

## **CABINET**

**THURSDAY, 2 JANUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Russell Holland, Fionuala Foley, Dale Heenan, Richard Hurley and Keith Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Bawden, Claire Ellis and Garry Perkins.

### **76. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

### **77. Minutes**

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **78. Public Question Time**

#### Questioner

Mr Ray Fisher, Cricklade Road, Queensfield.

#### Question

Mr Fisher asked if the Cabinet believed that the recently issued “Queensfield Consultation / Opinion Survey, on vehicle access to the Queensfield area from Cricklade Road, constituted a fair and balanced enquiry that was commensurate with the Council’s policy of openness and fair play?

#### Response

The Chair thanked Mr Fisher for his question and comments and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting.

Mr Fisher asked a supplementary question relating to the written response and the apparent lack of safeguards surrounding completion of the “on-line questionnaire” that risked multiple responses from individuals or households or from those not directly affected, such as young children.

The Chair and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting to the questions and comments arising.

#### Questioner

Mr Eric Shaw, Chiseldon.

#### Question

Mr Shaw advised that, further to Agenda Item 5 concerning the proposed changes to waste collection services, he had provided advance notice of his intention to ask a question regarding a breakdown of the costs of the proposed changes. However, he believed that the report to the Cabinet meeting provided the

information that he required.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Shaw for the notice of his question and commented that he was sure that further clarification would be provided as the Cabinet discussed the agenda item later in the meeting.

Questioner

Mr Richard Symonds, Shaw, Swindon.

Question

Mr Symonds, further to Agenda Item 5 concerning the proposed changes to Waste Collection services, sought clarification on the colour of the bin to be used for the green waste collection service.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Symonds for his question and comments. The Chair and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) responded at the meeting to the question and comments arising.

Questioner

Mr Tim French, Cassan Road, Swindon.

Question

Mr French asked questions regarding the number and location of parking spaces for disabled people and of pay machines at the recently opened Whalebridge Multi-Storey Car Park and whether it was intended for a crossing to be provided to assist users crossing Islington Street to access Swindon Town Centre.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr French for his questions. The Chair and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting to the questions and comments.

Questioner

Mr Derrick Newman, Acacia Grove, Pinehurst, Swindon.

Question

Mr Newman asked questions regarding the capacity of the bins to be used for the proposed green waste collection service and on whether consideration was to be given to the introducing of traffic calming on Whitworth Road, Pinehurst to reduce traffic speeds.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Newman for his questions. The Chair, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting to the questions and comments. The Chair confirmed that he would also arrange for a written response to be provided to Mr Newman's earlier correspondence.

**Proposed Changes to the Waste Collection Services**

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) and the Board Director, Service Delivery submitted a joint report concerning (a) a decision of the Council's Scrutiny Committee to refer back to the Cabinet for further consideration a decision to implement proposed changes to the Household Waste and Green Waste Collection Service (Minute 64 of Cabinet refers), and (b) further information and additional financial detail relating to the proposed changes responding to the issues raised at the Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Richard Hurley, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), referred to the decision of the Scrutiny Committee and to the additional financial detail that had now been provided in the report and in the accompanying Appendix One relating to Green Waste, and Appendix Two relating to Fortnightly Recycling. He thanked the members of the Scrutiny Committee for their robust and useful challenge and commented that he remained convinced that the Cabinet had sufficient information to support the proposed changes, and that the additional financial information provided in the report further supported this view.

Councillor Hurley responded to questions from Cabinet Members relating to the cost of the proposed green waste bins and of the associated collection service. He provided clarification based on the income and savings targets referred to in the report. He highlighted the effect of the proposals in the current year and on how they would be implemented. He reported that it was likely that agency staff would be required until at least April 2014 to maintain current provision and assist in the run up to the new system commencing. He explained how the proposed new arrangements, particularly the take up of the new green waste service, would be monitored and reviewed. He commented on how the Council's proposals had taken into account the experiences of other local authorities operating similar green waste schemes. He advised that the proposal would also include the provision of 100 green waste bags per year for those properties that wished to make use of the service but where the provision of a bin based system was not possible. He further confirmed that residents requiring the Assisted Service for waste collection, known as the "A" Card, would continue to receive this support. He confirmed that the cost of the programme to reconfigure vehicles would be met from the service's base budget.

Resolved – (1) That the decision of the Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 concerning the Cabinet decision on "Proposed Changes to Waste Collection Services" (Cabinet Minute 64), be noted.

(2) That the additional financial detail provided within the joint report and within Appendices One and Two, relating to the proposed changes to Waste Collection Services, be noted.

(3) That, having regard to the detailed financial information provided within the joint report, the Cabinet reiterates that the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be authorised to implement the changes to the household waste collection service, as set out in the report to the Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and referred to in Minute 64.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

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