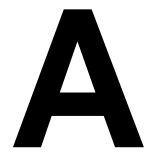


Crawley Borough Council



Minutes of Cabinet Wednesday 3 December 2014

Present:

Councillor	P K Lamb	(Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council)
	S J Joyce	(Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing)
	C C Lloyd	(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services)
	C Oxlade	(Cabinet Member for Community Engagement)
	D J Shreeves	(Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services)
	P C Smith	(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Services)

Also in Attendance:

Councillors W Ward and D Crow

Officers Present:

Ann-Maria Brown	Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Peter Browning	Director of Transformation & Housing
David Covill	Director of Development & Resources
Lucasta Grayson	Head of People & Technology
Lee Harris	Chief Executive
Diana Maughan	Head of Strategic Housing & Planning
Phil Rogers	Director of Community & Partnership Services
Sally English	Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor C J Mullins

50. Members' Disclosure of Interests

The following disclosures of interests were made by Members:-

Member	Minute number	Subject	Type & nature of disclosure
Cllr S J Joyce	Minute 57	Review of the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy	Personal as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme

CLlr C C Lloyd	Minute 57	Review of the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy	Personal as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
CLlr D J Shreeves	Minute 57	Review of the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy	Personal as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Ann-Maria Brown Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Minute 57	Review of the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy	AMB disclosed membership of the LGPS on behalf of all officers present who were members of the scheme.

51. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 November 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

52. Public Question Time

Public question time took place and Mr Stephen Mitchell asked a question regarding the Residential Parking Improvement Programme at Gossops Green Scheme. A note of the questions and the Cabinet Member's responses are set out in **Appendix A** to these minutes.

53. Matters Referred to the Cabinet

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

54. Energy Procurement Contract Arrangements (Customers & Corporate Services Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report DC&PS/003 of the Head of Partnership Services. The report contained proposals for the Council's continued (since 2008) participation in a flexible energy procurement, under a framework contract with LASER (Local Authority Energy Buying Group), which was due for renewal.

The Cabinet Member for Customer & Corporate Services advised that the recommendation required the inclusion of the dates of the 4 year contract period in question, and this was agreed, to read as follows:

'That participation in the LASER Framework Contract for energy procurement for the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2020 be approved.'

RESOLVED

That participation in the LASER Framework Contract for energy procurement for the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2020 be approved.

Reason for Decision

1. LASER benchmarks their purchasing performance each year and shares this information with its customers. This benchmarking exercise indicates that LASER has been able to deliver prices to customers at 4% below the market average over the last 4 years. Based on current consumption this level of performance would equate to a total saving in energy costs over the next 4 year contract period from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2020 of £60,000 assuming similar performance levels.
2. Given the estimated savings achieved through a flexible procurement strategy, it is recommended that the Council continue its arrangement with LASER and participate in the framework contract for the 4 year period from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2020.

55. New Cemetery, Little Trees, Tollgate Hill, Crawley (Environmental Services Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report DC&PS/007 of the Director of Community & Partnership Services, which made recommendations designed to ensure that continuity of the Council's burial service was maintained once the existing cemetery at Snell Hatch is closed for new burials. A new site known as Little Trees (Pease Pottage Girl Guides) at the top of Tollgate Hill has been identified as the most favourable area to develop a new cemetery site in the Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services introduced the report and addressed the subject of additional costs that would be incurred if the scheme was approved, and referred to a separate report that will go to Cabinet on associated issues relating to this project.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 1 December 2014. Councillor Ward presented the Commission's comments, which:

- Acknowledged that this is a significant key landmark project for the community of Crawley, being delivered in a sensitive and environmentally-friendly manner.
- Welcomed the proposal to provide a new site and building for Crawley Girl Guides Association at Tilgate Park and the consequent new provision for the Evolutionary Martial Systems Club. The Commission appreciated the Uniform Organisation's support and understanding during this time.
- Were pleased to note and indeed support the proposal that the main access for the cemetery would be off the Tollgate Hill roundabout and highlighted the need for good all round transport accessibility.
- Strongly supported the intention to well maintain and keep open Snell Hatch Cemetery to the public for the foreseeable future.
- Appreciated the Council's response to public concern during the earlier consultation process in attempting to find a site for a new cemetery. Support too for the wider detailed consultation that will take place in Phase 2 of the project and beyond.

The Commission agreed to endorse the recommendations to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet thanked the Commission for its comments.

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Services expressed his appreciation to the Girl Guides for bringing the proposal forward and asked that this be recorded.

The Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services advised the Cabinet that in para 8.3 of the report, reference was made to section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 which related to the advertisement for the disposal of public open space. The Council only had to consider objections, and this had to be reflected in Recommendation 2.2 3. It was therefore proposed that an amendment be made to Recommendation 2.2 3. This was formally agreed and seconded, to read as follows:

'To authorise the Head of Partnership Services to accept the surrender of the Crawley Girl Guides Association's existing lease on the Little Trees site and to enter into a new lease to relocate the Crawley Girl Guides Associations to Hut 23 Tilgate Park, subject to the advertisement of the proposal in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and consideration of any objections to a public open space advertisement at a future meeting of the Cabinet.'

The Cabinet agreed all other recommendations.

RESOLVED

That the Full Council be RECOMMENDED:

- 1) To agree the Little Trees site as the location of the new cemetery site for the Borough of Crawley,
- 2) That the Little Trees site comprising approximately 12 acres (4.8 hectares) as identified in Appendix A of report DC&PS/007 be appropriated under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 for use as a cemetery.
- 3) To authorise the Head of Partnership Services to accept the surrender of the Crawley Girl Guides Association's existing lease on the Little Trees site and to enter into a new lease to relocate the Crawley Girl Guides Associations to Hut 23 Tilgate Park, subject to the advertisement of the proposal in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and consideration of any objections to a public open space advertisement at a future meeting of the Cabinet
- 4) To agree to authorise the Head of Partnership Services to accept the surrender of the Evolutionary Martial Systems' existing lease on Hut 23 Tilgate Park and to enter into a new lease for the provision of a new building within the recreational huts site at Tilgate Park.
- 5) To agree to authorise the Head of Partnership Services to invite tenders for the implementation of the Phase 1 works at the new cemetery site, subject to the necessary planning approvals and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Head of Finance, Revenue and Benefits to accept the most economically advantageous tender and thereafter to enter into a contract for the works with the successful Tenderer.
- 6) To agree to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £979,000 to the existing capital budget provision of £721,000 and future revenue implications reflected within the Budget Strategy.

Reason for Decision

In order to ensure service continuity, the Council has for some time been seeking to identify a site for a new cemetery. The site at Little Trees of Tollgate Hill has been identified as the recommended site for a new council cemetery.

56. Residential Parking Improvement Programme (Environmental Services Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report SHAP/042 of the Head of Strategic Housing & Planning Services. The current residential parking improvement programme, approved in 2012, completes the financial year 2014/2015. Feasibility work on the reserve schemes for inclusion in the programme (subject to availability of funding) was now being progressed, and these schemes were capable of delivery during 2015/2016, subject to final approval from the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services under delegated powers. The report sought Cabinet approval to take forward feasibility work for a further list of schemes identified as priority areas for improvement, to extend the existing programme by a further year to 2016/2017.

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services introduced the report and highlighted the fact that a comprehensive review of the Council's approach to delivering parking improvements was programmed for Autumn 2015. The Leader of the Opposition, whilst welcoming the review, expressed disappointment that it would not commence until Autumn 2015. He hoped Members would have the opportunity to feed in to the review. He added that if there was more focus on where spaces were needed, there was the potential to do more.

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services recognised it would be preferable to hold the review sooner but with many others taking place during 2015, this review had to be phased in and to take its place in the programme. He added that officers had re-checked the roads under review, and in some cases the same problems still existed, but this meant at least that the consultation had been refreshed. The Leader agreed that the scheme was a stop-gap measure until the review commenced, and advised that Members would be consulted in the future; he said it was not practical to do both Member consultation and to advance the scheme in the same year. A Member also expressed the view that parking problems as a whole would not be solved with this sort of scheme.

RESOLVED

- a) That the priority list of schemes set out in paragraph 5.4 of report SHAP/042 to form the delivery programme for 2016/2017 be approved;
- b) That officers be authorised to progress these schemes for final approval by the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services in accordance with existing delegated powers

Reason for Decision

- 1) To provide a mechanism to maintain an uninterrupted programme of delivery pending the outcome of review work.

- 2) To preserve the integrity of the scheme selection process.
- 3) To ensure proportionate use of resources.

57. Review of the Local Government Pension Schemes Discretions Policy (Customers & Corporate Services Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report PAT/022 of the Head of People & Technology which set out proposals in relation to the adoption of discretions set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (LGPS) and sought approval for the Council's Policy on the exercise of those discretions.

RESOLVED

That the Full Council be RECOMMENDED:

- 1) To adopt and approve the LGPS Employer's Pensions Discretions Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of report PAT/022;
- 2) To delegate further reviews and approval of the Policy to the Head of People & Technology and the Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services.

Reason for Decision

West Sussex County Council administer the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) on behalf of Crawley Borough Council. They have provided updated information to all councils in the West Sussex Pension Scheme on the relevant new discretions available to employers and have asked that all councils review their current scheme of discretions to ensure that they have guidance on any discretion on which the Council will rely in a retirement situation.

58. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

P K LAMB
Chair

Public Question Time

Set out below are the points made at Public Question Time along with the Cabinet Member's responses:

Mr Stephen Mitchell was not sure if the proposed changes to parking in Lavant Close, Gossops Green, would include the removal of landscaping, i.e. bushes, outside No.6 Lavant Close. He tabled colour photographs of his home and the parking bays, bushes and kerbs in question. He made the following points in this regard:

- Would prefer to keep the bushes which he regularly maintains. These also offer a degree of protection to the cars next to them
- 6 Lavant Close is on a walkway from Gossops Drive, and is used by schoolchildren, people using the bus stop on Gossops Drive as well as those visiting the shops and pubs
- Cyclists using Lavant Close reach high speeds by the time they reach No.6 and currently can negotiate around the bushes; however, if the bushes were removed, it would be detrimental to the look of the close, would reduce the pavement width and therefore make it much harder to negotiate
- Removal of the bushes would also leave parked vehicles susceptible to damage
- Mr Mitchell's family has a disabled bay as his son is severely disabled and has a blue badge. Wheelchair access is required at all times and there is only one dropped kerb – in front of the bushes – which might be lost.
- Mr Mitchell's son, as well as an elderly neighbour, is collected by day care transport from the dropped kerb daily
- If the bushes are removed, it would make it more difficult for the Mitchell family to park one car behind the other, which affects no-one but them. If Mr Mitchell had to park elsewhere, he would be taking up another parking space.
- Creating extra parking would be the sensible approach: there is a lot of space in the large green in the close so perhaps landscaping could be incorporated into that scheme and the current prickly bushes in and around the green could be removed.

Councillor C Lloyd, Cabinet Member for Environmental services, thanked Mr Mitchell for his comments and said that the key to good consultation was considering the residents who may be affected. The Leader, Councillor P Lamb, said that the item was before the Cabinet to agree in principle, and that there would be further consultation once the scheme reached a more detailed stage. He added that it was important for the public to benefit from these schemes and as such, Mr Mitchell's comments and concerns had been taken on board. Mr Mitchell suggested that if the large wide paving opposite his house was taken back, there would be parking space available and vehicles could park at a 45 degree angle. Councillor Lloyd said the scheme was relatively small – only 4 proposed extra spaces – but there was nonetheless much to consider and discuss.