

406 Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made some recommendations to the Cabinet on safeguarding training. Whilst they had been pleased with the progress made on the issue and noted that the Council's safeguarding arrangements were now regarded as 'sound' by the Audit Partnership, they had considered there would be value in Borough Councillors undertaking safeguarding training and e-learning being made available to Parish Councillors.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) safeguarding training form part of the induction training package for new Councillors.**
 - (ii) level 2 safeguarding training sessions be made available for Borough Councillors.**
 - (iii) consideration be given to making safeguarding training available to Parish Councillors.**

407 Review of Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The report addressed the future of the electric vehicle charging points across the Borough and made recommendations to continue with the provision with the support of the Portfolio Holder. The incoming Deputy Portfolio Holder introduced the report and said that both he and the Portfolio Holder supported the proposals. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT confirmed he also fully supported the proposals.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) electric vehicle charging points continue to be provided.**
 - (ii) no additional charge be made to users for the electricity consumed.**
 - (iii) a review of charging arrangements relevant to the use of electric vehicle charging points every three years in line with the overall review of parking charges be agreed.**
 - (iv) it be agreed for Officers to explore controls relevant to parking periods/vehicle charging times in order to encourage regular turnover and fair usage.**

408 Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies (2017 – 2030)

The report advised that the two strategies had been produced by Max Associates in order to assess current and future demand for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Both strategies supported the emerging Local Plan and would address the Borough's

qualitative and quantitative needs. The report sought endorsement of the draft strategies and authority to adopt them following public consultation.

Resolved:

- That (i) **the current draft Playing Pitch and Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategies be approved and their consultation via the Council's consultation portal be authorised.**
- (ii) **authority be delegated to the Head of Culture in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture to incorporate any changes and complete the final versions of both strategies.**
- (iii) **the final versions of the strategies be received at the September 2017 Cabinet meeting for adoption.**

409 Health, Parking and Community Safety Restructure: Approval of Costs Associated with Early Release of Local Government Pension Scheme Due to Redundancy

The report related specifically to a proposed redundancy as part of the Health, Parking and Community Safety Restructure and explained that the affected post holder was entitled to the early release of their Local Government Pension Scheme benefits. It was the Council's policy that such costs must be approved by the full Council. The incoming Deputy Portfolio Holder introduced the report and said that both he and the Portfolio Holder supported the proposals.

Recommended:

That the costs of the early release of Local Government Pension Scheme benefits for the affected post holder for reasons of redundancy be approved.

410 Local Development Scheme Update 2017

The report advised that the draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) set out the revised project plan and timetable for preparation of the Local Plan 2030 and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Development Plan Documents (DPDs) until the end of 2019. The LDS was required under legislation and compliance with it was a matter of 'soundness' for DPDs. It was therefore essential that it was kept up to date. The draft LDS 2017 and revised timetable conformed with the regulations and had been discussed with the Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group.

Recommended:

That the Local Development Scheme 2017 be adopted, as required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

411 An Energy Efficiency Strategy for Ashford

The report detailed progress made by the Council towards achieving the targets set out in the Carbon Management Plan 2010-2016 and proposed the adoption of an Energy Efficiency Strategy for the Council and the setting of a new baseline year (2017/18) for future greenhouse gas reporting.

Resolved:

- That (i) the progress made to date in reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions be noted.
- (ii) the Energy Efficiency Strategy contained at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.

412 Street Naming and Numbering – Former Site of Precinct 13, Ashford Road, High Halden

The report advised that the Street Naming and Numbering policy required any request for naming a new road after a person, deceased or living, should be agreed by the Cabinet. The name proposed for this development was considered to be relevant to the site.

Members said they were pleased to see a move to naming more new roads after eminent local people and hoped to see more of it in the future. Some Members said that on occasions it would be nice to give consideration to using the person's full name rather than just the surname if that was deemed appropriate.

Resolved:

That the use of the name Bishop Close as set out in paragraph 4 of the report be approved.

413 Response to the South Eastern Rail Franchise Consultation

The report set out the Council's proposed response to the South Eastern Rail Franchise Consultation document, which would inform the Department for Transport's procurement of a new rail operator for the new franchise between December 2018 and 2025-28. The report also set out the details for the South East Route: Kent Area Route Study consultation by Network Rail. The Economic Development Manager introduced the report and advised of one suggested amendment since drafting in that the word 'unacceptable' should be removed to the answer of question 12 to show that the Council did not accept any reduction in service at intermediate stations in rural areas of the Borough.

Members thanked the Economic Development Manager for his work in pulling the responses together. The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Land Management advised that there was great concern in the rural areas about the proposals and any potential diminution of services at these stations so she was pleased to note the proposed amendment to the response on question 12. She also asked if that answer could also refer specifically to 'Pluckley' Station. She understood that a petition supporting rural stations in this area had gathered 11,500 signatures in less than three weeks prior to the dissolution of Parliament and she was pleased that this response would demonstrate that the Council valued its local railway stations and the people who used them. With the population in all areas of the Borough, including the villages, rapidly increasing, any reduction in rail services would therefore seem to be nonsensical.

A Member, who was the Chairman elect of the Joint Transportation Board, advised that as the Kent Route Study consultation did not close until 30th June, he therefore intended to bring this issue to the Board meeting on 13th June for a full debate. On the subject of the South Eastern Rail Franchise Consultation he agreed to speak to the report author outside of the meeting on the wording of the response to question 24 regarding more than one operator using the Marshlink line.

In response to a question the Economic Development Manager advised that the response did reference parking at rural stations, but he would again include a specific reference to Pluckley.

Resolved:

- That (i) **the summary of the South Eastern Rail Franchise Public Consultation be noted and the responses set out in the report and Appendix A to the report, as well as the comments made at the meeting be agreed to form the basis for a response back to the Department for Transport by the consultation deadline of 23rd May 2017.**
- (ii) **delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Parking and Community Safety and the Economic Development Manager to finalise the response to Government for the South Eastern Rail Franchise consultation.**
- (iii) **delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Parking and Community Safety and the Economic Development Manager to finalise the response to Network Rail for the Kent Area Route Study consultation.**

414 Economic Regeneration and Investment Board – 22nd March 2017

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board held on the 22nd March 2017 be received and noted.

415 Schedule of Key Decisions to be Taken

Resolved:

That the latest Schedule of Key Decisions as set out within the report be received and noted.

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard:
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