

## Cabinet



Date	Thursday 26 June 2008
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes.
Committee members	John Coombes (Leader of the Council) Tim Ashton, Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder and Paul Rigby
Other Councillors	Christine Akeroyd, Ben Aitken, John Bennett, Karen Buckley, Maxine Chew, John Davies, Kevin Eastham, Trevor Fiddler, Kathleen Harper, Howard Henshaw, Ken Hopwood, Elizabeth Oades, Linda Nulty, Thomas Threlfall, Elaine Silverwood, Heather Speak
Officers	Philip Woodward, Dave Joy, Allan Oldfield, Paul Norris, Clare Platt, Bernard Hayes, Paul Walker, Tracy Scholes, Ian Curtis, Andy Cain, Hazel Wood, Jamie Dixon, Lucy Edwards

A number of questions were submitted in accordance with Cabinet Procedure Rules by elected members and these were addressed during the ensuing debate on each item.

### 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.

Councillors P Rigby and A Pounder declared a personal interest in item 13 (Asset Disposal) and Councillor T Ashton declared a personal interest in item 5 (Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee Recommendations).

### 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 7 May 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

### 3. Urgent items

There were no items of urgent business; however, Councillor Albert Pounder requested that an item on potential revisions to the Cabinet procedure rules be brought to the next meeting of the Cabinet. The Leader agreed to this proposal.

### 4. Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee - Recommendations

Members considered the recommendations of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee 15 May 2008. The Scrutiny Committee had considered a number of issues including an update from the Enterprise and Employment Thematic Group of the Local Strategic Partnership, the Final Report of a Scrutiny Review on Homelessness together with the annual report of one of the Council's key formal partners, the Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau. A Task and Finish Group has also been established at the request of the Local

Strategic Partnership's Community Safety Thematic Group to examine partnership engagement on the Lower Lane Estate in Freckleton.

1. That the recommendations of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee be noted.

#### 5. Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee - Recommendations

Councillor John Bennett, Chairman of the Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendations made by the Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Of the recommendations made, those in relation to planning obligations were put before the Cabinet for its approval. The scrutiny committee recommended the following:-

##### **Planning Obligations**

The council had adopted an improvement plan for Development Control which included a number of strands and actions, one of which is to establish a mechanism for members to become involved in pre-application discussions for major applications as advised by PAS and Cabinet were invited to endorse this approach.

Cabinet were also invited to agree to the undertaking of joint work across the Fylde Coast authorities on producing a formal policy on planning obligations and in the absence of a formal policy to accept the interim arrangements of dealing with each application on its merits to identify the necessary planning obligations

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

1. To approve the recommendations of the Planning Policy Scrutiny committee in relation to Planning Obligations.

#### 6. Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee - Recommendations

Councillor Karen Buckley, Chairman of the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee, presented the recommendations made by the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

The scrutiny committee recommended the following:-

**Homelessness Strategy** - That the homelessness review is endorsed and that the draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2013 be adopted and the council gives Priority to activity to prevent homelessness.

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

1. That the recommendations of the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny committee in relation to the Homelessness Strategy be approved.

#### 6A. Special Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee - Recommendations

Councillor Karen Buckley, Chairman of the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee, presented the recommendations made by the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

The scrutiny committee recommended the following:-

**Accommodation Working Group Meetings** - To recommend to Cabinet: that the accommodation working group meets regularly to ensure progress and that an update on the accommodation project becomes a standing item on the Cabinet agenda. Also to acknowledge that the matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Council prior to contractual commitment being given to the project.

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

1. That the recommendations of the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny committee in relation to the accommodation project be approved.

#### 7. The Provision and Management of Financial Services

Phillip Woodward, (Chief Executive) presented a report which sought approval to the implementation of long-term arrangements with Preston City Council for the provision of management input to the financial services function of the Council and the secondment of appropriately qualified officers to discharge the "Section 151" responsibilities of the Council.

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

1. That the Service Level Agreement with Preston City Council, Appendix B of the report be agreed.
2. That the continued secondment of Bernard P Hayes, CPFA, from Preston City Council as an officer of this council be accepted.
3. That Mr Hayes continues as the officer responsible for the administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 with effect from 5 November 2007.
4. That the Assistant Director (Finance), Preston City Council be approved to act as Deputy Section 151 Officer.
5. That the post of Assistant Director (Financial Operations) be established in accordance with the job description and person specification Appendix C of the report, to be funded from savings in the staffing budget.
6. That the Council be recommended to confirm items 2 and 3 above.

(Mr. Hayes withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item).

*Councillors H Henshaw and K Buckley submitted a question on this matter which was addressed during the consideration of the item.*

#### 8. The 2008/09 Corporate Plan

Allan Oldfield, Executive Manager for Corporate Policy and Performance presented the Corporate Plan 2008/09 for Fylde Borough Council which has been updated to include new strategic actions and targets for the medium and long term achievement of the corporate objectives.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and at the meeting and RESOLVED that the 2008/09 Corporate Plan

included in Appendix 1 of the report be submitted to Full Council for endorsement with the following additions and amendments which have regard to the comments received from consultees

- a) under the strategic theme heading, Planning & Place Shaping, replace the outcome adjacent to the action of improving the capacity and performance of the planning service to read - "Performance measures in place that show improving trends."
- b) under the strategic theme heading, The Classic Resort, replace the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point action with "devise a classic resort accreditation system based on St Annes" and the corresponding outcome with "accreditation system completed and action plan in place".
- c) under the strategic theme heading, Efficiency and Value for Money, insert the following action - "review the potential for establishing an Aligned Asset Management Plan with Lancashire County Council" and outcome "the completion of a review involving overview and scrutiny members and a report considered by Cabinet on the potential for alignment".
- d) under the strategic theme heading, Shared Service Working, insert a new action point - "FBC to be an active participant in the implementation of the Team Lancashire Sub Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme" and outcome "FBC to have secured at least a proportionate amount of the Improvement and Efficiency Programme for capacity building purposes at the Council".
- e) under the strategic theme heading, Planning and Place Shaping, insert a new action point - "define the Council's future role in the FLoWe initiative" and outcome "the Council's future participation in, support of and resources allocated to the FLoWe initiative have been considered and determined in a report to Cabinet".

*Councillors K Harper, K Hopwood, E Silverwood, B Pagett and K Eastham submitted a question on this matter which was addressed during the consideration of the item.*

## 9. Pay and Grading Policy Review

Allan Oldfield, Executive Manager for Corporate Policy and Performance introduced the report which provides details of the outcome from the pay and grading evaluation project which has been carried out at Fylde Borough Council over the last 20 months including details of the process applied, the cost of the scheme and future policy implications. The outcome of the exercise includes a revised policy to determine pay and grading matters at Fylde.

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

1. That the Cabinet formally closes the single status pay and grading evaluation project at Fylde and the opportunity for any retrospective claims on the grounds of equal or fair pay.
2. That the Cabinet approve the process outlined in Appendix 1 of the report for all pay and grading evaluations at Fylde.

3. That the Cabinet recognise and champions the outcome achieved from the pay and grading evaluation project.

#### 10. Development of a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy

Clouncillor Patricia Fieldhouse, Portfolio Holder for Community and Social Wellbeing introduced the report on the rationale for development of a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy which was underpinned by recognition that the majority of the Fylde coast comprised a single housing market. Working across local authority boundaries provided an effective way of meeting the housing requirements of local people on a strategic basis; and development of a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy that would enable the Fylde Coast authorities to understand and respond to the differing needs and distinctive characters of each part of the area, whilst also identifying key common issues that were best addressed across the whole area.

Officers had been working in partnership with the officers of other Fylde coast authorities and other agencies to develop this strategic approach. It was also a key element of the joint work identified under the Fylde Coast Multi-Area Agreement.

This report identified the work completed to date, and discussed the next steps in terms of identifying key strategic issues, priorities and arrangements for further consultation.

The report sought the Cabinet's endorsement of the Council's ongoing involvement in the development of a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy and the need for more detailed involvement of Members in setting the long term aims and determining key priorities.

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

1. That the Council's ongoing involvement in the development of a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy be noted and endorsed.
2. That the Cabinet notes the need for further involvement of Members in setting the long term aims and determining key priorities for a Fylde Coast Housing Strategy.

*Councillor K Harper submitted a question on this matter which was addressed during the consideration of the item.*

#### 11. Medium Term Financial Strategy - Outturn Report 2007/08 (Including General Fund, Capital Program & Treasury Management)

Bernard Hayes (Finance Director) presented the detailed report that set out the General Fund Outturn (including Revenue, Capital and Treasury Management) for 2007/08. The report explained major variations between the latest approved Budget and Actual Expenditure and quantified the impact on the Council's reserves.

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

1. That the Cabinet note and agree the Outturn position.

*Councillors T Ford, L Nulty, K Buckley and H Henshaw submitted a question on this matter which was addressed during the consideration of the item.*

## 12. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## 13. Asset Disposal

Paul Walker, Executive Manager for Strategic Planning and Development presented a report that related to the proposed disposal of land at Heeley Road St Annes.

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

1. That the Cabinet agrees to the disposal of 0.177 hectares of land at Heeley Road St Annes (former CVMU site) shown for identification purposes on the plan attached to the report on the terms outlined at "full market consideration" and the Cabinet agrees to the same amount being released from retained section 106 monies to facilitate the purchase.

*Councillors T Ford, B Pagett, H Henshaw and K Eastham submitted a question on this matter which was addressed during the consideration of the item.*

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