

PUBLICATION: 10 June 2011

DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: 15 June 2011

FOLLOWING THE CALL-IN PERIOD, DECISIONS INCLUDED IN THESE MINUTES MAY THEN BE IMPLEMENTED WHERE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO A CALL-IN BY A SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

** DENOTES KEY DECISION*

CABINET MEETING

At a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Huyton on Wednesday, 8 June, 2011 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

Councillors

R J Round JP
Chairman of the Cabinet
(in the Chair)

Ms J E Aston, E Connor, Ms S E Gaffney, Mrs J Harris, N F Keats, K Keith and D Lonergan MRICS and G J Morgan.

In attendance: Councillors Ms J Lilly, M J Sharp and Ms M E Stuart.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor G A Wright.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings of the Cabinet were received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman:-

- (a) 20 April 2011; and
- (b) 17 May 2011.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Deputy Chief Executive's representative reported that no declarations of interest had been submitted.

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW - COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

(a) Final Working Group Report - Community Empowerment Review

The Cabinet considered the report of the Safer Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee, which presented the findings of the Working Group that had been established to review Community Empowerment. The purpose of the review had been to contribute to the development of a Community Empowerment Strategy

for Knowsley and to ensure that the resulting product was fit for purpose and supported the work of Members, officers, partners and the community.

Councillor J Lilly, Chairman of the Working Group, attended the meeting to provide a summary of the review, which had resulted in a series of recommendations on how a Community Empowerment Strategy could be developed and implemented in Knowsley.

In conclusion, Councillor Lilly thanked the expert witnesses for their contribution; the review lead officers, Justin Thompson and Holly Crowley, for their support; the Members who had taken part in the review; and Councillor Sharp, who had been the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, for giving her the opportunity to chair this review.

(b) Scrutiny Review - Community Empowerment - Cabinet Response

The Cabinet considered a proposed response to the report, and recommendations put forward by the Safer Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee following its review of Community Empowerment.

Councillor J Harris responded on behalf of the Cabinet thanking the officers and Members for an excellent report. She also highlighted the work that went on as part of the Local Strategic Partnership to address the differing needs of communities within the Borough.

In this respect, the Leader reported that the Knowsley Partnership Board had considered the issue of community empowerment at its meeting earlier that day. The Partnership Board had noted how communities now understood their role in community empowerment, and how people within those communities wanted to make decisions at a local level. In particular, the Board had noted the need for communities to take responsibility for decisions that were made at a local level, which the Leader considered to be a positive step forward.

RESOLVED – That

- (i) the Cabinet's response, as proposed in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be agreed and published; and
- (ii) the Cabinet's response be referred to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for its consideration.

4. SCRUTINY REVIEW - MAINTENANCE OF HIGH SPEED ROADS IN THE KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN AREA

(a) Final Working Group Report - Review of the Maintenance of High Speed Roads in the Knowsley Metropolitan Area

The Cabinet considered the report of the Economic Development and Environment Scrutiny Committee, which presented the findings of the Working Group that had been established to review the maintenance of high speed roads in Knowsley. The purpose of the review had been to examine the existing arrangements in place for maintaining the Borough's high speed road network with a view to assessing whether there was any scope for further improvement in those arrangements.

Councillor M Stuart, who had chaired the review due to Councillor Grierson (who was Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee) having a conflict of interest, attended the meeting to provide a summary of the review which had considered: collaborative working in relation to maintenance; the issue of road safety risks associated with the placing of roadside memorials; and possible measures, including enforcement, that could be used to prevent the dropping of litter on the high speed road network.

In conclusion, Councillor Stuart thanked the lead officers, Andy Millar and Lisa Harris, for their support; and the witnesses who had provided evidence including colleagues from neighbouring authorities and other maintenance providers.

(b) Scrutiny Review - Maintenance of High Speed Roads in the Knowsley Metropolitan Area - Cabinet Response

The Cabinet considered a proposed response to the report, and recommendations put forward by the Economic Development and Environment Scrutiny Committee following its review of the maintenance of high speed roads in Knowsley.

Councillor D Lonergan responded on behalf of the Cabinet thanking the officers, Members and all involved for this thorough piece of work which he considered to have been well thought out. In particular, Councillor Lonergan commented on the proposal to develop a roadside memorial policy, which had received various press coverage in the last couple of days. It was noted that, whilst this was understandably a sensitive issue, the objective was to make the Borough's roads safer.

RESOLVED – That

- (i) the Cabinet's response, as proposed in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be agreed and published; and
- (ii) the Cabinet's response be referred to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for its consideration.

5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY - PREFERRED OPTIONS REPORT (*)

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval to consult on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Preferred Options Report, which identified proposed broad locations for future development in Knowsley, and preferred policy options to deliver the strategy.

The report provided a background on the LDF process; implications of the Localism Bill; a summary of the contents of the Preferred Options Report; and details of key issues and challenges. It was noted that the intention was to carry out a major consultation and engagement exercise for a ten week period, which would include a wide range of events and activities, leafleting, press releases and staffed events. It was also proposed to hold a seminar on the LDF at an early stage for all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED – That

- (i) the key issues and challenges set out in section 6 of the report now submitted be noted;
- (ii) the Knowsley Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report (Appendix 2 of the report now submitted) be approved for consultation purposes;
- (iii) an all Member seminar be held as part of the consultation on the above document; and
- (iv) the range of supporting technical documents outlined in paragraph 10.3 of the report now submitted, which are also to be made available for comment with the Preferred Options Report, be noted.

6. KNOWSLEY COUNCIL SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME (*)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the Single Equality Scheme (SES) for Knowsley Council 2011-2014 for approval.

It was noted that the production of an SES and action plan was a statutory requirement under the Equality Act 2010. The Act had brought together the range of previous equalities focused legislation and the production of the SES replaced the need for the separate schemes that had previously covered race, disability, gender and age.

Cabinet was advised that the three year Scheme had been the subject of comprehensive internal and external consultation and engagement, with all directorates contributing to the process. Its adoption would demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010, and would be used to shape the Council's services.

The more detailed action plan information gathered from directorates had been incorporated within the Council's performance framework system for the purposes of progress reporting and the first statutory reporting of the Scheme would be 1 April 2012.

RESOLVED – That

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) it be agreed that the document attached at Appendix 1 to the report now submitted meets the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the associated Public Sector Equality Duty; and
- (iii) the Single Equality Scheme attached to the report now submitted be endorsed and adopted.

7. ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval of the 2011/12 Members' Training and Development Programme.

It was noted that, since its inception in 2004, the Programme had evolved year on year, enhanced by the introduction of personal development plans for all Members, and evaluated by the Members' Training and Development Task Group. The most recent feedback received from Elected Members had been that Member development was improving and that engagement in training had increased. This view had been independently endorsed on a number of occasions, as outlined within the report.

Cabinet was advised that, for 2011/12, the content of the Programme, which had been circulated for Members' information, had been improved and endorsed through the Members' Training and Development Task Group. Subject to approval, the Programme would be included in the Members' Handbook.

RESOLVED – That the 2011/12 Members' Training and Development Programme and Strategy, as set out at Appendix A to the report now submitted, be agreed.

Minutes 1 to 7 received as a correct record the 22nd day of June 2011.

Chairman of the Cabinet

(The meeting closed at 2.17 pm)