
Cabinet

Report of the meeting held on 12th November 2012

Matter for Decision

33. GAMBLING ACT – REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Cabinet has reviewed the content of a revised statement under the Gambling Act 2005. The Statement of Principles is included as a separate item on the agenda (Item No. 5).

In considering the document, Executive Councillors took into account the views of the Licensing Panel expressed at its meeting on 23rd October 2012. Having noted that the updated statement has been the subject of a consultation exercise with interested parties, the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

that the Statement of Principles be approved with effect from 31st January 2013 for a period of three years.

Matters for Information

34. HOUGHTON AND WYTON CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND BOUNDARY REVIEW

Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) and the Development Management Panels (Item Nos. 26 and 11 of their Reports refer), the Cabinet has approved the contents of the Character Assessment and Boundary Review for the Houghton and Wyton Conservation Area. In considering the issues involved, the Cabinet had regard to representations made at the meeting by Councillor Williams. He suggested that Area 2, a field to the east of Houghton Grange, should be included in the Conservation Area. However, the Executive Councillor for Planning and Housing Strategy explained that an appraisal had indicated that this area did not meet the Conservation Area criteria. He added that it was best practice to keep boundaries under review and that this was the case for all Conservation Areas in the district.

35. THE CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF PLANNING POLICIES

The Cabinet has been acquainted with the findings of a study by the **Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) (Item No 28 of their Report refers)** which examined how agriculture and its environmental work was reflected in the Council's policy framework.

Members have concurred with the Panel that the importance of rural areas and agriculture should be reflected to a greater extent in the Council's Planning Policy Framework. With this in mind, the Cabinet has:-

- ◆ requested that consideration be given within the new Local Plan to the need for community led growth in rural villages as a way of contributing towards their sustainability;
- ◆ endorsed the view that the definition of green field and brown field sites should be consistently applied;
- ◆ agreed that reference be made in the new Local Plan to the National Planning Policy Framework principles relating to the rural economy and agricultural land; and
- ◆ requested that further investigations be undertaken into the Council's procedure for analysing and dealing with applications where agriculture is a factor and a report on the outcome submitted to the Development Management Panel.

36. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Along with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No. 29 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has considered proposed arrangements to deal with applications for listing community assets. Executive Councillors were advised that the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 came into force in September 2012 as part of the Government's policy to assist local community groups in preserving those buildings or land which they considered to be important to their social well-being. Having noted those bodies which may make community nominations, the proposed process for nominating an asset and the impact of land being listed, the Cabinet has:-

- ◆ delegated responsibility for receiving and processing applications to the Corporate Team Manager;
- ◆ agreed that responsibility for determining whether an asset should be listed on the Register of Community Assets or not be delegated to a Panel of three appropriate Council Officers (who may be drawn from Planning and Housing Strategy, Environmental and Community Services and Legal & Democratic Services supported by the Corporate Team) to be designated by the Chief Officer Management Team;
- ◆ delegated responsibility for determining reviews against listing of assets by the owners to the Head of Planning and Housing

- Strategy, after consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (or their nominees);
- ◆ authorised the Corporate Team Manager to introduce appropriate arrangements for determining appeals for compensation and any review requests; and
 - ◆ requested that the Corporate Team Manager put in place arrangements for publishing how applicable groups can go about making a nomination.

37. CONTROLLED WASTE REGULATIONS

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) (Item No. 27 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has been acquainted with legislative changes affecting the disposal of waste from non-domestic premises, which had arisen from the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. The Regulations gives local authorities powers to charge for waste disposal from a wider range of non-domestic premises than the original 1992 Regulations. Executive Councillors were advised that the District Council collected waste from a number of previously exempt premises and will now be charged by the County Council for the disposal of that waste. Members noted that the County Council, as the Waste Authority, had set a local policy which clarified who will be required to pay and who will receive transitional relief. With this in mind, the Cabinet has agreed that the full cost of disposal should be recovered by the Council from those premises previously exempt under the 1992 Regulations except where they receive discharge from the County Council.

38. CHARGING FOR A SECOND GREEN BIN

Further to Item No. 26 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 14th November 2012, **the Cabinet has been advised of the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)(Item No. 28 of their Report refers)** on the proposal to introduce an annual charge of £40 for an additional green waste bin. The proposal had been considered previously by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) who were of the opinion that the Council should not introduce a charge.

As part of their deliberations, the Cabinet had regard to representations made at the meeting by Councillor T V Rogers, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being). Councillor Rogers explained that whilst the Panel supported a charge for a second green bin in principle they were of the opinion that it should be considered in the context of a range of other options for achieving budgetary savings. In discussing the information before them, Executive Councillors reiterated that the Council constantly reviewed all services to identify savings and a number of difficult budgetary decisions would need to be made in the future. With this in mind, the Cabinet approved in principle, the introduction of a charge for a second green bin, but in doing so, have delegated the timing of the implementation to the Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) after consultation with the Executive

Leader and the Executive Councillor for Environment. In concurring with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) Executive Councillors have requested that the charge be developed as part of a package of other savings to be decided no later than April 2013.

Subsequently, the Cabinet's decision has been the subject of a "call-in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) and will be considered by the Panel at their meeting on 11th December 2012.

39. HUNTINGDONSHIRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AREA JOINT COMMITTEE

The Cabinet has appointed Councillor C R Hyams to replace Councillor S Akthar on the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee.

J D Ablewhite
Chairman