
CABINET

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Wednesday, 8 November 2017 from 7.00pm - 7.35 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Bowles (Chairman), Mike Cosgrove, Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Alan Horton, Ken Pugh and David Simmons.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Martyn Cassell, Russell Fairman, Zoe Kent, Kellie MacKenzie, Donna Price, Mark Radford, Gary Rowland, Nick Vickers and Phil Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Bryan Mulhern (Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning), Harrison, Roger Truelove, Ghlin Whelan and Tony Winckless.

APOLOGY: Councillor Gerry Lewin.

306 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

307 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 October 2017 (Minute Nos. 250 – 264) were taken as read, approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

308 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

PART A RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

309 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer and the above Cabinet Member which invited Cabinet to consider the proposals for the level of fees and charges to be levied for the next financial year 2018/19.

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and proposed the recommendations. He explained that following major changes to areas such as car parks and cemeteries over recent years there were no major changes proposed for 2018/19. The Cabinet Member reminded Members that the report would be considered by the Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting on 15 November 2017.

In response to a query from a Member, the Financial Services Manager advised that the 3% inflation rate referred to in the report, was the Consumer Prices Index inflation rate for September 2017 and he would confirm this later.

Recommended:

- (1) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Economy and Community Services in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and the Cabinet Member for Safer Families and Communities to increase the 2018/19 charge for Environmental Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and graffiti so that they will continue to be set to the maximum limit set by the Government should this change during 2018/19.**
- (2) That the local land charges fees are implemented 1 December 2017.**
- (3) That the proposed fees and charges 2018/19 as set out in this report for submission to Council, be approved.**

310 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/19**Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Resident Services and the above Cabinet Member which recommended changes to the current Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme following the outcome of the public consultation which ended on 28 August 2017.

The Chief Executive drew attention to an error in the report and stated that recommendation (2) should refer to paragraph 3.6 of the report **not** 3.7 as stated.

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and drew attention to the proposed changes outlined in Table 3 on paragraph 3.6 of the report which he considered were appropriate and reasonable. The Cabinet Member referred to the recommendation from the Policy Development and Review Committee, which was tabled for Members. The Cabinet Member explained that he did not support their recommendation and considered that the maximum level of support for working age applicants should be implemented at 75%, as outlined in the report. He referred to the Council's Hardship Scheme which was available for residents experiencing difficulties with making payments.

In response to a query from a Member, the Revenue and Benefits Manager (Technical and Financial) explained that the Government had changed the bereavement allowance, and Option 6 ensured that the CTS Scheme was in-line with the housing benefit regulations.

Recommended:

- (1) That the outcome of the public consultation having taken consideration of the potential impact of the proposed changes on working age claimants with the protected characteristics of disability, age and sex under the Equalities Act 2010 be noted.**
- (2) That changes to the current scheme as listed in paragraph 3.6 of the report be recommended to Council.**

PART B Reports for Decisions by Cabinet**311 COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17****Leader**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact and the above Cabinet Member which presented the annual summary of complaints, compliments and comments received by Swale Borough Council (SBC) during the year from April 2016 to March 2017.

The Cabinet Member noted the small number of complaints during this period which he considered was a credit to the Council's officers and Strategic Management Team.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

312 APPROVAL OF ACTIVE LIVES FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATION**Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Economy and Community Services and the above Cabinet Member which provided an update on the Sport and Physical Activity Framework 2012 – 2017 (SPAF) and detailed proposals for the draft Active Lives Framework (ALF) 2017 – 2022 for approval to enable an 8-week consultation period.

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and explained that the six objectives of the SPAF laid down by Sport England (SE) had been met, and that the ALF would focus more on the health and wellbeing of people with more interaction between local GP surgeries and sports groups to help improve the wellbeing of residents.

Members raised the following points: not all the objectives of the SPAF had been met and noted that adult obesity had increased; SE's targets were useful but they did not necessarily correlate with health outcomes and were more about participation; the Strategy should be aimed more at people that do not regularly take part in sport, and encouraging them to have a healthier lifestyle such as developing more sites for walking; and important to include ways of encouraging people to eat healthily from an early age to combat obesity.

In response to a query from a Member, the Community Sport and Physical Activity Officer agreed to provide a breakdown of the adult obesity rates for each of the Swale Clinical Commissioning Groups in Swale. He explained that the SPAF had focused more on sport, and the ALF was more about providing active and healthy lives and working holistically to get people active.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing acknowledged that obesity was increasing, but he hoped that by including primary care in the ALF the issue could be dealt with. He spoke about the Swale Community Chef who visited local schools and sports clubs to encourage healthy eating.

Resolved:

(1) That the draft Active Lives Framework 2017 – 2022 be approved to enable an 8 week consultation period.

313 MINUTES OF THE SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

Cabinet noted the resolutions from the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee of 21 September 2017.

Resolved:

(1) That the resolutions from the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee of 21 September 2017 be noted.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel