

Crawley Borough Council



Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 7.30pm

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)
	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:

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
Sally English	Democratic Services Officer

114. Apologies for absence

Councillor N Boxall.

115. Members' Disclosure of Interests

None.

116. Councillor Claire Denman

The Leader informed the Cabinet of the resignation, after 10 years at CBC, of Councillor Claire Denman as ward member for Pound Hill South and Worth and as member of the Cabinet with responsibility for Customer and Corporate Services.

On behalf of the Cabinet, he asked for the minutes to record the thanks and appreciation for Cllr Denman's excellent contribution to Crawley Borough Council over the last 10 years, 8 of which were as a Cabinet Member. She was also Deputy Leader 2012-2013. He said her knowledge, enthusiasm and good humour would be greatly missed. The expertise she had brought to her role as Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development had

also been sought by other local authorities at Member level, and he and the Cabinet were very grateful for her immense contribution to Crawley Borough Council.

116. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

117. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

118. 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 11 Business Rates Maximisation.

119. Matters Referred to the Cabinet

117 Ifield Road – Heritage Value and Potential for Community Use

The Cabinet noted that, as agreed at the meeting of the Council on 26 February, the petition regarding 117 Ifield Road, Crawley, will be considered at the 2 July Cabinet.

120. Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 (Housing Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report SHAP/36 of the Head of Strategic Housing & Planning which sought approval for the Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 to be adopted to update the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 7 April 2014. The Commission commended the officers involved for producing a clear and concise report, and endorsed the recommendations in full to the Cabinet subject to the following amendments:

- 1) Strategic Objective 1, Action 8 to be replaced with the wording ' Explore possible options and services under the 'No Second Night Out' agenda to single rough sleepers to whom the Council may have no statutory duty to provide accommodation but who will be severely affected by sleeping rough and who impact upon wider agencies and communities.
- 2) Section 6 – Monitoring and Review, lines 3 and 4. Amend sentence to read 'The revised action plan will be published as an addendum to the strategy and made available on the Council's website'.

The Cabinet noted the endorsement of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and agreed with its recommendations, and also endorsed the Commission's appreciation to the officers for producing such a clear and succinct report.

RESOLVED

RECOMMENDATION 5

That Full Council is RECOMMENDED:

To approve the Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 as attached to the report SHAP/36 for adoption and subsequent publication, subject to the amendments identified above to Strategic Objective 1 and Section 6.

Reason for Decision

To fulfill the Council's legal duty to publish a Homelessness Strategy on expiry of the previous document designed to demonstrate how the Authority intends to prevent and address homelessness in the future.

121. 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraphs specified against the items.

122. Business Rates Maximisation (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 FIN/333 of the Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits. The Council collects business rates, part of which are retained by the Council. Rates are only due when a property has been included on the rating list by the Valuation Officer. It is in the Council's interest to identify properties that are either not on the rating list, or on the list at too low a rateable value. The report sought approval to employ an external firm to help meet this objective.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the Council to enter into a contract with Inform CPI Ltd to support the Council in maximising its rating income on a reward basis.

Reason for Decision

It is in the interests of the Council to identify properties that are not on the rating list, or on the list at too low a value. Employing a third party will enhance the Council's capability to achieve this.

123. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

DR H S BLOOM
Chair