

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS

(in terms of Access to Information Rule 18)

CABINET

Thursday 20 September 2007

**Present: Councillor Bullock (Chairman)
Councillors Barrington-King, Horwood, Mrs Mayhew, Scholes
and Mrs Thomas.**

Officers in Attendance: William Benson, Director of Change and Business Support, David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, Sean Clark, Head of Financial and Property Services, Andy Cole, Head of Customer Access and Business Transformation, Rob Cottrill, Director of Planning and Development, David Crosby, Head of Housing Services, Gill Harris, Principal Planning Officer, Nazeya Hussain, Head of Community and Corporate Planning, Jim Kehoe, Head of Planning Services, Wendy Newton-May, Committee Administrator, Richard Powell, Director of Services to the Community, Gary Stevenson, Head of Environment and Street Scene, Raymond Warren, Performance and Improvement Manager, Sheila Wheeler, Chief Executive and Angela Woodhouse, Overview and Scrutiny Partnership Manager

Announcement - Before the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman informed the Cabinet that Les Woolgar, Catering Manager at the Assembly Hall, had tragically died yesterday. The Members, officers and members of the public present stood and observed a moment of silence, and the Cabinet resolved that their condolences be conveyed to Les's family and recognised his long service to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CAB046/07 No apologies for absence were received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CAB047/07 Councillors Bullock and Scholes declared a personal interest in decision number CAB50/07 as they were both Councillors for Kent County Council. With regard to the same decision number, the Chairman announced that all Cabinet Members had been lobbied by a range of local groups and interested parties.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD DATED 23 JULY 2007

CAB048/07 The Minutes of the Joint Transportation Board dated 23 July 2007 were submitted for Members' approval.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations of the Joint Transportation Board, dated 23 July 2007, be supported.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE – UPDATE REPORT ON CLOSURE OF OFFICES AT CRANBROOK

CAB049/07 The Corporate Services Select Committee considered the closure of Cranbrook Council offices at its meeting on 10 July 2007 and made the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- That the Urban Practitioner's report supporting the public desire for a community facility and offices be noted;
- That the Cabinet recognise the negative impact for the Council of leaving the Cranbrook Offices closed. With any gap between closure of the existing offices and re-provision of facilities elsewhere (either on site or off site) being minimised; and

- That details of the costings relating to the likely expense of securing the original building and providing alternative facilities for existing users be provided as well as details of existing revenue implications.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations of the Corporate Services Select Committee be noted and considered in conjunction with the Cranbrook Offices Report (see decision number CAB50/07 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

DECISION NO.CAB050/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

CORPORATE SERVICES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Horwood

TITLE OF REPORT:

***Cranbrook Offices (070920/CAB003)**

PRIORITIES:

**A3 – Having housing suitable for local people
A4 – Developing safer and stronger communities
A7 – Ensuring that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money services**

DISCUSSION:

Further to decision number CAB28/07, the Director of Change and Business Support presented a report providing Members with details of the consultant's, Urban Practitioners, further research into the following three options:

- The proposal from the Cranbrook Community Working Group (CCWG) to assume responsibility for the offices and to maintain them in their existing form;
- The proposal from Angley School to redevelop the site as a vocational centre;
- The proposal to redevelop the library site to provide (amongst other things) a community facility.

The report set out the consultant's conclusions and gave details of both the financial consequences to the Council and the community benefits of each proposal.

Members were advised that the CCWG had now withdrawn its bid, but would be happy to assist in developing either of the two remaining proposals for the community facility.

Seven members of the public had registered to speak on this item, and their comments were taken into consideration by the Cabinet. Five other members of the Council also spoke on this item. Many of the comments made suggested that there had been insufficient research and consultation. One of the speakers asked that the current building be retained, although it was mentioned that the existing offices were not designed for modern day use. Some of the speakers suggested finding a more suitable location, however the Chairman stated that extensive research had already taken place for other possible sites and none existed. It was also felt by some that the library site was unsuitable due to the poor accessibility and insufficient car parking.

DISCUSSION CONT:

The Director of Planning and Development advised that, if the proposal to redevelop the library site was agreed, then the redevelopment would include providing adequate parking facilities and access.

Councillor Mrs North expressed her concern over the work of the Cranbrook Steering Group, which had been established to examine the on-going master plan for Cranbrook, not the specific issue of the Cranbrook offices. She was reassured that any proposal agreed by the Cabinet would be taken to the Steering Group for full consultation.

The Cabinet noted the work undertaken by a wide range of groups and the strength of feeling within and around Cranbrook for the provision of a community facility.

DECISION MADE:

(1) That Cabinet notes:

- The work put in by a wide range of groups including Angley, the Cranbrook Community Working Group, the parish council and other interested parties;
- The strength of feeling within and around Cranbrook for the provision of a community facility; and
- The strength of community feeling with regard to the way in which the original decision was taken and communicated but also notes the significant changes that have been made to improve the transparency of the budgetary process to address this.

(2) That officers be instructed to pursue the proposal put forward for the library site, as set out in the report;

(3) That the Director of Planning and Development work with Kent County Council and partners to acquire the necessary permissions and funding to deliver the proposal;

(4) That the Director of Change and Business Support pursue negotiations towards the completion of a suitable legal agreement to allow for the accommodation of the library service within the Council office site;

(5) That the offices be used by existing users until alternative accommodation is available for their occupation and the Head of Financial and Property Services pursue and settle the necessary arrangements;

(6) That Council be recommended to give delegated authority to the Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, Head of Financial and Property Services and the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services to make the necessary changes to the Council's revenue and capital budgets; and

(7) That officers be instructed to involve Angley in the proposal for the library site to see whether and how any of the elements of their proposal could be included and that Angley be involved in the work of the Steering Group to see whether and how their proposals could be included in the master planning process.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To determine the future of the Cranbrook offices site.

Contact Officer: William Benson, Director of Change and Business Support
Tel: 01892 554219 or e-mail: william.benson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB051/07**NON EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Mrs Thomas****TITLE OF REPORT:***** Street Naming and Numbering Policy (070920/CAB006)****PRIORITIES:**

A5 – Delivering high quality services to our customers
A6 – Improving customer service and satisfaction
A7 – Ensure that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money

DISCUSSION:

Members discussed the draft Street Naming and Numbering Policy, which the Council was required to adopt to ensure control over naming of streets and numbering of buildings in the Borough. The draft Policy set out the procedure for determining new street names and numbering properties. It also laid out the procedure for dealing with requests for renaming an existing street/ renumbering properties.

The Head of Customer Access and Business Transformation explained that the policy had been written following national guidelines and all authorities were recommended to follow it as good practice.

DECISION MADE:

That the Street Naming and Numbering Policy be recommended to Full Council for approval.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

This is the first, definitive, national (England and Wales) address list that provides unique identification of properties and conforms to the British Standard, BS 7666. This allows organisations across local government to link their data to the same high-quality source of references that define locations and addresses.

Contact Officer: Karen Tamblyn, Street Naming and Numbering Officer
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: karen.tamblyn@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB052/07

NON EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ACCESS

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Mrs Mayhew

TITLE OF REPORT:

* Comprehensive Equality Policy and Scheme (070920/CAB010)

PRIORITIES:

A4 – Developing safer and stronger communities

DISCUSSION:

Members were advised that the remaining sections of the Comprehensive Equality Policy and Scheme, gender, age, religion/belief and sexual orientation equality documents, had been out to consultation for a six week period. The majority of responses received agreed with the vision and priorities and stated that the right actions had been identified in the action plans.

It was noted that further methods for improving future involvement in consultations would be considered as part of the Communication and Consultation Strategy. There would be specific elements within the Strategy to improve consultation with hard-to-reach groups. This had been raised as part of the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) the Council had been undertaking.

The Performance and Improvement Manager explained the Equality Impact Assessment to the Cabinet and advised that all staff and Members would be trained to ensure awareness of this.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the documents contributing to the Council's Comprehensive Equality Policy (gender, age, religion/belief and sexual orientation) be recommended to Full Council for approval; and
- (2) That implementation and operation of the Policy and Scheme be reported to Cabinet annually.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the Council complies with the provisions of the equalities legislation and adopts a comprehensive approach to eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity.

Contact Officer: Sarah Andrews, Equality Policy Officer
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: sarah.andrews@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB053/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Bullock

TITLE OF REPORT:

***Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Position Statement on Partnership Working (070920/CAB016)**

PRIORITIES:

ALL

DISCUSSION:

Members considered a Position Statement on Partnership Working, which had been drawn up in response to the Kent Commitment, which all Kent authorities had signed up to in an effort to promote joint working.

It was noted that the position statement represented a sensible and proportionate approach to partnership working. With rising expectations, increased demands from government and service users and reduced resources available, Members felt that partnership working would often be the only way forward. The Position Statement also reinforced Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's support for the Kent Commitment.

DECISION MADE:

That the Position Statement, which will be used to inform future negotiations with partners, be supported and submitted to full Council for endorsement.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The position statement represents a sensible and proportionate approach to partnership working. With rising expectations, increased demands from government and service users and reduced resources available, partnership working will often be the only way forward. The Position Statement also reinforces Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's support for the Kent Commitment.

**Contact Officer: William Benson, Head of Change and Business Support
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: william.benson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk**

CABINET DECISIONS**DECISION NO.CAB054/07****NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:**

N/A

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

N/A

TITLE OF REPORT:

Forward Plan (070920/CAB002)

PRIORITY:

Delivering high quality services to our customers

DECISION MADE:

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be approved, subject to the following amendments to the Housing and Community Access Portfolio Holding:

Future Provision of Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households – Initial Options Report – will now go forward to the November Cabinet

Future Provision of Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households – Final Report – will now go forward to the February 2008 Cabinet.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To comply with Access to Information Procedure Rule 14.

Contact Officer: Wendy Newton-May, Senior Committee Administrator
Tel: 01892 554219 or e-mail: wendy.newton-may@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB055/07**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****CORPORATE SERVICES****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Horwood****TITLE OF REPORT:****Value for Money Strategy (070920/CAB004)****PRIORITY:****A7 – Ensuring that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money services****DISCUSSION:**

Members considered the draft Value for Money Strategy which delivered a commitment made in the Strategic Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy and provided a framework against which future savings could be made as part of the Council's emerging budget strategy.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the Value for Money Strategy be adopted; and
- (2) That the Strategy be submitted to the Corporate Services Select Committee for further consideration and comment.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Strategy supports the delivery of the Council's key priorities and business objectives.

Contact Officer: William Benson, Director of Change and Business Support
Tel: 01892 554219 or e-mail: william.benson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CA056/07**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****CORPORATE SERVICES****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Horwood****TITLE OF REPORT:****Audit Commission Report on Third Party Grants (070920/CAB005)**

PRIORITIES:

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| All |
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DISCUSSION:

The Financial and Property Services Manager advised the Cabinet that the Audit Commission had been commissioned to bring forward recommendations to strengthen the processes currently in place for awarding grants to organisations and to maximise Value for Money.

Members considered the Audit Commission's 17 recommendations, which broadly covered:

- Centralisation of the budget and a common application process to ensure consistency;
- the need for any grant awards to contribute towards the Council's priorities;
- the need to monitor outcomes from third parties to ensure that priorities have been met; and
- the possible devolution of budgets to Members for use in their own communities.

The Cabinet considered a devolved Members' scheme to engender Member engagement, whereby Members could support bids up to £1,000 per annum within their wards, which could be signed off as conforming to strategic priorities by officers and administered by them in order to keep transaction costs low.

After discussion, it was felt inappropriate for Cabinet Members to determine this scheme and the suggestion was made that an all party Working Party be established to consider this issue.

DECISION MADE:

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| <p>(1) That the recommendations laid out in the body of the Audit Commission report, on pages 7 through to 13, be adopted.</p> <p>(2) That an informal all party Working Party be established to determine whether a devolved Members' budget be set up and, if so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the level of budget; • To decide whether any allocation should be met from the existing grant budget or be a growth item; and • To consider the mechanisms by which this budget would work effectively to address the Audit Commission's concerns. |
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REASONS FOR DECISION:

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| <p>Adopting the recommendations will strengthen the current grant allocation process, improve value for money and contribute towards the delivery of the Council's priorities.</p> |
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Contact Officer: Sean Clark, Head of Financial and Property Services
Tel: 01892 526121 or email sean.clark@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB057/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Scholes

TITLE OF REPORT:

Tunbridge Wells Community Call for Action (070920/CAB007)

PRIORITY:

A4 – Developing Safer and Stronger Communities.

DISCUSSION:

Members were advised that, under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, there were proposals for all Districts to develop a mechanism to deal with Community Calls for Action (CCfA), (now renamed to Councillor Call for Action) which aimed to empower Members and the public to bring forward issues in their neighbourhoods for resolution by the Council and its partners.

The Cabinet discussed the possibility of taking part in a national pilot in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency and the Centre of Public Scrutiny, which would seek to influence the drafting of legislation and allow the Borough to demonstrate leadership in enhancing the role of Members in the community. It was anticipated that the CCfA would be piloted across all wards between October 2007 and March 2008, with the assistance of the Scrutiny Team.

DECISION MADE:

That the commencement of a pilot scheme for Community Call for Action be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The pilot would allow the Council and its partners to develop appropriate mechanisms, inform legislation and participate in the roll out from 2008. It is expected that the pilot would be included as a case study alongside national guidance in due course.

The pilot contributes directly to developing the safer and stronger communities priority and allows Members and local communities to engage directly with the Council in resolving local issues.

Contact Officer: Nazeya Hussain, Head of Community and Corporate Planning

Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: nazeya.hussain@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB058/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Scholes

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| TITLE OF REPORT: | Proposed Restructure of Tunbridge Wells Borough Youth Council (070920/CAB008) |
| PRIORITY | A4 – Developing Safer and Stronger Communities |
| DISCUSSION: | <p>The Cabinet was provided with details of the history and achievements of the Youth Council since it was created in 2003. It was agreed that the current format of the Youth Council did not necessarily reflect a diversity of young people from across the Borough, and more work was required to engage young people from priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>A revised structure was considered by Members, which proposed two Youth Forums (one covering the rural areas), facilitated by Kent County Council Youth Service workers. It was suggested that specific Members should have responsibility for liaising with each youth forum and attending meetings to encourage closer working with the Council and engaging young people in the Council's activities and priorities.</p> |
| DECISION MADE: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the revised structure of Tunbridge Wells Borough Youth Council, as detailed in the report, be approved; (2) That two Members be appointed to work in the development of the new Youth Forum and represent the Council for a one year period; and (3) That Members be invited to volunteer to attend meetings of the Youth Forum to encourage closer working with the Council. |
| REASON FOR DECISION: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the Youth Council is more effective in representing the views and interests of young people in the Borough. 2. To ensure that the Council continues to engage young people as part of its wider consultation and that their views are reflected within the Council activities and priorities. |
| <p>Contact Officer: Nick Green, Community Development Officer Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: nick.green@tunbridgewells.gov.uk</p> | |
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| DECISION NO. CAB059/07 | NON-EXEMPT |
| PORTFOLIO: | STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES |
| PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | Councillor Scholes |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | Dunorlan Park Restoration Project Closure Report (070920/CAB009) |

PRIORITIES:

A2 – Caring for our environment
A4 – Developing safer and stronger communities

DISCUSSION:

Cabinet was provided with a summary of the completion of the Dunorlan Park restoration project, which had been finished on time, within budget and to the desired standard in order to achieve the Heritage Lottery Fund's, and the Council's, objectives and to secure the approved grant funding.

It was agreed that closure reports submitted to Cabinet were a very useful tool to ensure that, if there were any problems, lessons could be learnt.

Cabinet thanked all the staff involved in the project for their efforts.

DECISION MADE:

That the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To inform Members of details of the completion of the project.

Contact Officer: Nigel Bolton, Head of Leisure Services
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: nigel.bolton@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB060/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Mrs Thomas

TITLE OF REPORT:

Town Centre Regeneration – Development Partner (070920/CAB011)

PRIORITIES:

A7 – Ensuring that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money services.

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration provided Members with a report updating them on the work undertaken to date on identifying suitable private sector partners to work with the Council to revitalise Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Paddock Wood and Cranbrook, which were identified as a priority in the Strategic Plan.

Members noted that 21 expressions of interest had been received and six organisations had been short-listed and invited to submit detailed bids, however, one had since withdrawn.

Cabinet was advised that Stage II submissions were due to be returned by 26 October and interviews would be held on 26 November. It was agreed that the following should make up the interview panel:

Chief Executive, Director of Planning and Development, Head of Financial and Property Services, the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.

The decision of the panel would be reported back to Cabinet on 20 December, and the final decision made by Council in February 2008.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the current position on the development partner process and the shortlist of development partners invited to stage II be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that stage I information and short-listed submissions were made available to all Members from 18 July;
- (3) That the dates for final interviews be on 26 November;
- (4) That a member and key public sector stakeholder exhibition be held in the week commencing 26 November; and
- (5) That the Portfolio Holders as identified above sit on the final interview panel to take place on 26 November.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure that Members are aware of the process undertaken and appropriate Member involvement in the final selection process.

Contact Officer: David Candlin, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: david.candlin@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO. CAB061/07**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Mrs Thomas****TITLE OF REPORT:**

Tunbridge Wells Local Development Framework: Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – results of Public Consultation Exercise and Approval of Document for Adoption (070920/CAB012)

PRIORITY:**A3 – Having housing suitable for local people****DISCUSSION:**

Members considered the responses received to the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Appendix B to the report illustrated the actual representations made and the Borough Council's response to them, and any consequential change to the SPD.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the proposed responses to the representations received during the public consultation period be approved as shown at Appendix B to the report;
- (2) That the changes proposed to the Affordable SPD (shown at Appendix A to the report) as a result of these representations, plus any factual updating and minor typographical corrections, be approved and appropriate amendments made if necessary to the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal;
- (3) That the SPD, as proposed to be amended, be adopted and used in determining planning applications for residential development which fall within the remit of Policies H3 and H8 of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan (2006); and
- (4) That the adopted SPD; supporting Sustainability Appraisal; and report of public consultation be posted on the Borough Council website.

REASON FOR DECISION:

1. To comply with the provisions of the Borough Council's Local Development Scheme for production of this element of the Local Development Framework.
2. To meet the undertaking in the Borough Housing Strategy and Corporate Objective 10 to produce an Affordable Housing SPD to assist with the delivery of affordable housing in the borough through the planning system.

Contact Officer: Gill Harris, Principal Planning Officer
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: gill.harris@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB062/07**NON-EXEMPT****JOINT PORTFOLIO:**

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AND CUSTOMER ACCESS

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillors Mrs Mavhew and Mrs Thomas

TITLE OF REPORT:

South East Partial Review on the Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation (070920/CAB013)

PRIORITY:

A3 – Having housing suitable for local people

DISCUSSION:

Members were asked to consider options for future levels of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the Borough, which would be incorporated into the South East Plan. The research in support of these options was being co-ordinated by Kent County Council and it was intended that a county-wide position be agreed and submitted to SEERA.

The two options provided by SEERA were set out in the report. It was noted that a Members' Steering Group would be held on 4 October 2007, at which representatives would be asked to agree the submissions on behalf of their Authority. The advice would then be finalised and submitted to SEERA in time for the 15 October 2007 deadline. In order to facilitate this, the Borough Council's representative would need to have delegated authority to agree the submission for Tunbridge Wells at that meeting.

It was felt unfortunate that the Council was not able to indicate a preference to SEERA at this time, however it was suggested that the Council should be clear which option they did wish to pursue and consider the next stage of the process as soon as possible.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the draft figures for Option A and Option B be agreed as acceptable for submission as advice to SEERA;
- (2) That the Borough Council's representative on the Kent Joint Local Authority Member Steering Group (South East Plan Partial Review: Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation - Submission of Local Authority Advice to SEERA), be authorised to agree the submission of advice on the Borough Council's behalf; and
- (3) That Members consider which option they wish to pursue at the next stage of the process, if necessary.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- 1.To meet the requirements of Circular 01/2006 in seeking to provide for appropriate Gypsy and Traveller accommodation; and
- 2.To ensure that appropriate advice is delivered to SEERA on the Borough Council's behalf.

Contact Officer: Gill Harris, Principal Planning Officer
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: gill.harris@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB063/07**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SCENE****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Barrington-King****TITLE OF REPORT:****Response to Consultation on Sunday Parking (070920/CAB014)****PRIORITIES:**

A1 – Promote and maintain a thriving and diverse local economy
A2 – Care for the Environment
A7 – Ensuring that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money services

DISCUSSION:

Members were asked to consider representations that had been received in response to the formal consultation on the proposal to extend the Monday to Saturday car park charges in Tunbridge Wells town car parks to Sundays between 10am and 4pm, operating as a pilot until 31 March 2008.

Cabinet was advised that, at the time of writing the report, a total of 114 individual objections were received, as well as three petitions, and a list of objectors was set out in Appendix 2 of the report. The Head of Environment and Street Scene provided Members with details of those objections that arrived after the publication of the agenda. The principal issues raised were detailed in the report, and it was noted that the main concern related to churchgoers.

Mr Cunningham had registered to speak on this item and his main concern was that people who go to church on a Sunday would have to pay a substantial amount during the year for car park charges. He suggested that the Cabinet deferred the decision until wider consultation had been undertaken.

Members then debated the Head of Environment and Street Scene's response to these objections and, whilst they were sympathetic to these issues, it was agreed that a special dispensation for this particular sector could not be justified in the face of other users of the Council's car parking facilities who were required to pay for that service.

The Environment and Street Scene Portfolio Holder informed the Members that advertisements had been placed in newspapers, signage had been put up outside car parks, letters written to stakeholders and other interested bodies and extensive media coverage had taken place.

It was suggested that the pilot scheme would identify any problems that might occur and any issues can be discussed at the end of the financial year.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the pilot project for Sunday charging be implemented, and a report on the effects of introducing the pilot be produced; and
- (2) That a further report reviewing car park arrangements throughout the Borough be brought to Cabinet in the New Year.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To implement the decision made by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 June to proceed with a pilot project for the introduction of Sunday charging having received and considered the outcome of extensive consultation on the proposal.

Contact Officer: Gary Stevenson, Head of Environment and Street Scene
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: gary.stevenson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB064/07**NON-EXEMPT****PORTFOLIO:****ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SCENE****PORTFOLIO HOLDER:****Councillor Barrington-King****TITLE OF REPORT:****Car Park Charges – Consideration of Representations on Paddock Wood all Day Car Parking Charges (070920/CAB015)****PRIORITIES:**

A1 – Promote and maintain a thriving and diverse local economy
A2 – Care for the Environment
A7 – Ensuring that we are well managed, proactive and deliver value for money services

DISCUSSION:

Members were asked to consider the representations that had been received in response to the formal consultation on the proposal to increase the all day car-parking charges to £8.00 in Paddock Wood car parks.

It was noted that the purpose of introducing the higher charge was to deter commuters and facilitate parking for short-term users. Cabinet was informed that South Eastern trains had advised that they were developing proposals for an additional 80 spaces at Paddock Wood station, which would represent a solution to the problem highlighted by the commuters.

Members were advised that this issue was discussed at the Public Transport Forum at its meeting on Wednesday 19 September, and Councillor Davies (Chairman of the Forum) confirmed that the proposal would be going ahead in 2008. Cabinet requested that its concerns regarding the urgent need for additional station parking be conveyed to the Forum at its next meeting, as well as to South Eastern Trains.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the revised car parking charges be implemented; and
- (2) That the Director of Services to the Community be instructed to convey to South Eastern Trains, and the Public Transport Forum, the Cabinet's concern to see an increase in station parking at Paddock Wood in the earliest practical timescale.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To implement the decision made by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 June to introduce an £8.00 all day parking fee at the Commercial Road Paddock Wood car park, having received and considered the outcome of consultation on the proposal.

Contact Officer: Gary Stevenson, Head of Environment and Street Scene
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: gary.stevenson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB065/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIO:

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Bullock

TITLE OF REPORT:

Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011: Performance Monitoring Report (070920/CAB017)

PRIORITIES:

ALL

DISCUSSION:

Members were advised of the progress that had been made in the past six months towards meeting the priorities set within the Action Plan of the Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2011.

It was noted that that there were 152 actions within the action plan, of which nearly 50% were currently on target or were already achieved. A further 23% had made some progress in the past six months.

Members were advised that some of the actions were dependent upon the delivery of other partners.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the performance monitoring report of the Sustainable Community Plan be noted;
- (2) That an annual report be developed which would set out performance against the first year of the Action Plan;
- (3) That the targets be amended to reflect changes in partner organisations and this would be reflected in future performance reports; and
- (4) That the Sustainable Community Plan Action Plan be refreshed annually and reflect the new Kent Agreement in due course.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To provide Members with information on the Sustainable Community Plan.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring, Research and Information Officer
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: holly.goring@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

DECISION NO.CAB066/07

NON-EXEMPT

PORTFOLIOS:

LEADER AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillors Bullock and Mrs Thomas

TITLE OF REPORT:

Slivers of Time (070920/CAB018)

PRIORITIES:

ALL

DISCUSSION:

Members were asked to consider an e-innovation project, jointly funded by the Government and private companies, known as Slivers of Time. It was explained that this project allowed for people to sell spare hours of time, and councils or other bodies can buy those hours as and when they need to.

It was noted that the Local Economy and Housing Select Committee had researched this project and recommended it as a pilot in Tunbridge Wells.

DECISION MADE:

- (1) That the investigation of Slivers of Time as a pilot for Tunbridge Wells be supported;
- (2) That, as a first step in the process, a questionnaire (see appendix A of the report) be sent to all managers within the Council to identify if the project is viable; and
- (3) That, following the conclusion of the survey if the pilot is viable, a senior officer be identified to liaise with Kent County Council and Slivers of Time on a Tunbridge Wells pilot.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

A pilot would help promote and maintain a thriving and diverse local economy.

Contact Officer: Angela Woodhouse, Overview and Scrutiny Partnership Manager
Tel: 01892 526121 or e-mail: angela.woodhouse@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

(NOTE:

- (1) In accordance with Cabinet Procedure Rule 5.2 on public speaking at Cabinet meetings, the following people attended and spoke on the following decisions:

Mr Rogers, Mr Goodchild, Mrs Marley, Mr Summers, Mrs Pratt and Mr East – CAB050/07

Mr Cunningham – CAB063/07

- (2) In accordance with Cabinet Procedure Rule 5.3, Councillors Davies, Dr Hall, Neve, Mrs North and Weeden attended the meeting and spoke on the following decisions:

Councillor Dr Hall – CAB50/07

Councillor Davies – CAB050/07, CAB064/07

Councillor Neve – CAB050/07, CAB063/07

Councillor Mrs North – CAB050/07, CAB051/07

Councillor Weeden – CAB050/07, CAB056/07, CAB063/07.)