

Cabinet



Date	Wednesday 13 September 2006
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Tim Ashton, Susan Fazackerley, Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder, Simon Renwick, Paul Rigby, Roger Small
Other Councillors	John Bennett, Maxine Chew, Howard Henshaw, Paul Hayhurst, Ray Norsworthy, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Heather Speak, Fabian Wilson
Officers	Philip Woodward, Dave Joy, Ian Curtis, Paul Norris, Allan Oldfield, Clare Platt, Tracy Scholes, Paul Walker, Brian White, Andy Cain, Lyndsey Lacey.
Others	-

In the absence of councillor Coombes, Councillor Roger Small chaired the meeting.

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 12 July 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Special urgency (Rule 16 Procedure Rules) Urgent business Cabinet procedure rules

There were no items of urgent business.

4. Future Management of Indoor Sports/Swimming Services at Fylde

Councillor Ray Norsworthy presented the findings from the special Policy & Service Review Scrutiny meeting, which considered in detail the future management of indoor sports/swimming services in Fylde and submitted the committees' recommendations to the Cabinet. Councillor Norsworthy made reference for the need in the borough for swimming facilities for school children and local residents. He also acknowledged that as a classic coastal resort, St. Annes needed a swimming pool for its many visitors.

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 to accept and endorse the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee detailed below:

1. To recommend to Cabinet that subject to a full building survey being undertaken of the St. Annes/Kirkham pools to determine refurbishment costs, consideration be given to both Option 2 (retain in house and invest in new/existing facilities) and Option 4 (externalise via part repairing lease with an option to invest in new/existing facilities)
2. To ensure appropriate budget provision to enable the above to be carried out
3. That on receipt of the building survey results referred to at 1 a site visit of the facilities is organised for the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee members.

(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered a question submitted by Councillor Elizabeth Oades which sought Cabinet to take on board the recommendations of the Policy & Service Review Scrutiny Committee and also a question from Councillor Heather Speak which sought information on the potential sites for replacement swimming facilities in the rural areas and the consultation process with county councillors and Kirkham Town council.

The Cabinet discussed the issues raised in the questions and took them into account in reaching their decision).

5. Performance Exception Report

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the report of the Executive Manager for Policy and Performance, which identified and provides details of, any exceptions in the performance against key indicators over the last two months. Exceptions included where performance was significantly below the target set for the current financial year or where factors that would have a detrimental impact on performance had been identified. The report outlined what was being done to address the performance and who was responsible for the actions.

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 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 Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance and Development provides updated figures against the indicators as part of the next exception report to confirm that progress has been achieved.

6. Fylde - Public Health Profile

Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse, Cabinet portfolio for Community and Social Wellbeing presented the report of the Executive Manager for Consumer Wellbeing & Protection which informed the Cabinet that the north west public health observatory, on behalf of the association of public health observatories, and commissioned by the department of health, had produced a health profile for each local authority. This formed part of the department of health's 'choosing health' commitment to improving public health. The profile for Fylde was circulated with the agenda.

Similarly the north west public health observatory had contributed to the production of local alcohol profiles for each local authority area. The profile for Fylde was also circulated with the agenda papers.

In summary, the profiles showed that life expectancy in Fylde was above the regional average, and for men, longer than the national average. However, within the borough, there was a gap in life expectancy of 4.5 years between the poorest and most affluent areas. The numbers of people with long term mental health conditions who were actively seeking treatment was above the national average, although death rates from smoking, heart disease and stroke, and cancer were lower than the national average. However, alcohol misuse was identified as a significant problem in the borough, and in the region as a whole. Mortality from chronic liver disease and alcohol related months of life lost were in England's top quartile, with particular increases in alcohol related hospital admissions shown from the previous year.

Both profiles were important records of the state of public health in the borough, and helped inform future strategies and policies, which the council could adopt.

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 members recognise Fylde Borough Council's role in improving public health and consider the implications of the report on future strategies and policies.
2. That members recognise and support the role of the Local Strategic Partnership in working together to improve public health and request that a report be presented to its next Executive Committee on the Public Health Profile.
3. That a joint Fylde Borough Council and Fylde Primary Care Trust presentation to full Council on the state of public health in the Borough, to coincide with the annual publication of the local public health report be agreed.

7. Indemnities for Members Serving on Outside Bodies

Mr Ian Curtis (Legal Services Executive Manager) presented the report, which informed members of the Cabinet that under regulations made in 2004, the council could indemnify members of the council against liabilities incurred as members of outside bodies.

The report considered the circumstances in which liabilities could arise and the scope of indemnities that could be offered.

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 to:-

1. Grant an indemnity to members of the authority in the terms set out in the Appendix in respect of appointments to outside bodies.
2. Confirm, for the avoidance of doubt, that the indemnity extends to liabilities arising before the date of this meeting as well as on and after that date.

8. Financial Monitoring Report 2006-2007

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet portfolio for Finance and Efficiency presented the report of the Executive Manager for Finance which provided an update on expenditure against the Councils revenue budget for the first quarter of the 2006/07 financial year and capital expenditure figures were provided to the end of July.

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 Cabinet approve the capital expenditure of £370,975 which represents 16% of the revised budget.
2. That Cabinet approve a revised capital programme budget of £2,405,080 incorporating the additional income outlined in the report.
3. That Cabinet note the current projected overspend of £65,000 on the revenue budget which represents 0.66% of the annual budget.

(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered a question submitted by councillor Linda Nulty which sought clarification on the budget provision on commuted capital sums for affordable housing and also on the expenditure to date on the 'accommodation' project.

The Cabinet discussed the issues raised in the questions and gave responses to councillor Nulty and took them into account in reaching their decision).

9. Equitable Taxation

Dave Joy, Deputy Chief Executive, presented the report and informed the cabinet that a key action in the Council's 2006-07 Corporate Plan was to complete the consultation and evaluation of an 'Equitable Taxation' approach to council tax. Much of this work was completed during 2005-06 but the Council deferred any decision on its implementation due to time constraints in setting its budget for 2006-07.

The report presented the findings of the consultation and evaluation of the 'Equitable Taxation' approach.

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 members of the Cabinet note the feasibility and the likely impact of introducing an Equitable Taxation approach to council tax.
2. That the Equitable Taxation approach be developed as a budget option and presented to Council for consideration when it sets its budget for 2007-08.
3. That the parish and town councils be informed of the Council's budget timetable and advised to consider both an equitable taxation and a non-equitable taxation precept when preparing their respective budgets for 2007-08.

(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered a question submitted by councillor Heather Speak which sought clarification on equitable taxation and how it would impact on the parish of Treales, Roseacre and Wharles).

The Cabinet discussed the issues raised in the question and gave responses to councillor Speak and took them into account in reaching their decision).

10. Cabinet Procedure Rules

Councillor Roger Small, Cabinet Portfolio for Development and Regeneration, presented the report, which proposed slight amendments to the Cabinet Procedure Rules.

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 Procedure Rules be amended to allow the submission of questions from non cabinet members up until 10am on the day prior to Cabinet meetings.
2. That all Group Leaders be invited to participate in the concurrent group meetings on the Monday evening prior to the scheduled Cabinet meetings.

11. Local Government Review

Philip Woodward (Chief Executive) presented the report which provided a summary of the current situation regarding proposals for the review of local government functions and structures together with an outline of discussions taking place within local government networks in Lancashire.

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 to take no action on this matter until the publication of the White Paper.

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