

Cabinet



Date	Wednesday 14 March 2007
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	John Coombes (Leader of the Council) Tim Ashton, Susan Fazackerley, Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder, Paul Rigby, Apologies were received from Roger Small and Simon Renwick
Other Councillors	Fabian Wilson
Officers	Phil Woodward, Dave Joy, Ian Curtis, Paul Norris, Allan Oldfield, Tracy Scholes, Brian White, John Cottam, Andy Cain, Christopher Kitchin

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2007 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Urgent business Support for the Motion Adopted by Tewksbury Borough Council

Councillor John Coombes (Leader of the Council) presented the report that sought the support of Members to support a motion aimed at reinstating the free postal service for the families of British forces personnel stationed overseas.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED to provide the appropriate letters of support in accordance with the request made

4. Joint Strategic Working – Fylde coast Councils

Councillor John Coombes (Leader of the Council) presented a report that described and sought the approval for proposals for joint working between Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre Borough Councils on the major strategic issues affecting Fylde Communities.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To endorse the current collaboration between Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre Borough Councils.
2. To support continuing collaboration and the Statement of Intent attached as an appendix to the report.

5. Private Sector Housing Policy

Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and Social Wellbeing introduced the report and John Cottam Housing Manager provided a detailed presentation of the policy that had previously been presented at the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee on 15 February 2007.

The revised Private Sector Housing Policy set out the Council's approach to improving private sector housing conditions in the Borough.

Phil Woodward, Chief Executive advised that it was important to monitor the policy closely over the forthcoming year and in addition to negotiating a package of equity loan provision with Wyre Borough Council also consider any alternative options which may arise..

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To adopt the revised Private Sector Housing Policy.
2. That the Executive Manager Consumer Wellbeing and Protection, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Community and Social Wellbeing, negotiate a package of equity loan provision joint with Wyre Borough Council or other neighbouring authorities.
3. To process the waiting list of applicants prior to 31 October 2006 under the terms of the previous policy thereby retaining the £10,000 maximum limit, but introduce a 15 year repayment period.

6. Proposed Centralised Complaints System

Albert Pounder, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer Relations and Partnerships introduced the report and Paul Norris, Community and Cultural Services presented the report which provided details on the proposed centralised complaints system.

The development of a centralised complaints procedure and regular reporting of the number and nature of complaints to the council has been identified as key actions within the Statement of Internal Control. The report had previously been discussed at both the Audit Committee on the 4 January 2007 and the Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2007.

The Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee had requested that it receives a report at each meeting detailing complaints received. However, the Portfolio Holder advised that he felt quarterly monitoring may be appropriate, in line with the performance reports which were made on performance monitoring issues.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation of the Performance improvement Scrutiny Committee that the Executive Manager for Community and Cultural Services proceeds with the pilot scheme and present a report on the

effectiveness of the system to the Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

7. Lowther Gardens Charitable Trust

In the absence of Councillor Simon Renwick, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Tourism, Councillor Paul Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency introduced the report and Ian Curtis, the Legal Services Executive Manager presented the report that asked the Cabinet to consider the scrutiny recommendations regarding the future administration of Lowther Gardens.

Councillor Paul Rigby felt that it was important that the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Tourism joined the small member/officer working group being proposed..

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To establish a small member/officer working group comprising the Culture and Tourism Portfolio Holder, Legal Services Executive Manager and Community and Cultural Services Executive Manager to consider an appropriate management structure and constitution for the Lowther Gardens trust and report on its proposals to a future meeting.
2. To submit an application to the Charity Commission for a scheme to modernise the terms of the trusts under which Lowther Gardens is held.
3. To confirm that the Council will remain as the sole trustee of Lowther Gardens for the time being.

8. Performance Exception Report

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the performance exception report which identified and provided details of, any exceptions in the performance against key indicators. Exceptions included where performance was significantly below the target set for the current financial year as well as where performance is above target. The report outlined what was being done to address the performance and who was responsible for the actions.

Councillor Fazackerley provided a verbal update on the Housing Indicators (paragraph 9) and also highlighted that there was an amendment to BVPI 64 which was replacing the number 6 to a number 8 under the progress to Jan 31st 2007.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. That the Cabinet supports the actions being taken to address performance issues and that the respective Portfolio Holders also monitor progress through their briefing meetings.
2. That the Cabinet meeting scheduled for May 2007 undertakes a detailed consideration of
 - a) details of the 2006/07 out-turn for all BVPIs

- b) those BVPIs described in appendix 2 of the report (Audit Commission Key CPA Measures) which are felt to be key indicators for the Council to monitor during 2007/08.

9. The 2007/08 Corporate Action Plan

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented a report which provided details of the 2007/08 Corporate Action Plan for Fylde that has been updated to include new actions and revised targets for medium and long term actions.

Councillor John Coombes, Leader, informed members of an amendment to one of the key actions on Page 78 of the Cabinet agenda. The key action was to Work closely in partnership with the LSP to deliver the housing outcomes of the central ward project (3 year action). The amendment was to change the Portfolio holder from Councillor Simon Renwick to Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To approve the 2007/08 Corporate Action Plan
2. That the Cabinet Portfolio Holders take responsibility for their respective actions in the plan and monitor progress through the briefings held with senior managers throughout the 2007/08 financial year.

10. Value for Money - Strategic Approach

Councillor Paul Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency introduced the item and Phil Woodard Chief Executive presented the report that outlined the comparative "Value for Money" position of Fylde Borough Council against other district Councils across a range of operational and support service areas and recommended a strategic approach to the future delivery of "value for money" through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Mr Woodward made reference to the appendices and indicated that these were now somewhat out of date but provided the best current picture available.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED:

1. To request that the Chief Executive or his nominee investigate, through relevant networks, the prospect of concurrent benchmarking with appropriate councils which could lead to the development of a "real-time" cost/performance matrix.
2. That the Cabinet's future workplan includes a service review framework, within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which prioritises a programme of "Value for Money" assessments on the basis of high cost/low performing services.

11. Treasury Management Strategy 2007/08

Councillor Paul Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency presented the report of the Executive Manager for Finance, which set out the Treasury Management Strategy for 2007/08 and encompasses borrowing requirements, debt management arrangements, the

annual investment strategy and prudential indicators for treasury management for the Council.

Financial regulations required the Executive Manager (Finance) to report and make recommendations to the Cabinet on a proposed treasury management strategy for the forthcoming financial year.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED to approve the treasury management strategy for 2007/08 contained within the report and attached as appendices.

© Fylde Borough Council copyright [2006]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Borough Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication is also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.