
Cabinet

Report of the meetings held on 20th March and 10th April 2014

Matter for Decision

47. CORPORATE PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

By way of a report by the Interim Corporate Team Manager (the report is reproduced as Item No. 4 on the Council Agenda) the Cabinet has considered the content of an updated Corporate Plan and associated Performance Management Framework.

Having noted the priority areas identified in the Plan, the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

that the content of the revised Corporate Plan and associated Performance Management Framework be approved.

Matters for Information

48. THE FUTURE OF MEMBERS IT

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well Being) (Item No. 38 of their Report refers) the Cabinet has considered a proposal to withdraw Council funded IT equipment for Members and promote the purchase of iPads from Members allowances. Members were advised that the proposal will enable the authority to achieve savings in the region of £50K and that there will be further savings through the reduction, where possible, of printed reports.

Attention was drawn to the use of non-HDC approved email addresses for Council and the Cabinet queried whether it will be possible to set up private email addresses for Councillors that easily identified them as a Member of the District Council. In response, the IMD Service Manager undertook to investigate the matter further.

Executive Councillors concurred with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel that appropriate training and support will be required for all Members prior to implementation and that the WIFI facility within the

Civic Suite will need to be stress tested. Mention also was made of transition arrangements, access to the Council's IT resources within Pathfinder House and current arrangements for funding of broadband connections for Members.

In the meantime, the Cabinet has indicated its support for proposals -

- ◆ to withdraw Council funded IT equipment for Members, with continued support only being provided in exceptional circumstances;
- ◆ to purchase iPads from Members allowances;
- ◆ to withdraw, where possible, printed agendas and reports for Council business;
- ◆ that all Members should use non-HDC, but HDC approved, email addresses for Council business;
- ◆ to withdraw HDC funded broadband connections; and
- ◆ that with effect from 1st May 2014, it be made compulsory for newly elected Members to participate in the iPad scheme.

As the Members' IT and telephone support guidelines form part of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet recommended that these be varied accordingly to reflect the above. These arrangements are now subject to call in and will be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being).

49. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended), the Cabinet has approved a table of fares for hackney carriages. Although the fares were originally agreed at a meeting of the Licensing and Protection Panel on 26th October 2011, it has recently been clarified that the decision is considered to be an Executive function. In that respect, the Cabinet has delegated the approval of future hackney carriage fares to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, after consultation with the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder. This includes the consideration of any objections.

50. TRANSFER OF CREATIVEXCHANGE, LONGSANDS CAMPUS

(The following item was considered as a confidential item under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)

Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No. 34 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has agreed to surrender the lease for the CreativExchange building in St Neots and have agreed to transfer the land with the related car parking spaces, which the District Council owns, to Longsands Academy on the best achievable terms. The previous lease to Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services Ltd expired on 31st March 2014.

**51. NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATING –
CHANGES TO DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY FROM
1st APRIL 2014**

(The following item was considered as an urgent item under paragraph 19 of Part 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well Being) (Item No. 39 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has been acquainted with the background to new temporary rate relief measures announced by the Government. The measures aim to help and financially support the local “retail” ratepayers, encourage new occupations as well as support households and businesses affected by the recent floods.

Having considered the information before them and in noting that billing authorities will be reimbursed by the Government for any discounts awarded, the Cabinet has agreed to award:-

- ◆ a discount of £1,000 (submit to state aid limits) for all occupied retail properties with a rateable value not exceeding £50,000 with effect from 1st April 2014;
- ◆ 50% business rate relief for 18 months for businesses that move into retail premises that have been empty for a year or more with effect from 1st April 2014; and
- ◆ 100% rate relief for 3 months for any day between 1st December 2013 and 31st March 2014 where non domestic properties have been flooded and meet other qualifying criteria.

The Head of Customer Services and Local Taxation Manager have been authorised to award these discounts.

**52. GREATER CAMBRIDGE, GREATER PETERBOROUGH
ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) –
STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN**

(The following item was considered as an urgent item under paragraph 19 of Part 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

The Cabinet has approved the content of a Strategic Economic Plan produced by the Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership. The Plan sets out the Partnership’s vision for sustainable economic growth drawing upon the strengths of the local area.

J D Ablewhite
Chairman