



MINUTES

CABINET

5pm – 6.25pm

27 October 2010

Present: Councillor Arthur (Chair), Brociek-Coulton, MacDonald and Sands

Also present:: Councillors Makoff, Stephenson, Wiltshire and Wright (R)

Apologies: Councillors Bremner, Morpew, Waters and Westmacott

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the cabinet meetings held on 23 and 29 September 2010.

2. PV FOR FREE – INVESTING IN PV IN COUNCIL HOMES

The chair introduced the report and referred to the benefits this proposal would provide to tenants. She commended this excellent piece of work.

Councillor Makoff explained she had looked at alternative models utilising prudential borrowing which could generate much needed income for the council and asked officers to look at her proposals.

The Chief executive officer said she would discuss Councillor Makoff's proposal with the chief finance officer to enable officers to make a quick overview.

The private sector housing home energy officer said these other options had been considered and that there were wider implications to consider not just the initial investment, such as ongoing maintenance.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) authorise the director of regeneration and development to take the necessary next steps to procure the services of a contractor to deliver the scheme and specifically for the council's strategic contracts manager to invite possible partners to tender; and

- (2) authorise the proposed general outline for the delivery of a 'PV for free' scheme and the suggested methods for ensuring that so far as is reasonably practicable, the project will be equitable in delivering benefits for all council tenants.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT TO TENANTS 2010

The Chair introduced the report and said tenants and the Citywide Board had been consulted on the format of this document.

RESOLVED to approve the annual report to tenants 2009/10.

4. REFORMING RAIL FRANCHISING

The head of transportation presented the report and explained that previously the council had responded to the renewal of the Anglia Rail franchise but this had been delayed pending wider reform of the rail franchise process. The consultation provided an opportunity to reaffirm the council's previous position on the need to better involve local communities in the procurement and delivery of rail franchises such as through representation of local authority networks at board level.

RESOLVED to endorse the council's response to the reforming rail franchising government consultation as set out in the report.

5. SINGLE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Councillor Sands, cabinet member for wellbeing introduced the report and referred to the general duties which came into force from October 2010 and the public sector duties which were due to come into force from April 2011. She thanked officers for their work.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) note the general duties of the single equalities act. This came into force on 1 October 2010; and
- (2) approve the response to the consultation on elements of the act which have not come into force, regarding the public sector specific duties due to come into force on April 2011.

6. PROPOSED SAVINGS PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

(A comprehensive spending review update was circulated)

The chief executive presented the report and said that £3 million of savings had been found. Although the full impact would not be realised until the Government had allocated the revenue support grant to authorities in December. It was also unclear what impact the county council cuts would have on residents.

The head of communications and culture explained that the citizen's panel and focus groups had been involved in the consultation. The feedback from the consultation

would give a real opportunity to shape what happens next as participants had been asked about what they thought the councils priorities should be in future.

The chief executive said that different methods had been used to develop the proposed savings whilst protecting frontline services. These had come through staff briefings, managers reviewing income and spending, reviewing service structures and ways of working. The proposals would reduce capacity and the council would not be able to deliver what it had done in the past.

The chair said that the cabinet had been involved through out the process as had group leaders and other politicians and would continue to be involved until the settlement from government was known in December.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) note the revised financial position following the Government announcement on the comprehensive spending review;
- (2) agree to implement a programme of savings for 2011/12 (current proposals are set out in annex b, and may be subject to change following the conclusion of the consultation exercise);
- (3) note the responses to the external consultation exercise as set in annex c of the report;

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Items 8 and 9 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

***8. PROPOSED SAVINGS PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12 (PARAGRAPH 1)**

(Copies of annex d and e of the report were circulated)

RESOLVED having considered the report of the chief executive to –

- (1) note the response to the internal staff consultation exercise as set out in annex d of the report;
- (2) approve the staff changes as set out in annex e of the report; and
- (3) thank the acting HR manager and her team for managing the HR process and steering the council through a very sensitive detailed process.

***9 NORWICH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PARAGRAPH 3)**

RESOLVED, having considered the report of the economic development manager to-

- (1) support the development of a business improvement district in Norwich city centre and;

- (2) agree in principle to continue current funding arrangements for the city centre management post in 2011/12 and 2012/13 (subject to formal budgetary process) as Norwich City Council's total financial contribution towards the BID development process.

CHAIR