

CABINET

26 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Councillor M Radulovic, Chair

Councillors S Doo
S Heptinstall MBE
R I Jackson
M G Rich

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Foster and M Garrett.

105. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2006 were confirmed and signed.

106. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M G Rich declared a personal interest in agenda no. 7.3 – minute no. 110.3 refers. Councillor R Jackson declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.6 – minute no. 110.6.refers.

107. **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED that the work programme, including key decisions be approved.

108. **REFERENCES**

Technical and Works Services Select Committee
13 September 2006
Min. No. 40 – Glass/Glass Collection

RESOLVED that a monthly glass and grass collection service throughout the borough between December 2006 and March 2007 be introduced at a cost of £100,000 and that funds be allocated from revenue reserves

109. **PRESENTATION**

A presentation was given by the Leader of the Council on the recent visit to Poland and the signing of the friendship agreement between Myszkow and Broxtowe. The friendship agreement would give many benefits to both communities arising from the partnership. There would be a potential for links

with schools and businesses and bids would be made for European funding. A letter would be sent to GOEM to ask for assistance in accessing funds

110. RESOURCES

110.1 Job Evaluation

Meetings of the steering group established to consider issues surrounding job evaluation (JE) had been held. The steering group had considered various aspect of job evaluation, the financial implications and the timetable. The cabinet considered the recommendations of the steering group and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A job evaluation exercise for employees using the GLPC scheme be approved.**
- 2. A supplementary revenue estimate of £85,900 be approved to fund the JE scheme as set out in appendix 2, with funding provided from revenue contingencies (£40,000) and revenue reserves (£45,900).**
- 3. The implications of job evaluation be factored into the medium term financial strategy.**
- 4. Implementations of the findings of JE from April 2007, in accordance with the nationally agreed pay settlement, be approved.**
- 5. Pending the outcome of JE, the normal processes of regrading applications continue as set out in current conditions of service.**
- 6. The principle of job protection be approved, subject to further consideration of details to be proposed to cabinet by the steering group at an early stage in the process.**
- 7. The steering group continue to oversee the project management of JE.**
- 8. Substitutes for councillors who cannot attend the JE steering group meetings be approved.**

110.2 Review of Procurement Arrangements : Housing Services

The housing maintenance and repair service involved over £3million of Council expenditure through the housing revenue account. Included within that budget was a significant amount of expenditure on rectifying void properties. The Council employed an in- house workforce and also

contracted specialist work from third parties. The arrangements for contracting work had evolved over time, and whilst they were continually reviewed and improvements made, a more comprehensive review was now required. The cabinet considered the issues to be addressed, the appointment of a specialist procurement consultant and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that consultancy advice to review procurement arrangements in the housing service at a cost of no more than £30,000 be approved.

110.3 Counsel Advice : Temple Lake

Neighbours of the development at Temple Lake had obtained the advice of Graham Machin of Counsel. That advice contained a critique of the approach of the Council in considering the application and enforcement issues and the Council was on notice of potential litigation. Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, had accordingly exercised standing order 31(2) powers to enable further advice to be sought to enable secure decisions to be taken.

Members were advised that advice had been received to re-engage the Planning Consultant (David Tyldesley) to prepare a report to be forwarded to the Development Control Committee for consideration and that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council had also exercised standing order 31(2) powers to enable that to be done.

110.4 Application for Discretionary Rate Relief Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988U

The cabinet considered an application for discretionary rate relief from the B'Nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, 19 Lower Road, Beeston.

RESOLVED that discretionary rate relief be approved.

110.5 Programme of Meetings for 2007

Cabinet considered the programme of meetings for 2007 together with a minor amendment that the Community Safety Committee be held on 5 July 2007 in place of the Bramcote Crematorium Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the programme of meetings for 2007, as amended, be approved.

110.6 Development Priorities

The cabinet considered the current position of each of the Council's fourteen development priorities.

Development Priority 3 – Private Sector Housing

Under the heading of outcome targets, the wording of proportion of vulnerable households be amended to read the number of vulnerable households.

RESOLVED that subject to the above amendment the development priorities numbered 1-14 for 2006/07 be approved.

(Councillor R I Jackson, having declared an personal interest in development priority 11 took no part in discussion or voting on that item.)

111. HOUSING, HEALTH AND LEISURE

111.1 Broxtowe and Hucknall Primary Care Trust Contribution to Initiatives for Children and Young People

Partnership working between the Council and the Broxtowe and Hucknall Primary Care Trust (PCT) had resulted in a contribution from the PCT towards physical activity for children and young people. Details of the physical activity initiatives and the financial implications of the contribution were considered.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The £20,000 contribution from the PCT towards activities with children and young people be returned to revenue contingencies.**
- 2. A progress report be presented to cabinet in six months.**

111.2 Childrens/Youth Gym

The cabinet considered proposals to convert the existing snooker room at Bramcote Leisure Centre into a specialist children's/youth gym, the appointment of a Gym Instructor and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The proposal to create a children's/youth gym at Bramcote Leisure Centre be approved.**
- 2. A supplementary capital estimate of £75,000 be approved, to be funded from capital contingencies (£30,000) and leasing (£45,000).**
- 3. An additional permanent post of Gym Instructor at scale 1/2 be approved as from 1 January 2007.**
- 4. A supplementary revenue estimate of £6,504 be approved, to be funded from revenue contingencies.**
- 5. A progress report be presented to cabinet in six months.**

111.3 Extension to Exercise Referral Scheme

A pilot exercise referral scheme was approved in June 2006, jointly funded with Broxtowe and Hucknall Primary Care Trust (PCT). The scheme was for two-years until September 2008. The PCT had approached the Council to provide additional funding for an extension to the scheme.

The cabinet considered a proposal to extend the scheme by a further six months to the end of March 2009 and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The exercise referral scheme be extended for a further six months to the end of 2008/09.**
- 2. A progress report be presented to cabinet in six months.**

111.4 Kimberley Leisure Centre – Changing Rooms and Extension to Fitness Suite

The cabinet considered refurbishment works to the indoor changing rooms and extension of the fitness suite at Kimberley Leisure Centre, the procurement arrangements and the financial implications. The County Council's "framework partnership", had selected a design company and contractor for the changing room work. By utilising the same architect and contractor to also complete the fitness room extension, costs would be reduced, disruption on site minimised and the need for a full tender process would be eliminated.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A supplementary capital estimate of £23,500 be approved for the refurbishment of the changing rooms, to be funded from capital contingencies.**
- 2. The schemes to refurbish the indoor changing rooms be approved.**
- 3. The scheme to extend the fitness suite be approved.**
- 4. An exception to standing orders for the appointment of architects and main contractor in respect of the fitness suite extension be approved for the reasons stated, subject to consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition's representative and the portfolio holder on the final main contractor costs.**

111.5 Broxtowe Domestic Violence Prevention Officer

The Community Safety Forum had considered the issue of domestic violence and recommended that both the Council and the Safer Communities Partnership include provision for a Domestic Violence Prevention Officer post based within the Council's own structures. The cabinet considered the arrangements for managing the work of the Broxtowe Domestic Violence Prevention Officer and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that the creation of a full-time Domestic Violence Prevention Officer post based within Directorate of Housing, Health & Leisure and funded by contributions from the safer communities funds and virement from the homelessness budget be approved.

112. **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

112.1 Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The cabinet considered an overview of the Nottinghamshire LAA partnership arrangements and the completion of the agreement.

Members agreed that they would monitor very closely the operation of the LAA with a particular view on establishing whether the structure threw up democratic deficiencies in practice.

RESOLVED to authorise the completion of the LAA.