

CABINET

10.00 A.M.

18TH MARCH 2008

PRESENT:- Councillors Roger Mace (Chairman), Evelyn Archer, June Ashworth, Jon Barry, Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, John Gilbert and Tony Johnson

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors David Kerr and Maia Whitelegg

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
Peter Loker	Corporate Director (Community Services)
Roger Muckle	Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)
David Owen	Head of Cultural Services (part)
Derek Whiteway	Internal Audit Manager
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer

129 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th February, 2008 were approved as a correct record.

130 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chairman advised that there were 2 items of Urgent Business regarding Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Arrangements (Minute 136 refers) and Area Based Grant Allocations 2008/09 (Minute 137 refers).

131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

132 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

133 SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Maia Whitelegg)

The Head of Cultural Services submitted a report that sought approval and adoption of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (SPAS) 2008 – 2011 and associated Implementation Plan, sought approval for the Council to manage the overall scheme in terms of monitoring and evaluating all the projects and reporting back to Sport England and sought approval for the Council to act as the accountable and delivery body for the district's Community Investment Fund allocation of £219,000; subject to a successful stage 2 application to Sport England and finally sought approval for the Council to act as the

accountable body for some of the match funding associated with the above bid. The total match funding associated with this bid was £547,700 (including £141,200 in-kind contribution), with the City Council being accountable for £337,500 (combined public/private sector match).

Supplementary information was made available at the meeting which advised that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was currently facing a shortfall in its Spending Plan for the year 2008/09. Members were requested to take this information into account when considering the funding of the SPAS.

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

Options regarding the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
1, Adopt the strategy & Implementation Plan	<p>Act as an outline of how Lancaster District intends Sport & Physical Activity provision to develop between 2008-2011.</p> <p>Provide a framework for allocation of resources, which effect sport & physical activity opportunities.</p> <p>Address the sport & physical activity needs of children, young people and adults in Lancaster District.</p> <p>Underpin Lancaster District's application to the Sport England Community Investment Fund.</p>	<p>Match funding and resources required to oversee and deliver the strategy and Implementation plan</p>	<p>Conflicting priorities – Council unable to allocate sufficient resources to support strategy, without cutting other service areas. (this would be managed internally by Cultural Services</p> <p>Unsuccessful implementation – failure to meet objectives</p> <p>Not securing match funding</p>
2, Not adopt the strategy & Implementation Plan	<p>No resources required to oversee strategy</p>	<p>Lose potential for a coordinated approach towards Sport & Physical Activity</p> <p>Lose Sport England Community Investment Fund</p>	<p>A strategy is one of the requirements to be able to access the district's Sport England allocation. This opportunity will be lost without the adoption of the strategy</p>

		allocation and further substantial amount of match funding	
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Options regarding the Sport England Bid:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
3, Accept the responsibility to act as accountable body and deliverer of the Sport & Physical Activity and relevant match funding	<p>Enable the Sport England allocation to be accessed.</p> <p>Lead the district in developing new methods and opportunities for increasing participation in sport & physical activity through Sport England funding and the match funding</p>	<p>Match funding and additional staff resources will be required to deliver the programme.</p>	<p>If the funding application to Sport England is successful there will be terms and conditions of grant which the Council must comply with. If these are not met there is a risk that funding will be clawed back.</p> <p>(See also earlier risks)</p>
4, Act as the accountable body only for the funding and don't lead on delivery of the Sport & Physical Activity.	<p>Possibility of attracting additional resources and support to the programme if external deliverers could be found.</p>	<p>To date the Sport & Physical Activity Partnership has not been able to identify any alternative deliverers, apart from the Lancashire Cricket Board.</p> <p>(agreements would have to be made with any deliverers prior to the March application deadline)</p> <p>Reduced control on the outcomes.</p> <p>Still requires staff time to monitor agreements.</p> <p>Additional benefits may not be delivered.</p>	<p>Unlikely to satisfy Sport England. Funding would be lost.</p>

5, Take no formal responsibility for the programme	No additional work or added responsibility	The district would not be able to access the allocated Sport England funding and match funding. Negative impact on council's image. Costs of opportunities lost	Negative impact on council's image.
6, Take responsibility for the GP Referral Scheme as a separate project	No bid to Sport England required only an agreement with the Primary Care Trust. It would be a reduced scheme due.	As above	As above

The preferred officer options were options 1 and 3.

This would allow the district via the local authority to access the potential £219,000 Sport England funding and associated match funding based on an adopted sports and physical activity strategy with the Council acting as the accountable body.

Due to the nature of the proposed projects and the lack of an alternative the City Council are in the best position to deliver the portfolio of projects.

Note: Councillor Evelyn Archer left the meeting.

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

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and associated Implementation Plan be adopted and that the Stage 2 application to Sport England be approved.
- (2) That approval be given for Lancaster City Council to act as the accountable body for £337,500 match funding and the potential Sport & Physical Activity Community Investment Fund allocation of £219,000 (Sport England Grant).
- (3) That subject to (1) and (2) above being approved and the outcome of the Stage 2 bid being successful the Head of Financial Services be authorised to update the General Fund Revenue Budget in 2008/09 to 2010/11 to reflect the additional expenditure and financing of the project.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Finance and Performance).
Head of Cultural Services.
Head of Financial Services.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision allows the district, via the local authority, to access the potential £219,000 Sport England funding and associated match funding based on an adopted sports and physical activity strategy with the Council acting as the accountable body. Due to the nature of the proposed projects and the lack of an alternative the City Council are in the best position to deliver the portfolio of projects.

Opportunities for children, young people and adults to participate in good quality, accessible and affordable sports and physical activities is essential to their health and wellbeing. They provide enriching experiences that can help with a range of issues including contributing to addressing adult and childhood obesity, tackling anti social behaviour and juvenile nuisance and developing community cohesion.

An opportunity has been presented to the Council that will allow new methods of supporting and developing sport and physical activities. Providing opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activities always feature highly within communities, for children, young people and adults. This strategy and programme of activities will enable a coordinated approach to be provided to develop new approaches that will lead to an increase in regular participation in sports and physical activities.

Cabinet noted that the matching funding contributions from the Community Safety Partnership and the Neighbourhood Management Board still had to be confirmed, but would be subject to further reports to Cabinet.

With regard to the supplementary information it was noted that the CSP was unlikely to be able to provide match funding in terms of diversionary activities. It was also noted that when setting the Council's budget for 2008/09, a sum of £20,000 was allocated to maintain the capacity of the Community Safety Partnership. Funding was for one year only and continuation of this funding was dependant upon a review of the Council's overall contribution to community safety activity within the district. It is intended to bring a further report back to Cabinet making recommendations for the use of this budget once the Community Safety Partnership has concluded its research into options for reducing the identified shortfall in funding for 2008/9. At this stage it will be clear if matching funding from the CSP will be available.

Members took the above information into account when considering the funding of the SPAS and noted that any shortfall in match funding could be managed by reducing the proposed programme accordingly.

134 CYCLING DEMONSTRATION TOWN

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Eileen Blamire)

The Corporate Director (Community Services) submitted a report that sought approval for the submission of a proposal to Cycling England to extend the Council's Cycling Demonstration Town Project for a further three years.

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

The options were:

- (i) to submit a proposal and accept an offer of funding based on that proposal;
- (ii) to not submit a proposal and develop an exit strategy for the CDT project when funding runs out in the autumn of 2008.

The proposal would be developed with support from Cycling England so the risk of not meeting their conditions would be minimal. The greater risk is in not managing to deliver match funding, but project stages would only be authorised once all the funding was in place for that stage.

The preferred officer option was option (i), to continue the existing project to support the Council's Corporate Priorities.

It was moved by Councillor Eileen Blamire and seconded by Councillor Tony Johnson: -

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet support the submission of a further proposal to Cycling England to extend our Cycling Demonstration Town Project for a further three years.
- (2) That if the proposal is agreed, then the current organisational arrangements for delivering the project, including delegated powers, be extended for a further three years.
- (3) That Cabinet authorise the Head of Financial Services to update the General Fund Capital Programme and General Fund Revenue Budget to reflect the expenditure and financing of the overall project subject to there being a nil impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue financial resources.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Community Services).
Head of Financial Services.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision provides an excellent opportunity to be able to continue this very successful, high profile project for a further three years.

135 CHARTER MARKET, LANCASTER**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Evelyn Archer)**

The Corporate Director ((Finance and Performance) submitted a report that updated Members on the operation of the Charter Market and considered opportunities for improving the market further.

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

There were no specific options recommendations set out in the report as the report is seeking to update members on the current position with the Charter Market and looking for Members' guidance on the future direction of the Market. It was noted that further reports would be prepared on any proposed improvements supported by Cabinet.

There was no preferred officer option.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Mace and seconded by Councillor Tony Johnson: -

- “(1) That Cabinet confirms the Individual Cabinet Member decision made regarding the Traffic Regulation Order for the City centre and advises the County Council of their views prior to the matter being considered by Lancashire Locals.
- (2) That with regard to paragraph 2.4 of the report regarding high street shops taking space on the market, that the current process be confirmed and be continued.
- (3) That with regard to paragraph 2.6 of the report regarding market stall awnings, that Cabinet encourages the use of the traders own awnings in accordance with the existing policy and initiates discussion on the quality of awnings with market traders.
- (4) That Officers investigate the options for improving the provision of electricity to Charter Market stalls.
- (5) That resolutions (2) to (4) above be considered by the Markets Committee.”

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet confirms the Individual Cabinet Member decision made regarding the Traffic Regulation Order for the City centre and advises the County Council of their views prior to the matter being considered by Lancashire Locals.
- (2) That with regard to paragraph 2.4 of the report regarding high street shops taking space on the market, that the current process be confirmed and be continued.

- (3) That with regard to paragraph 2.6 of the report regarding market stall awnings, that Cabinet encourages the use of the traders own awnings in accordance with the existing policy and initiates discussion on the quality of awnings with market traders.
- (4) That Officers investigate the options for improving the provision of electricity to Charter Market stalls.
- (5) That resolutions (2) to (4) above be considered by the Markets Committee.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Finance and Performance).
Head of Property Services.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision enables for Lancashire Locals to be made aware of Cabinet's decision regarding the Traffic Regulation Order for the City Centre and refers consideration of other issues to the Markets Committee for resolution.

136 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - LANCASTER DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Roger Mace)

In accordance with Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed to consider the report as an item of urgent business as it enabled Cabinet to appoint Cabinet Member representatives on the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Board and Management Group. This would ensure that the City Council was represented at any meetings of the Board and Management Group convened prior to the next meeting of Cabinet.

Cabinet considered a referral from the Council Business Committee regarding Cabinet appointments to the Local Strategic Partnership.

With regard to the options, options analysis, including risk assessment, it was noted that it was for Cabinet to decide on the appointment of Cabinet Members to each of the above.

It was moved by Councillor Jon Barry and seconded by Councillor June Ashworth: -

"That Councillor Roger Mace be appointed as Cabinet's representative on the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Board and Councillor Eileen Blamire be appointed to the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Management Group."

By way of amendment it was moved by Councillor Tony Johnson and seconded by Councillor Roger Mace: -

"That Councillor Roger Mace be appointed as Cabinet's representative on the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Board and Management Group, with Councillor Eileen Blamire being the Cabinet Member substitute for both meetings for the intervening period and that these appointments be reviewed at the first meeting of Cabinet of the new Municipal Year."

On being put to the vote 2 Members (Councillors Tony Johnson and Roger Mace) voted in favour of the amendment, 4 Members voted against (Councillors June Ashworth, Jon Barry, Abbott Bryning and John Gilbert) and 1 Member (Councillor Eileen Blamire) abstained from voting, whereupon the Chairman declared the amendment to be lost.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Mace and seconded by Councillor Tony Johnson:

“That the meeting adjourn”.

Upon being put to the vote 4 Members voted in favour (Councillors Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, Roger Mace and Tony Johnson) and 3 Members voted against (Councillors June Ashworth, Jon Barry and John Gilbert), whereupon the Chairman declared the proposition to be carried.

(The meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m. and re-convened at 11.40 a.m.)

With the agreement of his seconder and the meeting Councillor Jon Barry withdrew his previous proposition and moved, with the agreement of his seconder Councillor June Ashworth: -

“That Councillor Roger Mace be appointed as Cabinet’s representative on the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Board, with Councillor Eileen Blamire being the substitute Member and that Councillor Eileen Blamire be appointed to the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Management Group, with Councillor Roger Mace being the substitute Member, and that these appointments be reviewed at the first meeting of Cabinet of the new Municipal Year.”

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Councillor Roger Mace be appointed as Cabinet’s representative on the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Board, with Councillor Eileen Blamire being the substitute Member and that Councillor Eileen Blamire be appointed to the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership Management Group, with Councillor Roger Mace being the substitute Member.
- (2) That these appointments be reviewed at the first meeting of Cabinet of the new Municipal Year.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive.
Head of Democratic Services.

Reason for making the decision:

The decision is in accordance with the recommendations of the Council Business Committee of 6th March 2008. It ensures that the City Council is represented by Cabinet Members at any meetings of the Board and Management Group convened prior to the next meeting of Cabinet. The decision to review membership at the first meeting of

Cabinet in the new Municipal Year will enable Cabinet to consider thematic Groups and any CSP appointments to the Partnership Board and Management Group that may have an impact on the decision on Cabinet appointments.

137 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - AREA BASED GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2008/09

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Roger Mace)

In accordance with Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed to consider the report as an item of urgent business as it would enable Cabinet to consider allocation of the City Council's Area Based Grant (ABG) for 2008/09.

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval for the allocation of the City Council's Area Based Grant (ABG) for 2008/09, in particular to provide continuing support for Neighbourhood Management commitments in Poulton and the West End of Morecambe into the new financial year.

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

Option 1: Use the ABG allocation to continue to fund Neighbourhood Management commitments in Poulton and the West End, and put into place arrangements for allocating the remaining £26,000. The report back on the future of Neighbourhood Management would provide an opportunity to review the effective use of ABG not allocated to meet existing commitments.

Option 2: Allocate the ABG for other purposes, and develop an exit strategy for the existing Neighbourhood Management Project. Realistically, existing commitments could equate to the amount of ABG, but a full analysis would be needed to determine this.

The key risks and opportunities of not using the ABG for continuation of Neighbourhood Management are :

- Limited savings potential in 2008/09, as funds are already committed. This would mean that there may be little left for allocating to alternative initiatives for that year, although it would give greater choice and flexibility for 2009/10 onwards.
- Other works in Poulton and West End would be unfinished, and this could have an adverse impact on the perceived success of the projects to date. There may be reputational risks for the Council in this regard, although this will depend also on the perceived value of the works not completed.
- Work to roll out Neighbourhood Management to other parts of the district would not be finished and lessons learned/best practices may not be maximised.
- There could be an adverse effect on local communities in Poulton and West End which are now showing signs of cohesion (especially in Poulton). Funding (either in 2008/09 or future years) would be freed up, however, giving the opportunity to provide or safeguard other services, in either the same or alternative communities.

Option 1 was the preferred option. This would ensure that existing commitments were met with further options for sustaining Neighbourhood Management and for determining the future use of ABG being brought back to Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Mace and seconded by Councillor John Gilbert: -

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report be approved, subject to amendment to (1) and (3), as set out below:

- (1) That for April 2008 Area Based Grant be used to continue existing arrangements for Neighbourhood Management in Poulton and the West End of Morecambe and a report on future options be brought back to Cabinet in April 2008.
- (3) That allocation of the remaining Grant in 2008/09 be subject to a further report to Cabinet.”

Members then voted as follows.

Resolved:

(6 Members voted in favour (Councillors June Ashworth, Jon Barry, Eileen Blamire, Abbott Bryning, John Gilbert and Roger Mace) and 1 Member abstained from voting (Councillor Tony Johnson)

- (1) That for April 2008 Area Based Grant be used to continue existing arrangements for Neighbourhood Management in Poulton and the West End of Morecambe and a report on future options be brought back to Cabinet in April 2008.
- (2) That work on options to develop Neighbourhood Management arrangements for the District be considered and brought back to Cabinet.
- (3) That allocation of the remaining Grant in 2008/09 be subject to a further report to Cabinet.
- (4) That the General Fund Revenue Budget be updated accordingly.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Corporate Director (Community Services).

Reason for making the decision:

The two Neighbourhood Management projects in Poulton and West End have been successful in reducing levels of deprivation. The ABG allocation is the only available source of funding for these projects to continue in 2008/09. If the ABG is not allocated to the Neighbourhood Management projects existing commitments must still be met.

The decision enables Cabinet to consider options to develop Neighbourhood Management arrangements for the District at the April, 2008 meeting.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Services, telephone 01524 582073 or email
smetcalfe@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON: THURSDAY, 20th MARCH, 2008.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE
MINUTES: TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2008.**