
BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

**Held on Tuesday, 9 June 2015 at 9.30 am in
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr M. A. Wassell (Chairman) Mr T R Carter
Mrs L.S. Turner (Vice- Mrs E. M. Jolly
Chairman)
Mr C G Carter

Also Present

Mr W.P. Borrett Mr J.P. Cowen
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen Mrs S.M. Matthews

In Attendance

Julie Kennealy	- Executive Director (Place) (S151 Officer)
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Commissioning & Governance
Rob Walker	- Assistant Director Community
Julie Britton	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Emily Spicer	- Environmental Services Manager
Mark Stinson	- Legal Services Coordinator

Action By

47/15 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48/15 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Ian Sherwood.

49/15 URGENT BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

50/15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

None.

Action By

51/15 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 5)

Councillors M Chapman-Allen, S Matthews, B Borrett and P Cowen.

52/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

53/15 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 7)

The Vice-Chairman & Executive Member for Communities, Environmental Services & Democratic Services provided Members with an update of grant applications received since the last Cabinet meeting.

Six applications from varying establishments had been received totalling £60,000. Four were presently going through the assessment process and one, for Cranworth Parish Council, had already been granted.

Further applications were now being submitted following the recent Elections.

Members were informed that Beth Roberts, the Officer that currently dealt with all grant applications would be leaving the Council to study for a PHD. The Vice-Chairman and Executive Member for Communities, Environmental Services & Democratic Services assured the Cabinet that the excellent service that she had provided would continue.

54/15 REVENUE FULL YEAR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2014-15 (AGENDA ITEM 8)

The Executive Member for Finance presented the report which provided information on the actual full year financial performance for 3 separate areas: revenue, capital and treasury.

The overall out-turn position after taking into account net cost of services, Government grants, business rates and council tax income was a £248k savings against total budget. This amount was being recommended to Full Council to be contributed to the Organisational Development Reserve to fund the Transformation Programme. Pages 19 and 20 of the agenda highlighted how this underspend had been derived.

In relation to treasury, investments continued to be made as short term only due to the counter party credit ratings and marginal interest rates which the Council was looking to improve.

The Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman queried the figures on the Capital Programme for property land & buildings. The Executive Director of Place explained that some monies had been allocated and spent but she would investigate this anomaly accordingly.

Options

**Julie
Kennealy**

Action By

1. To recommend to Full Council that the actual out-turn of £248,000 be contributed to the Organisational Development Reserve funding the Transformation Programme.
2. Do not contribute £248,000 to the Organisational Development Reserve (leaving it in the General Fund instead).

Reason

To provide timely information to Members on the overall finances of the Council and to make the best use of resources available, anticipating future year's expenditure whilst maintaining the General Fund balance at the appropriate level.

RECOMMEND to Council that the actual out-turn of £248,000 be contributed to the Organisational Development Reserve to fund the Transformation Programme.

**55/15 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT FAIRFIELDS, THETFORD
(AGENDA ITEM 9)**

The Executive Member for Strategic Development & Assets presented the report. This was a straightforward disposal and would be a win, win situation if approved. The land had been advertised accordingly and only one objection had been received.

The options were highlighted.

Councillor Chapman-Allen was pleased to see this happening in Thetford as it would allow the Drakes Infant School to expand in future years.

Option 1

Consider the outcome of the public advertising of the Council's intention to dispose of this land and to confirm the cabinet decision made on 13 January 2015 to dispose of two areas of Public Open Space adjacent to the Drakes Infant School at Fairfields in Thetford to Norfolk County Council for the sum of £35,000 following publication of the disposal. The land to be sold subject to an uplift clause reserving Breckland Council 40% of any increase in value arising from the granting of any planning consent for a further alternative use or development of the site in future.

Option 2

Do not agree to the disposal of land and seek to continue to negotiate a higher value.

Option 3

Do not undertake any further negotiations or action and retain the land.

Reasons

The following reasons supported Option 1:

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- The land would be disposed of for more than its existing use value, i.e. the disposal price includes an element of hope value which is a best estimate juncture.
- This would avoid a Compulsory Purchase Order situation between the two authorities.
- The location requires a school expansion more than a residential scheme as identified by the Local Education Authority (NCC). By providing this land at what is deemed a “fair value”, the Council contributes to the growth of Thetford through the expansion of this school.
- The Council’s interests in this land are protected by the uplift clause should NCC apply for a further change of use in the future i.e. residential development.

RESOLVED that:

RB/KM

1. the outcome of the public advertising of the Council’s intention to dispose of this land be considered;
2. the Cabinet decision made on 13 January 2015 to dispose of two areas of land adjacent to the Drakes Infant School at Fairfields in Thetford to Norfolk County Council for the sum of £35,000 following publication of the disposal be confirmed; and
3. the land be sold to Norfolk County Council subject to an uplift clause reserving Breckland Council 40% of any increase in value arising from the grant of planning consent for further alternative use or development of the site in the future.

56/15 ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP (AGENDA ITEM 10)

The Executive Member for Finance who was also the current Chairman of the Anglia Revenues & Benefits Partnership (ARP) Joint Committee stated that this was a very interesting and challenging time for ARP with regard to Universal Credit as much of the administrative work would be transferred from ARP to the Department of Working Pensions (DWP).

Members were also informed that progress was being made on the development of a single Enforcement Agency between the 7 partners; and, work was afoot to expand the trading arm and as such a business information brochure was being produced.

Councillor Chapman-Allen wanted assurance that the transfer to the DWP would not affect the current service. The Executive Director of Place advised that resources would not be lost to the DWP.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Anglia Revenues & Benefits Partnership meeting held on 19 March 2015 be noted.

57/15 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 11)

The arrangements for the next meeting on Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at 9.30am in the **Norfolk and Dereham Rooms** were noted.

Action By

58/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEM 12)

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and 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 paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

59/15 PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Vice-Chairman & Executive Member for Communities & Environmental Services & Democratic Services introduced the exempt report.

The Assistant Director of Community provided Members with a detailed overview of the report. The risks, pre-conditions and detailed options appraisal were highlighted.

The Environmental Services Manager was in attendance and both she and the Assistant Director of Community responded to a number of questions in relation to costs incurred, quality of service and future contracts.

The Legal Services Coordinator was also in attendance to respond to any concerns raised.

Members were in full support of the recommendations and were content with the detail provided. They also commended the report as it was very clear and concise.

It was noted that any decision moving forward would come back to the Council for a decision.

Options

See report.

Reasons

See report.

RESOLVED that the recommendations as listed in the report be approved.

RW/ES

60/15 ACQUISITION OF LAND (AGENDA ITEM 14)

This item had been withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 10.15 am

CHAIRMAN