

## Cabinet



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| Date              | Wednesday 15 November 2006   |
| Venue             | Town Hall, St Annes  |
| Committee members | John Coombes (Leader of the Council)<br><br>Tim Ashton, Susan Fazackerley, Patricia Fieldhouse, Albert Pounder, Simon Renwick, Paul Rigby, Roger Small |
| Other Councillors | John Bennett, Maxine Chew, Kiran Mulholland, Linda Nulty, Raymond Norsworthy, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Dawn Prestwich, Fabian Wilson.          |
| Officers          | Philip Woodward, Dave Joy, Paul Norris, Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Brian White, Andy Cain, Stuart Handley, Peter Welsh,                              |

### 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 13 September 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

### 3. Special urgency (Rule 16 Procedure Rules) Urgent business Cabinet procedure rules - Northwest Climate Change Charter

The Chairman reported that the following item had been received after the publication of the Agenda and it was agreed that the report should be considered by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100 of the Local Government 1972 (as amended) by reason of the need to seek an early decision thereon.

Councillor Timothy Ashton, Cabinet Portfolio for Streetscene reported that a request had been received from the North West Development Agency (NDWA), via its sponsored organisation, Sustainability Northwest, for public and private sector organisations to commit themselves to the principles of Climate Change Charter.

Sustainability Northwest (SNW) was an independent charitable organisation, supported by the NDWA and private companies working in the northwest, which advocated and promoted sustainable solutions to issues of social concern such as renewable energy, transport, regeneration, climate change and waste.

In the advent of the recently published Stern Report and the publication of the NWDA's Climate Change Action Plan, SNW has invited stakeholder organisations in the northwest to sign-up to the Northwest Climate Change Charter.

The philosophy of the Charter was very much in keeping with the Council's current priorities and actions as indicated in:

- The 2006/07 Corporate Plan, which includes a proposal to produce a comprehensive energy conservation strategy for the Borough;
- The Action Plan of the Environmental Enhancement Working Group of the LSP which envisages the development of a Sustainable Energy Strategy;
- The Council's supporting role in the FLOWE project initiated recently by the MP.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it at the meeting and RESOLVED that the Council offers its commitment and support to the North West Climate Change Charter.

#### 4. 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 provided 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 at the meeting and RESOLVED-

1. That the Cabinet supports the actions being taken to address performance issues and that the respective Portfolio Holders monitor progress through their briefing meetings.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance and Development provides updated figures against the indicators which are performing below target, to confirm that progress is being achieved, and also against any indicators from the previous report which are now on target.

*(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered questions submitted by Councillor Maxine Chew which sought the total costs associated with the temporary planning measures and whether these measures had been successful and cost effective; and, where and how was the information obtained that stated that people were satisfied with the length of time they had to wait when contacting the council?)*

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

## 5. Corporate Objectives Review

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the report of the Executive Manager for Policy and Performance, which provided details of the outcome from a 'desk top' review of the Councils corporate objectives that had been presented to the Policy and Service Review committee on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006.

It was considered best practice by the Audit Commission to examine the corporate objectives each year giving consideration to the local and national factors that may have changed during the year.

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 support the conclusion that there was no requirement at this time to make changes to the high level corporate objectives at Fylde.
2. To make any appropriate recommendations to officers and/or Portfolio Holders to ensure that emerging issues are monitored or addressed including all aspects of communications as outlined at the meeting.

## 6. Gambling Act 2005

Councillor Patricia Fieldhouse, Cabinet Portfolio for Community & Social Wellbeing introduced the report and Stuart Handley, Commercial & Licensing manager provided a detailed presentation on the Gambling Act 2005.

The Gambling Act 2005 was now partly in force. Current expectations were that the Act would be brought fully into effect on 1st September 2007 and that licensing authorities would begin to accept applications for gambling licenses from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The Act imposed new duties on local authorities to licence premises used for gambling and sought to control all forms of gambling. Development of a policy had involved wide consultation, in accordance with the Act. The policy, which was included with the report, was now put before Members for adoption.

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 draft Gambling Policy Statement detailed in the report, which has been developed from the guidance issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005 by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and amended where appropriate following the consultation process.
2. That the policy be adopted by Council at the meeting on 27 November 2006, including the delegations identified within the policy.
3. That Council delegate the responsibility for setting fees in relation to the Gambling Act 2005 to Cabinet.
4. That all matters relating to registration of small society lotteries under Schedule 11 Part 5 of the Gambling Act 2005 are delegated to officers.

## 7. Child Protection Policy

Councillor Susan Fazackerley, Cabinet Portfolio for Corporate Performance and Development presented the report of the Executive Manager for Community & Cultural Services which provided details on the introduction of a Child Protection Policy which would provide simple guidance for Elected members, staff, and volunteers under the auspices of Fylde Borough Council to help them deal with issues that might arise when working with children.

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

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 recommend to Council the adoption and implementation of the Child Protection Policy.
2. To recommend that the Portfolio Holder (Culture & Tourism) be responsible for all matters concerning child protection issues relating to the Council.

## 8. Listening Day Final Report

Councillor Albert Pounder, Cabinet Portfolio for Customer Relations & Partnerships presented the report of the Executive Manager for Community & Cultural Services which provided details on the findings of Community Listening Day held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

With the instigation of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which had membership from the public, private and voluntary sectors that delivered a wide range of services to the community, Listening Day had developed into a wider consultation involving the other LSP members. The questionnaire had evolved to focus on the key data that partner organisations needed to shape the future delivery of their services. The report would be used by managers as a key reference and support document to their service plans and by Members to monitor that service delivery outcomes were in line with identified customer need.

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 consider the report findings and to give due weight to the data in their priority setting as part of the 2007/08 budget setting process.
2. To commend the results to the partner organisations and to thank them for their considerable support to make Community Listening Day a success.

*(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered questions submitted by Councillor Elizabeth Oades which asked -*

- (1) After such a comprehensive, costly and time-consuming consultation, were 2,006 responses truly considered to be a successful and worthwhile result and should future service provision and budgetary allowances really be set on so small a sample?*

and

*(2) Section 37, Visitor's Survey, Transport:- In regard to this section could someone explain why a lenient parking scheme is unsustainable? A lenient parking regime is a system, which brings more people to our towns to shop and enjoy leisure time. The statement in this paragraph contradicts that in Section 41, Suggested Improvements, in which visitors complain about lack of toilets and parking facilities, which statement do we take note of in our future deliberations?*

*Councillors Pounder and Ashton responded to these specific questions following which the Cabinet discussed and responded to the issues raised in the questions and took them into account in reaching their decision).*

#### 9. Medium Term Financial Strategy

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet portfolio holder for Finance and Efficiency presented the report of the Executive Manager for Finance which provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and highlighted the financial pressures which the authority faced in providing quality services within the finances likely to be available over the next five years.

To ensure that the finances of the Authority continued to be stable it was important that the Council ensured the effective implementation of a robust efficiency/value for money programme.

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 Medium Term Financial Strategy, noting the financial position as outlined in the report and the way forward to ensure a sustainable financial future.

#### 10. Financial Monitoring Report 2006/2007

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet portfolio holder for Finance and Efficiency presented the report of the Executive Manager for Finance which provided an update on expenditure against the Councils capital and revenue budget for the first half of the 2006/07 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-

1. That members approve the capital expenditure of £672,550 which represents 28% of the revised budget.
2. That members note the current projected overspend of £357,100 on the revenue budget and the actions being taken to minimise this.

#### 11. Accommodation

Councillor Paul Rigby, Cabinet portfolio holder for Finance and Efficiency presented the report of the Chief Executive, which provided an update on accommodation issues.

The Council had commissioned a draft proposal to provide 'fit for purpose' office and civic accommodation on the site of the Town Hall, St Annes.

The preferred scheme had been the subject of consultation with staff, members and key stakeholders.

This report provided a summary of the feedback received from that consultation and recommended that the detailed business case and procurement strategy be developed.

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 responses to the consultation exercise be noted.
2. That the draft layout, which has been the subject of consultation, indicating the use of the ground floor of the Town Hall for civic purposes be pursued as the preferred scheme.
3. That officers proceed to commission work on the detailed business case and procurement strategy.
4. That current valuations be obtained of the portfolio of sites agreed by the Council for disposal.

*(Prior to considering the above item the Cabinet considered a question submitted by Councillor Elizabeth Oades which asked in view of the large sum of money already expended on this project can we be assured that a decision to provide office and civic accommodation at the Town Hall site will not be taken until full costings are available to the full Council? -*

*The Cabinet discussed and responded to the issues raised in the question and it was reported that future issues on accommodation are delegated to be considered and determined by the Cabinet).*

## 12. The Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities

Councillor John Coombes, the Leader of the Council presented the report on the recently published Local Government White Paper, which set out the vision for revitalised local authorities which shaped local public services and communities which used them.

The report provided an outline of the main elements of the Paper and went on to describe the content of the parallel paper, which invited council's to make proposals for future unitary local government structures.

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 contents of the White Paper be noted.
2. That an enhanced two-tier structure be the preferred way forward
3. That the matter be referred to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November for further debate and consideration.

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