

CABINET**Tuesday, 23rd September, 2014**

Present:

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank King + Ludlow	McManus Serjeant
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Non Voting Members	Brown ++ Hill Hollingworth	Huckle Martin Stone
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+ Attended for Items 80-87

++ Attended for Items 80- 89

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

**80 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gilby and Russell.

82 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 9 September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 October 2014 – 31 January 2015 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

84 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Executive Members during July to September 2014 were reported.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

85 **CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE ANNUAL EVALUATION OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS (B000R)**

The Policy Manager and the Policy and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements after 12 months of operation and suggesting a number of recommendations to help ensure continuous improvement in the delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

The report outlined the review timetable and methodology used, which included a survey of the key stakeholders. The results of the survey showed a 50% improvement in some areas of performance, and a 50% decline in others, with a large number of responses recorded as "don't know". It was therefore considered that the evaluation results were inconclusive and proposed that an extended review be carried out during 2014/15 to consider:

- Overview and scrutiny structure
- Policies, procedures and documents
- Overview and scrutiny work programme
- Officer resources
- Awareness and engagement.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council:

- (1) That an extended internal review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements take place during 2014/15.
- (2) That the current Overview and Scrutiny committees and arrangements be retained until the 2014/15 review is completed.
- (3) That further training for Members and Officers be provided after the review.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure continuous improvement and the effective and efficient delivery of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function.

86 **GREAT PLACE, GREAT SERVICE (GPGS) 6 MONTH UPDATE (B000)**

The Great Place Great Service (GPGS) Programme Manager submitted a report on the progress of the GPGS Transformation Programme during the period January – July 2014.

The outcomes achieved during this period were detailed in the report, with significant achievements highlighted as follows:

- The merger of the operational depots, enabling previously disparate service teams to work more closely together, and improving upgrades in staff accommodation and facilities at the Stonegravels depot.
- A new system of employee time recording had been introduced.
- Four voluntary sector organisations had taken up space in the Town Hall.
- 10 employees had been trained to Master Belt level improving the Council's lean capacity and capability.
- A Council wide approach to training and development had been designed around the GPGS programme, with 130 employees already having completed the programme.
- The Capital Receipts Programme had seen land and property sales amount to £706,000, which was £108,000 more than anticipated.
- Savings had been made on the Council's annual business rates bill following a series of successful challenges to the Valuation Office.
- The Model Office consultation had been completed.

The report also outlined the outcomes that were envisaged for the following 6 months, including:

- Procurement of a self-service, Customer Relationship Management system and document management technology and software.
- Completion of a conservation/heritage assessment of the Town Hall
- Model Office implemented and members' environment relocated.
- Business Optimisation Tool populated for all key service areas
- Heads of Terms and agreement in principle for the Register Office to lease space at the Town Hall.
- A final decision made on proposed sale of land at Ashgate Road
- A future space plan for the Town Hall agreed
- A flexible working solution procured and plans for roll out agreed.
- Further work progressed with the Valuation Office to challenge business rates.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the performance of the GPGS programme for the period January 2014 to July 2014 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

To raise awareness of GPGS performance.

87 CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE NEW LEISURE FACILITIES

Councillor Flood presented a report on the interim recommendations of the Scrutiny Project Group that had been carrying out a review of the new leisure facilities project.

The group would continue to follow the project through the various stages of construction, with a final report to be produced six months after the new centre opens. Some interim recommendations had been made at this

stage, with regard to consultation, internal communications and community engagement.

The following recommendations were accepted by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at Minute 25. (2014/2015):

- (i) That the best practice guidance and principles for community engagement, as highlighted in the Council's Community Engagement Strategy are considered throughout the life of projects including pre-decision consultation.
- (ii) That where possible and appropriate, pre-consultation dialogue takes place with key stakeholders, this may include Community Assemblies, service users, special interest groups, employees etc. particularly for major projects and decisions.
- (iii) That for projects impacting on employees a strong and sustained internal communications and engagement plan is developed which includes a variety of opportunities to engage in the decision making process.

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's report and recommendations were now required to be considered by Cabinet in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

*** RESOLVED**

- (1) That thanks be conveyed to Members of the Scrutiny Project Group and the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for their work and observations on the new leisure facilities project at this interim stage.
- (2) That the recommendations at (i), (ii), and (iii) above be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To improve communications with all stakeholders and to ensure the provision of quality and accessible community engagement opportunities for future Council projects and decisions.

88 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2013/14 (J070R)

The Head of Finance submitted a report on the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2013/14 and the Treasury Management activities for the first five months of 2014/15.

Brief details on the outcome of the tender process for banking services with four other Derbyshire local authorities were also reported.

The report was to be considered by the Standards and Audit Committee before being presented to Full Council for approval.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the new contract for provision of banking services be noted.
- (3) That it be recommended to Full Council to:
 - (i) Note the outturn Prudential Indicators for 2013/14.
 - (ii) Note the treasury management stewardship report for 2013/14.
 - (iii) Note the treasury management position for the first five months of 2014/15.
 - (iv) Approve the proposed changes to the investment arrangements and limits.
- (4) That Standards and Audit Committee scrutinise the report and propose any changes to the Full Council.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To comply with the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Practices, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (2009) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2009).

89 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (S320R)

The Policy Officer submitted a report recommending the approval of a new Community Engagement Strategy 2014/17.

Since the strategy was last reviewed in 2009, there had been changes in legislative requirements and expectations of local authorities in terms of community engagement and participation. These included the Equalities Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty), Best Value Guidance (Duty to Consult), and Consultation Principles Guidance (2013).

The Community Engagement Strategy was intended to provide a framework for the Council's community engagement activity, and to improve the quality and accessibility of engagement opportunities within the Borough. As part of the service planning process, community engagement needs and opportunities for 2014/15 were to be identified by individual services with monitoring and review to be carried out by the Council's Community Engagement Group.

*** RESOLVED -**

That the Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2017 be referred to Full Council for approval.

REASON FOR DECISION

To respond to relevant legislation and provide a corporate framework for community engagement activity across the Council.

90 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**RESOLVED –**

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – as they contained information relating to financial and business affairs.

91 **REVIEW OF TENANT INVOLVEMENT (H000)**

The Housing Service Manager – Customer Division submitted a report on the review of Tenant Involvement and to recommend changes to improve the effectiveness of the current arrangements.

The review included consultation with tenants, including those involved in existing participation activities, research into current guidance on tenant participation, and a comparison with tenant engagement activities practiced in neighbouring local authorities.

It had been identified during the review that the Tenant Executive and Area Panels were not effective methods of engagement as they had low attendance and were not representative of the demographics of the tenant community. It was also recognised that the two remaining Tenant and Residents Associations (TARAs) were mainly social groups, with only limited evidence of local community issues being raised and discussed.

Alternative arrangements were proposed, including the use of the mobile office with an emphasis on being inclusive and reaching out to all parts of the community, and developing Service Review Groups, which would focus on specialist service areas enabling tenants to be involved in the matters of particular interest to them.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That Area Panel meetings be discontinued.
- (2) That Service Review Groups be developed, that focus on specialist areas of the service, aligned to the Regulatory Standards.
- (3) That Tenant Executive as a consultative body be discontinued.
- (4) That the Estate Improvement Budget for the Borough be pooled.
- (5) That a Protocol be produced to ensure joint working with Community Assemblies, particularly in relation to joint community projects and initiatives in relation to the Estate Improvement Budget.

- (6) That funding from Tenant and Resident Associations (TARAs) be reallocated into neighbourhood/community events.
- (7) That Mastin Moor TARA and Newbold TARA be supported to become self-financing from 1st April 2015.
- (8) That the feasibility of a reward scheme for young tenants active in the community be investigated.
- (9) That the revised Customer Involvement Agreement at Appendix A to the report be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that the Council meets its obligations in terms of tenant involvement in accordance with best practice and in the most effective and inclusive way possible.