

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Thursday,
29 June 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, K. Noble, R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

In Attendance: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. J. Croft, A. Gray, B. Hall, J.E. Higgin, J.G. Huntington, B. Meek, J.P. Moran, G. Morgan, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

Apologies: Councillors Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, M. Iveson and D.A. Newell

CAB.26/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

CAB.27/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

CAB.28/06 CALL OUT SERVICE FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIRS (KEY DECISION)
The Lead Member for Housing presented a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the call out service for emergency housing repairs was currently provided in-house via a two year agreement, which was scheduled to expire in July 2006.

Members noted that the arrangement with the workforce for the provision of the service was non-contractual and cost the Council in excess of £160,00 per annum. It was therefore proposed that the service should be subject to market testing to ensure value for money.

Specific reference was made to the need to give due consideration to negotiating a contractual agreement with relevant trade unions to secure continuous service provision throughout the year.

RESOLVED : 1. *That the future provision of call out service for emergency housing repairs be subject to market testing.*

2. *That in assembling an in-house bid there must be recognition of the need to secure continuous provision of the service throughout the year and that due consideration be given to negotiating a contractual agreement with the relevant trade unions.*

**CAB.29/06 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK -
ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
(KEY DECISION)**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above Statement, which explained how the Council intended to engage with those who had an interest in matters relating to development in their area and the preparation of documents. (For copy see file of Minutes)

It was explained that the Statement of Community Involvement had been subject to a Public Examination by written representations between January and March 2006 and the Planning Inspectorate had concluded that, subject to some minor amendments, the Statement was 'sound' and must be adopted by the Council.

Members noted that the adoption of the Statement would help the Council to meet Corporate Plan aim 25.

RESOLVED : That Council be recommended to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement.

CAB.30/06 DEMOLITION OF MIDDRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (KEY DECISION)

The Leader of the Council presented a report seeking approval to demolish all buildings at Middridge Industrial Estate and return the land to open countryside. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that all of the industrial units were empty and were unlikely to be returned to use, given their poor physical condition and location.

RESOLVED : That all buildings at Middridge Industrial Estate be demolished and the site be returned to open countryside.

CAB.31/06 SUPPORTED HOUSING STRATEGY FOR SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Council's Community Strategy included a commitment to produce a Supported Housing Strategy for the Borough, and there was provision within the 2006/07 Housing Revenue Account and General Fund budgets to appoint consultants to assist in the process.

Members noted that a brief had been developed, which included a review of all the sheltered housing in the Borough, a review of the community alarm and warden service and an overview of associated services, such as 'care and repair' and aids and adaptations, setting out future options and recommendations.

It was proposed that the award of the contract to undertake the proposed review should be subject of negotiation with Peter Fletcher Associates as they were familiar with the services and needs within the County and its constituent Districts, having already undertaken work on behalf of the Supporting People Partnership.

- RESOLVED :*
- 1. That the report on the production of a Supported Housing Strategy for Sedgefield Borough, including a review of existing services and provision be approved.*
 - 2. That negotiation takes place with Peter Fletcher Associates under Contract Procedure Rule 8 to undertake the review of existing service and provision.*

CAB.32/06 REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2005 - 06 POSITION AT 31ST MARCH 2006

Consideration was given to a report summarising the final outturn position on the Council's revenue activities for 2005/06. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the General Fund had contributed £126,000 towards balances, compared to a budgeted use of balances of £800,000 and the Housing Revenue Account had contributed £1,191,000 to balances from its revenue operations. The Training and Employment Services had made an operating surplus of £71,000, which was a significantly better position than previously anticipated.

RESOLVED : *That the financial position for 2005/06 be noted.*

CAB.33/06 CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT - FINAL OUTTURN POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2006

Consideration was given to a report, which provided a review of the final outturn position on the 2005/06 Capital Programme as at 31st March 2006. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report gave an overview of the progress made in meeting 2005/06 spending targets, provided an analysis of the capital resources available to finance the programme and summarised how those resources had been used to finance capital expenditure. It also gave an analysis of unspent commitments in 2005/06 that had been requested to be carried forward into the 2006/07 Capital Programme. The requests were subject to approval by Council at its meeting on 30th June 2006.

RESOLVED : *1. That the final outturn position to 31st March 2006 and the proposed financing of the Capital Programme be noted.*

2. *That Quarterly Capital Budgetary Control Reports continue to be submitted to Cabinet throughout 2006/07.*

CAB.34/06 AREA 1 FORUM

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2006. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Schedule 12a of the Act.

CAB.35/06 CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPARTMENT - STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT - COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Leader of the Council presented a report seeking approval to formally establish the post of Communications Officer within the Chief Executives Department. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the recommendation detailed in the report be approved.

Published on 30th June 2006.

The key decisions contained in these Minutes will be implemented on Monday 10th July 2006 five working days after the date of publication unless they are called in by three Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call in procedure rules.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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