

CABINET

17 APRIL 2007

Present: Councillor M Radulovic. Chair

Councillors M Garrett
 S Foster
 S Heptinstall MBE
 R I Jackson
 M G Rich

39. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2007 were confirmed and signed.

40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

41. **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

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

42. **RESOURCES**

42.1 **Insurance Renewals**

Cabinet had given approval for the Director of Finance to place the Council's insurance policies for 2007/08 following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups.

Tenders for insurance had been opened and Aon insurance brokers had been appointed to assist with the tender process including the evaluation of tenders received. At least three tenders were received for each insurance policy up for renewal and following consultation with the three members it was agreed that the Council's renewable insurance policies be placed with Risk Management Partners. Cabinet noted details of the outcome of the insurance tendering process and considered the financial implications.

RESOLVED that the following savings arising from the tendering of insurance services be returned to the respective balances:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| General fund | £112,000 |
| Housing revenue account | £46,500 |
| Beeston special expenses | £6,400 |
| Stapleford special expenses | £3,500 |

and that the detailed revenue estimates be adjusted accordingly.

42.2 Energy Cost Increases 2007/08

The Energy Partnership had completed new arrangements for gas and electricity contracts as from April 2007. As a result the Council's gas supply would be provided by British Gas, the over 100 KW electricity contract would remain with British Gas and the under 100 KW electricity contract would remain with Scottish and Southern Energy. The cabinet considered the tender process, a summary of the expected savings and the amendments to the Council's approved budgets.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The following savings arising from the tendering of such contracts be returned to the respective balances:**

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| General fund | £83,950 |
| Housing revenue account | £141,500 |
| Beeston special expenses | £2,100 |
| Stapleford special expenses | £3,600 |

and that the detailed revenue estimates be adjusted accordingly

2. **The heating charges made to tenants be amended for 2007/08 in accordance with the details given in the report submitted.**

42.3 Review of Conditions of Service Allowances

The cabinet considered a review of the conditions of service allowances and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that the local allowances proposed in the report submitted be implemented with effect from 1 April 2007.

43. **HOUSING, HEALTH AND LEISURE**

43.1 Home Repair Assistance

The cabinet considered the current and proposed eligibility criteria for home repair assistance.

Members expressed concern at the poor performance of the South Nottinghamshire Home Improvement Agency in respect of home repair assistance. Members requested that the Housing, Health and Leisure Select Committee scrutinise and monitor the situation.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The eligibility criteria for home repair assistance be amended in accordance with the details in the report submitted.**
2. **The Housing, Health and Leisure Select Committee scrutinise the South Nottinghamshire Home Improvement Agency in respect of home repair assistance.**

43.2 Leisure Card Scheme

The Leisure Facilities Action Plan contained significant developments relating to the implementation of a leisure card. The cabinet considered the creation of a Broxtowe Leisure Card which would replace all the existing schemes and cards.

RESOLVED that the new Broxtowe Leisure Card be adopted.

43.3 Chilwell School Foundation Status

The Chilwell School had confirmed that the governors had resolved to become a foundation school with effect from 1 September 2007. Cabinet considered the implications of the decision and agreed that the leisure provision within the south of the borough should be retained and maintained at the current level.

RESOLVED that the Council enters into negotiation with the school and the County Council to ensure, at least, the current level of leisure provision is maintained in the South of Broxtowe regardless of the change of status of the school.

44. **TECHNICAL AND WORKS SERVICES**

44.1 Neighbourhood Pride

The Neighbourhood Pride initiative aimed at delivering projects which produced a significant improvement in the quality of the local environment by working with the local community. Applications were invited from Community Action Teams. 16 applications were received and a scoring system subsequently applied. The cabinet considered five schemes which had been identified in the selection process together with the financial implications.

RESOLVED that capital expenditure on the Neighbourhood Pride Initiative for 2007/2008, as set out in the report submitted, be approved.

44.2 Capital Programme 2007/07 – Upgrading Children's Play Areas/Parks & Recreation Ground Improvements

The Council's new play strategy identified in its action plan objectives to improve the quality of play provision and increase the quantity and range of equipped play and recreational provision. Using the information from the strategy, together with officer assessments of existing provision, comments from users of the facilities and comments from adjacent residents, four schemes were proposed. The cabinet considered details of the schemes and the financial implications.

RESOLVED that the capital schemes at Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford (£45,000), Leyton Crescent, Beeston (£15,000), Hall Om Wong, Kimberley (£13,500) and Archers Field, Stapleford (£17,500) be approved, with the latter being subject to confirmation of lottery funding.

45. **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

45.1 Beeston Town Centre – High Road Improvements

The Beeston Town Centre Masterplan contained recommendations on improvements which could be carried out to the streetscape of the town centre. The cabinet considered funding to commission Nottinghamshire County Council to carry out detailed design work for improvements to the main High Road area of Beeston and surrounding streets. Members requested that Villa Street, the Shaw and Marvin site and part of Acacia Walk be included.

RESOLVED that the allocation of £10,500 to commission Nottinghamshire County Council to carry out design/concept work for the High Road area of Beeston and surrounding streets from the 2007/08 environmental improvements budget be approved.

45.2 The Building Control Service in Nottingham

The cabinet considered the provision of a combined building control service in Nottinghamshire. To share management across the county it was proposed that the Council enter into a partnership with the other districts and the City Council.

RESOLVED that, with effect from 1 April 2007, initially for a one year period, the proposal for joint working relations to deliver the management of the building control service across Nottinghamshire be approved.

45.3 Grants to Voluntary Organisations and Individuals Involved in Sports or the Arts 2007/08

The cabinet considered four applications for grant aid.

RESOLVED that the applications be dealt with as follows:-

| | £ |
|--|--------------|
| New Stapleford Community Centre | 3,000 |
| The Greasley Singers | 100 |
| Emily Taylor | 100 |
| Tom Walters | 100 |

45.4 Disability Grant Application

RESOLVED that the Eastwood Volunteer Bureau be awarded a grant of £800.

46. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

47. **RESOURCES**

47.1 Housing Services Division – Establishment Review

RESOLVED that, with effect from 1 May 2007, the establishment changes to the housing division of the housing, health and leisure directorate be approved.

47.2 Development Control Review

RESOLVED that the appointment of Trevor Roberts Associates be approved to undertake a review of the development control functions of the Council and that funding of £20,000 in 2006/07 be carried forward to 2007/08.

47.3 Contract for the Supply of Bio Fuel

RESOLVED that the contract for the supply of bio-fuel be awarded to Petroplus for twelve months commencing on 1 May 2007.