

Worthing Borough Council

Record of Decisions

Taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 December 2009

Present: Councillor Paul Yallop (Chairman); John Rogers (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Clive Roberts, Kevin Skepper and Steven Waight

Apologies: Councillor Mary Lermite

*Also present: Councillors Don Allen, *Reg Green, *Michael Donin, *Hazel Thorpe, *Robin Rogers, *Graham Forbes, *Martin Coppard, *Joan Bradley, Mary Harding, Ann Sayers and *Bryan Turner*

*Chief Executive, Strategic Director (AG), Executive Head of Financial Services, Executive Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, * Estates Manager, Surveying and Design Services Manager, Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Democratic Services Manager*

** did not return after the adjournment*

Before the meeting commenced the Leader mentioned the fire incident in West Worthing (Chanctonbury Road) which had lead to the evacuation of residents and the opening of the rest centre at the Leisure Centre. He wished to place on record the Councils thanks to officers and voluntary organisations for their swift and speedy response to the emergency situation.

1. Order of the Agenda

The Leader stated that he would take item 9 (Agricultural Land at Tenants Hill and Mount Carvey as the first item).

2. Record of Decisions

The Record of Decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 9 November 2009 was confirmed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of personal/prejudicial interest were made:

Councillor Paul Yallop - Personal interest; representations made by a family friend in relation to the land at Cissbury Ring

4. Public Question time

The Leader stated that he would take the question time in two parts, other items on the agenda then the item on Cissbury Ring.

Mr Duncan Kay from Worthing cycle Forum expressed his disappointment in the delay to the opening of the seafront cycling and questioned whether the tactile surfacing was actually necessary as the Department of Transport guidelines did not specify this as a requirement.

The Executive Head of Leisure and Cultural Services explained the process to bring the Promenade up to standard to satisfy the West Sussex Design standards echoing his disappointment in the amount of time taken to be in a position to open the cycle area.

There being no other questions to be asked, the Leader ask the Estates Manager to bring the Cabinet up to date on recent developments in relation to the Cissbury Ring land.

Mr Coe announced that following public concern regarding the decision to sell off agricultural land at Tenants Hill and Mount Carvey the Cabinet was now being recommended to withdraw the land for sale. There had been a meeting of Officers and the Cabinet Member for Resources with representatives of the National Trust, The South Downs Joint Committee and Natural England during the day when outline suggestions for the future of the land had been put forward. If sale of the land was withdrawn the officers would then have further meetings with those organisations and work with them to secure acceptable arrangements for the area's future management. In the meantime the land would continue to be managed on a temporary basis by the adjacent farmer for sheep grazing.

Mr Chris Hare addressed the Cabinet welcoming the news of the earlier statement encouraging the Cabinet to be bold and imaginative in its decisions regarding the future use of the land for the benefit of the Town and future generations.

Mr David Bangs addressed the Cabinet as a member of STOP Cissbury Sell Off expressing his concerns of the erosion of the natural beauty of the Downs which had left only a small area of quality. He sought an assurance that the quality of access would be guaranteed by the Council.

Mr Trevor Hodgson of STOP Cissbury Sell Off suggested that the land be left as it was with further areas opened up to full access.

Ms Joy Hercomb suggested that leasehold was as bad as selling the land as the public could be excluded, she sought a guarantee that any change would be for the better; should preserve access and that the land be managed.

Ms Maggie Winter of Findon Valley Association asked the Cabinet not to sell off the land and retain it in the possession and ownership of Worthing Borough Council. Pam Lauren of Findon Valley questioned the types of leases and how frequently they were re-issued.

Andre of Langtree Avenue commended Cissbury as an area of outstanding beauty to be kept for the people of Worthing, and not to sacrifice the long term quality of life for short term financial gain.

Councillor Reg Green, Hazel Thorpe and Robin Rogers all addressed Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Resources responded to each of the questioners with details of the earlier meeting, as outlined by the Estates Manager, and the way forward if Cabinet withdrew the land from sale later in the meeting. He addressed each of the questioners, seeking the Estates Manager's assistance in explaining leasehold matters to those present.

5. Agricultural Land at Tenants Hill and Mount Carvey

The report updated the Cabinet on the situation regard the agricultural land at Tenants Hill and Mount Carvey and recommended that the land be withdrawn from sale.

Making reference to the earlier statement by the Estates Manager and the statements made by members of the public the Leader enquired if there were any questions by members of the Cabinet to officers, none were asked

Decision

That the land at Tenants Hill and Mount Carvey withdrawn from sale.

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

Marketing of the land on a freehold basis

6. Adjournment

After the decision taken above the Leader declared an adjournment, this lasted from 8.55pm to 9.05pm

7. Seafront Worthing - Promenade Cycle Route

The report updated the Cabinet on the current position and progress with he implementation of the trial shared cyclist/pedestrian use of the promenade from splash Point to George V Avenue.

The Executive Head explained that the design had been undertaken by West Sussex County Council and had included a safety audit, the recommended specification was of high standard and was likely to take up to 20 weeks. He shared the frustrations already vocalised regarding the delays.

Decision

- i. The update be noted
- ii. That if necessary a further report on funding be submitted to Cabinet inline with paragraph 5.3 of the report

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

None

8. Outline 3-Year Revenue Budget Forecast and Savings Proposals

The report updated members on the latest financial forecast for 2010/11 to 2014/15 and proposed options for meeting the projected budget shortfall in 2010/11. Members were also asked to consider the potential efficiency and other savings to be pursued.

The Executive Head reported that as Cabinet Members had been present at the earlier Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting she had nothing further to add to her presentation and would answer questions from the Cabinet.

Cabinet had been present during the debate by Overview and Scrutiny.

Decision

- i. The proposed efficiency savings be approved
- ii. Approval be given to the release of up to £50,000 from the Capacity Issues Reserves to undertake an efficiency review of the Leisure and Theatre Activities

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

As in the report

9. Capital Investment Programme 2010/2011-2012/2013

The report recommended the schemes for inclusion in the overall Capital Investment Programme for the three years 2010/11 to 2012/13. It gave details of the resources available for future capital investment and updated Members about the financing of the proposed three-year programme.

The Executive Head reported that as Cabinet Members had been present at the earlier Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting she had nothing further to add to her presentation and would answer questions from the Cabinet.

Cabinet had been present during the debate by Overview and Scrutiny it agreed with the suggestion that officers should seek to ensure that no affordable housing schemes in Worthing.

Decision

- i. Cabinet agreed to the use of the capital receipts set aside for affordable housing to temporarily be used to fund the capital programme seeking to ensure that no affordable schemes be lost in Worthing. These receipts to be replaced once the Council's surplus assets have been disposed of
- ii. Approval be given to the scheme to replace the cremators and Mercury Abatement equipment in 2011/12 in addition to the usual Capital Investment programme
- iii. Approval be given to the use of £80,000 of the set-aside match funding for splash point regeneration
- iv. The General Fund Capital Investment Programme for the three-year period 2010/11 to 2012/13 and confirmed the schemes as presented be included
- v. The amendments and additions to the reserve list be agreed
- vi. That the Cabinet

Recommend to Council the Capital Investment Programme 2010/2011-2012/2013 for approval

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

As per the report

10. 2009/10 – Financial and Performance Report 2nd Update

The report updated the Cabinet of the latest expenditure and income projections for the current financial year 2009/10 compared to the Revenue Budget approved by Council on 2 February 2009. In total the variations indicated a potential underspend for the year of £1,474,000 on a net Revenue Budget of £16.038 (9.2%)

The Executive Head reported that as Cabinet Members had been present at the earlier Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting she had nothing further to add to her presentation and would answer questions from the Cabinet.

Cabinet had been present during the debate by Overview and Scrutiny.

Decision

- i. That the current projections of variations in the Council's General fund revenue Budget and the anticipate position relating to the staff vacancy provision be noted
- ii. That the virement of £167,000 to place the pay award saving in Corporate Management as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report be agreed
- iii. That the reprofiling of 2009/10 budgets to 2010/11 as advised in paragraph 5.10 be noted
- iv. Cabinet makes the following **recommendation** to Council

That the 2009/10 and the 2010/11 Capital Investment Programmes be amended to include the play area schemes funded from the £185,000 Playbuilder Grant received from the Department for Children, Schools and Families as detailed in paragraph 5.13 of the report

- v. Cabinet makes the following **recommendation** to Council

That the use of S106 receipts to increase the funding available for play area improvements at West Parade as detailed in paragraph 5.15 of the report be agreed

- Vi the 2009/10 and 2010/11 Capital Investment programmes be amended to removed the the CLG Handyperson's Grant Scheme as detailed in paragraph 5.16
- Vii the virement of £22,000 to the 2009/10 Seafront Promenade Cycling Trial Scheme as detailed in paragraph 5.17 of the report be agreed
- Viii the progress in corporate priorities highlighted in the performance and risk matters briefing contained in Appendix 11 of the report be noted

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

As per the report

11. Planned Maintenance Programme

The report sought the Cabinet's approval of the proposals for the Council's 2010/11 five year property, equipment and land planned maintenance programme.

Cabinet had been present during the debate by Overview and Scrutiny. It agreed to the suggestion that officers should investigate the use of the Youth Offending Teams.

Decision

The planned maintenance programme proposed for 2010/11 and beyond be agreed

Reason for Decision

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Alternative Options considered

As per the report

Call-in

Excepting the recommendations to Council; unless called-in by 5.00pm on Tuesday 15 December 2009, the decisions at 5 and 6 will be effective from Wednesday 16 December 2009.

The meeting ended at 9. 40 pm having commenced at 7.45pm

Democratic Services Section:

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