



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.
Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 75307 DX28340 Oakham

RECORD OF DECISIONS AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET

Tuesday, 19th December, 2017 at 9.30 am

Decisions Published on Thursday 21 December 2017

Decisions will be implemented on 3 January 2018 unless the Call-in Procedure as outlined in Procedure Rule 206 is invoked.

PRESENT: Mr T Mathias
Mr G Brown
Mr O Hemsley
Mr R Foster
Mr A Walters
Mr D Wilby

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Dr T O'Neill	Director for People and Deputy Chief Executive
Mr D Brown	Director for Places
Mr M Andrews	Deputy Director for People
Mr A Edwards	Head of Property Services (for part of the meeting)
Mr J Frieland	Economic Development and Tourism Manager (for part of the meeting)
Mr S Della Rocca	Assistant Director – Finance
Ms R Wilshire	Head of Children's Social Care (for part of the meeting)

468 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

469 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements from the Chairman and/or Head of Paid Service.

470 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

471 RECORD OF DECISIONS

The Record of Decisions made by Cabinet on 21 November 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated were confirmed by Cabinet.

472 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

The Chairman had not been formally notified of any items raised by Scrutiny. Items on the agenda had been discussed at Scrutiny Panels and feedback from those meetings would be discussed at the relevant item on the agenda.

473 FEES AND CHARGES 2018-19

(KEY DECISION)

Report No. 213/2017 from the Director for Resources was received.

Mr S Della Rocca, Assistant Director – Finance, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to set out the proposals for fees and charges for services provided by the Council, for the financial year 2018/19.

During his introduction, Mr Della Rocca noted that discussion at Scrutiny Panel had focused on the rate of inflation applied to charges where the Council has ultimate discretion. Inflation was currently at 3.1%, but a rate of 2% had been applied in the report. It was noted that a move towards a 3.1% uplift would generate up to £10,000 of additional income assuming that demand remained at current levels. For discretionary fees and charges many factors are considered (staffing costs, likely impact on demand, competition and policy aims) and the inflation rate may not be the guiding principle. In the future it might be more appropriate to allow Managers more discretion to decide on any increase in charges in their areas, in the light of any relevant factors and the authority's priority to take a more commercial approach to maximise income in order to maintain and improve the delivery of services.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- i. The level of charge applied to residents parking permits had been discussed at Scrutiny Panels and also as part of budget discussions in previous years. It was expected that this fee would be reviewed before next year;
- ii. Where Managers would be responsible for setting fees in the coming years, there should be a clear rationale for proposals to justify the level at which fees had been set if questioned;
- iii. There was some concern that the opportunity to benefit from a higher increase was being missed by keeping the rate at 2% this year but the Leader proposed no change to current proposals;
- iv. A delegation to allow Officers to increase fees throughout the year would mean that Officers did not have to wait for the annual report;
- v. In future years it would be more beneficial to look at individual costs rather than applying a blanket increase;
- vi. Officers should ensure that they discuss with Portfolio Holders the policy aims associated with fees and charges as in some cases generating income may not be the key priority.

DECISION

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

1. To **APPROVE** the level of fees and charges for 2018/19 as set out in Appendices 1-4, and
2. To **APPROVE** that the fees for local elections and referendum continue to be set in line with other Local Authorities from Leicestershire.

Reasons for decision

1. ***The annual review of fees and charges is an integral part of the budget and council tax setting process and is also to ensure the Council is compliant with legislative guidance. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet approve the proposals set out in the document.***

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Mr A Walters left the meeting
Ms R Wilshire joined the meeting

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474 LOCAL OFFER TO CARE LEAVERS 2017-2020

Report No. 199/2017 from the Director for People was received.

The Portfolio Holder, Mr Foster, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to comply with the duty which arises from the new Children and Social Worker Act 2017 to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers providing information about services which the local authority offers that may assist Care Leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. This includes services relating to health and wellbeing; relationships; education and training; employment; accommodation and participation in society. The policy was intended to give an overview of Rutland's offer to Care Leavers. Mr Foster noted that the Rutland County Council offer to care leavers was one of the areas which a recent Ofsted Inspection had identified as being "Good".

During discussion the following points were raised:

- i. Much of the document was based on the service that was already being offered to Care Leavers. There was already a good service in place which provided Care Leavers with support, advocacy and mentoring to ensure that the transition from being looked after was managed from an early stage to ensure positive outcomes and support was provided up to the age of 25; and
- ii. Work around providing information and support to Members in their role as Corporate Parents was continuing.

DECISION

Cabinet **APPROVED** the Care Leavers Local Offer 2017-2020 (Appendix A to Report 199/2017).

Reason for decision

As a council we want to make sure our Care Leavers can access a range of services to meet their needs including financial support, access to health, education training and employment, personal advisers, effective pathway planning, appropriate housing

including supported accommodation if this is assessed as being a need and mental health and counselling services as required.

With our local offer alongside our promise (Pledges) to Care Leavers we are confident that as a council, and in partnership with our partners and our Care Leavers and those young people looked after, we will enhance our service further and ensure all our Care Leavers have the best start possible into adulthood.

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Mr A Walters Returned to the meeting
Mr A Edwards joined the meeting
Mr J Frieland joined the meeting
Ms R Wilshire left the meeting and did not return

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475 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

476 OAKHAM ENTERPRISE PARK DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

(KEY DECISION)

Report No. 170/2017 from the Director for Places was received.

Mr Frieland, Economic Development and Tourism Manager, introduced the report the purpose of which was for Cabinet to consider and approve the long-term development strategy for the Oakham Enterprise Park (OEP) site. It also presents for approval a business case for the investment of £2.2m to develop the central area of the site at OEP to include road infrastructure works. This will facilitate optimisation of the site in accordance with relevant sections of the Constitution. In certain circumstances it is necessary for the Council to act quickly to take progress opportunities as they arise, namely to accommodate additional business tenants for the Council thus maintaining a revenue stream and ensuring an appropriate rate of return on its investment.

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After debate on this item the Cabinet **APPROVED** that the meeting returned to public session.

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DECISION

Cabinet:

1. **ENDORSED** the proposals and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that it approves £1.77m capital funding to facilitate the infrastructure works & construction of new buildings under development Phase 2a.

2. **APPROVED** £420,000 capital funding to facilitate construction of the new access road and improvement of the existing road infrastructure.
3. **APPROVED** adoption of the draft development strategy for the OEP site and delegates management of approved capital schemes to the Director for Places Development and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Trading Services & Resources and the Oakham Enterprise Project Board.
4. **DELEGATED** authority to the Director for Places Development and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Trading Services & Resources and the Oakham Enterprise Project Board to negotiate and enter into necessary legal agreements for the build of industrial units on the site following a procurement process and for the subsequent lease of the units.
5. **AUTHORISED** the Director for Places Development and Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Trading Standards & Resources and the OEP Project Board to determine a procurement route, award criteria and if a suitable supplier or suppliers are identified move forward and award contracts for the works detailed in this report.

Reason for the decision

The growing popularity of Oakham Enterprise Park with businesses and the local community in general is a testament to its success. Phase 1 has generally been at capacity occupancy for around 2 years and there is a growing waiting list for industrial units and small offices on the site along with firm interest in the proposed new units.

The development of the central site area along with the new and improved roads is fundamental in unlocking growth of the wider site in addition to being able to attract larger businesses. The projected financial return of 4.03% even taking into account the construction costs for the new road is an attractive proposition and subsequent buildings, with the bulk of the ground preparation and new roadway in place are likely to improve on this figure.

Engagement with larger businesses seeking to relocate to Rutland in recent years has revealed a strong preference for 'ready to go' units facilitating a move within a 6 month period. With new buildings constructed and a willingness on the part of the Council to offer longer leases, opportunities for attracting inward investment are significantly increased.

In addition to a reasonable financial return, the Phase 2a proposals and the revised development strategy offer significant additional economic benefits including new employment opportunities, generation of new income from business rates and enhanced access to and development potential of future development phases.

Adoption of the new development strategy and approval to proceed with the Phase 2a proposal will enable the Council to take a significant step forward in developing the OEP site. Delegation of the approved capital schemes will enable development to proceed swiftly and with a degree of flexibility which is important to service the needs of the private sector.

No items of urgent business had previously been notified to the Chairman.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.45 am.

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