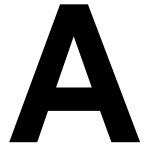


Crawley Borough Council



Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 7.30p.m.

Present:

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

Also in Attendance:

Councillor S A Blake

Officers Present:

Ann-Maria Brown	Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Peter Browning	Director of Transformation & Housing
David Covill	Director of Development & Resources
Lee Harris	Chief Executive
Phil Rogers	Director of Community Services
Sally English	Democratic Services Officer

56. Members' Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

57. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on [9 October 2013](#) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

59. Matters Referred to the Cabinet

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

60. Treasury Management Mid Year Review 2013/2014 (Leader's Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits, [FIN/316](#). The report detailed the treasury management operational activity for the first half of the year.

The Leader presented the headline details including the following points which the Cabinet discussed and noted:

- 1) the return on capital investments remained low because of low interest rates
- 2) current investment looked positive but this was because it was only mid-year but remaining budget will be used over remainder of year
- 3) the in-house investment team had performed extremely well. The decision to take all investments back in-house for the team to manage the portfolio would save fees normally paid to the external provider

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 11 November 2013. The Cabinet noted the Commission's praise of the investment team and endorsed this, adding they were also very impressed with the team's achievements. It was agreed that taking management of investments back in-house had been a very positive course of action, and analysis suggested the high level of returns had been sustained and were not just a short-term gain.

RESOLVED

That the report outlining the treasury activity for the first two quarters of 2013/2014 be noted.

Reason for Decision

The Council's financial regulations, in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management, required a Treasury Management Mid Year Review to be approved. The report complied with that requirement.

61. New Crawley Cemetery – Provision of Burial Services (Environmental Services Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Community Services, [DCS/023](#), which:

- 1) sought approval to extend the existing space available for Muslim burials at Snell Hatch cemetery;
- 2) set out the costs of and funding source for the proposed extension;

- 3) sought approval to reject Ewhurst Playing Fields as a potential site for a replacement/new cemetery for Crawley, and outlined the reasons this site was not suitable;
- 4) sought approval to request that the Heads of Property and Amenity Services evaluate all potential burial sites identified through the recent consultation process, and; notwithstanding the above, progress the search for a suitable site, extending this search to include consideration of suitable sites which may be located outside the Borough boundary;
- 5) requested the Cabinet to note the need to identify and acquire a suitable site for a new cemetery by April 2016

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services stated the search for a suitable site was ongoing, and he would be meeting with officers within the next fortnight to progress this. He wished to convey his sincere thanks to Phil Rogers, Director of Community Services, and officers, for his, and their, excellent support and assistance throughout the process. The Cabinet Member for Housing concurred with thanks to Phil Rogers and officers, but expressly thanked the Cabinet Member himself for his own efforts in this regard.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 11 November 2013. The Commission requested that the noise level criteria applied when considering potential sites be amended as this would widen the parameters when considering new sites, and allow previously discounted sites to be re-considered. The Portfolio Holder agreed to consider this going forward, and advised that an all-Member seminar on the subject was to be arranged in the New Year. The Cabinet Member for Customer & Corporate Services also asked that while the search for a site continued, those involved did not lose sight of the reality that it would be used by grieving relatives, and that although noise level criteria would need to be reviewed, the needs of those using the cemetery remained a consideration.

RESOLVED

- 1) That approval be given to extend the existing space available for Muslim burials at Snell Hatch cemetery;
- 2) That approval be given to reject Ewhurst Playing Fields as a potential site for a replacement/new cemetery for Crawley;
- 3) That approval be given to the Heads of Property and Amenity Services to evaluate all potential burial sites identified through the recent consultation process, and; notwithstanding the above, progress the search for a suitable site, extending this search to include consideration of suitable sites which may be located outside the Borough boundary;
- 4) That the noise level criteria be amended
- 5) That the need to identify and acquire a suitable site for a new cemetery by April 2016 was noted.

Reason for Decision

To facilitate the creation of additional space for Muslim burials; to endorse the search for a suitable site, extending this to outside the Borough boundary; and through revision of noise level criteria to allow potential sites to be considered and to allow previously discounted sites to be re-considered in order to help identify an appropriate site for a new cemetery.

62. Quarterly Budget Monitoring 2013/2014 (Quarter 2) (The Leader's Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits, [FIN/314](#), which indicated the financial position at Quarter 2 and the estimated full year effects in 2013/2014 of current levels of expenditure and income, and also recommended the Cabinet approve an increase to the Purchase of Property Budget by £600,000, to be financed by a reduction in the Major Energy Efficiency Works programme.

The Leader introduced this item by stating the budget was at expected levels.

The Cabinet Member for Housing made the following points regarding the Property to purchase budget, which the Cabinet discussed and noted:

- 1). Three properties had been purchased already in the first two quarters of 2013/14
- 2). the original budget of £250,000 was insufficient to enable further purchases to replenish stock following the sales of properties under the Right to Buy scheme
- 3). Purchase of further properties was necessary, given the housing/homeless situation in the town

RESOLVED

- 1). That the projected outturn for Quarter 2 for 2013/2014 as summarised in this report be noted.
- 2). That the increase of the Purchase of Property budget by £600,000 (which would be financed by a reduction in the Major Energy Efficiency Works programme which was slipped in Quarter 1) be approved.

Reason for Decision –

To report to Members on the projected outturn for the year compared to the approved budget. To facilitate the replenishment of housing stock.

63. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.50p.m.

DR H S BLOOM
Chair