



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2009

DECISIONS

Present:

Councillor Wood (Chair), Councillor B Hoare (Deputy Chair)
Councillors Beardsworth, Church, Crake, Perkins and PD Varnsverry

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 5 August 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Jo Darby tel 01604 837089 .

THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2009 AT 10.30 HOURS

DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2009 AT 17:00 HOURS

**Agenda
Item No**

Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
None

- A. REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
(IMPROVEMENT, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE) ON THE
CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION OF 8 JULY 2009:
EVALUATING WAYS OF DELIVERING SERVICES AND
IMPROVING VALUE FOR MONEY FOR THE COUNCIL TAX
PAYERS OF NORTHAMPTON**

**This item is not subject to the Call-In process and the following is
for information only:**

1. The Appropriate Officer is to circulate the definition of a key decision to all Members of the Council (as outlined in the Constitution pages 2-37 and 2-38, article 14)

2. The decisions made at the meeting on 8 July 2009 relating to Item 10 on that agenda are re-confirmed.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
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6. Response to the Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny 3, Customer Services Task and Finish Group presented to Cabinet on 20th May 2009

The response of the Director of Finance and Support to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny 3, Customer Services Task and Finish Group is agreed. In particular that Cabinet:

- a) records its appreciation for the work of the Task and Finish Group in identifying further ways in which the Council can improve the customer experience.
- b) Notes that many of the Group's recommendations have been addressed in the Service Plan 2009/10 for Customer Services due to the involvement of the Head of Customer Services and ICT and the Assistant Head of Customer Services in the Task and Finish Group's review. Specifically recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15.
- c) Accepts recommendations 3 and 17 which will be addressed in the delivery of the Customer Excellence Strategy.
- d) Accepts in principle recommendations 2, 7, 9, 18 and 19 which will be reviewed by the One Stop Shop Transformation Project Team. However, Cabinet may need to make a further decision on staff uniforms in the One Stop Shop if this cannot be met within existing budgets.
- e) Rejects recommendation 8 as a Health and Safety Review has previously been done for Cliftonville House and all Display Screen Equipment risk assessments in the Contact Centre have been completed. However, a further screen assessment will be carried out if necessary.
- f) Accepts recommendation 16 to include a review of the Council's Core Documents on the Overview and Scrutiny 3 Work plan.
- g) Advises that no further action is required in respect of recommendation 11 to offer documents in tape or compact disc format as this is already covered within existing policy.

**Agenda
Item No**

Declaration/Conflict of Interests:

Councillor Tony Clarke declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest as a Director of Northampton Town Football Club

7. Sixfields - Development Agreement

1. This Council is supported in entering into a development agreement with Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), Northampton Town Football Club Limited (NTFC) and a development partner to facilitate the development of land at Sixfields for a scheme involving uses that will
 - (a) not conflict with preserving and enhancing the commercial vitality of the Town Centre,
 - (b) will ensure that the stadium itself continues to be used for Association Football and other uses described under the existing Lease referred to at 3.1.1 and
 - (c) will ensure that replacement athletics facilities are built to UK Athletics Competition Standard for track and field, within Northampton prior to any redevelopment of the existing facilities.
2. The principle is supported that this Council should agree, under the terms of a development agreement with the parties referred to at 1 above, to the transfer of its freehold interest in part (but not the whole) of the Sixfields Stadium, prior to physical development taking place on that land. However, the transfer of any part should only occur in circumstances where the Council is first satisfied that there are sufficient legal safeguards and financial guarantees to protect the Council's position.
3. The principle is supported that the investment returns to each party to the agreement should be based on their respective capital contribution to the scheme. The contribution by NBC and HCA will be in the form of freehold land and it is accepted that the actual value of the land will be determined by reference to the overall profitability of the development scheme.
4. The authority to approve the detailed terms of a development agreement consistent with the principles set out in this report is delegated to the Director of Finance and Support, acting in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.
5. Support is given in principle, for NTFC's aspirations to improve the facilities at Sixfields Community Stadium and the requests of NTFC are noted for this Council to invest, in the retained Stadium complex, any value generated by the transfer of Council owned land. However, whilst the Cabinet will consider such request it nevertheless resolves not to fetter its discretion as to how it might

spend any proceeds arising from its participation in any development agreement.

6. The Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club is added to the list of consultees as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

8. Voluntary and Community Sector Relationship

It has been agreed to:

1. Introduce a commissioning system to procure benefits for the community through the Third Sector, as outlined in the report, commencing in 2010-11 for example, with advice and guidance services and Third Sector infrastructure support services;
2. Introduce a small grants fund, drawn from the existing grants budget, to be administered on this Council's behalf by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation (subject to agreement of terms by the end of September 2009);
3. Operate an interim grant award scheme for 2010-11 only, to provide a period for the Council and the Third Sector to prepare for more general commissioning of outcomes from 2011-12;
4. Restrict eligibility to this award scheme to Third Sector organisations, as defined by Northampton Borough Council, ensuring that funding for other functions is provided for in other appropriate budgets.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

9. Market Square Water Feature

1. The scheme to be included in the capital programme for 2009-10 as outlined in paragraph 2.1 of the report and with further details in Annex A of the report is approved.
2. Approval is given that the expenditure outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report is to be included in the proposed revenue budget from 2010-11 as an unavoidable growth item that will be required as a result of the above capital appraisal.
3. The £5,000 contingency item element of the revenue budget be set aside in an earmarked reserve is approved.
4. Approval is given to the variation to a scheme in the capital

programme for 2009-10 as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report and detailed in Annex B of the report that will be required as a result of the above capital appraisal.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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10. Value for Money Partner for the Directorate of Environment and Culture

1. The appointment of Northgate Kendric Ash (via its partner AMTEC) to be a value for money partner to the council for a period of two years from 1st September 2009 is agreed.
2. It is noted that there is no cost commitment at this stage directly arising from agreeing to appoint a value for money partner and that the financial implications of the appointment are likely to be significant if the value for money partner is successful in achieving high value savings.
3. It is noted that, in consultation with relevant portfolio holders, a work programme will be developed to establish a programme that will deliver service improvements, efficiencies and better value for money.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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11. Response to Government Consultation on Proposed Changes to Concessionary Fares Administration

The consultation response and the potential impact on the medium term financial strategy is confirmed.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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12. Car Park Repairs in conjunction with proposed Development Agreement for Grosvenor/Greyfriars Scheme

A capital allocation of up to £1.75m in 2009/10 to fund essential Capital works to enhance the standard of the Grosvenor Centre Car Park is approved.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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13. Housing HRA Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

1. The outcome of the Expression of Interest is noted

2. The Director of Housing is authorised to commence a procurement exercise for external advisors to assist the Council over the coming period through to the award of contracts to deliver the PFI Scheme.
3. It is noted that the original advisors (Public Private Partnership Programme (“4Ps”), EDAW, Grant Thornton, and Potter Raper) who supported the first bid have been retained to assist in revising the bid for Homes and Communities Agency (“HCA”) approval following the reduced funding received from Communities and Local Government (“CLG”).
4. The costs of the additional work referred to in 2.3 above may not be contained within the existing budget allocation for 2009/10 and so authority has been given for an additional £100,000 to be transferred from the HRA Earmarked repairs Reserve to the PFI Earmarked Reserve in order to expedite this exercise.
5. It is noted that a further update on the revised proposal will be given at a future meeting of Cabinet.

14. Performance

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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A. PERFORMANCE MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 2009

The contents of the report have been noted.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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B. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009-10 MONITORING REPORT, PERIOD 2: PROJECT APPRAISALS AND VARIATIONS

1. Approval is given for the schemes outlined in paragraph 2.1 and detailed in Annex A of the report to be added to the capital programme for 2009-10
2. Approval is given for the variations to schemes in the capital programme for 2009-10 as outlined in paragraph 2.2 and detailed in Annex B of the report.
3. It is noted that:
 - a) The capital programme monitoring position as at end of May 2009, including forecast outturns and slippage into 2010-11, is as set out at Annex C and D.
 - b) The funding arrangements for the 2009-10 capital programme are

as set out at Annex E.

- c) The slippage of unfinished schemes from 2008-09 into the 2009-10 capital programme, for the revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute schemes, and how the planned expenditure is to be funded are as set out at Annex F.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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C. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) MONITORING 2009-10

The report and the forecast overspend of £1k on the Net Cost of Services are noted.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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D. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009-10 POSITION AS AT END OF MAY 2009

1. The report and the forecast over spend of £884k net of management action is noted.
2. Cabinet consider the nature of the information provided in the general fund revenue budget monitoring report has been considered and it has been requested that actuals to date be reported quarterly.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: Councillors Tony Woods and Richard Church declared Personal and Prejudicial interests as members of WNDC Board. |
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16. Land at Green Street

The sale of three separate parcels of land at Green Street has been agreed in return for a minimum agreed payment from West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) and on such other terms as shall be approved by the Director of Finance and Support, acting in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Finance.

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: As item 7 |
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17. Sixfields Development Agreement

This item contains exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.