

CABINET

10.00 A.M.

5TH JUNE 2007

PRESENT:- Councillors Roger Mace (Chairman), Evelyn Archer, June Ashworth, Jon Barry, Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, David Kerr and Maia Whitelegg

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors John Gilbert and Val Histed

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
John Donnellon	Corporate Director (Regeneration)
Peter Loker	Corporate Director (Community Services)
Roger Muckle	Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)
Nadine Muschamp	Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Peter Sandford	Head of Economic Development and Tourism
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer

1 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the first meeting of Cabinet in the new Municipal Year.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

There were no items of urgent business authorised by the Chairman.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roger Mace declared a personal non prejudicial interest with regard to the Storey Institute Centre for Creative Industries (Minute 8 refers) in view of a relative working for a tenant of the Storey. Councillor Abbott Bryning also declared a personal interest in the same item in view of his appointment by the City Council Cabinet as a member of the Storey Board.

6 CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, LIAISON GROUPS, OUTSIDE BODIES, PARTNERSHIPS AND BOARDS**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Roger Mace)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that considered the membership and terms of reference of the Cabinet Committee, Cabinet Liaison Groups and also Cabinet appointments to Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Boards.

The options and options analysis, including risk assessment, were set out in the report as follows:

- (1) To note existing arrangements and make no amendments other than to the memberships.
- (2) To consider and approve, where appropriate, any proposals from Cabinet Members.
- (3) To consider but not approve, where appropriate, any proposals from Cabinet Members.

The Officer Preferred Option was Option 2 as this would bring about improvements in the current delegations and support mechanisms more closely aligned to Cabinet Members' portfolios. Cabinet is also requested to consider paragraph 4.2 of the report.

4.2 With regard to Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Boards Cabinet is requested to make appointments, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Eileen Blamire and seconded by Councillor David Kerr:-

"That the recommendations with regard to the Cabinet Committee, Liaison Groups, Outside Bodies, Partnerships and Boards, as set out below, be approved."

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the following Committee and Liaison Groups be re-constituted with the existing Terms of Reference, unless otherwise stated, with the Lead Member being the responsible Member to call such meetings:

Cabinet Committee:**Lancaster and Morecambe Markets Committee:**

Councillors Roger Mace (Lead Member), Evelyn Archer, Jon Barry and Abbott Bryning.

Cabinet Liaison Groups:**Canal Corridor Cabinet Liaison Group:**

Councillor Roger Mace, Lead Member. No meetings will be arranged until after the conclusion of the planning application stage of the development.

Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Jon Barry, Lead Member. The Terms of Reference of this Group to be re-considered at the next meeting of Cabinet. Councillor Barry advised that he would involve Members from each of the political groups on the Council.

District Wide Tenants Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor John Gilbert, Lead Member and Councillor David Kerr. It was suggested that the Group should include a further 3 Members.

Lancaster and District Chamber Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Roger Mace, Lead Member.

Lancaster University and St. Martin's College Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor John Gilbert, Lead Member.

Mellishaw Park Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor David Kerr, Lead Member.

Morecambe Retail, Commercial and Tourism Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Roger Mace, Lead Member.

Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Eileen Blamire, Lead Member. It was suggested that membership should include representation from the 5 political groups on the Council.

Recycling Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Jon Barry, Lead Member and Councillor June Ashworth, with a suggestion that the Group should include Members from the other 3 Groups on the Council.

Transport Cabinet Liaison Group:

Councillor Roger Mace, Lead Member.

- (2) That the following Cabinet Liaison Groups be stood down:

Diversity Cabinet Liaison Group;

Transformational Cabinet Liaison Group.

- (3) That with regard to Cabinet Liaison Groups, the Lead Cabinet Member of each Group be requested to inform the Chief Executive of the participants he/she wishes to invite to such meetings and that any proposed changes to the Terms of Reference to Groups should be reported to Cabinet for consideration.

- (4) That the following appointments be made to Outside Bodies:

Outside Bodies:

Organisation	Cabinet Member Representative/Alternative action to be taken
50Forward Link Age Board (Cabinet Member appointed to Older Persons Partnership Board)	Refer to Council for a Member other than a Cabinet Member.
Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Unit Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB (Forum, Countryside Management Service and Limestone Heritage Project)	Councillor Eileen Blamire.
British Resorts Association	Councillor June Ashworth.
Community Safety Strategy Group Executive Member (One of Cabinet Members appointed to Community Safety Strategy Group)	Councillor Eileen Blamire.
English Historic Towns Forum	Councillor Roger Mace.
Forest of Bowland AONB Advisory Committee	Councillor Eileen Blamire.
Governing Body – Lancaster and Morecambe College Corporation	Councillor Maia Whitelegg.
Groundwork Trust, Lancashire West	Councillor Abbott Bryning.
Lancashire Economic Partnership	Councillor Abbott Bryning.
Lancashire Leaders Meeting (Leader)	Councillor Roger Mace.
Lancashire Police Authority – Partnerships Forum	Councillor Eileen Blamire.
Lancashire Rural Partnership	Councillor Val Histed.

Lancashire Tourism Partnership	No longer in existence, no representative required.
Lancaster and District YMCA Management Board	Councillor John Gilbert. Note: Appointment to be reviewed at the commencement of the new Municipal Year.
Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group	Refer to Council for a Member other than a Cabinet Member.
Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership (formerly Northern Reaches SG)	Councillor Val Histed.
Lancaster Local Strategic Partnership (Leader and Cabinet Member, one of whom serves on the Executive)	Councillors Roger Mace and Val Histed.
LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Councillor Evelyn Archer
LGA Tourism Forum	Councillor June Ashworth
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Councillor Evelyn Archer.
Morecambe Bay Tobacco Control Alliance	Councillor David Kerr.
North and West Lancashire Priority 1 Action Plan Partnership Board	Councillor Abbott Bryning.
North West Regional Assembly (Leader)	Councillor Roger Mace.
Storey Centre for Creative Industries	Councillor Abbott Bryning. Note: Appointment to be reviewed at the commencement of the new Municipal Year.
Tern Project Working Group	Noted that the works were completed and no representative was now required.
Waste Management Strategy Steering Group	Councillor Jon Barry.
Winning Back the West End Steering Group	Councillor Evelyn Archer.

Other Bodies and Partnerships:

Organisation	Cabinet Member Representative/Alternative action to be taken
Community Safety Strategy Group	Councillors Eileen Blamire and Val Histed.
Lancaster Regeneration Partnership	Councillor Abbott Bryning.
LGA Rural Commission	Councillor Val Histed.
LSP Executive	Councillor Val Histed.

LSP Children and Young People Group	Councillor Maia Whitelegg.
LSP Equality and Diversity Building Block	Councillor Val Histed.
LSP Health and Wellbeing Group	Councillor David Kerr.
LSP North West Lancs Lifelong Learning Partnership Group	Councillor Maia Whitelegg.
LSP Regeneration Building Block	Appointment no longer required as replaced by the LSP Lancaster and District Vision Board.

With regard to the following appointment 5 Members voted in favour of Councillor Val Histed (Councillors June Ashworth, Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, David Kerr and Roger Mace), 2 Members voted in favour of Councillor Jon Barry (Councillors Jon Barry and Maia Whitelegg) and 1 Member abstained from voting (Councillor Evelyn Archer), whereupon the Chairman declared that Val Histed was the Cabinet's representative on the LSP Sustainability Partnership.

LSP Sustainability Partnership	Councillor Val Histed.
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Resolved unanimously:

LSP Lancaster & District Vision Board	Councillor Roger Mace.
Museums Advisory Panel	Councillor Maia Whitelegg.
Older People's Partnership Board	Refer to Council for a Member other than a Cabinet Member.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision was made as it would bring about improvements in the current representatives and support mechanisms more closely aligned to Cabinet Members' portfolios.

7 STAR CHAMBER

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Roger Mace)

The Corporate Director (Finance and Performance) submitted a report that considered the appropriateness of retaining Star Chamber as the process for bringing forward savings and efficiencies to meet the Council's medium term financial targets included in the Corporate Plan.

The options and options analysis, including risk assessment, were set out in the report as follows:

Option one is to continue with the Star Chamber process and review the appropriateness of the existing terms of reference, existing work programme, and future timetable.

Option two is to consider introducing an alternative process to Star Chamber to ensure that the Medium Term Financial Strategy targets are met.

There was no officer-preferred option other than to ensure that a process is agreed to meet the Medium Term Financial Strategy targets.

It was moved by Councillor Jon Barry and seconded by Councillor Eileen Blamire:-

“(1) That Cabinet continues with the Star Chamber in its current form, with the Leader as the convener and one Member appointed from each Group.

(2) That the Membership of the Group be as follows:

Councillors Roger Mace (Lead Member), Evelyn Archer, Jon Barry, Abbott Bryning and John Gilbert.

Members to be able to appoint a substitute Cabinet Member if required.”

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

(1) That Cabinet retains the Star Chamber in its current form, as the process for bringing forward savings and efficiencies to meet the City Council's medium term financial targets included in the Corporate Plan, with the Leader as the convener and one Cabinet Member appointed from each Group.

(2) That the Membership of the Group be as follows:

Councillors Roger Mace (Lead Member), Evelyn Archer, Jon Barry, Abbott Bryning and John Gilbert.

Members to be able to appoint a substitute Cabinet Member if required.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Finance and Performance).

Reason for making the decision:

The decision enables Cabinet Members to consider on an informal basis current and future spending plans, value for money, efficiencies and the medium term Financial Strategy targets included in the Corporate Plan.

8 STOREY INSTITUTE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Abbott Bryning)

(It was noted that Councillors Roger Mace and Abbott Bryning had declared personal interests with regard to this item).

The Corporate Director (Regeneration) submitted a report that considered providing additional funding to proceed with the refurbishment of Storey Institute into a Centre for Creative Industries as part of the Lancaster and Morecambe Economic Development Zone, together with resolution of associated operational matters.

The options analysis including risk assessment, were set out fully in the report. The options were set out as follows:

- (1) Do nothing – Abandon the project and continue to operate Storey Institute as at present.
- (2) Abandon the project and attempt to sell the building to a private sector investor/developer.
- (3) Affirm the decision of October 2006 but increase council capital contribution by £200k and implement the scheme within acceptable quality and risk thresholds.

The Officer Preferred Option was Option 3.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Mace and seconded by Councillor Jon Barry:-

“That the recommendations, set out in the report, be approved, subject to the following amendments:

That recommendation (1) be amended to read:

That Members note that design work was completed in March and all stakeholders agree that the project provides a viable proposition even under a minimum specification.

Insertion of the words “prudential borrowing” after the word “project” and prior to the word “and” in recommendation 2(i).

Deletion of recommendation (3) and the insertion of:

Should Council agree to provide further Capital support that the budget of £3.298M be set as a maximum sum for delivery of the agreed specification and that any amount recovered from Lancashire County Council as Highways Authority and any contractual savings that may result from the partnering process either through savings against the tender price or contingency remain with the Capital Programme for determination by Cabinet at a future date.”

By way of amendment it was moved by Councillor Jon Barry and accepted as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder of the original proposition: -

- “(1) That public access is maintained to the garden and that this be put in the lease.
- (2) That Star Chamber reviews the Capital Programme as soon as possible.”

Members then voted as follows on the proposition, as amended.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Members note that design work was completed in March and all stakeholders agree that the project provides a viable proposition even under a minimum specification.
- (2) That Council be recommended to allocate an additional £200,000 to the Storey project via prudential borrowing and that the Capital Programme be updated accordingly.
- (3) That, subject to Council agreeing to the allocation of additional funds and confirmation that the project meets existing grant funding conditions, the contract to deliver the capital scheme be let in accordance with Conlon Construction's tendered financial proposal.
- (4) That income received from Luneside Studios for the licence to occupy space in the Storey Institute be ring fenced for year 1 start up costs incurred by Storey Ltd.
- (5) That Members recognise the need to provide financial cover estimated at £25,000 per annum to assist with any year 1 and 2 revenue shortfall (should the need arise) and that an earmarked reserve be created accordingly, in line with Cabinet's discretion to increase future years' spending projections, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- (6) That Members agree the terms of the lease and service level agreements as included at Appendices 2 and 3 to the report, including the lease being at a peppercorn rent, as a basis for negotiation between the Council and Storey Ltd, subject to the lease including public access being maintained to the garden and agreement by the relevant Cabinet Member as an Individual Cabinet Member decision.
- (7) That the Head of Financial Services be authorised to update the revenue budget for current and future years accordingly.
- (8) Should Council agree to provide further capital support, that the budget of £3.298M be set as a maximum sum for delivery of the agreed specification and that any amounts recovered from Lancashire County Council as Highways Authority and any contractual savings that may result from the partnering process, either through savings against the tender price or contingency, remain with the Capital Programme for determination by Cabinet at a future date.
- (9) That Star Chamber reviews the Capital Programme as soon as possible.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Regeneration).
Head of Financial Services.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision recommends to Council a secure sustainable, long term future for one of

Lancaster's key heritage assets. The City Council will also be able to achieve the full range of economic development, employment and cultural development benefits arising from this project. It will also maximise the financial viability of Storey Ltd and provides the best opportunity for creation of a viable business, avoids unsupportable quality/risk issues which would otherwise inevitable occur and resolves a serious highway issue.

The decision also enables Cabinet to be able to review the Capital Programme through the Star Chamber process.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 12.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Services, telephone 01524 582073 or email
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MINUTES PUBLISHED ON: THURSDAY, 7th JUNE, 2007.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
FRIDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2007.**