

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 November 2014

Present Councillor Cheshire (Chairman)

Councillors Briggs, Branson, Cheshire (Chairman), Guest and Weeks

### **104 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Fairhurst.

### **105 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3 September and the extraordinary meeting held on 22 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

### **106 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

### **107 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **108 Chairman's Report**

There were no matters the Chairman wished to report.

### **109 Cabinet Lead Delegated Decisions, Minutes from Meetings etc.**

Cllr Briggs reported on the impact on the number of cremations at, and associated projected reduction in income to the Council from, the Portchester Crematorium (see 1 below), arising from the establishment of a new crematorium in Havant. As the Council's representatives on the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee, Cllrs Briggs and Guest to take forward the Cabinet's concerns and report back.

RESOLVED that the following minutes and decisions be noted:

- (1) Minutes of the Portchester Crematorium Joint Management Committee held on 15 September 2014;
- (2) Delegated Decision: Extension of the new Environmental Enforcement Contract;
- (3) Delegated Decision: Alder Moor Road East and Surrounding Roads, Purbrook – Traffic Regulation Order Proposals;

- (4) Delegated Decision: Bishopstoke Road, Proposed Traffic Regulation Order;
- (5) Delegated Decision: Aston Road and Hambledon Road, Waterlooville, Traffic Regulation Order Revision; and
- (6) Delegated Decision: Heather Close Traffic Regulation Order Proposals.

## **110 Recommendations from the Scrutiny Board**

### **(a) Review of Grasscutting**

The Cabinet considered a report from the Scrutiny Board setting out the conclusions and recommendations arising from the Environment and Neighbourhood Quality Scrutiny Panel's review of grasscutting in the Borough.

The report had recommended that the possibility of taking over the grass cutting of open spaces owned by Portsmouth City Council (PCC) situated within the borough of Havant be explored. The Cabinet Lead reported that discussions were ongoing with PCC regarding future maintenance of open spaces owned by PCC but maintained by HBC and that a report would be brought back to the Cabinet on future service provision in due course.

RESOLVED that

- (1) that the Operational Services Manager and the Executive Head work together to ensure they have correct trained staffing levels before the cutting season starts;
- (2) that the Workshop Manager, Operational Services Manager and Executive Head introduce a satisfactory servicing and repair regime;
- (3) an update be provided to the Board in February 2015 on the Council's readiness for the 2015 grass cutting season; and
- (4) it be noted that discussions were ongoing with PCC regarding future maintenance of open spaces owned by PCC but maintained by HBC and that a report would be brought back to the Cabinet on future service provision in due course.

### **(b) Events Scrutiny Review**

The Cabinet considered a report from the Economy and Communities Scrutiny Panel setting out its conclusions and recommendations arising from its review of events held within the Borough.

Cabinet members were minded to support the recommendations in the context of the Council's Corporate Strategy objective to engage with communities and customers to continually explore alternative options for the future delivery of local public services.

RESOLVED that:

*Cabinet (19.11.14)*

- (1) the Council moves to become a supporter or enabler of events, except for the few large scale events which have a significant role in drawing visitors into the borough;
- (2) events that are run or supported by HBC should be evaluated for their impact and reported to the relevant Portfolio Holder with an annual report presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny;
- (3) the Economic Development service continues to allocate the current level of officer resource to the management of events that take place on HBC land;
- (4) the Mayor's Secretary role in events management is recognised and that forms part of the overall events function, ensuring that sufficient resource is available to support, enable and run events;
- (5) the Economic Development team actively promotes business engagement in the various business networks encouraging businesses to become part of a network;
- (6) the Community service works with Economic Development to host workshops with businesses to develop events ideas and planning, and promote the benefits of business networks; and
- (7) the possibility of organising blanket insurance schemes for the organisers of approved events in the borough be investigated.

**111 Council Tax Support Scheme 2015 - 2016**

RECOMMENDED to full Council that:

- (1) the 2014/15 Council Tax Support Scheme is retained for 2015/16 but with the following amendments:
  - (i) the Allowances and Premiums used in determining entitlement for working age claims are changed as set out in paragraph 6.3 of the Cabinet report;
  - (ii) the Non-Dependant deductions used in determining entitlement for working age claims are changed as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the Cabinet report; and
- (2) that the Service Manager (Revenues & Benefits) makes the necessary amendments to the Council Tax Support Scheme document and arranges for its publication in accordance with Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 13A(2).

**112 Representation of the People Act 1983 - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (2014)**

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the detail of the statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (2014) and setting out recommendations to the as to the outcome of the review.

During the course of the debate, concern was expressed with regard to the distance that residents in the Hazleton Estate had to travel to reach their polling stations. A similar situation in relation to St Faiths ward was also highlighted. Cabinet members enquired as to whether, in these circumstances, arrangements could be made for polling stations near these locations to accommodate two Wards.

- (A) RESOLVED that the Cabinet Lead liaise with the Monitoring Officer to review the special circumstances relating to Cowplain and St Faiths Wards in relation to travelling distances for voters, to look at the feasibility of tabling a further recommendation, in addition to (B) (1) and (2) below at the Council meeting on 10 December, specific to these two Wards;
- (B) RECOMMENDED to full Council that
  - (1) the polling districts designated for the purposes of Sections 18A and 31 of the Representation of the people Act 1983 (as amended) be and remain as recorded in the current Register of Electors for the Borough of Havant; and
  - (2) there be no changes made to the currently designated polling places or action taken in relation to allocated polling stations save that the “Proposed Actions” set out in Paragraph 7.5 to the Cabinet report be noted and approved.

### **113 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items as:-

- (i) it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (ii) in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The report to be considered was exempt under Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial affairs or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

### **114 Legal Service**

(This item was taken in camera)

*Cabinet (19.11.14)*

The Cabinet considered a report setting out options for the appropriate vehicle in which to place the legal service in order that it can become profit making to support the Council's strategic objectives.

RESOLVED as set out in the confidential minute.

**The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.51 pm**

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