

## **CABINET**

**24 JULY 2007**

Present: Councillor M G Rich, Chair

Councillors M Brown  
S Heptinstall MBE  
R I Jackson  
J M Owen  
F Prince  
K E Rigby

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Radulovic.

66. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2007 were confirmed and signed.

With regards to minute no. 64.2, the Chief Executive reported that a councillor workshop on the corporate plan would be scheduled for early September 2007 and details would be circulated to members in due course. With regards to minute no. 65.5, the working group to consider the allocation of grant aid would comprise of two members from each of the three main parties, to be nominated by the party leaders.

67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor K E Rigby declared a personal interest and Councillors J M Owen and M G Rich declared prejudicial interests in agenda item no. 7.4 – Counsel and Planning Advice – Temple Lake Appeals – minute no. 71.4 refers, due to their personal involvement in the matter. Councillors J M Owen and K E Rigby declared personal interests in agenda item no. 9.3 – Children’s Play Programme – Big Lottery Fund – minute no. 73.3 refers, due to their membership of parish councils which were lead partners in two of the play area projects. Councillor F Prince declared a personal interest in agenda item no. 10.2 – Beeston Parish Church – Community Facility, minute no. 74.2 refers, as a worshipper at the church. Councillor M G Rich declared prejudicial interests in agenda item no. 10.4 – Attenborough Nature Reserve – Maintaining the Partnership – minute no. 74.4 refers and agenda item no. 10.5 – Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitor Centre – Board Membership – minute no. 74.5 refers, due to his board membership.

68. **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

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

69. REFERENCES

Resources Select Committee  
20 June 2007

Minute No. 29 – Gender Equality Strategy

**RESOLVED** that the Gender Equality Strategy be approved and that Councillor Mel Crow be appointed to champion equality issues for the Council.

General Purposes and Audit Committee  
25 June 2007

Minute No. 20 – Statement of Accounts and Outturn Position 2006/07

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The revenue carry forward requests outlined in appendix 1 of the report be carried forward and included as supplementary revenue estimates in the 2007/08 budget.
2. The capital carry forward requests outlined in appendix 2B of the report be carried forward and included as supplementary capital estimates in the 2007/08 budget.

Technical and Works Services Select Committee  
9 July 2007

It was noted that the reference from the Technical and Works Services Select Committee regarding the recycling of tetra packs had been resolved at the previous meeting of cabinet on 19 June 2007.

Minute No. 29 – Service and Financial Plans – Outturn 2006/07

**RESOLVED** that the variations listed at appendix C(ii) of the report be approved.

Planning and Community Development Select Committee  
11 July 2007

Minute No. 41 – Service and Financial Plans – Outturn 2006/07

**RESOLVED** that the variations listed at appendix C(ii) of the report be approved.

Beeston Town Centre Planning Working Group  
2 July 2007

Beeston Town Centre Area Action Plan: Preferred Options Stage Consultation

**RESOLVED** that the status of the proposed area action plan be changed to a supplementary planning document, with appropriate amendment to the Local Development Scheme and that the Secretary of State be informed accordingly.

70. BEESTON TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUPS

**RESOLVED** that membership of the working groups for Beeston Town Centre be 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Labour and 2 Conservatives.

71. **RESOURCES**

71.1 Improving Customer Service Arrangements – Customer First Project

The cabinet received an update on phase 1 of the Customer First Project, an outline of the services to be brought into phase 2 and considered recommended alterations to the staffing arrangements and a vision statement for provision of services to residents and customers. Members expressed some concern at the wording of the vision, which was amended.

**RESOLVED** that the following be approved:

1. **The vision for front line service delivery: “To provide an outstanding service delivered directly through well trained, knowledgeable and caring employees”.**
2. **The appointment of four Customer Service Administrators on scale 2/3, with effect from 1 November 2007, together with a supplementary revenue estimate of £31,050 to fund such posts with resources provided from revenue contingencies.**
3. **That the refuse and recycling, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services comprise phase 2 of the project.**
4. **The appointment of two additional Customer Services Officers by transferring two posts (T88 and T100A) from the Directorate of Technical and Works Services.**

71.2 Citizens Panel Partnership Project

The County Council was establishing a citizens' panel to provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to consultation in order to inform policy and service development and strengthen public confidence in decision making. Other public bodies in the county were being invited to take part in the project and involvement in this would enable the Council to carry out a coordinated programme of consultation and engagement with the public.

Members were concerned about the possible costs of involvement in the project. It was proposed that a cap of £10,000 be put on the first year

spending in addition to the £2,000 access cost and that a review be carried out after a year.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Participation in the countywide citizens' panel be approved, with the first year's funding to be limited to a maximum of £10,000 plus the £2,000 access cost, to be top sliced from existing budgets.**
- 2. A further report on resourcing and co-ordinating community consultation work be brought back to cabinet in due course.**
- 3. A review be carried out and reported back to cabinet after a year.**

**71.3 Twinning Grant Aid Application**

SMS Electronics Badminton Section had hosted its 29<sup>th</sup> official exchange with Gutersloh and 22 adult members of the Gutersloh Badminton club had visited the borough during the Easter holiday in 2007. Support had been requested for this exchange in accordance with the Council's grant aid policy.

**RESOLVED that a grant of £220 be awarded, to be funded from the 2007/08 twinning budget.**

**71.4 Counsel and Planning Advice – Temple Lake Appeals**

On 29 May 2007, cabinet had approved funding of £15,000 in order that Ian Dove QC and David Tyldesley should represent the Council at the forthcoming Temple Lake inquiry. Since then, Messrs Dove and Tyldesley had reviewed the likely work involved in representing the Council and the best estimate of likely costs was felt to be £31,500.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary revenue estimate of £16,500 be approved to cover the cost of retaining advocacy and planning consultant's assistance on behalf of the Council at the forthcoming Temple Lake Inquiry, with funding to be provided from within the Council's revenue contingency.**

(Councillors M G Rich and J M Owen, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon.)

Councillor S Heptinstall took the Chair for this item.

**72. HOUSING, HEALTH AND LEISURE**

**72.1 Broxtowe Single Homeless Action Group (BSHAG)**

BSHAG was a registered charity concerned with the issues of homelessness affecting young, single homeless people aged between 16-25 in the borough. The organisation was requesting a continuation of financial assistance from

the Council to enable it to continue its work within schools and youth groups by raising the issues of homelessness and where to get help.

**RESOLVED that financial assistance of £10,400 to BSHAG in 2007/08 be approved, with funding from 2007/08 revenue contingencies.**

72.2 South Nottinghamshire Home Improvement Agency (SNHIA)

The cabinet noted the exercise of standing order 31(2) powers by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to authorise the signing of the funding agreement for the SNHIA. The SNHIA had been established in April 2005 and the initial funding agreement was for a period of two years. The approved budget for 2007/08 contained a sum of £30,500 as the Council's contribution to the agency for the current financial year. In order to formalise the partnership arrangements, a new agreement had been drawn up for a one year period. However, no authority existed for the Director of Housing, Health and Leisure to sign the agreement and so, in order to progress this in a timely manner, it was deemed appropriate for the Chief Executive to use her powers to enable the agreement to be signed. The cabinet also noted that concerns had been raised regarding the performance of the SNHIA to date and that the Housing, Health and Leisure Select Committee was monitoring the situation.

72.3 Kimberley Leisure Centre – Extension to Fitness Suite

The fitness suite at Kimberley Leisure Centre was being extended and it was proposed that, as part of this scheme, the youth club be relocated. The cost of this was to be met by a contribution from the County Council.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £65,000 be approved for the relocation of the youth club, as part of the fitness suite extension scheme, to be funded from a contribution from Nottinghamshire County Council.**

73. **TECHNICAL AND WORKS SERVICES**

73.1 Purchase of Refuse Vehicle

On 12 June 2007 a refuse vehicle in the Council's fleet had caught fire and a replacement vehicle was required. The majority of the cost was to be met from the insurance settlement, with the remainder funded from the vehicle renewals fund.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £112,450 be approved for the purchase of a replacement refuse vehicle, with funding provided from the insurance claim settlement (£86,700) and the vehicle renewals reserve (£25,750).**

73.2 Kimberley Cutting – Bridge Number 13

For a number of years there had been discussions over the ownership of a brick arch bridge in Kimberley Cutting, near Hardy Street, Kimberley. It was

concluded recently that the structure, which was a significant historic feature, belonged to this Council. The cabinet considered an approach to manage the liability in the short term until a long term solution had been established. This short term strategy involved the inspection of the bridge to establish estimates for long term options.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary revenue estimate of £8,500 be approved for inspection of the bridge, to be funded from revenue contingencies.**

### 73.3 Children's Play Programme – Big Lottery Fund

At its meeting on 27 March 2007, cabinet had approved the Council's Play Strategy which, together with a portfolio of bids which had been considered by the Technical and Works Services Select Committee, formed the basis of a bid to the Big Lottery Fund. This bid had been successful and an award of £208,818 had been made. The bid involved several other organisations and a meeting had taken place with them to explain the terms and conditions of the grant, detail relevant timescales and agree a way forward in terms of ordering and invoicing for capital works. In view of the success of this bid, members suggested that the Council investigate the possibility of employing a dedicated grant applications officer.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £144,320 be approved for four play area projects, with funding to be provided from the Big Lottery Fund (£126,300) and other external partners (£18,020).**

## 74. **PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### 74.1 Energy Efficiency Commitment – Council House Insulation

The Council had received an energy efficiency commitment (EEC) grant of £59,414 towards cavity wall insulation for homes which had been identified in 2005 as potentially requiring either cavity wall or loft insulation but had previously not been eligible for a grant due to their construction type and the reluctance of insulation manufacturers to issue a 25 year guarantee. However, after a recent inspection, this guarantee had been attained and the homes now qualified for the funding. 256 homes were to be cavity insulated and 27 to be loft insulated.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £73,916 be approved for insulation of council housing with funding allocated from EEC funding (£59,414) and housing revenue account capital contingencies (£14,502).**

### 74.2 Beeston Parish Church

Beeston Parish Church had put forward comprehensive plans to enhance further community use of the church building and its surrounding grounds which it was considered were being under used. The focus was on reconfiguring the interior space to create a multi-functional community facility

which would provide a number of community and meeting rooms. The Council had been approached to provide funding of £2,750 which would release funding of £25,000 from WREN.

**RESOLVED that an allocation of £2,750 from the 2007/08 environmental improvements budget to Beeston Parish Church towards the creation of a community space within the church building be approved.**

74.3 Public Realm Works – Newthorpe, Awsworth and Stapleford

Groundwork Greater Nottingham, in partnership with the Council and the City Council, had made a successful bid to the Greater Nottingham Partnership to carry out a series of environmental improvement schemes in four shopping centres, three of which were in Broxtowe. The works were likely to include suitable paving to frontages, additional/replacement bollards and low maintenance planting.

**RESOLVED that a contribution of £9,000 from the 2007/08 Environmental Improvements budget to Groundwork Greater Nottingham towards the works as detailed in the bid be approved.**

74.4 Attenborough Nature Reserve – Maintaining the Partnership

Attenborough Nature Reserve and visitor centre had been very successful, provided a substantial resource for people and wildlife and was growing as a tourist attraction. As a core partner, the Council shared in the substantial positive impact of the reserve and nature centre. In order to maintain the quality of the visitor experience, facilities needed to be maintained if the site were to remain a nationally recognised attraction and it was thus proposed to increase the Council's contribution.

**RESOLVED that the Council's annual revenue contribution towards maintaining Attenborough Nature reserve be increased by £5,975 per year, from £3,500 to £9,475, with funding in 2007/08 being allocated from revenue contingencies.**

(Councillor M G Rich, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon.)

Councillor S Heptinstall took the Chair for this item.

74.5 Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitor Centre – Board Membership

On 1 February 2007, cabinet agreed that two directors would be appointed to serve on the company's board such that membership would be rotated between the three main political parties. In accordance with the previous decision, the cabinet was asked to confirm the arrangements for 2007/08 in advance of the Annual General Meeting of the company on 11 October 2007.

**RESOLVED that the representatives on the board of the company at Attenborough Nature reserve Visitor Centre for 2007/08 be one Liberal**

**Democrat and one Conservative member with a Labour member being able to attend as an observer.**

(Councillor M G Rich, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon.)

Councillor S Heptinstall took the Chair for this item.

**74.6 Energy Efficiency – Invest to Save**

The Council had made a commitment through the Corporate Property Group and the Broxtowe Climate Change Plan to reduce the Council's operational buildings' energy consumption by 2% year on year. Energy measures which had recently been identified were the installation of cavity wall insulation to the rear extension of the Town Hall, Beeston and the replacement of primary heating controls for the Council Offices, Beeston. It was expected that the two projects would produce an annual revenue saving of £940.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Expenditure of up to £3,000 be approved for the installation of cavity wall insulation to the rear extension of the Town Hall, Beeston and the replacement of primary heating controls for the Council Offices, Beeston.**
- 2. Annual energy savings from the above projects be allocated into an energy efficiency reserve to help fund further measures.**

**74.7 The Buildings, Eastwood – Improving the Environment**

Through the Council's Neighbourhood Pride programme, a range of work had been undertaken in The Buildings area to enhance the environment and engage the local community. Consultation with residents had shown that there was a strong desire for the enhancement of roads and pedestrian areas in the locality. This would be a significant project and, before funding could be secured, detailed design work would need to be undertaken. The County Council's landscape group had been approached to develop advanced concept designs and undertake consultation for the Princes Street area so that a preferred option for the works, along with estimated costs, could be established.

**RESOLVED that the allocation of £7,000 from the 2007/08 environmental improvements budget to commission design work from Nottinghamshire County Council for an environmental improvements scheme to the Princes Street area of Eastwood be approved.**

**74.8 Shaping Places, Changing Lives**

Since April 2003, the Council and its partners had developed a programme of town centre management known as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Towns project with funding support from the Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP). One innovation had been to establish a set of key performance indicators (KPI) for



the town centres in the borough alongside an examination of how to move council led/funded partnerships into those with greater business representation and active participation. In order to further investigate these areas, the GNP had agreed to fund a small scale programme of town centre management activity in the borough – known as Shaping Places, Changing Lives – during 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £50,000 in 2007/08 for the Shaping Places, Changing Lives project be approved, to be funded by the grant from the Greater Nottingham Partnership.**

**74.9 Government White Paper – “Planning for a Sustainable Future”**

The government had published a White Paper relating to various aspects of the planning system and had requested responses by 17 August 2007. A part of the White Paper related to proposals concerning key national infrastructure which was unlikely to be of direct relevance to the borough. The Whit Paper also contained a lot of other proposals which would directly affect local planning policy and development control work.

**RESOLVED that the comments in the appendices to the report form the basis of the Council’s representations on the White Paper.**

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

**RESOLVED that**

**The applications be dealt with as follows:**

	£
<b>Broxtowe Play Forum</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>Chilwell Mothers Club</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Long Eaton and District Horticultural Society</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TSVA (Merchant Navy)</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Jason Goodacre</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Victoria Hart</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mark Hartley</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Richard Hill*</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>James Taylor</b>	<b>100</b>

**\* A further £100 to be awarded towards the costs of competing in international events.**

75. 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, 3 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

76. **RESOURCES**

76.1 SGCS Business Park Limited

**RESOLVED** that the winding up of SGCS Business Park Ltd. be approved.

76.2 Contract for the Supply of a Street Sweeper

**RESOLVED** that the contract for the supply of a street sweeper be awarded to Johnston Road Sweepers for their Iveco ML 150E model, with funding from the vehicle renewals reserve.

76.3 Establishment Review – Community Development Division

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The establishment changes within the Community Development Division, as set out in the report, be approved with effect from 1 August 2007.
2. The saving of £17,245 in 2007/08 be returned to revenue contingencies.

76.4 Establishment Review - Environmental Health Division

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The establishment changes within the Environmental Health division, as set out in the report, be approved as from 1 August 2007.
2. The saving of £6,122 in 2007/08 be returned to revenue contingencies.

76.5 Beeston Town Centre Regeneration

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The appointment of specialist legal and property consultants to advise the Council on the redevelopment of The Square and surrounding area be approved.

2. The principle of a design competition to aid the appointment of a preferred developer for the area be approved.
3. NRL be approached to provide interim advice on the appointment of consultants and to assist in the preparation of a development brief and property strategy for the area.
4. A supplementary revenue estimate of £100,000 be approved to cover consultancy fees and ongoing costs to prepare for the development of the area, to be funded from the Business Growth Incentive Scheme.

76.6 Performance Management System

**RESOLVED** that (1) a performance management system from Covalent be acquired and (2) a sum of £11,000 be returned to capital contingencies.