

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday, 8 October 2014

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Bottwood.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2014 were agreed and signed by the Leader.

3. INTENTION TO HOLD PART OF THE MEETING IN PRIVATE

There were no items to be held in private.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Jill Hope addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 7 – ‘Policy on the removal of fly tipping from private land’ and congratulated the administration on the report which she commented was of great importance. She voiced concerns about the proportioning of costs for those served legal notices in cases of shared alleyways. She noted that some residents served with a legal process notice may become unduly worried, especially if they have to appeal the notice at the Magistrates.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were none.

7. POLICY ON THE REMOVAL OF FLY TIPPING FROM PRIVATE LAND

Councillor Marriott commented that he welcomed the report but expressed his concerns with the increased workload that may be placed on the wardens and also commented that the size of the vehicles used in the collection of fly tip waste may need to be considered. He further suggested that the Council consider working with students and the University and with HIMO landlords to ensure responsible tenant/landlord relationships to reduce incidents of fly tipping.

Councillor Glynane commented that in his ward, many gated alleyways had fly tipping problems and he believed that HIMOs were partly to blame for the ongoing problem. He commented that he welcomed the initiative but asked that further clarification be given with regards to the recovery of costs. He expressed concern about the lack of projected costs and questioned how it would be operated.

Councillor Hallam as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and commented that it clearly showed that administration were listening to the public and responding to concerns accordingly. It was noted that 5% of calls received by the Council related to fly tipping on private land and alleyways. With regards to the legal process, he noted that the Council would be able to recover costs when it was very clear who the perpetrator was. He stated that it was a very positive step forward and it would be monitored regularly.

RESOLVED:

That an amendment to the current operational policy be approved so that, in the case of fly tipping on sites that are shared ownership alleys or other shared ownership entrances such as common courts, the Council may where permissible and considered appropriate in the circumstances clear and dispose of the fly tipped material.

8. VULCAN WORKS

Councillor Eldred, as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and commented that the former Vulcan Works would be a major part of the Cultural Quarter and would entice visitors to the Town.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be agreed in principle to the acquisition of 4 - 6 Angel Street from Northamptonshire County Council and delegated to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, authority to negotiate the terms of the acquisition, at price that is no more than the independently determined market value and subject to necessary funding being identified.
2. That the whole of the site be appropriated for planning purposes under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 and extend this appropriation to include 4 - 6 Angel Street when acquired.
3. That a consultation exercise be undertaken with business proprietors operating within the vicinity of the Vulcan Works site and the occupiers of adjoining residential property, ahead of the planning application for Vulcan Works, which will be submitted in November 2014.

9. GROSVENOR/GREYFRIARS UPDATE

Councillor Marriott addressed Cabinet and stated that he very much welcomed the report and the public consultation that had been taken place. He noted that there was a need for bus users to have proper facilities and there was a need for development in the area.

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and noted that the consultation period had seen 189 responses with many suggestions that would be considered, which would be fed into the planning process.

The Leader commented that the current situation with Greyfriars had been inherited from the Liberal Democrats whilst in administration and was not fit for purpose. He further commented that they wanted people of Northampton to be at the heart of developing the area.

RESOLVED:

1. That the consultation findings be noted and it be agreed that they should be included for consideration in the preparation of viable options and plans for the development of the Greyfriars site, in respect of retail and leisure use.
2. That a further progress report be presented to Cabinet in due course.

10. ENTERPRISE ZONE UPDATE

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Cabinet Member, submitted a report and commented that since it had been established, the Enterprise Zone had created in excess of 530 jobs and significant improvements had been made in numerous areas with investments in projects from public and private investors.

The Leader commented that he had recently seen a report from local estate agents which highlighted an increase in the number of people looking to potentially move into the area, which was partly attributed to the establishment and investment in the Enterprise Zone.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made to date be noted.
2. That an additional request to the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) of £341,795 be approved into the Capital Programme through its Local Infrastructure Fund programme scheme to bring forward further power supply work within the EZ and for this to be repaid through uplift in business rates.

The meeting concluded at 6.19pm