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**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF CABINET MEMBERS**

**18 October 2005 – 4.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Collins (in the Chair); Councillors Page, Shrimplin and Stone.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coleman, Lawley and Smith.

Mr M Barrow (Corporate Director Environment and Economy), Mr B Sharma (Corporate Director Resources), Mr J Hemsworth (Head of Environment and Health), Mr R Neve (Head of Property Services), Mr W Flatman (Head of Financial Services), Mr M Burns (Head of Housing Needs and Welfare Services), Ms C Metcalf (Head of Customer Services), Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager), Mr S Mutton (Environmental Strategy Manager), Mr D Glason (Planning Policy Officer), and Mr M Stephenson (Environmental Strategy Officer).

Councillor R Peck, J Newman and J Pond (Great Yarmouth Community Safety (CCTV) Company Limited) attended for item 3.

**1. HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES**

Cabinet Members were introduced to the new Head of Customer Services Clare Metcalf.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held of 4 October 2005 were confirmed.

**3. GREAT YARMOUTH COMMUNITY SAFETY (CCTV) COMPANY LIMITED**

Cabinet met with representatives from the CCTV Company Limited to discuss issues of concern relating to future potential revenue problems and associated maintenance issues in respect of the provision of CCTV. Cabinet Members were advised that it was highly probable that the existing CCTV equipment would need to be replaced or repaired and that the CCTV Company were not in a position to do this. Cabinet Members were reminded by the Company that the Borough Council owns the CCTV equipment whereas the CCTV Company has the responsibility for operating the equipment.

Councillor Peck reminded Cabinet Members that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in December 2004 had carried out a review into CCTV and had made a number of recommendations to the Executive at its meeting on the 19 of January 2005 which had been accepted. It was pointed out that the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations had included that with effect from the 2007/08 financial year the Borough Council would probably have to

meet the further shortfall in the level of funding for the CCTV system. The Scrutiny Committee had also recommended that consideration should be given to increasing the tariffs payable on the car parks covered by the CCTV system by 2.5% above any other increase which might be implemented during the 2005/06 financial year and that this money be ringfenced to contribute towards the CCTV system.

Mr Pond gave details of why the equipment may need replacing/repairing in the near future. The CCTV Company Limited representatives were assured that the Borough Council would do all it could to assist the Company with regard to their problems. The representatives asked whether it would be possible to ringfence funds to be put aside with a view to these funds being used to maintain the CCTV system, thereby in effect creating a Renewals Fund. The question of the percentage success as a result of the CCTV system being installed was also raised.

Cabinet Members agreed that further detailed consideration of this matter be deferred pending full detailed reports from the CCTV Company Limited and a joint report from the Head of Environment and Health and the Head of Financial Services in respect of all relevant issues with regard to the provision of CCTV.

#### **4. DECORATIVE LIGHTING – GORLESTON HIGH STREET**

Cabinet Members considered the Environmental Strategy Officer's report which outlined the current position relating to the provision of decorative lighting along Gorleston High Street. Members were reminded that during the last financial year the decorative lighting repairs and maintenance budget was consolidated to purchase significant lengths of lighting festoon to replace the defective decorative lighting along Gorleston Beach, Marine Parade and Gorleston High Street. The decorative lighting along Gorleston Beach and Marine Parade had been successfully replaced. Members were advised that permission had been sought from Norfolk County Council to replace the decorative lighting along Gorleston High Street using their highway lighting columns as at present as supports for the festoon. The Environmental Strategy Officer reported that the County Council would not give their permission as structural tests on their columns had determined that they would not be able to support the lighting festoons and that as the current festoon was beyond repair a decision to remove the existing lighting festoon had been made on grounds of public safety.

Norfolk County Council had been asked to inform this Authority when they expected to replace the columns in the future and the County had advised that these columns would be replaced sometime during the next seven years but the County would not be a position to say exactly when until next summer at the earliest.

In discussing this item, Cabinet Members discussed whether there would be any possibility of attaching the lights to the buildings on the High Street. It was pointed out that the Borough Council would need to obtain the necessary legal wayleaves to facilitate this practice.

Cabinet Members endorsed the Officer's proposed action to investigate what action if any could be taken to provide decorative lighting along Gorleston High Street and that the Environmental Strategy Officer should liaise further with County Council with regard to replacement columns.

#### **5. COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Lead Cabinet Members provided an update on the following priorities on exception based:-

- **Stronger Communities**

No items to report under this heading.

- **Economic**

The Cabinet Member (Property Development and Regeneration) reported that with regard to Beacon Park, the PKF building was progressing and that works to the Speculative Offices had commenced. He also reported that on the 1 November the EEDA Board would be taking the Chairs of all regional Boards throughout the country and that it was proposed to visit Great Yarmouth in the near future. With regard to the Market Place, it was anticipated that new machines for cleansing would be purchased in the near future.

- **Environment**

The Cabinet Member (Environmental Services) reported that no complaints had been received following the termination of the grass cutting season. He also reported that the Street Scene was working well and also referred to vandalism problems occurring throughout the Borough.

The Cabinet Member (Recycling and Waste Management) reported on the present situation with regard to Phase 4 Wheeled Bin Distribution.

- **Social**

No items to report under this heading.

- **Resources**

No items to report under this heading.

- **Putting People First**

The Deputy Leader reported that at the Member Training session to be held on Thursday 24 of November. Members would be considering a presentation with regard to progress in respect of the *inte*GREAT project along Marine Parade.

## 6. **GORLESTON COAST PROTECTION – SCHEME PROPOSALS**

Cabinet Members endorsed the joint report of the Head of Environment and Health and the GYB Service Limited Coast Protection Engineer which outlined the present position relating to the Gorleston Coast Protection Scheme and a recommendation to arrange a future public meeting with residents to enable an early application to DEFRA for funding.

## 7. **GREAT YARMOUTH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

The Planning Policy Officer reported on a consultation document received from Norfolk County Council with regard to the Great Yarmouth Area Transportation Study. Members were advised that the consultation study report summarised the results of a study to assist in

the review of the Great Yarmouth Area Transportation Strategy and outlined how the revised strategy would be taken forward in the context of the Local Transport Plan. In discussing this item, Cabinet Members commented on the need to look at the traffic flow and road layouts in the Town and to also consider the proposed road system around the Hollywood Cinema on the Seafront.

The Member Services Manager reported that under the terms of the Constitution this consultation document would be considered by the Executive at its meeting on the 16 November.

#### **8. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH**

The Environmental Strategy Manager reported that for the past 18 months the Borough Council had been working with CABI Space on the preparation of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for the Borough. Accordingly the draft document was now presented for Members' perusal. It was proposed that this document would now go out to final consultation with stakeholders and the general public before bringing the document back to the Executive for formal adoption.

Cabinet Members endorsed the Officer's proposed action to carry out the above consultation procedure.

#### **9 ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE ADVISORY GROUPS/POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Members were advised that there were no items for consideration by the above.

#### **10. THE MARINA CENTRE - UPDATE**

Cabinet Members considered the report of the Corporate Director (Environment and Economy) with regard to the Marina Centre update. The Corporate Director (Environment and Economy) reported that during September discussions had taken place with Leisure Connection to discuss future options. Member were also advised that Officers were currently reviewing a range of alternative options which included tourism based alternative uses; alternative arrangements; and the relationship and capacity of sport and leisure facilities across the Borough.

Cabinet Members noted the report.

#### **11. AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME – APPROVAL OF VIREMENT OF FUNDS AND ADDITIONAL SPEND FOLLOWING OFFER OF LOTTERY FUNDING FROM “TRANSFORMING YOUR SPACE” PROJECT**

Cabinet Members considered the report of the Environmental Strategy Manager with regard to the approval of virement of funds and additional spend following the offer of lottery funding from “Transforming your Space” Project. The Member Services Manager reported that this item would be considered as a matter of urgency by Executive at its meeting tomorrow and that approval of the need to amend the capital programme would be considered by Council at its meeting on the 27 October.

**12. USE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cabinet Members considered the Head of Housing Needs and Welfare Services' report on the Use of Local Authority Land for affordable housing. Members were advised that the report proposed that authority be given in principle to sell to a Housing Association a modest proportion (15%) of two of its strategic sites at Church Lane and Beacon Park. These sites would have an approximate yield of 57 units of affordable housing. Partner housing associations would then be asked to put in bids to the Housing Corporation for family houses for rent and shared ownership. The Head of Housing Needs and Welfare Services was recommending that the bids were put in on the basis that they are sold at market value, unless the Affordable Housing Working Group and Council subsequently instruct otherwise. It should also be noted that there was likely to be a yield of a further 15% of the sites for affordable housing via Section 106 funds.

Cabinet Members endorsed the Officer's proposed recommendation to give approval in principle to sell to a Housing Association 15% of two of its strategic sites namely Church Lane and Beacon Park and that a further detailed report on this issue be presented to a future meeting of the Executive for authorisation before the land sale actually goes ahead.

**13. BID FOR SINGLE REGIONAL HOUSING PLOT 5% TOP SLICE**

The Head of Housing Needs and Welfare Services reported for information that the Borough Council's bid in respect of the above had emerged as the top bid in the region.

**14. CLOSURE OF MARINE PARADE**

The Cabinet Member (Property Development and Regeneration) reported for information on the proposals to close a section of Marine Parade for highway works in the near future.

**15 BRIEFING ON ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE/ - 19 OCTOBER 2005**

Cabinet Members considered briefings on items for the Executive of the 19 October 2005.

**16. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm.