

Cabinet

Date	10 May 2006
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Cabinet Members	John Coombes (Leader of the Council) Tim Ashton, Susan Fazackerley, Albert Pounder, Simon Renwick, Paul Rigby, Roger Small.
Other Councillors	Christine Akeroyd, Maxine Chew, Kevin Eastham, Derek Lancaster, Kiran Mulholland, Linda Nulty, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Dawn Prestwich, Martin Taylor, William Thompson, Fabian Wilson.
Officers	Philip Woodward, Brian White, Clare Platt, Paul Norris, Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Tony Donnelly, Peter Welsh, Richard Wood
Others	-

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 (as amended) of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 March 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. The Member champion role

The Leader (John Coombes) presented the report of the Executive Manager Democratic and Member Services on the future role of member champions.

At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 March it was determined to continue with the Member Champion role and invite the existing Member Champions to present their reports on their roles. A number of member champions had completed questionnaires on their role as member champions and other members made representations to the Cabinet.

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

1. That the Cabinet confirms the continuation of the role and remit of the member champions.
2. That the Rural Areas and Equality and Diversity member champion briefs be deleted; Tourism (rural) and Tourism (Lytham St Annes) be merged into a Tourism member champion brief (member champion councillor Fabian Wilson); Heritage (Lytham St Annes) and Heritage (Rural) be merged into a Heritage member champion brief (member champion councillor Maxine Chew); additional member champion for Arts and Culture (member champion councillor Fabian Wilson).
3. In order to ensure that the Member Champion role is developing well under the Cabinet arrangements the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Committee conduct a further review of the role and its success after a six-month period.

5. IDEA Capacity building programme 2006/07

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the report which provided proposals from the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA) for building on and rolling forward the recent work done with the Council to increase the governance and management capacity.

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 capacity building programme proposed by IDeA for 2006/07, be agreed.

6. Future management of indoor sports/swimming service at Fylde

Councillor Simon Renwick, Cabinet Portfolio for Culture & Tourism presented the report of the Executive Managers for Community & Cultural Services and Strategic Planning & Development on the future management of indoor sports/swimming services at Fylde.

The detailed report provided members with an update on progress in relation to the future management of leisure services and provided advise on the findings of a recent independent report by the 4ps and also proposed a draft project plan in order to deliver a change management programme for leisure services at Fylde Borough.

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 draft project plan be approved
2. That the cabinet re-confirms its current level of commitment for the provision of urban and rural swimming facilities.

(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered two questions submitted by councillors Oades and Speak which asked about the consultation process and who would be involved and sought assurances that the Policy & Service Review Scrutiny committee would be fully involved throughout the project.

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

7. Use of resources assessment

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet Portfolio for Finance & Efficiency presented the report of the Executive Manager for Finance on the annual assessment on the 'use of resources'.

The report provided information on the outcome of the new annual assessment on the 'Use of Resources' which was carried out by the Audit Commission and would feed into the future CPA process. The first assessment was carried out at the end of 2005 and performance was assessed as adequate. An action plan to improve on the first assessment was submitted for approval.

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 note the report and agree the action plan.

8. The Corporate Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the report of the Executive Manager for Policy & Change on the revised corporate plan and best value performance plan.

The Council had a duty under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999 to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) and publish it before June 30th each year.

The BVPP had to include a brief summary of the authority's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement; arrangements for addressing the authority's improvement priorities; details of performance on out-turn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and the target for the current year and subsequent 2 years for all BVPIs and a brief statement on contracts.

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 agree the content of the Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan and approve them for submission to full Council.

9. Health and safety advisory service

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the report of the Executive Manager for Democratic Services & Member Support on proposals on health and advisory services.

Health and safety management was an extremely important corporate issue. There was a need to prevent accidents, comply with the law, avoid prosecutions, and demonstrate the council was taking reasonable precautions in its approach to health and safety management and deal with any actions/claims, which may arise.

Managers of the council had a duty to ensure the health and safety, so far as practically possible, of their employees and there were a number of regulations, which must be complied with. It was imperative that managers had at their disposal up-to-date advice and support in this area.

The report mapped a way forward for the council and its managers to have access to this specialist advice over the forthcoming five year period.

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 proposed arrangements with Blackpool Council, by virtue of a service level agreement for a five-year period at a cost of £40,000 per annum, for the provision of health and safety advice be endorsed by the Cabinet.

10. The use of commuted sums

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the report, which proposed the adoption of a guidance note on the use of commuted sums received through the planning system for the provision of additional affordable housing. The report also sought consideration of three proposals for the allocation of funds from the commuted sum payments already received by 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 commuted sums guidance note detailed in the report be adopted.
2. That the proposals submitted by YMCA - Face to Face and the Richard Dumbreck's Singleton Trust be approved.
3. That officers assist New Fylde Housing in working-up schemes in order that they could be the subject of future applications for consideration by the Council.
4. That the Portfolio holder for Community & Social Wellbeing be given delegated authority to determine future submissions
5. That the Planning Policy Scrutiny committee be tasked with keeping the policy and guidance on commuted sums under review

11. Homelessness strategy

Clare Platt (Executive Manager Consumer Wellbeing & Protection) presented the report on the homelessness strategy.

The homelessness strategy had been developed by the partners represented on the Homelessness Action Group. It identified the strategic framework for homelessness, the Borough profile in terms of homelessness, the advice & support available to homeless people, and an action plan for improvement.

It identified a number of priority issues, including the need for further 'move on' accommodation to encourage turnover in supported housing schemes, and the importance of preventing homelessness in the first instance. It advocated improved consultation with service users and the continued importance of effective partnership working.

The strategy had been presented to the Policy and Service Review Scrutiny Forum for discussion, resulting in a number of recommendations identified in the report.

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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 Forum of 30 March be noted.
2. That the homelessness strategy be adopted
3. That Members recognise the commitment of partners in preparing and delivering the strategy

12. Draft regional spatial strategy

Councillor Roger Small, Cabinet Portfolio for Development and Regeneration, presented the report of the Local Plans manager on the draft regional spatial strategy.

The Cabinet were asked to consider the content of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which was submitted to the Secretary of State by the North West Regional Assembly in January 2006.

The draft RSS had now been formally put on deposit for consultation purposes so that stakeholders could make formal representations on the document. The deadline for representations was 12th June 2006.

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 endorse the recommendations contained within the main text of the report subject to any further comments received by officers and the Planning Policy Scrutiny committee and agreed with the Portfolio Holder prior to the submission deadline.

13. The accommodation project

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet Portfolio for Finance & Efficiency presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Manager for Strategic Planning & Development on the current position of the accommodation project.

The report reviewed the current situation and factors, which impinged upon and affected the likely delivery of the Council's accommodation 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 that in the light of current issues the Cabinet seeks the views of the Council on overturning the previous decision on accommodation taken at the Council meeting on 26th September 2005 and that the accommodation project now proceeds on the basis of retaining the Town Hall as the council's primary office accommodation, including facilities for council meetings, and that officers urgently provide a more detailed report which includes a cost analysis of a phased programme of work and proposals for funding which should be at no additional cost to the council tax payer.

In the opinion of the Deputy Chief Executive the above decision is deemed to be an urgent one, and, therefore, will not be subject to call-in. The subject of the report is to be considered by a meeting of the full council before the end of May. This action therefore negates the effect of a potential call-in.