

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 29 MARCH 2010

PRESENT

Cabinet Members: Councillor Croft, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Lamb, Councillor Scott and Councillor Seaton

Cabinet Advisers: Councillor Benton and Councillor S Dalton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Cereste and Councillor Lee.

It was agreed that Councillor Holdich would chair the meeting in the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lamb and Councillor Dalton stated that they had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer in respect agenda item 6.1 (Peterborough Local Development Framework – Peterborough District Hospital Site Draft Supplementary Planning Document), who had confirmed that they did not have either a personal or prejudicial interest in this item as it related to a matter of policy.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2010 AND 23 FEBRUARY 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held 8 February 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record, subject to Members noting Cabinet's agreement to receive an update on the outcome of petitions at all future Cabinet meetings.

The Minutes of the meeting held 23 February 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

4. CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

Councillor Seaton advised of the Council's recent success in obtaining the Government Business Award for Procurement and Waste Management. He added that the Council had also been commended for its high rating in the Local Government Business Awards (Financial Performance category) and had been shortlisted for the Local Government Efficiency and Transformation Award.

5. ITEMS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

5.1 CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Cabinet Advisor for Environment Capital and Culture presented the Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), which represented the outcome of a ten month programme of work that the Council had undertaken as part of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management

programme and detailed how the Council would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from its operations. Members were asked to note that whilst the Council had undertaken various one-off initiatives previously which had had a positive effect on the organisation's overall carbon emissions, this programme would ensure that initiatives were undertaken in a planned and measured way in order to comply with various schemes the organisation had a legal duty to comply with. The Plan would formally commit the Council to achieving a stretching, yet realistic target to reduce carbon emissions by 35% of 2008/9 levels by 2014 and would formalise the Council's commitment to lead by example and create the UK's Environment Capital.

In response to a question concerning the Council's performance compared with other local authorities, Cabinet was advised that the Council's baseline emissions were similar to those of other unitary authorities. However, the target for reduction was high, demonstrating the Council's commitment to achieving Environment City status.

A question was raised in respect of the way in which the Council was seeking to engage with local businesses. Members were assured that work was ongoing with the Peterborough Environment City Trust and other key partners in order to promote engagement from local businesses and that the Council would work with its suppliers and contractors to ensure consideration of environmental impacts. Work was also being undertaken with local schools to encourage awareness and help them reduce their carbon footprint.

Members expressed their support for the CMAP and requested regular updates on progress.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Approve the CMAP, whilst committing to support the continuation of the Carbon Management Programme Board and the Carbon Management Team, and recommend the Plan for adoption by full Council at its meeting of 14 April 2010.

REASONS

The CMAP was required to comply with the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and National Indicators 185 and 186, the Government's delivery mechanism for achieving targets set within the Climate Change Act. It was also the final stage of a programme of work undertaken with the Carbon Trust and signifies successful completion of the programme.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Prior to embarking upon the Carbon Trust programme, the Climate Change Team considered the possibility of devising a programme of work to achieve the carbon reduction targets as laid out in the Climate Change Act. However, it was felt that early action to achieve these targets, ahead of the national framework, would allow Peterborough to lead by example, demonstrating commitment to its Environment Capital aspirations and also enable early benefit from the efficiencies carbon reduction will achieve.

5.2 SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Crime and Disorder Act (revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006) requires that the three year partnership plan published by the Community Safety Partnership be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The Cabinet Advisor for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development introduced the refreshed version of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan and advised that its priorities had been agreed following a strategic assessment which considered performance in the previous twelve months and took into account the concerns of the public.

In response to a question relating to the way in which anti-social behaviour was being targeted, Members were assured that a range of measures were underway in order to engage with communities, raise awareness and provide greater support to victims and witnesses.

Members noted the progress made by the Safer Peterborough Partnership to date and its commitment to build on the improvements made and further develop its work.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Endorse the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2010-2011 and recommend the document to full Council for approval.

REASONS

The Partnership Plan has been drafted following a comprehensive strategic assessment which provides both quantitative and qualitative data to indicate the areas that are a priority. These priorities have also been tested with stakeholders through a number of events and the Plan has been approved by the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

An annual revision of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan is a legislative requirement.

6. STRATEGIC DECISIONS

6.1 PETERBOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – THE PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL SITE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

This report was submitted to Cabinet following approval of the Council's Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and in accordance with the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005. Cabinet was asked to consider the publication of the Peterborough District Hospital Site Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consideration.

Members noted that the Peterborough Hospital site would be vacated by the end of 2011 following the transfer of remaining medical services to the new city hospital on the Edith Cavell site. The SPD set out the Council's ambition to see a mixed-use development on this site, incorporating residential, community, local retail and ancillary uses, which would help to meet one of the key priorities of the Sustainable Communities Strategy to deliver substantial and sustainable growth. Cabinet was advised of the intention to ensure that any future redevelopment of the area would be outstanding in urban design terms and would meet the emerging sustainability agenda as set out in both national and local planning policy.

The Council's Strategic Planning Manager emphasised that the SPD was a draft document for public consultation at this stage. Following the statutory four week consultation process, representations would be considered and a statement prepared setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how these would be addressed in the final document. Cabinet would then have a further opportunity to consider the document for adoption.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Approve the publication of the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document (draft), together with the associated supporting documents, for four week public consultation starting in April 2010.

REASONS

In accordance with statutory regulations the City Council must consult with members of the public for a minimum of four weeks. Following consultation, representations would be considered and a statement prepared setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how these issues would be addressed in the final document to be considered for adoption by Cabinet (likely to be in June 2010). The consultation was to be undertaken in accordance with Peterborough City Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Various development options for the site had been considered and tested for viability. The development proposed in the document was, in simple terms, considered to be the 'preferred' option, subject to public consultation.

6.2 ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2010 – 2013 OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet was asked to consider the draft Business Plan which set out the vision and priorities of Opportunity Peterborough for the period April 2010 to March 2013. The Council was one of the three founding partners of Opportunity Peterborough, and remains a major funder, supporter and member of its board.

Members were asked to note that like most other regeneration organisations, Opportunity Peterborough had seen a challenging 2009/10 as it had endeavoured to bring forward key growth projects for delivery in the face of economic recession. During the past year, Opportunity Peterborough had worked together with the Council to develop a revised approach to growth delivery for Peterborough: an approach that was being implemented following approval by both the Opportunity Peterborough board and Cabinet in late 2009. This re-focus ensured Opportunity Peterborough's operations would lead the delivery of economic growth and regeneration and was reflected in the following statement of purpose:

'Opportunity Peterborough will lead the delivery of a step change in the economic performance of Peterborough and underpin the city's sustainable growth and regeneration'.

The strategic objectives to deliver this were noted as follows:

- To improve the performance of Peterborough's businesses and encourage innovation and enterprise;
- To support and promote the city's learning and skills and raise aspirations to underpin the future needs of Peterborough's economy;
- To make Peterborough an exemplar low carbon economy, to achieve its ambition to become the UK Environment Capital;
- To support the sustainable and integrated growth of Peterborough for the benefit of all its citizens;
- To maximise the regional, national and international profile of Peterborough.

Members expressed concern that the Plan did not include firm target dates for delivery in order to enable its performance and achievements to be monitored and measured. It was further noted that there was no representative from Opportunity Peterborough present at the meeting. Members requested that regular updates be submitted to Cabinet in the future, presented by a representative of Opportunity Peterborough

CABINET **RESOLVED** TO:

- (i) Endorse the 2010-2013 draft Business Plan for Opportunity Peterborough, subject to the inclusion of target dates for delivery to enable progress to be monitored;
- (ii) Note that the agreement of funding specific projects within the plan, if required, will be subject to the Council's normal decision making process.
- (iii) Request that Opportunity Peterborough present regular updates to Cabinet meetings.

REASONS

It was required that the Council and the two other founding partners of Opportunity Peterborough consider and agree the draft Business Plan. Inevitably, the specific schemes for implementation would evolve during the course of the plan period and it was therefore appropriate that funding be approved by the Council through its normal decision-making processes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- (i) Modifications to the plan could be suggested - which would be subject to discussion and agreement with other partners and therefore delay activities within it;
- (ii) The draft plan could not be approved - which would significantly limit the operations of Peterborough's Urban Regeneration Company.

7. MONITORING ITEMS

7.1 14 – 19 LEARNING REFORM STRATEGY AND THE TRANSFER OF 16 – 18 LEARNING TO FROM THE LEARNING SKILLS COUNCIL (LSC) TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet received a report for information on the final stage of the transition and transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 education from the Learning Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority – known nationally as Machinery of Government Changes (MOG).

Members were asked to note the progress to date in the transfer of responsibilities for 16-18 learning, and the opportunities and challenges emerging from 16-18 commissioning in delivering the Government's 14-19 Learning Reforms.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Note the final stage of the transition and transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 education from the LSC to the Local Authority: known nationally as Machinery of Government Changes (MOG).

REASONS

The transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 commissioning was a government statutory requirement. Under the Machinery of Government (MOG) arrangements, responsibility for the funding and commissioning of learning for 16-18 year olds would transfer from the Learning and Skills Council to Peterborough City Council in April 2010. This transfer was designed to give local authorities responsibility for all learning and training for children and young people 0-19 (and up to age 25 for learners with special needs) in their area and to make them fully accountable to the Department of Children Schools and Families for planning and delivering the Government's 14-19 reforms from 2013 onwards.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

This report was submitted to Cabinet for monitoring purposes and provided an overview on the Council's performance between October and December 2009 (Quarter 3) against the targets and indicators in the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Members were asked to note that the overall situation was very similar to the end of quarter 2, though there had been a slight decline in overall ratings.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

Note performance against the Local Area Agreement priorities for the third quarter of 2009/10.

REASONS

Failure to monitor performance would mean that Cabinet would not be able to ensure that the Council achieves its intended outcomes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The report was presented for monitoring purposes.

Meeting closed at 11.28 a.m.