



CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 2nd April 2014

PRESENT : Cllrs. James (Chair), Dallimore, Organ, Wood and Patel

Others in Attendance

Peter Gillett, Corporate Director of Resources

Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development

Anthony Hughes, Democratic Services Officer

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

95. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

96. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

97. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

98. OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2014-2019

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment which presented for formal approval a new Open Space Strategy setting out a robust, strategic framework for managing open space resources in Gloucester.

Councillor Wood welcomed the investment identified in the report notwithstanding changes to boundaries that may arise through the boundary review.

Cabinet Members also acknowledged that the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been addressed.

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Reference was made to a question asked of Councillor Patel at the last Council meeting concerning whether there was intention by the Grange School to fence off their field. The Cabinet was advised that clarification of the school's intention was awaited and that the Cabinet Member would be briefed by the Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods when a response from the school had been received.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Open Space Strategy for Gloucester 2014-2019 be approved.
- (2) That Officers should progress the completion of Open Space Action Plans for each city ward, in consultation with local residents, ward members and community groups.
- (3) That upto 15% of the available S.106 monies (allocated for fees in the legal agreements) may be used to procure consultants' input for expediting the implementation of S.106 funded open space projects.

99. CITY CENTRE INVESTMENT FUNDS ALLOCATIONS AND UPDATE

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture updating Members on the projects within the City Centre Investment Fund delivery programme.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member in particular highlighted the following -

- schemes that had already been awarded grants totalling £33,170 as set out in paragraph 4.7.2 of the report
- in addition to the refresh work to Kings Square identified in paragraph 4.13 of the report, the possibility of providing improved quality paving in areas that will not be affected by the planned Kings Walk Development Scheme
- now that the position with English Heritage had been clarified, priority to be given to a start on repairs to St Michael's Tower and the removal of scaffolding.
- the introduction of controllable bollards at the entrances to the gate streets to improve the pedestrian environment.

Cabinet Members welcomed the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the sum of £40,000 be reallocated from the replacement of the boundary wall at Station Road Car Park, to improve existing street furniture within the City Centre.
- (2) That the updates in respect of the specific funding proposals be noted.

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100. CITYWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment setting out a number of Environmental Projects that are to be delivered across the City in 2014/15.

Councillor Organ welcomed the work with partners in respect of Robinswood Hill, the links with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, involvement with the community and especially children and young persons. Councillor Organ also welcomed the proposal to create a Westgate Leisure Park and Councillor Wood welcomed the encouragement for more floral displays in the City and the proposal to supplement World War One celebrations through a planting scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the ongoing partnership working across the City to improve the environment, on road verges, open spaces, in the City Centre and at Robinswood Hill, be noted.
- (2) That the proposals to extend the successful Urban Wildflower Planting to provide a suitable floral WWI commemoration in the City, be endorsed.

101. NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND NEW HOMES BONUS

Cabinet considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources advising members of the progress that had taken place in relation to development of housing in Gloucester and the financial benefit this had given in relation to the New Homes Bonus.

The Leader of the Council highlighted that the City ranked the second City in the Country for housing growth and Councillor Organ referred to the opportunities to secure the future maintenance of housing stock through the CoCo model and the housing stock transfer to Gloucester City Homes.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

102. EMPTY HOMES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure updating on the Empty Homes programme.

(Councillor Dallimore, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, joined the meeting at this point)

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and the success of the Empty Homes Strategy to date be noted.

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103. HOUSING SERVICES

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure drawing attention to the successes of the Housing Service in helping residents find housing solutions to meet their individual needs. The report also informed of the excellent work delivered through homelessness prevention, working with partners and reducing the use of emergency bed & breakfast accommodation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the continued use of the Homelessness Prevention Grant to provide Housing Options for vulnerable households threatened with homelessness, be endorsed, and
- (2) That the Housing Service to achieve 'The Gold Standard Award' by striving for continuous improvement in front line housing services be supported.

104. HERITAGE STATEMENT

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture informing when a Heritage Statement was required and apprising Cabinet of the work completed in the current year relating to the historic environment and associated events within the City.

Cabinet expressed their support to *Project Pilgrim* which was currently the subject of a Heritage Lottery application submitted by the Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral.

Cabinet Members welcomed that the report which highlighted the richness of the City's heritage and the measures and steps being taken to enhance and promote awareness.

RESOLVED

That the report on the progress of work from April 2013 – March 2014 be noted.

105. RUGBY WORLD CUP UPDATE REPORT

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture updating Members on progress against the key issues for the delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2015.

Cabinet Members recognised the economic benefits to the City of being a host nation and the return on investment that the Council had agreed to pledge in support of the event. Cabinet Members also saw the importance of having a schedule of events for those who may not wish to watch the games.

The Leader of the Council expressed the need to find ways of engaging local businesses to support events, The City Council had committed £350,000 and Cabinet were confident at this stage that the City Council's contribution would be contained within this amount.

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RESOLVED

That the progress against key issues for the delivery of the Rugby World Cup 2015 be noted.

106. HEARTY LIVES GLOUCESTER PROJECT - SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure introducing and outlining a specific aspect of the Hearty Lives Project, namely the Schools Programme.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and the achievements of the programme to date be noted.

107. WASTE AND RECYCLING PROJECT PLAN

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment updating on the work being undertaken to review the waste and recycling services.

Cabinet Members highlighted the improvements in recycling rates through innovative ways and also recognised the need to engage those residents who were currently not participating.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

108. POSITIVE IMPACT OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT WORK IN PROTECTING COMMUNITIES DURING WEATHER/TIDAL EVENTS

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment updating on the positive impact that the flood risk management work was having in protecting communities against flooding during extreme weather and or tidal events.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member drew attention to the work undertaken by officers 'behind the scenes' and the investments that had been made by partnering organisations (including the County Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water) which had proved successful in alleviating flooding during the recent months of heavy rain fall.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

109. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FUNDING

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods outlining the funding that had been received by the Safer Gloucester Community Safety Partnership from the Police and Crime

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Commissioner for Gloucestershire, including where the funding was allocated and the achievements to date.

RESOLVED

That the achievements of the Safer Gloucester Community Safety Partnership in securing funds from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and actions arising be noted.

110. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2013/14

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources summarising the expected year end position for the period April 2013 to March 2014 for both revenue and capital expenditure. The report also included a summary of the Treasury Management activities up to quarter 3, as reported to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the information was not available at the time of publishing the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

111. CONFIRMATION OF CPO 134 RESERVOIR ROAD

Cabinet considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure seeking approval to confirm a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for 134 Reservoir Road, Gloucester.

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the information was not available at the time of publishing the agenda and a decision is required in order to meet the relevant deadline.

The Cabinet Member commented that in most circumstances, where acquisition was considered necessary, it was desirable to achieve this through negotiation rather than compulsory powers and such powers were only used in exceptional circumstances as merited.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Compulsory Purchase Order made on 20th November 2013 in respect of 134 Reservoir Road, Gloucester be confirmed.
- (2) That the steps required for the acquisition of the property be noted.

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**Time of commencement: 18:00 hours
Time of conclusion: 19:05 hours**

Chair