

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 25 JULY 2016

PRESENT:

Cabinet Members: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Eley, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Goodwin, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Lamb and Councillor Walsh

Cabinet Advisors: Councillor Casey and Councillor Stokes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Seaton, Councillor Smith and Councillor Walsh.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Holdich declared a pecuniary interest in item 6, in that he was appointed to the Cross Keys Board by the Council and that he was paid an allowance. He had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak on the item, but would not take part in any vote.

Councillor Fitzgerald declared a pecuniary interest in item 6, in that he was appointed to the Cross Keys Board by the Council and that he was paid an allowance. He had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak on the item, but would not take part in any vote.

It was advised that Councillor Hiller would take the Chair for item 6.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON:

3.1 13 June 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3.2 27 June 2016 – Extraordinary Meeting

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27 June 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

5. FARMS ESTATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Cabinet received a report which followed its approval of the Strategy for the Management of the Farms Estate on 20 July 2016.

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet's approval for the Farm Estate Action Plan 2016/17, this being an implementation plan for lettings, capital investment and proposed sales on the Farms Estate and was the first such action plan.

The report had been submitted following consultation with the Peterborough Tenant Farmers Association through the Farms Estates Advisory Group.

The Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration introduced the report and advised that work had been undertaken closely with the farm tenant's representatives in order to produce the action plan. The Plan established a vision of what the estate would evolve into over the forthcoming 20 years, this being a series of core holdings around 400/500 hundred acres each and also how the educational and community value of the holdings would be explored. A comprehensive set review of the estate would be undertaken, including farm buildings, roads and drainage, so the needs of the estate could be better understood going forward and prioritisation could be given to investment, in consultation with the tenant representatives. All this would mean a much more focussed approach.

Mr Skeels, the Chairman of the Peterborough Farm Tenants Association, addressed Cabinet and thanked all those who had been involved in the creation of the Plan and for involving the Farm Tenants. He personally thanked the Chief Executive and the Leader for their involvement.

The Farms Estate Manger advised that the Plan was extremely beneficial for the long term tenants and would make the land more viable. With regards to the educational and environmental aspects of the estate, reliance was placed on external factors.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Training for modern farmers was important, this being a very multi-skilled profession, and this needed to be reflected within the curriculum; and
- More money would be invested within the estate, money had been identified within the budget for that purpose. There was a plan in place for this and would run over ten years.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Farms Estate Action Plan 2016/17; and
2. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration to approve future Farm Estate Action Plans.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following agreement of the Strategy for the Management of the Farms Estate by Cabinet in July 2015 it was important that Cabinet be given the opportunity to comment on and approve the Farms Estate Action Plan 2016.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing - This option was not viable as the Council had to make a number of decisions relating to letting and sale of parts of the farms estate. The Council needed to implement the approved Strategy for the Management of Farms Estate, otherwise its ongoing management had the potential to be done without reference to the agreed Strategy.

Councillor Holdich stepped down as Chair for the next item and Councillor Hiller took the Chair.

6. CREATING A HOUSING DELIVERY COMPANY AND THE RE-ALLOCATION OF CORPORATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS

Cabinet received a report the purpose of which was for it to consider the creation of a Housing Joint Venture partnership between the Council and Cross Keys, in line with the Council's approved Budget and the recommendations of a cross party task and finish group that considered changes to the Council's strategy with regards housing in Peterborough.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report and advised that as part of the budget setting, Full Council had approved the allocation of corporate resources to support the creation of the housing delivery company in order to address the need for housing in the city, by moving the Council from being an enabler to a direct developer of housing. The company would deliver new homes of all different types both in and outside of the city, but initial projects would be Peterborough based. Key aspects of the delivery company's workings and makeup were detailed within the report, alongside initial commitments outlined by both the Council and Cross Keys Homes.

Councillor Hiller further advised that there was a small amendment to the recommendations, recommendation three to read 'approve' rather than 'x'.

The Council's x, the Chief Executive of Cross Keys and x were present to respond to questions. Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The £14.6m right to buy receipts, would be allocated on a case by case basis as projects came forward. This would also be true of the £20m allocation included within the 'invest to save' capital budget, which had been approved by Council at its meeting of 13 July 2016;
- The development of student accommodation could be considered. The venture would consider development of all types of housing and tenures. All cases would need to be financially viable;
- The venture would focus on all areas for development and not just the city centre;
- The Peterborough Investment Partnership was, in many ways, focused on the regeneration of brownfield sites in the city centre (although not solely confined to that) with a larger scale mixed use focus, whereas the Housing Joint Venture would focus primarily on residential accommodation. The Housing Joint Venture would had more of a limited focus than the Peterborough Investment Partnership and may also look at areas outside the city for development; and
- There was no specific scale of development that the Housing Joint Venture would focus on, development would primarily be based upon the viability of the each scheme on a case by case basis.

Cabinet considered the report and **APPROVED:**

1. The establishment of a JV Limited Liability Partnership ("LLP") with Cross Keys Homes Development Ltd ("Cross Keys");
2. The Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Director of Governance and Corporate Director: Resources to exercise delegated authority to finalise and agree all necessary legal agreements with Cross Keys and the LLP to establish the JV's structure and operation;
3. The investment of £100,000 into the Joint Venture for operating capital;

4. The withdrawal of the existing Affordable Housing Capital Funding Policy;

And **AGREED**:

5. That future grants from Section 106 Planning Receipts will be approved by the Corporate Director – Growth and Regeneration, except where they are intended to be given to the Housing Joint Venture in which case they will be approved by the Head of Service - Sustainable Growth Strategy;

And **NOTED**:

6. The allocation of the Right to Buy receipts for the Housing Joint Venture in line with the Council's approved Budget for 2016/17; and

And **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**:

7. Amendments to the Constitution 'Appointments to external organisations' to include the joint venture company once established within the key partnerships category to enable the Leader to make appointments to the Housing Joint Venture Board.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The recommendations allowed the housing delivery company approved by Full Council in the 2016/17 budget to be put into place, creating a mechanism for implementing recommendations from the cross-party task and finish group previously mentioned in within the report. This new joint venture would also allow a more active, targeted use of the Right to Buy receipts, facilitating greater delivery of affordable housing. It would also help the Council to directly act to ensure the Local Plan's five-year supply requirements continued to be met, which would assist in fending off unwanted, speculative development and the range of detrimental consequences such development could potentially have.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing - The Council could choose not to work to develop housing itself. This was rejected because it contradicts the recommendations of the task and finish review group mentioned within the report. It would also be inconsistent with the Council's increasingly proactive approach to delivery.

Develop housing directly through a wholly-owned company or under contract - The Council could choose to work alone rather than with a partner (either through a subsidiary company owned 100% by the Council, or by placing development contracts). This option was rejected because the Council had limited internal development experience, and building such experience both takes time and introduces risk until it is embedded.

Use the Peterborough Investment Partnership - The PIP's progress of the Fletton Quays scheme had been an unarguable success. It was therefore considered early on as to whether an arrangement that included the PIP would be possible for the delivery of housing. Whilst the PIP was clearly capable of developing housing schemes, this option was rejected because the Housing Joint Venture's (at least initial) focus on facilitating affordable homes (including their retention and management) was felt to work better with a partner whose primary focus was that, for which Cross Keys would be a better fit.

Councillor Holdich took the Chair.

7. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2016/17

Cabinet received a report which requested it to consider the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan for 2016/17 and to make a recommendation to Full Council for consideration at its meeting due to be held on 12 October 2016.

The Plan set out the community safety priorities for the Partnership over the coming year.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the report and advised that the proposed Plan was for a period of a year. He further advised that there was an amendment to the recommendation contained within the report for Cabinet to endorse the report and recommend its adoption to Full Council, as the document was a Major Policy Framework item.

The Council's Service Director Adult Services and Communities advised that the Plan was statutory and was being presented as a one year plan, on the basis that a full needs assessment would be conducted during 2016/17 of crime and ASB and the impacts of both. The Safer Peterborough Partnership had endorsed the Plan and it was the view of the Partnership that there had been significant changes over the past year, not least the launch of the prevention and enforcement service, which warranted further work to be undertaken, hence the production at the current time of a one year plan. There were four priorities contained within the Plan, three being the same as previous and the recommended addition of a new priority focussing on high risk and vulnerable people, in particular people affected by child sexual exploitation and young people missing from home. The Plan contained a number of work streams which would articulate how the priorities would be delivered for the remainder of the year and would feed into the development of at least a three year plan from 2017 onwards.

The Council's Head of Community Services provided further clarification around the rationale for the production of a one year plan including the events which had occurred during 2016, including the European Referendum, the election of a new Police Crime Commissioner and the Paris terrorist attacks.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- One of the main pieces of work to be undertaken over the forthcoming year was the creation of the multi-agency, multi-disciplinary prevention and enforcement service. An overview of the service was given and it was advised that the improvements would make for a better service for the public. It was due to be launched in September 2016;
- The use of restorative justice was an effective way of preventing individuals from continuing to re-offend and it had been embedded by the police over a number of years and was developing across partnerships;
- With regards to crime rates, current recorded levels showed an increase in certain types of crime, however this could be attributed to the way in which these crimes were being recorded. In reality, there had been no discernable increase in the number of crimes which tended to affect the majority of communities;
- The service offered by the Victims Hub did not differentiate between victim types nor the severity of crimes committed. The Hub was there to provide support to all victims and would never refuse support to any individual who was the victim of a crime;
- Social media was being used to gather intelligence and the 'Engine Room' would monitor social media. There was also a hotline to report environmental issues, in particular flytipping and this was in the process of being going live;

- There were high expectations for the multi-agency system. It would provide a better service for citizens who lived or worked in Peterborough and would make sustainable changes by tackling the root cause of issues;
- Priority number 4 was in relation to the support of vulnerable victims and this was a deliberate terminology encompassing both adults and victims of child sexual exploitation and younger people missing from home;
- Work had been undertaken with Addenbrookes in relation to road safety issues as this was the regional trauma centre for road traffic accidents. Work was also undertaken with other health partners and health had a representative on the statutory community safety partnership; and
- With regards hate crime post referendum, there had been an increase in 14 reported incidents in the space of about a month. Hate crime was an underreported crime and the focus on this nationally was helpful when trying to raise the profile of how a victim of hate crime should report such crimes and get the support that they needed.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to endorse the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2016/17 and the priorities contained therein and to recommend its adoption to Full Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Safer Peterborough Plan fulfilled the Council's statutory requirements to have a community safety plan. The Plan set out the multi-agency approach to tackling community safety issues and ways in which the city could build stronger communities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not approve the Safer Peterborough Plan – This option was not recommended due to the statutory requirements placed upon councils to have a community safety plan in place.

Chairman
10.00am – 10.52am