

ITEM 7

MINUTE EXTRACT

Time began 6.00pm

Time ended 7.32pm

COUNCIL CABINET 26 OCTOBER 2010

Present Councillor Jennings (Chair)
 Councillors Grimadell, Holmes, Ingall, Marshall,
 Poulter, Webb and Williams

In attendance Councillors Bayliss and Allen

This record of decisions was published on 28 October 2010. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

91/10 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

97/10 Streetpride Devolved Budgets to Neighbourhood Boards

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Streetpride Devolved Budgets to Neighbourhood Budgets. The proposal allowed each of the Neighbourhood Boards to make spending decisions against a portion of the Streetpride revenue budget annually. The proposal was to aggregate the budget released at with the current "Highways" devolved budget to produce a larger and more useful budget for use by Neighbourhood Boards on Streetpride issues in their areas. The management of devolved budgets would be rationalised and streamlined.

The Council Cabinet also considered a report of the Scrutiny Management Commission setting out their views.

The Commission resolved to make these recommendations to Cabinet:

1. That three (not two) ward councillors be included in 'signing off' and agreeing any subsequent variation to the Neighbourhood Spending Plans, NSP, but, in the absence of a consensus, two have authority to do so.

2. At the request of ward councillors the area co-ordinator will provide information about Streetpride service standards and expenditure plans to ensure the 'additionality' of devolved expenditure decisions.

3. Subsequent to 'sign off' of the NSP the Board be informed which items will be undertaken when during the 12 month period.

Options Considered

This proposal was the extension of an existing initiative.

Decision

1. To approve the proposal to devolve £10,000 from the Streetpride budget to each Neighbourhood Board.
2. To approve the aggregation of the £10,000 from the Streetpride budget as referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the report with the current £10,000, which was currently devolved to Boards for spending on Highways issues to produce a £20,000 budget for each Board to spend on Streetpride issues.
3. To approve the amended management arrangements for the new Streetpride Devolved Budgets.
4. To approve a requirement for three (not two) ward councillors to 'sign off' and agree any subsequent variation to the Neighbourhood Spending Plans (NSP) but, in the absence of a consensus, two will have authority to do so.
5. To amend the proposed arrangement to allow ward councillors to be provided with information about Streetpride service standards and expenditure plans by the area co-ordinator.
6. To approve a system requiring a Neighbourhood Board being informed which items identified on the Neighbourhood Spending Plan will be undertaken during a 12 month period prior to its 'sign-off.'

Reasons

1. This proposal would allow residents, through their Neighbourhood Forums and Boards, to make changes to their local environment which under normal considerations may not otherwise be prioritised.
2. This proposal would promote higher levels of community engagement which would, in turn, hopefully increase levels of resident pride and responsibility in the neighbourhood areas.
3. The amended management arrangements and rationalised devolved budgets would result in improved project management and a better managed workload for service deliverers.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Neighbourhoods Commission had been advised that this item would be considered although not included in the Forward Plan.

- - Extract ends - -