

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 2010. MINUTE NO'S. 96 (4), 97, 98 AND 99 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Robertson (in the Chair)
Councillors Booth, Brodie - Browne, P. Dowd,
Fairclough, Maher, Moncur, Porter and Tattersall

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry.

93. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that he had agreed that the Cabinet would consider the item on the proposed closure of the North Sefton Magistrates Court and Southport County Court (Minute No.104) in view of the urgent need to submit representations on the consultation exercise to HM Courts Service.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member	Minute No.	Reason	Action
Councillor Brodie-Browne	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - He is the Chair of the Governors of Farnborough Road Schools referred to in Annex 4 of the report and the charity he works for is a potential purchaser of services from the scheme referred to in Annex 21 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Maher	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - His wife works at Aintree Davenhill Primary School which is referred to in Annex 6 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

Councillor Porter	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - She is the Chair of Governors of Merefield Special School referred to in Annex 7 and 8 of the report and a Governor of Shoreside Primary School referred to in Annex 8 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Robertson	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - He is a Member of Lydiate Parish Council and Maghull Town Council which have applied for funding from the scheme referred to in Annex 3 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Fairclough	101 - Treasury Management 2011/12 - First Quarter Update	Personal - His employer is referred to in the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

95. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 5 August 2010 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute 71 (Declarations of Interest) by indicating that Councillor Brodie-Browne left the meeting during the discussion on Minute No. 81 and did not vote on the item.

96. PRIORITISATION AND STRATEGIC BUDGET REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 65 of the meeting held on 8 July 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on the development of a prioritisation and budget review process related to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the 2011/12 budget.

The report indicated that as part of the process, six strategic/organisation design project work streams had been identified to close the overall savings gap required by the Council which would have a senior management lead officer and be overseen by an Elected Member Group comprising of a Lead Cabinet Member, a second Cabinet Member (or nominee) and a Scrutiny Chair/Labour spokesperson to ensure all party representation.

The report also set out a number of savings options for progression following an initial review of the outstanding Strategic Budget Review Options and other potential savings.

This is a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report, be noted;
- (2) approval be given to the establishment of the identified Strategic/Organisation Design project work-streams, together with the Lead Officer support and Elected Member Overseeing Groups;
- (3) it be noted that officers intend to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings of the Cabinet, as the prioritisation process develops, which will work towards the closure of the 2011/12-2013/14 budget gap; and
- (4) the Council be recommended to give approval to the progression of the savings options identified in paragraph 8 of the report to achieve full year budget savings of £2.4m in 2011/12.

97. CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 81 of the meeting held on 5 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Communities which provided further details of uncommitted capital schemes which do not have ring-fenced grant monies.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to give approval to the following action being taken on the uncommitted capital schemes:

<u>Scheme Name</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
1. Primary Capital Strategy External Consultancy	Release uncommitted resources
2. Framework Contracting - External Consulting	Release uncommitted resources
3. Fair Play Playbuilder Programme	Deferred pending clarification from the Department for Education
4. Extended Schools	Approved for completion

CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 5. | CS IT (Single Child Record) | Approved for completion and a report providing further details of the Scheme be submitted to the Cabinet Member - Children's Services |
| 6. | Children's Services Modernisation Schemes | Approved for completion |
| 7. | Schools Access Initiative Schemes | Approved for completion |
| 8. | New Pupil Places Schemes | Approved for completion |
| 9. | DDA - Disabled Adaptations to Council premises | Reduce budget provision to £30k for emergency use and the remaining uncommitted resources be released |
| 10. | Corporate Services Health and Safety Programme | Approved for completion |
| 11. | Energy Efficiency Measures | Approved for completion |
| 12. | Legal Department ICT Programme | Release uncommitted resources and Officers be requested to look at viable alternative options |
| 13. | IT Equipment Server Replacement | Deferred pending the details of the Government Connect requirements |
| 14. | E Govt Geographical Info Service | Release uncommitted resources |
| 15. | IT Members ICT and Mobile Technology | Deferred pending the views of the Members ICT Steering Group on the specification for the equipment and the appropriate budgetary amount required |
| 16. | Pathfinder Fund Programme | Approval to the expenditure of £10k for the completion of the project at Lifeboat Road, Formby and the remaining uncommitted resources be released |
| 17. | Public Conveniences | Release uncommitted resources |
| 18. | Gypsy and Traveller Site | Release uncommitted resources |
| 19. | Waste Infrastructure Grant | Approved for completion |

CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 20. | Health and Social Care IT Strategy | Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into |
| 21. | Mental Health SCE (C) 2008/2011 | Release uncommitted resources |
| 22. | Social Care SCE (C) (2008/2011) | Release uncommitted resources |
| 23. | Adult Social Care IT Infrastructure 2008/2011 | Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into |
| 24. | Capital Investment for Transformation on Adult Social Care | Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into |
| 25. | Derby Park Refurbishment | Deferred to ascertain if alternative external funding can be provided |
| 26. | Repairs to Park Lodges | Reduce provision to £18k for decent homes provision and a further report be submitted on other aspects of the scheme |
| 27. | Hesketh Park Office/Visitor Centre | Deferred |
| 28. | Southport Sports Park Contribution | Deferred pending the outcome of the funding bids to the Football Foundation and KGV College |
| 29. | Botanic Gardens Museum roof/lift | Reduce budget provision to £25k for mothballing works to the building. Release remaining uncommitted resources |
| 30. | Kings Gardens, Southport | Approved for completion |
| 31. | Southport Tourist Information Centre Relocation | Approved for completion |
| 32. | Leeds Liverpool Canal | Release uncommitted resources |
| 33. | Southport Commerce Park 3rd Phase Development | Deferred pending the outcome of external funding bids |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 34. Home Improvement Grants 2010/11 Approvals | Approved for completion |
| 35. Landlord Accreditation/HMOs | Approved for completion |
| 36. Housing Act Works in Default | Approved for completion |
| 37. Older Person's Housing Strategy - extra care provision | Deferred pending further details of a scheme and the funding proposals |
| 38. Contribution to HMRI | Approved for completion |
| 39. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation | Deferred pending further details of Government funding proposals |
| 40. Safer Stronger Communities Fund | Approved for completion |
| 41. Thornton Switch Island Link Road | Approved for completion |
| 42. Local Safety Schemes | Approved for completion |
| 43. Cycling Programme | Approved for completion |
| 44. Carriageway Maintenance | Approved for completion |
| 45. Ledson's Canal Bridge | Approved for completion |
| 46. Millers Bridge | Approved for completion |

98. PROPER OFFICER AND MONITORING OFFICER FUNCTIONS

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive on the proposed appointment of officers to undertake the Monitoring Officer role and the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to give approval to:

- (1) the appointment of the Assistant Director (Strategic Development & Management), Leisure Services as the Proper Officer for the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths under the provisions of the Local government Act 1972 and Registration Services Act 1953 and the regulations made thereunder; and

- (2) the appointment of the Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services as the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with effect from 3 September 2010 until such time as the Head of Corporate Legal Services returns to work following a period of maternity leave.

99. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Further to Minute No. 74 of the meeting held on 5 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the joint report of the Director of Corporate Services and Assistant Chief Executive on the email consultation which had been held with Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the recommendations made by the Leaders of the three Political Groups on proposed reductions to the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to

- (1) note the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the proposals;
- (2) approve the recommendations made by the Cabinet on 5 August 2010; for implementation with effect from 2 September 2010; and
- (3) give approval to the continuation of any increases from 2011/12 being linked to any National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government employees pay awards.

100. THE LOCAL LAND CHARGES (AMENDMENT) RULES 2010

Further to Minute No. 204 of the meeting held on 25 November 2009 and Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Corporate Services held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the publication and enactment of the Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 2010, which have revoked charges relating to personal searches of the Land Charges Register.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) that the implications of the enactment of the above Rules on fee income be noted as a budget issue in this Financial year and future years;
- (2) the income targets for the Land Charges Section for the current year be noted; and
- (3) it be noted that officers will submit a further report on a fee charging regime for Land Searches, following a review of the current charging position, with the aim of bringing charges in line with the

spirit of European legislation and with any Local Government Association guidance issued to Local Authorities.

101. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12 - FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy which provided an update on the Treasury Management Activities undertaken in the first quarter of 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

102. INFORMED ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 40 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Regeneration held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered a joint report of the Planning and Economic Development Director and Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director which provided an update on the comments received during consultation on the draft Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing; and sought approval for the final Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, taking into account consultation comments.

This was a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments received during the consultation process into the draft study and the responses to the comments be noted; and
- (2) the Final Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing be approved to inform the emerging Core Strategy for Sefton.

103. THE BUILDING (LOCAL AUTHORITY CHARGES) REGULATIONS 2010

Further to Minute No. 60 of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director which provided details of the enactment of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 and the need for the Council to make a new Scheme of Building Regulations Charges with effect from 1 October 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Scheme of Charges under the new 2010 Building Regulations for operation from 1 October 2010 be approved.

104. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CLOSE SOUTHPORT (NORTH SEFTON) MAGISTRATES' COURT AND SOUTHPORT COUNTY COURT

Further to Minute No. 54 of the meeting of the Southport Area Committee held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services on the consultation exercise been undertaken by Her Majesty's Courts Service on the proposed closure of North Sefton (Southport) Magistrates' Court and Southport County Court. A copy of the resolution of the Southport Area Committee on this issue was circulated at the meeting.

The report indicated that the proposals set out in the consultation papers were:

- (a) to continue to operate a Magistrates' Court in Bootle (South Sefton) but to close Southport (North Sefton) Magistrates' Court and to merge the North and South Sefton Local Justice areas to create a single Sefton Local Justice area; and
- (b) To close Southport County Court and to transfer the bulk of its workload to the Civil and Family Justice Centre in Liverpool, with work in relation to some parishes to the north of Southport being transferred to Preston County Court.

The consultation which was to run until 15 September 2010 invited comments on the closure of the courts

RESOLVED:

That the resolution of the Southport Area Committee be endorsed and the Head of Corporate Legal Services be requested to submit the following response to Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS):

- (1) "The Council is strongly of the view that it is in the Community's interest to maintain a viable Magistrates' and County Court presence in Southport.
- (2) The Council understands the issues regarding the case for the Court Service vacating the current building in Houghton Street, but the Council believes that there is a strong case for the County Court to be relocated to the Magistrates' Court, which would still save the £160,000 in premises related costs referred to in the consultation document. The Council request that this be further investigated and provided as a response to the consultation.

- (3) North Sefton Magistrates' Court is situated in an art deco building located between Southport's Police and Fire Authority Stations. The Council requires confirmation that consideration has been given to the ongoing use of the building should the Magistrates' Court be relocated.
- (4) The Council is of the opinion that before any decision is made, HMCS be requested to provide a detailed analysis of the on-going financial implications of maintaining an empty building, including security, heating, lighting and maintenance costs.
- (5) In the event that HMCS make a decision to relocate the court buildings from Southport, this Council would prefer that the County Court be relocated to Liverpool rather than Preston".