

**SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 25 MARCH 2015**

**REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on the evening of Wednesday 18 March 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. City Deal Infrastructure Plan**

The Leader introduced this item which indicated the local priorities/projects identified by the council to support the review of the City Deal Infrastructure Delivery Plan. These priorities/projects would subsequently be considered by the City Deal Executive Board for inclusion in the delivery plan period 2015/16-2017/18. Whilst referring to the types of priorities the Leader suggested it was more appropriate in Table 2 that the project entitled St Catherine's Park be known as Dandy Brook Park and the related description also be amended.

Members were wholly supportive, applauding what could be achieved and that this council had allocated monies its own capital programme and this report sought to draw down additional funds through City Deal for priorities in South Ribble.

It was decided to:-

1. Recommend that council approves the list of initial local infrastructure projects contained within Tables 2 (as amended) and 3; and
2. Recommend that subject to (1) above, council approves that financial support be sought from the City Deal Executive Board towards the local infrastructure projects in South Ribble.

**2. My Neighbourhood Plans 2015/16**

The Cabinet member for Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities (Councillor P Smith) introduced this item and in doing so, proposed that the recommendation be amended to include '... subject to being signed off by the My Neighbourhood Chairmen.' It had been another successful year with some significant achievements, thanking the chairmen and officers for their hard work. There were again some ambitious projects for 2015/16.

Members commented that following the introduction of the My Neighbourhoods they had been successful and there was more buy-in/ownership/engagement by residents/communities. They enabled ideas/aspirations/opportunities to be turned into tangible projects. It was also interesting and pleasing to see the diversity of projects (whether large or small) across the borough.

It was decided to:-

Recommend that subject to being signed off by the My Neighbourhood Chairmen, council approves the 2015-2016 My Neighbourhood Plans.

**3. Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 (TEEP)**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods & Streetscene (Councillor Mullineaux) introduced this item explaining these were regulations that the council had to adhere to and the report explained the process. He was pleased to state that the council was fully compliant.

It was decided:

That the council's current collection system for recycled materials be approved as being compliant with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

#### 4. **Energy Procurement**

The Cabinet member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Robinson) introduced this item explaining that the council's current two year gas contracts expired in September 2015. The council's energy broker had advised that energy values were expected to reduce between March-May 2015 but due to price fluctuations in the energy market the best time could not be predicted. The council would need to make a decision when notified. Whilst the values of electricity contracts were within the threshold to be dealt with by officers, those for gas were not. Therefore, whilst not taken lightly, it was recommended that standing orders be waived to enable the council to secure the gas contracts at the best and most advantageous rates.

There was a discussion with a member of the public around whether the council's contracts should be for a shorter period. It was explained that the recommended course of action was based on external professional advice/expertise which the council did not itself possess.

It was decided to:-

1. Recommend that council agrees to invoke part 44, paragraph 44.1 of the Contract Procedure Rules to allow the waiving of the standard procurement process due to the exceptional circumstances outlined in the report; and
2. Recommend that council approves the delegation of the acceptance of the most economically advantageous energy contract for the supply of gas to the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets.

#### 5. **Employee Code of Conduct**

The Leader (Councillor Mrs M Smith) introduced this item, explaining the proposed new Employee Code of Conduct updated the 2012 existing code and was part of the council's suite of policies. This item had previously been discussed at both the Governance and Standards Committees without any significant changes.

It was confirmed that the reference on page two of the report to vexatious/unreasonable complaints against officers, would also apply to behaviour (such as when they attended meetings).

It was decided to:-

Recommend that council approves the new draft Code of Conduct for Employees be formally adopted as part of the update of the Council's Constitution.

#### 6. **The Cabinet Forward Plan**

It was decided:-

That the Forward Plan submitted under Section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000 be approved.

#### 7. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was decided to excluded the press and public from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as it involved the discussion of information defined as exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).' and, in which the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

Based on the information available on the agenda, a member of the public took exception to the exclusion indicating it was contra to openness and transparency. However, when the nature of the subsequent item was explained the reason for the exclusion was understood and accepted.

**8. Hulmes Mill, Leyland**

The Cabinet member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Robinson) introduced this item and background to the current position relating to land at St Andrews Way (former Hulmes Mill), Leyland.

It was decided to:-

Recommend that council approves that the bid be accepted.

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

**COUNCILLOR MRS MARGARET SMITH**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**