



CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2009

DECISIONS

Present:

Councillor B Hoare (Chair) Councillor PD Varnserry (Deputy Chair)
Councillors Beardsworth, Church, Crake, B Markham and Perkins

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 16 December 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 at jdarby@northampton.gov.uk.

THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:

17 DECEMBER 2009

DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2009 AT 17:00 HOURS

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	Councillors Beardsworth, Crake, B Hoare, B Markham, Hawkins and Mildren declared personal non-prejudicial interests as being eligible for Concessionary Bus Passes

6. Proposed Changes to the 2010/11 Concessionary Fares Special Grant

1. The consultation response has been agreed for submission to the Department for Transport.
2. Officers are to write to the local MPs appraising them of the position asking for support to ensure that Northampton Borough Council is fully funded for all aspects of the scheme.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

7. People Plan

Approval is given for the People Plan.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	Councillor B Hoare declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a member of friends of Abington Park. Councillor Crake declared a personal non-prejudicial interest owing to her husband being a member of Friends of Abington Park. Councillor Hawkins declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as the Council's Heritage Champion.

8. Future of Archway Cottages, Abington Park

1. Consideration has been given to the objections made to the proposed disposal of Archway Cottages including associated garden land, shown for the purposes of identification edged with a dark line upon the plan attached to the Cabinet report ('the Property').
2. Cabinet's 'in principle' decision made on 7 April 2008 to dispose of the Property by the grant of a 125 years lease, on terms that lead to the restoration of the properties in accordance with listed building requirements is confirmed.
3. Cabinet has acknowledged the risk that the grant of such a long lease could lead ultimately to individual occupiers of the cottages exercising statutory rights to acquire the freehold of their homes.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	Councillor Church declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a member of Friends of the Racecourse. Councillor Hawkins declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as the Council's Heritage Champion.

9. Cycling within the Racecourse

It is agreed that:

1. Cycling is permitted within part of the Racecourse in accordance with the provisions of byelaw 5(ii) of the Council's byelaws in respect of Parks and Pleasure Grounds that prohibits cycling except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege
2. The tracks indicated as dark dotted lines on the map attached to the Cabinet report are designated for joint use by pedestrians and cyclists, and the path around the parameter of the park, as mark in black ink is used solely for pedestrian use.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

10. Premises Closure Orders

1. The protocol (appendix 1 of the Cabinet report) in relation to the Premises Closure Legislation for Northampton Borough Council is endorsed.
2. The powers under Part 1A to the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, as introduced by section 118 and Schedule 20 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, are delegated to the Chief Executive, Directors or Borough Solicitor for authorising the issue of a closure notice, consulting with the police and applying for a closure order. It is required that on all occasions the Chief Executive or Borough Solicitor also counter sign the authorisation.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

11. Housing PFI - amended proposals

1. The work of external advisors in producing assessment criteria to assist in producing a scaled back Expression of Interest in PFI is noted.
2. A decision has been made, in the light of the reports on the scaled back bid and the revised financial implications whether to proceed with the PFI project.
3. The inclusion of Eastfield and Thorplands estates in the scaled back bid is approved.
4. The Director of Housing is authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to submit the revised bid after the financial assumptions have been scrutinised by the new team of external advisors
5. The financial implications of proceeding with the bid as set out in section 4.2 of the report are noted and a call has been made for regular monitoring reports to be provided on progress and project expenditure
6. A report is called for on the way forward for the two estates not included in the PFI project.

Agenda	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
Item No	None

12. Council Tax Base 2010-2011

Council is to be recommended to approve the tax base for 2010/11 at 66,896 Band D equivalent properties and associated parish tax bases within this.

	2010/11	(2009/10)
Billing	2,716	2,568
Collingtree	517	514
Duston	5,255	5,172
Great Houghton	288	286
Hardingstone	755	743
Upton	1,469	1,302
Wootton & East Hunsbury	6,340	6,331
Northampton (Unparished)	49,556	49,250
Total tax base	66,896	66,166

Agenda	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
Item No	None

13. Draft Budget for 2010-11 to 2012-13

1. The Cabinet's General fund draft budget proposals for 2010/11 and indicative budgets for 2011/12, and 2012/13 as summarised in Annexes A to E of the report are approved for public consultation.
2. The proposed council tax increase of 2.47% for 2010/11 and the indicative 2.47% for 2011/12, and 2012/13 are approved for public consultation.
3. The Cabinet's draft capital programme and financing as detailed in annexes I, J, and K of the report are approved for public consultation
4. Approval is given to the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget excluding charges, subsidy and rents.
5. The draft Capital Strategy at appendix L of the report is approved for consultation.
6. The consultation leaflet is to be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance for approval.
7. The Chief Executive and Director of Finance, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders, are to undertake the preparatory work

in relation to the savings and efficiencies built into the draft budget proposals, subject to any actions being rescinded should any budget options not be approved by 25 February 2010 Council.

14. Performance

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

A. PERFORMANCE MONTHLY REPORT - OCTOBER 2009

The contents of the report are noted.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

B. GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING 2009-10 PERIOD 7

The report and the forecast under spend of £473k net of management action are noted.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

C. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) MONITORING 2009-10 PERIOD 7

1. The report and the forecast overspend of £160k on the Net Cost of Services are noted.
2. Approval is given to the virement of £1m from the Contribution to Earmarked Reserves to the Property Maintenance Service, to support the current level of service being delivered to tenants.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

D. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2009-10 PERIOD 7: PROJECT APPRAISALS AND VARIATIONS

1. Approval is given for the following scheme to be added to the capital programme for 2009-10.

Scheme Reference, Description & Directorate	Narrative	2009-10 £	Future Years £	Funding Source
2009-10/HRA018 Capital	Adhoc capital improvements to properties, that are not	300,000	-	MRA

Improvement Works Housing HRA	included in the schedule of work for other HRA projects, but where work is required within the financial year to meet the decent homes standard. Examples of work will include replacing windows, heating systems, roofs, kitchens and bathrooms.			
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Further details of this appraisal can be seen at Annex A of the report.

- Approval is given for the following variations to schemes in the capital programme for 2009-10.

Scheme Reference, Description & Directorate	Narrative	2009-10 £	Future Years £	Funding Source
Budget Increases				
*2007-08 /CS0026 V04 IBS Housing Management System Housing HRA	Following restructure of the housing service, the implementation of outstanding IBS modules was put on hold pending an independent review. The review, which has recently concluded, confirms that IBS is a fit for purpose industry standard solution, and made a key recommendation that all outstanding business critical modules should be rescheduled for implementation. This represents an additional sum of £186K over and above the current budget.	61,135	125,250	HRA Earmarked Reserve
2008-09/GF074 V01	NBC were awarded £50k	500	-	DSCF

Playbuilder – Eastfield Park Environment & Culture	from DSCF in 2008-09 for the Playbuilder in Eastfield Park scheme. The funding received was £50,500 and NCC have advised to spend the additional £500 and the underspend from 2008-09 on the scheme in 2009-10, as opposed to returning it.			
Budget Reductions				
2006-07 Slip V17 Urban Enhancement Planning & Regeneration	A revised proposal due to site conditions has reduced the expenditure required, as has the fact that County Council is now paying for the installation of the town signs. This reduction in budget therefore represents a saving.	(4,670)	-	Prudential Borrowing
2008- 09/GF078 V01 DPPO Signage Environment & Culture	NBC was awarded a grant from the Home Office in 2008-09 for DPPO signage. £10k of this was allocated to capital, however not all of this was required. The terms and conditions of the grant outline that the funding can be spent on either capital or revenue items, therefore it is proposed to move this remaining funding to the revenue cost centre for DPPO signage to	(380)	-	Home Office

	enable it to be utilised.			
2007-08/CS029 V01 Abington Museum Upgrade Environment & Culture	NBC resources are required to support an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to upgrade Abington museum. The change in the museum's opening times has made it less likely that the application, for such a large amount, will be successful. Therefore a decision has been made to not proceed with the application and the project is to be withdrawn from the capital programme.	(987,575)	-	£900k Heritage Lottery Fund, £87,575 Prudential Borrowing
Neutral Budget Impact				
2007-08/GI0010 V03 One Stop Shop, CRM Finance & Support	To purchase a corporate solution for authentication of secure on-line transactions that will initially support recovery and e-benefits but provide increased on line capability in terms of providing secure authentication for all other services such as Housing Repairs.	6,000	-	£4k Prudential Borrowing, £2k Revenue Financing
2008-09/GF043 V05 E-Benefits Application Finance & Support	Take up for E-Benefits application is now being linked to the 24 Claim Guarantee scheme and will be extended to all new E Benefits claims in the	(4,000)	-	Prudential Borrowing

	future. A smaller take up budget is thus required against this project in 2009-10. This saving is to be moved to assist in the funding of additional software within the One Stop Shop CRM capital project to enable customer self serve options to be expanded.			
2008-09/GF080 V01 EDT Workflow Finance & Support	The funding reserve for additional consultancy has proved not to be required. These funds will be moved to support the wider agenda of the One Stop Shop CRM capital project, to introduce self-serve options for our customers.	(2,000)	-	Revenue Financing
2008-09/GF081 V01 Lings Forum Wetside Changing Rooms Environment & Culture	Due to unforeseen work this project has overspent by £1,845. This will be funded by a reduction to the Fire Door Improvements project.	1,845	-	Prudential Borrowing
2008-09/GF067B V02 Fire Door Improvements Finance & Support	This budget will be reduced to accommodate the overspend on the Lings Wetside Changing Rooms project.	(1,845)	-	Prudential Borrowing
Movement Between Years				
2008-09 /HRA007 V03 Complete Roofs Housing HRA	There are several roofing projects running at the moment, most of which work will be complete this year.	(145,000)	145,000	HRA Revenue Financing

	<p>However each project has an annual retention based on the defects liability periods, which will not be payable until 2010-11. Therefore it is proposed to move the budget to 2010-11 to reflect this.</p>			
<p>2009-10 /HRA002 V01 Cooper Street Replacement – Phase 2 Housing HRA</p>	<p>There are two elements to this project: 1) installing thermostatic controls to flats 2) the potential replacement of the combined heat and power unit (CHP), which is an additional facility to the district boilers that generates additional heat and electricity. There are two budget adjustments to be made: the first is to slip the CHP element of £250k into 2010-11. The second is to reduce the budget by £300k to fund the project outlined in 2.1 above. This reduction is possible due to the phase 2 heating works being tendered at much lower costs than anticipated.</p>	(550,000)	250,000	HRA Revenue Financing
<p>2009-10 /HRA004 V03 Decent Homes & Poor Condition</p>	<p>The first phase decent homes project is on site, however this was later than</p>	(1,739,651)	1,739,651	HRA Revenue Financing

Housing HRA	anticipated due to some local issues concerning contractor selection and tender evaluation, works will therefore extend beyond the end of the financial year. The funds committed to the contract must be slipped into the next financial year to cover these contractual obligations.			
2009-10 /HRA015 V02 Lifts Refurbishment Housing HRA	Two of the three lift projects at Alliston Gardens and Eleonore House have been subject to the housing strategy review, which has delayed the project inception. Section 20 leasehold consultations are required on the work to two lifts at Cooper Street. The lead in time on lift projects is traditionally very long, with most of the build and technical work being completed off site, therefore the majority of the programme expenditure will not occur until 2010-11. The budget is to be moved to 2010-11 to reflect this.	(554,480)	554,480	HRA Revenue Financing
2009-10/GF060 V01 Places of Change	The section 106 funding for this project is to contribute towards the build costs.	(123,709)	123,709	Section 106 & CLG

Housing GF	Work is not expected to be on site now until April 2010, therefore the budget for this needs to be moved to 2010-11 (£150k). Additional CLG grant of £26k is now required in 2009-10 following updated costs from Midland Heart. There is no overall impact on the budget for this project; it is simply a re-alignment of expenditure and funding.			
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Further details of these variations can be seen at Annex B of the report.

3. The following is noted:

- a) The capital programme monitoring position as at end of October 2009, including forecast outturns, revenue expenditure funded by capital and slippage into 2010-11, as set out at Annex C, D and E of the report.
- b) The funding arrangements for the 2009-10 capital programme as set out at Annex F of the report.