

CABINET

10.00 A.M.

6TH SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT:- Councillors Eileen Blamire (Chairman), Janice Hanson (Vice-Chairman), Jon Barry, Abbott Bryning, Karen Leytham, Ron Sands and David Smith

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
Heather McManus	Deputy Chief Executive
Nadine Muschamp	Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Richard Tulej	Head of Community Engagement Service
Julian Inman	Senior Planning Officer (Minute 35)
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 July 2011 following the revision agreed upon at the meeting on 26th July (minute 17 refers) together with the minutes for the meeting held on 26 July 2011 were approved as a correct record.

31 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chairman advised that there were no items of urgent business.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

33 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

34 PRIORITIES REVIEW

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive which provided information on the priorities review, to enable Cabinet to decide how it wished to proceed in terms of the Corporate Plan and Budget for 2012-15.

There were no options listed in the report, which provided details on a number of areas of activity which Cabinet Members had requested be considered in more detail. Brief details on how to review each of the activities identified and the process for reporting to Members was set out in the report with the areas of activity identified as follows:

- Increased provision for social housing (including the possibility of council housing new build)
- More allotments because of the current very long waiting lists
- A programme for renewable energy on council houses – to increase energy production to reduce bills for tenants and as a potential financial investment for the council
- Protection of heritage on the Canal Corridor site
- Support for the arts in the district
- Continued funding for PCSO's
- Look at levels of street cleansing and improvement of open spaces
- Diversionary activities for young people
- Housing Regeneration
- Council housing opportunities – new regulations
- Council Tax Benefits localisation and grant reduction
- Implications of business rates changes as far as can be forecast
- Apprenticeships
- Working with the voluntary sector to reduce the amount of rough sleeping in the district.

The report highlighted areas of service for review which could, in turn, affect the council's future priorities. Cabinet were advised that the report needed to be seen in the current financial context which required savings to outweigh growth.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Leytham:-

- (1) "That Cabinet agree that the areas of activity identified in the report be fed into the Corporate Plan and budget process and recognise that these relate to all parts of the district, city, coast and countryside."
- (2) "That the areas of activity be amended as follows: 2.2 to include reference to the allotment initiative at Heysham, 2.7 to include reference to visitor as well as street signage."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet agree that the areas of activity identified in the report be fed into the Corporate Plan and budget process and recognise that these relate to all parts of the district, city, coast and countryside.
- (2) That the areas of activity be amended as follows: 2.2 to include reference to the allotment initiative at Heysham, 2.7 to include reference to visitor as well as street signage.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision to agree to the areas of activity recognises the council's commitment to

city, coast and countryside and will assist in the development of the budget process.

35 LANCASTER SQUARE ROUTES

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hanson)

Cabinet received a report from the Head of Regeneration and Policy to review the Cabinet decision of 6 December 2009 with regard to keeping all existing trees within Market Square (minute 95, 1) refers.

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

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Option 1: Further adjust the proposed design layout by siting the “platform” further into the square and reducing the area of the “carpet” at the eastern end</p>	<p>Works can go ahead</p> <p>Keeps all existing trees in the square as per the previous Cabinet decision.</p>	<p>A compromised layout that restricts space for a better market layout and constrains suitability for staging events</p>
<p>Option 2: Authorise removal of tree D and implement the design improvements planned</p>	<p>Works can go ahead to improve the central part of the square consistent with the design presented to Cabinet in December 2009.</p> <p>Therefore gives significant improvements and potentials for multiple and flexible use of the square, for seating and passive recreation and for the market and staging events.</p>	<p>Loss of tree D.</p> <p>Removal of the single tree makes the number of trees on the north and south sides of the square unbalanced and asymmetrical.</p>
<p>Option 3: Authorise removal of both tree D and tree H</p>	<p>As for option 2 but removal of tree H at the same time will also -</p> <p>optimise the effectiveness of the new lighting scheme in this corner of the square that presently attracts anti-social activity;</p> <p>open up the opportunity for street café use in this corner of the Square as</p>	<p>Loss of trees D and H</p>

	per the Gillespie's design ambition reveal Anchor Lane better mean there are three trees at both sides of the Square	
Option 4: Undertake a more fundamental review	None	The project now proposed is devised after extensive consultations and review will unravel that consensus achieved to date. Would make abortive much of the time and cost inputs to date. Would involve significant time delay and new costs in design and additional consultation for which there is no financing.

Option 1 had disadvantages that compromised and restricted how Market Square could be used for different uses. These could be read as risks also. Options 2 and 3 had no risks. Option 4 gave high risk that the council could not begin to improve the square at a difficult economic time when the improvement should help support and sustain the city centre.

Option 1 adhered to the previous Cabinet decision but would mean that the re- design of the square was less accommodating and beneficial for the outdoor market than it should be, was restricting for the staging of events and less advantageous for general pedestrian circulation and enjoyment than it should be. Options 2 and 3 involved tree loss but enabled the adjusted project design to be implemented largely as planned. Option 3 was the preferred officer option and had significant additional advantages including helping design out anti social behaviours and conferring increased flexibility for the use of this corner of the Square.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Bryning:-

“That Cabinet authorise officers to implement the first phase works in Market Square as per option 3 as set out in the report.”

By way of amendment, Councillor Barry proposed and Councillor Smith seconded:-

“That Cabinet authorise officers to implement the first phase works in Market Square and that Tree D be removed and replanted following the completion of the works, that Tree H is not removed at this stage and that tree maintenance be continued to raise the crown of the trees.”

Councillors then voted on the amendment:-

(6 Members (Councillors Barry, Blamire, Bryning, Leytham, Sands and Smith) voted in favour, and 1 Member (Councillors Hanson) abstained.)

Members then voted on the substantive motion:-

Resolved:

That Cabinet authorise officers to implement the first phase works in Market Square and that Tree D be removed and replanted following the completion of the works, that Tree H is not removed at this stage and that tree maintenance be continued to raise the crown of the trees.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Head of Regeneration and Policy

Reasons for making the decision:

The 2010-2011 Corporate Plan identifies Square Routes under the Economic Regeneration Priority, and Lancaster Square Routes is listed as one of the actions under "Visitor Economy". The indicators for success in implementing the plan include if: the number of visitors to the district is increased and improved; the profile of the district as a visitor destination is improved; the retail offer and built environment in the city centre is improved; the economic impact of festivals and events is improved and an improved future for the district's museums is improved. The project contributes to all these. In addition, its importance is clearly identified in the draft new Lancaster District Cultural Heritage Strategy. The project is identified as the critical project in the strategy's action plan.

As part of the Lancaster Square Routes initiative, a first phase of improvements for Market Square was being readied for implementation this autumn. The temporary removal of tree D was necessary to provide sufficient clearance for service and other vehicles to travel on Market Street at all times and to meet highway standards in terms of access and lighting. This decision will enable works to be undertaken to enable the benefits of implementation to be achieved in time for the Christmas period. Given the general economic situation this period is especially critical this year. The decision not to remove Tree H at this stage could be revisited once the works were complete.

36 QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MONITORING

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)

Cabinet received a joint report from the Leader and Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility for Finance in respect of the corporate performance report for the 1st Quarter of the Performance Review Team Cycle for 2011/12.

The report was for noting and comment.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the report be noted.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Head of Community Engagement

Reasons for making the decision:

The Council's Performance Management Framework requires the regular reporting of operational and financial performance to Cabinet as part of the Performance Review Team cycle of meetings. The Corporate PRT report provides a summary of key issues and associated actions that have arisen in the quarter and have been escalated to the Leader of the Council for attention.

37 CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET LIAISON GROUP**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)**

Cabinet received a report from the Head of Community Engagement which sought approval of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group, as set out in the appendix to the report, in order for the Liaison Group to be formally re-established.

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

	Option 1: Approve the TOR	Option 2: Amend the TOR	Option 3: reject the TOR
Advantages	The Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group will be able to meet and begin delivering positive contributions to the area of climate change without further delay	Further input can be made by Members	None
Disadvantages	None	A delay to the meeting of the group	The group will not be able to form
Risks	None	None	A successful forum of discussion and Member leadership in relation to climate change activity will be lost

Option 1 was the officer preferred option. The re-establishment of the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group with revised terms of reference would contribute toward effective implementation of the long-term climate change vision and development of the Climate Change Policy and Action Plan for Lancaster City Council. Member input and consultation, anticipated to be through the group, was a positive contribution.

Councillor Barry proposed, seconded by Councillor Hanson:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group be approved as follows:

The Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group will:

1. Consider and make recommendations for the ongoing development of the Council's Climate Change Policy – Vision for 2020
2. Provide a forum for Member consultation on the development and delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan
3. Consider the delivery of outcomes and recommend any revised actions to achieve targets, which mitigate and adapt to climate change within the framework of the Corporate Plan
4. Consider and recommend effective links to external and internal policies relevant to delivery of the Corporate Plan priority on climate change and the Climate Change Policy
5. Request and consider reports from relevant Officers and Officer groups on the delivery of climate change objectives and the opportunities to secure external funding
6. Promote and raise awareness of the Council's approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change
7. To advise the Portfolio holder on budget proposals in relation to climate change projects
8. The Group will be Chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change and Property Services – Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox
9. The Group will meet as required but in any event, no less than quarterly.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Head of Community Engagement
Head of Governance

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision to approve the terms of reference and re-establish the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group supports the effective delivery of the corporate priority on climate change and will provide an important forum to discuss climate change and sustainability issues at a Member and senior officer level.

38 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - LANCASHIRE TOURISM FORUM**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Cabinet received a report from the Head of Governance to inform Members of the establishment of the Lancashire Tourism Forum and to make an appointment on the basis that full Council would determine that the appointment be made by virtue of position on Cabinet.

Councillor Leytham proposed, seconded by Councillor Hanson:-

“That, on the basis that full Council determine the appointment to the Lancashire Tourism Forum be made by virtue of position on Cabinet, Councillor Sands as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Culture and Tourism, be appointed as the City Council's representative to this outside body.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

That, on the basis that full Council determine the appointment to the Lancashire Tourism Forum be made by virtue of position on Cabinet, Councillor Sands as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Culture and Tourism, be appointed as the City Council's representative to this outside body.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Head of Governance

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision ensures that the City Council is adequately represented on this outside body. Lack of appropriate representation on outside bodies has the potential to affect the Council's ability to perform its Community Leadership role. The 2009-12 Corporate Plan identifies 'Leading our Communities as one of the City Council's core values and representation on outside bodies forms part of this Community Leadership role.

39 LANCASTER MARKET**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Barry)**

The Chief Executive confirmed that following on from the decision made by Cabinet on 26th July 2011(Minute 21 refers) a report detailing all relevant options would be considered at the next full Council meeting on 14th September 2011.

Resolved unanimously:

(1) That the oral update be noted.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Deputy Chief Executive
Head of Property Services

Reasons for making the decision:

The terms of reference of the Lancaster Market Cabinet Liaison Group stipulate regular reports for information to Cabinet. Oral reports are provided only where no decision is required.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047, or email
ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2011.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2011.**