

## Cabinet



Date	15 March 2006
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Cabinet Members	John Coombes (Leader of the Council) Tim Ashton, Susan Fazackerley, Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder, Simon Renwick, Paul Rigby, Roger Small.
Other Councillors	John Bennett, Maxine Chew, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Dawn Prestwich, Fabian Wilson.
Officers	William Taylor, Philip Woodward, Tracy Scholes, Tony Donnelly, Peter Welsh
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 of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 February 2006 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

### 3. Cabinet Procedure Rules

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the report, and informed the Cabinet that the council's constitution allowed for the cabinet to make procedure rules by which it operated. This report put forward modifications to the procedure rules to reflect protocols already announced by the leader of the council, details of which were included in the agenda papers.

The constitution also provided for the Leader to determine how functions and responsibilities of the cabinet were to be delegated, with different degrees of delegation being given to the cabinet collectively, a committee of the cabinet, individual portfolio holders or officers. Mr Woodward advised that it was proposed that this matter would be addressed by the Leader at the earliest opportunity.

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 revised executive procedure rules detailed in appendix A of the report be adopted and incorporated into the constitution.

*(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered two questions submitted by councillor Elizabeth Oades which challenged the need for all meetings of the Cabinet to be held at the Town Hall and whether the deadline for receipt of written questions to the Cabinet were reasonable.*

*The Cabinet discussed the issues raised in the questions and took them into account in reaching their decision, noting that the future location of cabinet meetings would be considered as part of future reports addressing the Council's accommodation needs).*

#### 4. The Member Champion Role

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the report, which examined the relevance of the role of Member Champions in the new Cabinet governance arrangements. The role of Member Champion was established in late 2004, primarily to maintain an area of specialism that could be used to support and advise the Executive Committee on particular issues which did not fall within the remit of an executive brief.

All deliberations and decisions of the Executive Committee were undertaken on a collective basis with no delegation of responsibility or decision making to individual brief holders. This situation was about to change with the move to the Cabinet system and it was anticipated that individual portfolio holders would now take more of a lead role in the policy development and delivery of all those functions that fell within the scope of their portfolio.

The Cabinet noted the valuable contributions made during the last 18 months by a number of Member Champions to a range of important issues.

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 for the time being the role of Member Champions should continue.
2. That existing Member Champions be invited to present a report to the next meeting of the Cabinet and that a report be prepared which reviews the future inter-relationship between Portfolio Holders and Member Champions.

*(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered two questions submitted by councillors Maxine Chew and William Thompson which sought the retention of member champions and challenged the Cabinets ability to provide the right level of member input to important corporate issues if member champions were discontinued.*

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

#### 5. Local Development Scheme

Councillor Roger Small (Cabinet Portfolio for Development and Regeneration) presented the report of the Local Plans manager on the Local Development Scheme.

The Local Development Scheme was a key document within the Local Development Framework. It informed people what programmes of work the local planning authority

was proposing to undertake over a three-year period (and beyond) in terms of developing the particular Local Development Documents that constituted the Local Development Framework in Fylde Borough.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and RESOLVED to recommend to Council that the Local Development Scheme for the purposes of submission to Government Office North West be agreed.

#### 6. Processing of Planning Applications

The Leader reported that the above-mentioned item had been received after the publication of the agenda and accepted that it should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) to avoid any unnecessary delay.

Councillor Roger Small (Cabinet portfolio for Development and Regeneration) presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive on the acceptance of a tender for the processing of householder and minor planning applications.

Because the lowest tender was not selected the Council's Financial Regulations required that such matters be reported to the Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it and RESOLVED that the award of the contract be noted

#### 7. Membership of the Accommodation Task Group

The Leader reported that the above-mentioned item had been received after the publication of the agenda and accepted that it should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) to avoid any unnecessary delay.

Philip Woodward (Deputy Chief Executive) presented the report that informed the Cabinet that the Executive Committee established a task group during 2005 to oversee progress on the Council's new accommodation project. The members nominated to this group were councillors Coombes, Norsworthy and Hayhurst. In light of the review of responsibilities undertaken during the move to the cabinet system it was felt that the cabinet portfolio holder with responsibility for asset management should also be a member of the group.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it and RESOLVED that the cabinet portfolio holder with responsibility for asset management be included in the accommodation task group.

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