

# Crawley Borough Council

## Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 7.30pm

### Present:

Councillor	C L Denman	(Acting Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council)
	Dr. H S Bloom	(Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services)
	N J Boxall	(Cabinet Member for Community Engagement)
	R D Burrett	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
	D G Crow	(Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services)
	R A Lanzer	(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)
	K J Trussell	(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services)

### Also in Attendance:

Councillors K B Blake, S A Blake, M G Jones and G Thomas

### Officers Present:

Ann-Maria Brown	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Peter Browning	Director of Housing and Transformation
Rachel Cordery	Principal Planning Officer
David Covill	Director of Development and Resources
Lee Harris	Chief Executive
Phil Rogers	Director of Community Services
Steve Lappage	Democratic Services Manager

### 35. Members' Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interests were made by Members.

### 36. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on [10 July 2013](#) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

### 37. Public Question Time

Public question time took place and Mr Jeffrey Herbert, a Southgate resident asked whether or not all Councillors would be allowed a free vote (i.e. not whipped) on the Future Growth of Gatwick Airport item when it is considered at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

In response, Mr Herbert was informed that that both of the political groups intended not to whip their Members and allow them a free vote on this item at the Council meeting on 26 September.

### **38. Further Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and Notifications of any Representations**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that no representations had been received in respect of item 12 on either the Civils and Hard Landscaping Minor Works Contract (Leader's Portfolio) or on item 13 on the Review of Oracle Licensing (Leader's Portfolio) which had been withdrawn from the agenda.

### **39. Matters Referred to the Cabinet**

It was confirmed that no matters had been referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.

### **40. Future Growth of Gatwick Airport (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio)**

The Cabinet considered report [CEX/040](#) of the Chief Executive which:

- 1) Outlined the work of the independent Airports Commission established to examine the scale and timing of any requirement for additional capacity and to identify and evaluate how any need for additional capacity should be met.
- 2) Explained that Gatwick Airport Limited had made a submission to the Airports Commission which outlined three options for providing a second runway at Gatwick to the south of the existing runway based on the vision that the additional runway capacity that was required to maintain the UK's aviation hub status would be best provided by a constellation of airports around London with Gatwick, Stansted and Heathrow all having two runways, rather than a single "mega hub" airport.
- 3) Emphasised that there was limited detailed information available on many of the impacts at this stage but that more detailed assessments would be undertaken if Gatwick formed part of the shortlist of options put forward by the Airports Commission for more detailed consideration at the end of 2013.
- 4) Set out three broad options for the Cabinet and the Council to consider with the recommendation of officers that given the current limited level of detailed information available, particularly on the environmental impact of a second runway, that options for a second runway should be shortlisted by the Airports Commission to enable more detailed assessments to be carried out.
- 5) Noted that the deadline for responses to the Airport Commission for Stage 1 proposals was 27 September 2013 and outlined the next steps in the process.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) held on 9 September 2013. Councillor Jones (in referring to the Commission's comment sheet to the Cabinet) outlined to the Cabinet:

- 1) The range of views expressed which mainly related to concerns about:
  - a) the current absence of sufficient evidence and detail (as clearly identified in the report) upon which to develop an informed view on the likely economic, environmental and other implications for the Borough with regards to either any of the proposed runway options or of not having a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway.
  - b) supporting the officers' recommendation of Option 3 in case, in the later stage of the Airport Commission investigations, this view would be seen by default as the Council supporting a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway.

- 2) The requests of the OSC for the Cabinet to note that:
  - a) the majority of the OSC Members felt that due to the lack of detail on the impact of a further runway on the Borough, Option 3 was too strong in support and, instead, agreed that Option 1 should be the preferred option put forward to the Full Council;
  - b) it endorsed recommendations 1(i), 2 and 3;
  - c) due to the significant nature of the report, the Cabinet be asked to support their view that all Members of the Council should not be whipped and should be given a free vote on this report at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

Members of the Cabinet acknowledged:

- 1) that the conclusions reached by the Airports Commission and any subsequent decisions by the Government would have a fundamental effect on the character and economy of Crawley and the surrounding area;
- 2) that the issues were complex and with the options both for Gatwick and other airports still to be refined and the implications adequately evidenced it was difficult to achieve an essential aim to balance strategic and economic considerations with environmental concerns;
- 3) that views expressed in the various consultations and surveys undertaken so far had reflected the division of opinion in the town;
- 4) the importance of not wanting to commit the Council to a particular stance before all of the issues and implications had been fully evaluated.

Members of the Cabinet:

- 1) welcomed the OSC's support for recommendations 2 and 3 and its request for a free vote;
- 2) considered that they should not put forward a preferred option to enable individual Councillors to fully represent their Wards and not to appear to undermine the principles of a free vote;
- 3) also emphasised the need to be fully engaged in the process so as to be able to more effectively represent the public particularly when the absence of detailed information and evidence suggested it was too early to make an informed decision on what the Council would be supporting or opposing.

The Cabinet agreed to delete recommendation 1(ii) which put forward Option 3 for support at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council to facilitate a more open and free debate and vote.

The Cabinet also expressed its thanks to the officers, particularly Rachel Cordery, for producing such an excellent report which clearly and concisely set out the issues that needed to be considered by the Full Council and requested that this be minuted.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1) That the Full Council be **RECOMMENDED** at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013 to consider the following range of options:

Option 1: To determine that, in line with existing policy, the Council does not support a second runway at Gatwick Airport based on what is currently known about the likely impact of a second runway on the area.

Option 2: Not to express a view on a second runway at Gatwick Airport at this current time until more information especially on environmental impacts is available as part of the next stage of the work of the Airports Commission. As the scale of the impact of a second runway is not fully understood at present, this will enable the environmental implications to be fully considered alongside the economic benefits in light of a wider set of available information.

Option 3: To agree that the options for a second runway at Gatwick should be put forward for further consideration by the Airports Commission in the next stage of its work in 2014/15. The Council reserves its view on a second runway pending the outcome of the detailed assessments to be carried out in this next stage. The Council seeks the opportunity to actively engage with Gatwick Airport to ensure that the further assessment of the runway options by Gatwick are robustly undertaken and provide the level of information that would enable the Council and other interested parties to make an informed decision on a second runway.

- 2) That the Borough Council, without prejudice to its position with regards to a second runway, seeks to work with Gatwick and other Local Authorities on the detailed assessment of runway options at Gatwick.
- 3) That the Borough Council should highlight in any response to the Airports Commission, the need for the Airports Commission and the government to provide clarity at the earliest appropriate opportunity with regards to the need for future safeguarding of land for additional runways if in the event that particular locations for additional runways are ruled out.
- 4) That due to the significant nature of the issues, the Cabinet support the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission that all Members of the Council should not be whipped and should be given a free vote on this report at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 26 September 2013.

#### **Reason for Decision –**

The report indicates that there is a range of recommendations that Full Council could consider in determining its view on a second runway at Gatwick. It is the view of officers that the Council should support Gatwick being included in the Airports Commission's shortlist of options for additional runway capacity being put forward for more detailed assessment. This would enable any decision with regards to the Council's position on second runway to be made in the light of a more detailed assessment of the environmental impacts can then be considered alongside the economic benefits.

#### **41. Quarterly Budget Monitoring 2013-2014 Quarter 1 (Leader's Portfolio)**

The Cabinet considered the report [FIN/307](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenue and Benefits which indicated the financial position at Quarter 1 and the estimated full year effects in 2013/2014 of current levels of expenditure and income.

The Director of Development and Resources presented the headline details including the following points which the Cabinet discussed and noted:

- 1) That the latest projected overall position on the General Fund showed a projected underspend of £101,000;
- 2) That the latest projected overall position on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), showed a projected overspend of £221,000;

- 3) Some of the major variances outlined in the report including:
- Projected increase in planning income of £70,000
  - Projected shortfall in investment income of approximately £170,000
  - Increased demand for temporary housing accommodation with projected increased costs of £100,000
  - Increased sales of Council houses resulting in a projected reduction of rental income of £299,000
  - Use of the Council's Right to Buy receipts to purchase housing units for use as temporary accommodation.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the projected outturn for Quarter 1 for 2013/2014 as summarised in this report be noted.
- 2). That the use of 1-4-1 receipts in the sum of up to £900,000 to fund the purchase of 20 housing units from the open market through Raven Housing Trust be approved.
- 3). That the Full Council be **RECOMMENDED** to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £900,000 to fund the purchase of 20 housing units from the open market through Raven Housing Trust.

### **Reason for Decision –**

To report to Members on the projected outturn for the year compared to the approved budget.

## **42. Exclusion of the Public**

### **RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraphs specified against the item.

## **43. Civils and Hard Landscaping Minor Works – Contract Award (Leader's Portfolio)**

***(Exempt – paragraph 3 – Information relating to financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information))***

The Cabinet considered report PSD/111 of the Head of Property Services which detailed the tender, procurement and evaluation process used for a replacement Civils and Hard Landscaping Minor Works Contract to facilitate its use for traditional minor schemes less than £10,000 and for larger scheme over £10,000 up to approximately £250,000.

Under these contract arrangements:

- 1) the need to undertake additional complex tendering arrangements was removed;
- 2) the Council was not committed to any expenditure with the actual expenditure being dependent on the works commissioned under the approved capital works programme.

- 3) The contractors had provided a Schedule of Rates with their tender submissions and these rates would be used to price individual contract commissions which provided the Council with the flexibility to tailor work to the budgets available in any given year.

## **RESOLVED**

That both contracts (Lot 1 for schemes under £10,000 and Lot 2 for schemes from £10,000 to £250,000) for the Civils and Hard Landscaping Minor Works be awarded to Edburton Contractors Ltd.

### **Reason for Decision –**

- 1) To replace the previous contract and provide the basis for letting individual project commissions.
- 2) Following a robust competitive procurement exercise, value for money would be achieved for individual projects.
- 3) The Council would gain from not having to continually obtain quotations and tender each individual, smaller, repetitive projects.

#### **44. Review of Oracle Licensing (Leader's Portfolio) (Exempt – paragraph 3 – Information relating to financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information))**

Members had previously been informed that this item had been withdrawn with the agreement of the Chair because further work was required as part of the review. It was now scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet at its' meeting on either 9 October or 13 November 2013.

#### **45. Closure of Meeting**

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.04 p.m.

C L Denman  
**Acting Chair**