

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

1ST DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- Councillors Eileen Blamire (Chairman), Janice Hanson (Vice-Chairman),
Abbott Bryning, Karen Leytham, Richard Newman-Thompson,
Margaret Pattison and David Smith

Apologies:-

Councillor Darren Clifford

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
Nadine Muschamp	Chief Officer (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Sarah Taylor	Chief Officer (Governance) and Monitoring Officer
Mark Davies	Chief Officer (Environment)
Andrew Dobson	Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning)
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

48 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 were approved as a correct record.

49 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

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

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

51 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

52 ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL LIST CRITERIA

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hanson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning) which sought Cabinet's approval for the adoption of the Council's Local List Selection Criteria document and put in place arrangements for decision making.

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

	Option 1: To approve the adoption of the Local List Selection Criteria document	Option 2: To not approve the adoption of the Local List Selection Criteria document
Advantages	The adoption of the Local List Selection Criteria document complies with guidance set out by Historic England in <i>Good Practice Guide For Local Heritage Listing</i> , which states that local planning authorities should identify heritage assets valued by the local community. The local list will inform Development Management in their day-to-day work. It will also have wider informative value of the importance and role of locally distinctive heritage assets to the public.	There are no advantages to not approving the Local List Selection Criteria.
Disadvantages	There are no disadvantages to the local list selection criteria document as the process is designed to act as an informative measure for the council and the public.	This would have significant consequences of the future management of non-designated heritage assets as it would mean that an opportunity to recognise the locally significant heritage value of individual assets by means of their inclusion on a local list is not realised. When determining planning proposals reference can be made to the inclusion on this local list. This can assist in ensuring that they are preserved and enhanced for future generations.
Risks	There are no risks associated with this option.	There is the potential risk that if not locally listed the development of assets with historic interest will not contribute positively to its identity and character through good design.

Option was the preferred option for the reasons given above. The compilation of a list of local heritage assets will be beneficial to the council and community as it will identify historic assets which crucially contribute to the local identity of the district which are worth preserving for future generations.

Officers have responded to comments made during the public consultation period and have, subsequently, clarified the proposed selection criteria for assets to be added to the

local list. This has led to the development of a tier system for selection, which needs to be adopted to facilitate the establishment of the list.

The adoption of the local list complies with guidance in the NPPF because the local list will identify the significance of heritage assets and enable a balanced judgment to be made by Development Management in the scale of harm or loss to the significance of non-designated heritage assets.

The local list will assist Development Management in their day-to-day applications, inform the local community on their local heritage and positively contribute to the sustainability of the district's built heritage.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Smith:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the adoption of the local list selection criteria document, appended to the report, which will be used for the compilation of a list of non-designated heritage assets (Local List) in the Lancaster district, be approved.
- (2) That delegated powers be granted to the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) to use the adopted criteria to make decisions on whether to add buildings or structures to the local list.
- (3) That provision be made to enable owners of buildings or structures added to the Local List to appeal against their designation to the Appeals Committee.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning)

Reasons for making the decision:

The adoption of the local list criteria could increase community involvement in the identification of distinctive local historic buildings or structures, thereby leading to an increased awareness of heritage assets, their role in planning decisions and the contribution they make to the built environment. This could lead to the increased re-use of buildings as they are recognised as historically important and, therefore, make a contribution to the sustainable development of communities.

53 RYELANDS PARK / GREAVES PARK MASTERPLANS 2015-2025

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Smith)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Environment) which sought approval for the Ryelands Park and Greaves Park Master Plans 2015-2025.

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

	Option 1: Approve the master plans for delivery	Option 2: Continue without master plans
Advantages	The master plans help focus current and future resources on areas and attractions that will enhance the park. The plans will also help support applications to external funders to preserve and enhance the park	The opportunities to preserve and enhance the park through additional funding support would be very much reduced. There would be no clear guidance to the development of the park. This can be particularly difficult when considering new opportunities.
Disadvantages		Less potential for external funding opportunities
Risks	Funding for development is not secured. If the volunteer groups disband it would be difficult for the council to obtain funding from external sources.	The park may slip into decline without proper forward planning

The preferred option was option 1. The parks are very popular and well used. It is important to have a plan for the future to ensure they remain popular. The plans will help support applications to external funders to preserve and enhance the park. The ongoing maintenance requirements for the proposed adventure play area and BMX pump track at Ryelands Park should be noted.

Councillor Leytham proposed, seconded by Councillor Smith:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the master plans for Ryelands Park and Greaves Park 2015-2025 be approved.
- (2) That decisions relating to the delivery of the master plans be delegated to the Chief Officer (Environment), in line with financial regulations, and the previous decision of Cabinet relating to Accountable Body Authorisation for Community Groups (4th August 2015, Minute 13).
- (3) That Cabinet notes the ongoing efforts of volunteers in Ryelands and Greaves Park and many other Parks and areas of open space in the District and expresses thanks for the ongoing contribution they make.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Environment)

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's Clean, Green and Safe Places priority. The master plans will assist in allocating current and future resources within the parks, to both preserve the parks and enhance their assets.

54 OLDER PEOPLE'S CABINET LIAISON GROUP

The Chairman advised the meeting that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

55 PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive to approve the draft Action Plan following the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken in June 2015.

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

The options for Cabinet are

- a) to agree an action plan and for officers to take it forward, or:
- b) not to agree an action plan.

The aim of the Peer Challenge was to drive forward improvement, therefore if the issues raised by the final report are not addressed, the Council will miss an opportunity to tackle areas that can be improved in a targeted way. For this reason, the officer preferred option is a).

Councillor Blamire proposed, seconded by Councillor Hanson:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Action Plan developed to address the points raised by the LGA Peer Challenge be approved.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

The LGA Peer Challenge highlighted some areas for improvement and development and the Action Plan has been drawn up to tackle those areas.

56 CORPORATE PLAN 2015 - 18 HALF YEARLY PERFORMANCE**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Governance) which provided an update on progress towards the delivery of the 2015-2018 Corporate Plan as at 30th September 2015. As the report was primarily for noting, no options were provided.

Councillor Blamire proposed, seconded by Councillor Pattison:-

“That the report be noted.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

(1) That the report be noted.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Governance)

Reasons for making the decision:

The report is a requirement of the Council's Performance Management Framework in support of the delivery of key priorities and outcomes as set out in the overall policy framework.

57 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE 2016-20**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Newman-Thompson)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Resources) which provided an update on the Council's financial position to help inform development of Cabinet's corporate planning and budget proposals.

Given that the report was primarily for information, no specific options were put forward.

Budget work was progressing as planned but as more Government announcements were made, the scope for change and uncertainty had increased. Whatever the position, ahead of its next formal meeting Cabinet needed to make the most of the time available to it, by progressing its prioritisation and consideration of budget and planning options.

Focus must be on setting a four-year plan. For General Fund in particular, this is the only way in which reasonable planning can be achieved for the Council's reserves and balances. Various savings proposals will have up-front costs, risks and lead-in times attached – balances are a key tool with which these can be managed. If the current year's forecast underspending proved accurate, the budgeted £1M use of balances would reduce by £608K, falling to £392K in 2015/16. This would result in balances reaching £4.233M by 31 March 2016. If advice on the minimum level (currently set at £1M) remains unchanged, then £3.233M of balances would be available to help achieve

a sustainable budget over the coming years. Cabinet would expect this to be used wisely over four years.

Councillor Newman-Thompson proposed, seconded by Councillor Bryning:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the draft budgetary position for current and future years as set out in the report as an interim update, be approved.
- (2) That the update be referred on to December Council for information.
- (3) That for the next Cabinet meeting in January, Cabinet determines its draft corporate planning and associated budget proposals to balance the General Fund budget to 2020, drawing on information from the report, the budget options currently being collated by Officers, and Government’s announcements regarding the Spending Review and the Settlement.
- (4) That the proposals referred to in 3) above be published at the earliest opportunity, to allow feedback and due consultation.
- (5) That Cabinet notes the working principle regarding surplus balances outlined at section 3.3.3, drawing on existing approved financial strategy.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive
Chief Officer (Resources)

Reasons for making the decision:

This is an interim update as the Chancellor’s Autumn statement has not provided greater clarity on the financial position affecting the council. The financial situation will become clearer when details of the local government settlement are received within the next few weeks. Cabinet will as a result need to consider its draft budget proposals on 19th January 2016 and present these to the Budget and Performance Panel on 26th January 2016. Other briefings can be provided at the same time. This is essential to allow due consultation with elected members, stakeholders and to help manage community expectations. Inevitably deadlines are tight but this is unavoidable given the timing of the Government funding announcements and the statutory deadline (11 March 2016) for setting the budget. The decision to note the working principle regarding balances in the report leads into considering carefully the use of estimated available balances to help balance the budget over the next four years.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.20 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email
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MINUTES PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2015.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2015.**