

CABINET

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 10 September 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes. If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Holly Adams.

1 (a) GAMLINGAY: WARDEN SERVICE AT AVENELLS WAY AND GRAYS ROAD - PETITION

Cabinet **RECEIVED** the petition and **REFERRED** it to the meeting of the Housing Portfolio Holder on 16 September 2009 for detailed consideration and agreement of a response.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the Housing Portfolio Holder scheduled a special meeting at Avenells Way, Gamlingay, so residents of the scheme could be in attendance when this decision was taken, the date to be publicised as soon as it has been agreed.

Other Options Considered: Not applicable as no decision has been taken.

Reason For Decision: Not applicable as no decision has been taken.

2. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the Safeguarding Children policy and **NOTED** the supporting procedures.

Other Options Considered: None. Failure to adopt a revised policy could expose the Council to criticism that its arrangements in this area were not up to date.

Reason For Decision: The policy agrees with government requirements and has received a satisfactory assessment from internal audit.

3. COMPREHENSIVE EQUALITIES POLICY 2009-2012: GENDER EQUALITY AND RACE EQUALITY SCHEMES

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the new Gender Equality Scheme and revised Race Equality Scheme.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: Equalities had been identified by the Council as a priority area in which it must make progress and the Council must comply with the statutory duties enshrined in relevant legislation.

4. COUNCIL ACTIONS 2010/2011

Cabinet

- (a) **APPROVED** continuation of the current Vision, Aims and Approaches as the Council's strategic policy framework;
- (b) **APPROVED** the twelve draft Actions for 2010/11 given in Appendix 2 to the report for the purpose of service planning and subject to more detailed costings;
- (c) **ADVISED** services that there would be no bidding process this year for resources for service development and that only in exceptional cases would

- requests for additional resources for inescapable commitments be approved;
- (d) **REQUESTED** services, wherever relevant, to continue current year Council Actions into the service planning process for incorporation into the Council's core business from 2010/11 onwards; and
- (e) **AGREED** to review and confirm the Council Actions at their November meeting in the light of costs and other emerging financial commitments and the review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: A number of the 2009/10 Council Actions were one-off improvements, others have been absorbed into or continued by the Council Actions 2010/11, and others continue as part of the core business of the Council, such as:

- Continuing to work with hard to reach / vulnerable groups;
- Holding advice events;
- Various community safety actions; and
- Initiatives to increase participation in exercise.

For these Actions, continuation into 2010/11 where appropriate will be considered during the service plan process.

5. SHEPRETH: 74-76 FROG END

Cabinet, with five in favour, one against and one abstention, **AGREED** the sale of land at 74-76 Frog End, Shepreth for private development to maximise the return to the Council on its asset, enabling the development of new affordable housing within Shepreth, improvements to Council housing in the District, and / or other Housing capital expenditure.

Other Options Considered: To transfer the land to a housing association or to sell a parcel of the land for private development and transfer the remainder for a housing association development.

The first option was rejected by the Cabinet as the Council might not be deemed to be getting the appropriate value for money from the its asset. The second option was not considered as the capital receipt would not be as great a sum as if all the land were sold, and it was unlikely that restricting the housing association to only two dwellings would be viable.

Reason For Decision: To maximise the return to the Council on its asset, enabling both the development of new affordable housing within Shepreth as well as investing in housing services in the district.

6. WORKFORCE PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2009-10

Cabinet **APPROVED** the Workforce Plan, including the Action Plan.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: This is an annual review of the three-year rolling plan, incorporating updates from the previous year which reflect ongoing activity to address management improvement and cultural change, key workforce issues such as succession planning, absence management and recruitment, and specific service-led projects such as in housing, new communities and ICT. The Workforce Plan will be reviewed thoroughly in 2010/11 as it reaches the end of its three-year cycle.