

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on WEDNESDAY, 29TH APRIL, 2009 at 1.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Blackburn, Charlton, Rolph, P. Smith, Speding, Trueman and Timmins.

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th April, 2009, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the undermentioned reports as Members of the various bodies indicated:-

Item 6 – Proposed Joint Venture Agreement, Site of the Former Vaux Brewery, Sunderland	Councillor P. Watson	Sunderland Arc
Item 8 – Kerbside Recycling	Councillors Rolph and Blackburn	Members of South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Executive Committee

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Anderson.

Report of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee, Part I

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 23rd April, 2009, Part I (copy circulated) was submitted and consideration was given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the report of the meeting held on 23rd April, 2009, Part I be noted.

Community Leadership Programme

The Chief Executive and the City Solicitor submitted a joint report (copy circulated) on proposals designed to enable continued effective implementation of the Community Leadership Programme and the resulting consequential amendments to the Constitution.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader of the Council explained that the proposed changes to Cabinet Portfolio responsibilities were designed to promote a direct alignment of Cabinet Portfolios with the five strategic objectives of the Sunderland Strategy, with revised remits for Review Committees and to emphasise both the inward and outward-facing nature of Cabinet as a principal focus of Community Leadership within the City. He added that the proposals also reflected the main strategic and other issues facing the Council and Sunderland at the present time.

The Leader of the Council reported that the proposed changes would enable the Council to meet challenges and engage with its partners more effectively and also be more responsive to customers' needs. He added that these proposals had been the subject of extensive discussion and the rationale was fully set out within the body of the report. He highlighted the following minor amendments to Annexes:-

Annex 1

Resources

- Strategic procurement champion
- Efficiency champion
- Risk management champion

Safer City

Add:

- Cultural strategy and initiatives

Attractive and Inclusive City

Delete:

- Cultural Strategy matters, and
- Libraries and arts, museums, sports facilities and other Community and Cultural initiatives and facilities.

Responsibilities and Customer Care

Insert the words “and facilities” as follows:

- Improving the responsiveness of neighbourhood services and facilities to local circumstances and customer feedback.

Annex 2

Management Scrutiny Committee

Add a final bullet point,

- To review any matter not falling within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the next steps proposals relating to continued development and implementation of the Community Leadership Programme as set out in Section 6 and in Annexes 1 and 2, as amended, of the report be approved to take effect from Annual Council (13th May 2009) and that it be recommended to Council to approve the changes to the Constitution which are set out in Section 6 and in Annexes 1 and 2 as amended, of the report to take effect from Annual Council (13th May, 2009).

Proposed Joint Venture Agreement, Site of the Former Vaux Brewery, Sunderland

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek agreement to the Council entering into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with ONE NorthEast, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and Sunderland arc, in respect of the development of the site of the former Vaux Brewery.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Allan highlighted that the proposed JVA would provide that ONE, the Council, Sunderland arc and the HCA agreed to promote the development of the site and to share in the proceeds in proportion to each party's contribution to the project. He added that under the terms of the JVA, ONE would be responsible for acquiring the site, either by negotiation or by compulsory purchase, and the other partners would be expected to provide reasonable assistance required in connection with the exercise of ONE's compulsory purchase powers. ONE would contribute the land that it acquired and fund the project in accordance with a delivery plan and business plan together with the HCA.

Councillor Allan reported that it was considered that in principle the terms of the proposed JVA were acceptable and would enable the Council to play an appropriate part in bringing forward the development of the project site in partnership with the other public sector agencies. The Agreement would also demonstrate to potential private sector partners that the public sector was committed and working in unison to bring the development forward.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-
 - (i) the Council entering into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with ONE NorthEast, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and Sunderland arc in respect of the development of the site of the former Vaux Brewery, and
 - (ii) the appropriate Officers being authorised to agree the terms of the Joint Venture Agreement in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders in accordance with the principles set out in the report.

Proposal to Establish an Interim Executive Board at Hylton Red House Primary School, Sunderland

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on a proposal to establish an Interim Executive Board (IEB) at Hylton Red House Primary School in accordance with Sections 62 and 65 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the "Statutory guidance on schools causing concern" published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (September 2008) and further to seek agreement to the method of appointment of Members of the IEB.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Smith highlighted the report and explained that despite intensive support from the Council through the School Improvement Service, Ofsted had judged that Hylton Red House Primary School had not demonstrated the capacity to secure the necessary improvements within the anticipated timescale. In addition, insufficient challenge was being provided by the Governing Body to affect the degree and pace that was required to bring about the necessary improvements.

Councillor Smith reported that in the circumstances it was proposed to seek approval from the Secretary of State to establish an IEB at the school with three remunerated members selected on their ability to bring relevant new expertise to drive the school's improvement.

Councillor Smith advised that the proposed three members recommended for approval by Council would be Mr. R. Hennesey, Mrs. A. Hodgson and Mr. J. McKnight and outlined their skills and experience.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised:-
 - (a) to consider the responses of the governing body of Hylton Red House Primary School to the consultation referred to in the report and, if considered appropriate, to seek the consent of the Secretary of State to the establishment of an IEB at the school; and
 - (b) subject to obtaining the consent of the Secretary of State, to take all necessary steps to introduce an IEB including the determination of the number of members of the IEB and the making of any arrangements for their remuneration.
- (ii) it be recommended to Council to:-
 - (a) appoint the first members of the IEB namely Mr. R. Hennesey, Mrs. A. Hodgson and Mr. J. McKnight; and
 - (b) delegate the making of future appointments to the Director of Children's Services.

Kerbside Recycling

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to progress the procurement of containers and vehicles that would permit changes to and the continuation of the recycling collection service from 1st April, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Rolph reported that the proposed changes to the collection system would provide for the collection of further mixed recyclables from the kerbside and would give flexibility to extend the range of materials to be recycled.

She drew attention to the wheeled bins on display at the meeting and advised that the proposed system would involve the provision of a blue 240 litre wheeled bin, being the same size as the green and brown bins already provided, to each conventional dwelling. She added that the bin may also be provided with an inner container or some other form of containment for particular materials and this would be influenced by the outcome of the procurement exercise.

Councillor Rolph reported that a further wheeled bin would address those issues most frequently raised by residents including ease of use, manoeuvrability and the avoidance of lifting, as well as the containment of materials and would also be beneficial to the Council's employees. She added that the utilisation of a further wheeled bin would require automation with vehicles being equipped with rear-end hoists and different types of vehicles to those currently used in the recycling service would be required to service the bins.

Cabinet Members requested that consideration be given to the clear differentiations between the different wheeled bins to aid use by those residents who were visually impaired, where residents could store the bins and collecting and recycling the black boxes currently in use.

Councillor Rolph advised that the blue wheeled bin was a different shape. She added that she was aware that there were a number of properties in the City which would require some modified arrangements for collections and highlighted the range of recycling facilities available including the proposed provision of a recycling site in the Coalfield Area. In relation to recycling the black boxes, she advised that she would ensure that this matter was addressed.

Cabinet Members having commended the proposals, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposal to replace the existing black-box used to collect recyclable materials with a blue wheeled bin be approved, and
- (ii) the procurement of the necessary containers and vehicles be progressed.

BUPA Great North 10k

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform of the discussion which had been held with the sports marketing agency Nova International, resulting in a proposal to stage the 'BUPA Great North 10k' within the City of Sunderland on 12th July, 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding highlighted the report and reported that following an event assessment, however, it became apparent that the current coastal course did not have the capacity to cope with a substantially bigger field of runners.

Therefore a revised route was proposed incorporating key City landmarks located in City Centre and coastal locations.

Cabinet Members having congratulated the Portfolio Holder and Officers on the development of this and similar events which would raise the profile of the City nationally and internationally, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and the Director of Community and Cultural Services be authorised to enter into a contract with Nova International with a view to the City hosting the BUPA Great North 10k event in 2009.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to any individual, which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) or to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

(Signed) P. WATSON,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.