

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 21 January 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on the evening of Wednesday 14 January 2015.

On that occasion the Cabinet considered the matters set out below. Decisions shown in boxed areas are subject to Council confirmation; the reports considered by the Cabinet were available to all members in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

1. Bamber Bridge Improvement Plan

The Cabinet member for Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities (Councillor P Smith) was pleased to present a further positive report. This sought approval for the draft improvement plan, to take initial design ideas to public consultation and permit spending for surveys and preliminary works.

The Cabinet and other members present felt the scheme was good for Bamber Bridge and would bring real benefit to the area and its residents. It was confirmed that the consultation had yet to start and the scheme could change based on what people wanted to see. The Cabinet member confirmed he had had discussions with the County Council regarding safer cycling and this scheme was an opportunity to get it right.

In response to a member of the public, Councillor P Smith confirmed that in addition to the £100,000 directly from this council's capital programme the remaining monies were from the City Deal budget.

It was decided to:-

1. grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of up to £20,000 to carry out surveys and preliminary works;
2. commence public consultation with residents and businesses be approved; and
3. present a further Cabinet report on the Improvement Plan informed by the findings of the consultation exercise.

2. Joint Procurement Strategy (JPS) 2009 to 2014 Performance Report and Proposed JPS 2015 to 2018

The Cabinet member for Shared Services & Corporate Support (Councillor Hamman) introduced this item which showed performance of the expiring strategy and presented the refreshed draft strategy for 2015/18. This item had previously been considered by the Shared Services Joint Committee and this Council's Scrutiny Committee.

It was felt that the joint procurement strategy had clearly produced benefits to the council.

It was decided to:-

1. adopt the refreshed draft Joint Procurement Strategy 2015/2018 be adopted; and
2. retain in force the current Sustainable Procurement Policy, included at Appendix 3 of the report.

3. Fraud – TUPE Transfer to Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS)

The Cabinet member for Shared Services & Corporate Support (Councillor Hamman) presented a report on a government proposal to create a Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) and to transfer to it in April 2015 existing local authority Housing Benefit Investigators. However, the SFIS would not investigate all housing benefit fraud until 2017. It was felt that during the intervening period it would be detrimental to the council and its services not to retain fraud investigation work.

It was decided to continue the Benefit Enquiry Service within South Ribble Borough Council.

4. Pay Policy – 2015/16

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mrs M Smith) presented this report indicating this was in the same format as last year. It informed members that the Localism Act 2011 required all local authorities to set out its position on a range of issues relating to the remuneration of its employees and set out a policy that required approval by the council by the end of March each year and for publication on the Council's website.

The policy set out the existing approach to the remuneration of all posts within the council. In particular it specified certain mandatory requirements that must be detailed within the policy.

In response to a member of the public, Councillor Mrs M Smith that following national negotiation the employee pay award had been agreed late in 2014 covering the period January 2015 to March 2016

It was decided to recommend the Pay Policy for 2015/16 for approval by the meeting of Council to be held on 21 January 2015.

5. Treasury Management Activity Mid-year review 2014/15

The Cabinet member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Robinson) presented this report which had previously been considered by the Governance Committee on 26 November 2014 on the treasury management performance in the first half of the year and on compliance with prudential indicators. There were no proposals to change the current Treasury and Investment Strategies.

It was decided to note the report.

6. Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2015/16

It was decided to confirm Councillor Mrs Mary Green as Mayor elect for 2015/16 and nominate Councillor Mrs Linda Woollard as Deputy Mayor elect for 2015/16.

7. Timetable of Meetings 2015/16

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mrs M Smith) presented the proposed timetable of meetings for 2015/16. The timetable was substantially similar to previous years, with the exception of future dates for the My Neighbourhood Forums. These would be subsequently slotted in after it had been decided if these would continue to meet four times a year or change to three times a year.

The Cabinet appreciated the work involved compiling the timetable of meetings.

It was decided to approve the timetable of meetings for 2015/16.

8. Moss Side Playing Fields

The Cabinet member for Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities (Councillor P Smith) presented this item. He reported that the improvement to these playing fields had been a project in the Leyland My Neighbourhood Plan since 2012 and the report contained the latest development in a long term programme to improve the site, seek match funding to enable works for a new clubhouse.

Councillor P Smith felt this was possibly one of the best projects through My Neighbourhood which had also generated income for the Council and showed what could be done as a council and community. The project would provide more than just rugby facilities but wider leisure/recreation facilities for the community. He thanked those involved in pursuing this project, in particular Councillor Mrs Moon.

It was decided to

1. approve expenditure of up to £30,000 in capital monies to fund enabling works be approved; and
2. note the contributions of £187,308 from the Rugby Football League (value of modular building) and £52,000 from Sport England (also for enabling works).

9. The Cabinet's Forward Plan

It was decided to approve the Forward Plan submitted under Section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000.

EXEMPT ITEMS

10. Procurement of Waste and Recycling Collection Service

The Deputy Leader and Neighbourhoods and Street Scene (Councillor Mullineaux) reported that the current contract for the council's Waste and Recycling Collection Service expired in June 2015. The proposed new contract was for a period of seven years with an option for this to be extended for a further seven years. The procurement process for a new contract partner had been on going and was entering the final stages. The appended evaluation report detailed recommendations on the evaluation of tenders and selection of proposed partner contractor.

The Cabinet appreciated and thanked those involved in the process for their efforts; officers and the cross party member working group. It took assurance that the process had also been supported and reinforced by two independent organisations.

It was felt that the exercise had been a great success and would deliver substantial savings to the council for the same if not a better service.

It was stressed to those present that this item would still be confidential after a subsequent decision by the council on 21 January 2015.

It was decided to:

1. accept the bid from Company 2;
2. advise Companies 1, 3 and 4 that their bids had not been successful;
and
3. grant authority that in the highly unlikely event of Company 2 withdrawing from the latter stages of the procurement process, to accept the next best bid as detailed in the report.

11. Land at Leyland

The Cabinet member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Robinson) reported that following publication of the report additional information had been received that needed to be assessed. He suggested that consideration of the report be deferred.

It was decided to defer consideration of the report.

I hereby commend the report of the Cabinet to the Council.

COUNCILLOR MRS MARGARET SMITH

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL