



Cabinet Minutes

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday 12 September 2012 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Cabinet members present:

Councillor Peter Gibson (The Leader of the Council)
Councillor Roger Berry (Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Lynne Bowen (Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Gordon McCann (Economy Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Pete Murphy (Street Scene Portfolio Holder)

Apologies:

Councillor Alan Vincent (Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader)

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)
Michael Ryan (Corporate Director of People and Places)
Philippa Davies (Corporate Director of Resources)
Ian Munro (Head of Culture, Leisure and Tourism)
Stephanie Collinson (Communications Officer)
Duncan Jowitt (Democratic Services Officer)

Non-members of the Cabinet present:

Councillors Anderson, Balmain, Bannister, Brooks, Collinson, Greenhough and Shewan

One press reporter and four members of the public attended the meeting.

CAB.17 Declarations of interest

None.

CAB.18 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 August 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

CAB.19 Public Questions

None

CAB.20 Leisure Review

The Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the reports provided by the Council's appointed consultant, Max Associates, following the Leisure Review.

In response to a question regarding Lancashire County Council's role in the upgrade to Garstang Leisure Centre, the Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder confirmed that improvements would be made to the Centre even if no agreement could be reached with the County Council.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed that

- the capital investment proposed be considered as part of the budget process for 2013/14.
- potential funding opportunities be explored with partners in respect of the proposals for Garstang.
- the next steps outlined in paragraph 5.13 be progressed with subsequent progress reports being submitted to Cabinet.
- approval be given to engage Max Associates, at a cost of up to £45,000, under the Exemption to Contract Procedures, contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules, on the grounds that exemptions apply regarding the appointment of consultants.

CAB.21 Olympic Torch Relay Costs

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report setting out the final costs associated with staging the Olympic Torch Relay.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed that the costs of staging the Olympic Torch Relay amounting to £18,535 be approved and funded from the Community Safety Reserve. Cabinet thanked council officers for managing to keep the costs down to that figure.

CAB.22 Wyre Response to Public Consultations on Blackpool, Fylde, Preston and Ribble Valley Local Plans

The Economy Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report to

- inform Cabinet of recent public consultations undertaken by adjoining Local Authorities in relation to their emerging local plans,
- explain important content of those plans and
- outline officer responses that have been made in relation to them on behalf of Wyre Council.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet noted and endorsed the responses submitted by Wyre Council officers to Blackpool, Fylde, Preston and Ribble Valley Councils regarding their draft local plans.

CAB.23 Ashdell Nursery, Thornton

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report asking Cabinet to approve the closure of Ashdell Nursery, Thornton.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed that

- Ashdell nursery be closed from 31 March 2013 and the site declared surplus to requirements.
- the Corporate Director of People & Places be authorised to arrange for the disposal of the Council's land ownership with the benefit of planning permission.
- the Corporate Director of People and Places arrange for services at Ashdell to be provided through alternative means.
- the Corporate Director of People and Places be authorised to carry out a staffing review as a result of the closure of the nursery facility.
- discussions be held with the Wyre In Bloom Steering Group regarding the Council's continued support and their future community requirements.

CAB.24 Thornton Depot, Fleetwood Road South, Thornton

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report to declare that land and buildings held under title number LAN37297 and known as 'Thornton Depot' will become surplus to the Council's operational requirements following the construction of the new depot at Copse Road Fleetwood.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet gave approval to

- the site being declared surplus to operational requirements following the relocation of the waste contractor to the Copse Road Depot.
- dispose of the site by way of auction.

CAB.25 Get Rewyred – Town Centre Business Support Grant Scheme

The Economy Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of People and Places submitted a report seeking agreement to pilot a new business support grant scheme referred to as 'Get Rewyred' for a period of up to 12 months, funded by the Performance Reward Grant.

Decision taken

For the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed

- that a Town Centre Business Support Grant Scheme project costing £35,000 be agreed to deliver a bespoke package to existing Wyre businesses for a period of up to 12 months.
- that the contract be awarded via the CHEST system with quality and price being the key criteria for selection. The standard corporate procurement form on the CHEST will be used.
- that the area lead members be consulted on the inclusion of this project in the locality plans for Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Cleveleys and Rural East for ultimate consideration by the Executive.

CAB.26 Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2015/16

The Leader and Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report inviting Cabinet to consider the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2012/13 to 2015/16.

Decision taken

Cabinet accepted the Medium Term Financial Plan and, for the reasons outlined in the report,

- agreed that relevant action be taken to address the issues arising within the three year financial forecast with an emphasis on looking to reduce subsidies and on the generation of income for the council to lessen the burden on taxpayers,
- noted the revised expenditure projections incorporating the slippage from 2011/12, and the resulting impact on the level of the Council's reserves and balances at 31st March 2012 and
- agreed the top-up and use of all Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendix 3 to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

CAB.27 Forward Plan (October 2012 - January 2013)

The Leader and Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report inviting Cabinet to consider the contents of the council's Forward Plan.

The Democratic Services Officer notified Cabinet that, following the introduction of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 legislation, which came into effect on 10 September 2012, the requirement to publish a

Forward Plan had been removed and consequently it would no longer come before Cabinet in its current form.

Decision taken

For the reasons outlined in the report and subject to any necessary amendments that might be required as a result of subsequent developments, Cabinet approved the Forward Plan.

CAB.28 Exclusion of Public and Press

The Corporate Director of Resources had determined, in accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, that item 14 on the agenda was "Not for Publication" because it contained "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chief Executive informed Cabinet that the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 10 September 2012, now required the council to publish notice of its intention to hold any part of an executive meeting in private, with reasons why, 28 clear days before the meeting. However in respect of item 14 on the agenda, the Chief Executive used his authority as the 'proper officer' to determine that it was impracticable for the publication requirements of Regulation 5 to be satisfied as the effective date of the 2012 Regulations was subsequent to the publication of the agenda for the meeting and consequently the council's systems to make such publication had not then been in place.

Decision taken

Cabinet resolved that the public and press should be excluded for the item, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

CAB.29 Windsor Road Car Park, Garstang – Proposed Land Exchange and Leaseback Arrangement to E H Booth & Co Ltd)

The Resources Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive submitted a report advising members of a change to the previously agreed Heads of Terms relating to the land exchange and lease back arrangement.

Decision taken

For the reasons outlined in the report, Cabinet approved the revised Heads of Terms for the simultaneous land exchange and lease back arrangement.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.14 p.m.

Date of Publication: 13 September 2012

Options considered but rejected

Any alternative options that were considered but rejected, as well as the reasons for the recommendations made, are included in the full reports, available on the council's website.

When will these decisions be implemented?

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is "called-in" by any four Members of the council within that period. The "call-in" procedure is set out in [Part 4 of the Council's Constitution](#) (Paragraph 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules). If a decision is "called-in", the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may decide that the original decision should be upheld or ask Cabinet to reconsider the decision.

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