

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday, 12 June 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Mackintosh (Chair); Councillor Markham (Deputy Chair); Councillors Hadland and Hallam

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Eldred and Bottwood.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. INTENTION TO HOLD PART OF THE MEETING IN PRIVATE

There were no items to be heard in private.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Dr Marie Dickie addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 7- Northampton 'Heritage Gateway' Feasibility Study and Options Appraisal and commented that she welcomed the recommendations contained within the report and stated that it had been an exemplary illustration of the Council and voluntary groups working together. She further noted that the 'Heritage Gateway' would instil a sense of pride in the past, present and future of the historical Town.

The Leader thanked Dr Dickie for her comments and the 'Friends of Northampton Castle'.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were none

7. NORTHAMPTON 'HERITAGE GATEWAY' FEASIBILITY STUDY AND OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Councillor Stone addressed Cabinet and commented that the project was exciting and endorsed the process and hoped that it would come to fruition. She asked for clarification whether the Neighbourhood Forum would be consulted, whether the issue or displaced parking would be dealt with, relating to the car parks in Spring Boroughs and whether the demolished houses would be replaced.

Councillor Glynane addressed Cabinet and commented that there were some good ideas that needed to be expanded. He requested that other groups be asked to contribute to the Heritage Trails and asked for more community engagement.

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and addressed Councillor Glynane's concerns. He commented that it was an exemplary piece of partnership working. In response to Councillor Stone's concerns, he commented that the Neighbourhood Forum would be involved, car parking was currently under review and commented that he would explore the possibility of more cycle routes.

The Leader commented that he welcomed the report and there was a need to recognise

Northampton's history, heritage and culture.

RESOLVED:

1. That section 3.3.1 of the outlined proposals for the 'Heritage Gateway' as set out in the report be approved.
2. That regular progress reports on the implementation of the Heritage Gateway Project be received.

8. IMPROVING NORTHAMPTON'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Councillor Stone addressed Cabinet and commented that Northampton was blessed with the parks within the town. She requested that an Equality Impact Assessment be undertaken to ensure that all park users are consulted and asked that more be done in making provision for younger people.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that she welcomed the report and asked that the voluntary groups who service their local parks be recognised for their work.

Councillor Glynane requested that more be done to encourage and open up bridal ways into the Town Centre which he considered would be a unique selling point of the Town.

Councillor Hallam, as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and explained that the report was a reinforcement of the administrations dedication to continual improvements to the parks.

RESOLVED:

1. That the refreshed Northampton Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, attached at appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. That the establishment of park management committees for Abington Park, Delapre Abbey and the Racecourse and for any other parks in the town, where there would be evidence of strong community support be agreed.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, the task of establishing park committees, to include the appointment of park committee members, developing terms of reference and setting up meetings.

9. DISPOSAL OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE A43 AT ROUND SPINNEY

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Cabinet Members submitted a report which was a response to the public consultation and explained that not one of the objections received was concerned with the loss of land.

RESOLVED:

1. That the objections received to the proposed disposal of freehold land designated as public open space adjacent to the A43 at Round Spinney, (shown edged red upon the attached plan at Appendix 1 of the report) were considered.
2. That Cabinets earlier decision to support the disposal of land shown on the plan referred to at 2.1 (Appendix 1 of the report) be confirmed.
- 3.

10. PROPOSED GRANT OF LEASE TO NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT FAR COTTON RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Glynane addressed Cabinet, speaking on behalf of the Far Cotton Residents Association. He commented that in section 3.1.4 of the Cabinet report, no reference of the involvement of local Councillors or community representatives was made. He further commented that the expired lease was unclear with regards to who was responsible for its operation and that clarification needed to be included in the lease agreement to ensure those responsible had a clear understanding of their obligations.

RESOLVED:

1. That the objections received to the proposed disposal of land at Far Cotton Recreation Ground comprising 1,860 sq.m.(shown edged red upon the attached plan at Appendix 1 of the report) and designated as public open space, by way of grant of a new five years lease to Northamptonshire County Council be considered.
2. That a renewal of a lease of part of Far Cotton Recreation Ground (comprising that area referred to at 2.1 of the report) may be completed to Northamptonshire County Council, upon the terms referred to including provision for a rolling mutual break provision be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm