

# **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **CABINET**

**Wednesday, 6 July 2011**

**PRESENT:** Councillor (Chair); Councillor (Deputy Chair); Councillors Hill, Hadland, Yates, Malpas and Palethorpe

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Bottwood

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bottwood

### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were signed by the Chairman.

### **3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

There were none

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

### **5. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were none

#### **5.1 CABINET RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - SCRUTINY PANEL R & P NEIGHBOURHOOD MODEL**

The Chairman explained that the Agenda Items would be re numbered, as there were no issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny. Subsequently, the agenda items would move down by one.

Councillor Hill, as the relevant Portfolio Holder introduced and outlined the report. He reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made 11 recommendations from a review of the Neighbourhood Model on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011, which investigated improvements to the Neighbourhood Model. Within the review, strong emphasis had been placed on the frequency, structure, conduct and content of the meetings. He commented that he fully supported the recommendations, in particular holding two public meetings per year and emphasised the need for clear and concise reporting back mechanisms be implemented to ensure public access and participation be maximised. He encouraged Members to attend the Councillor Workshops, which would take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to explore the matter further.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that she welcomed the recommendations within the report and reported that she had attended a Public Open meeting in her ward of Kingsthorpe, which had been very well attended. She reported that Public Open Meetings could be a successful goal of Localism by encouraging public participation in local politics and community issues.

Councillor Mason commented that she welcomed the report and the recommendations. She emphasised the need for better communication and encouraged Councillors to attend the workshops. She thanked Cabinet for recognising the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Hill commented that he was pleased and encouraged by the number of people who had attended the Public Open meeting in Kingsthorpe.

Councillor Malpas commented that the views and values of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were greatly welcomed by Cabinet and thanked them for the work that they had done.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That all of the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report to Cabinet of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (listed in paragraph 3.6 of the report), arising from the review of the Neighbourhood Model be accepted and agreed to be implemented in due course
2. That the comments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, also set out in the 25<sup>th</sup> May report be noted.
3. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee be thanked for the valuable work it had undertaken which would be used to improve the Neighbourhood Model for the benefit of local people and their communities.

**6. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST JAMES MILL ROAD**

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Portfolio Holder, introduced the report. It was noted that the Corporate Asset Board had been briefed to examine surplus land belonging to the Council and any necessary or relevant disposal. He commented that the disposal of land at St James Mill Road would not have an effect on the potential link road in the area. It was noted that the land would fall into the proposed Enterprise Zone and that the timing of the sale would reflect the best interests and the sale would not fall foul of any involvement with the Enterprise Zone.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the disposal of the freehold property identified in Appendix 1 of the report and edged red upon the plans at Appendix 2, being land at St James Mill Road, as part of implementing a continuing broader programme of disposal of assets considered surplus to this Council's requirements be approved
2. That the Director of Planning and Regeneration be delegated the power to approve the terms of the disposal in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Enterprise.

**7. ENTERPRISE ZONES**

Councillor Beardsworth welcomed the report and commented that the proposed application to the Department of Community Local Government (CLG) of the Enterprise Zone would demonstrate the importance and potential of Northampton. She further added that Northampton had played a pivotal role within the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and that if the bid be successful the development of the transport infrastructure would be a further affirmation of placing Northampton at the forefront of

development. She also asked that Cabinet encourage the involvement of Northamptonshire County Council in supporting the bid.

Councillor Mason emphasised the importance of the document and expressed her excitement at the bid. She reported that she was pleased to see the bid going forward and progression made on behalf of SEMLEP and reported that should the bid be of success, the affect on Northampton would be dramatic and significant and wished Cabinet luck on achieving success.

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Portfolio Holder introduced the report. He commented that the bid provided a fantastic opportunity for Northamptonshire and paid tribute to the extensive work carried out by officers in completing the bid, within a very restricted time scale. The creation of a Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone would stimulate growth and development in the region and subsequently many employment opportunities would be made available; he explained that revised estimate figures, referred to in section 3.2.2 of the report were 13, 444 direct new jobs as a result of the creation which would provide an overall total of approximately 17, 460 new jobs in the region.

Councillor Hadland commented that there would be many fiscal benefits to the Enterprise Zone with the business rates being re-invested in further enterprises and a decrease in the amount of bureaucracy faced. He reiterated his thanks and appreciation to officers and the support that had been received from Northamptonshire County Council, West Northants Development Control, SEMPLEP and local business – including General Motors. He further commented that a great deal of support had been gathered from MP's in the region and expressed his happiness at putting recommendations before Cabinet.

The Chief Executive congratulated the officers involved and the Portfolio Holder for their continued hard work in submitting the bid. He reported that a lot of support for the Enterprise Zone had been demonstrated by the private sector, which included Carlsberg, General Motors (in Luton) and Silverstone. He further commented that other Councils in the region had offered support to NBC's bid, which included Luton, Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and a number of Northamptonshire Councils. It was noted that 29 bids for Enterprise Zones had been made nationally with only 10 available, with emphasis being placed on areas where the proposals would be deliverable and good value for money of which it was believed Northampton could achieve.

The Leader congratulated the Chief Executive, officers and partners for their participation and hard work in the submission of the bid. He stated that the people of Northampton should be optimistic about the works being carried out in the Midlands and expressed that Northampton was an outward looking town that would embrace progress and development and believed that Northampton's bid was one of the strongest submitted to the CLG.

## **RESOLVED:**

1. That the formal application to CLG, as submitted, so as to meet the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 deadline, attached at Appendix 1 of the report be noted and endorsed.
2. That the creation of a Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone and the potential benefits and associated risks should the application be successful (subject to further guidance from Government) be noted and supported.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree Governance arrangements and any necessary finalisation of the Bid details, in

consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Enterprise.

4. That the setting up of a Local Development Order (LDO) be in principle agreed and delegated authority to the Director of Planning & Regeneration to continue to progress the making of such an Order be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 18.30