
CABINET

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Monday, 21 September 2015 from 5.30 - 5.38 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Bowles (Chairman), Mike Cosgrove, Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Gerry Lewin (Vice-Chairman), Mike Whiting, Ted Wilcox and John Wright.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Katherine Bescoby, Abdool Kara, Donna Price, Mark Radford and Nick Vickers.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Cameron Beart, Andy Booth and Alan Horton.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ken Pugh and David Simmons.

223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Interests were declared.

224 CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION REGARDING ROLLOVER OF MEMBERS' LOCALISM GRANTS

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Cabinet had been convened to consider the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee held on 9 September 2015, which had met to consider the call-in item regarding Members' Localism Grants. The report set out the original decision of the Cabinet, the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation for the Cabinet, and the options available.

The Cabinet Member for Localism, Sport, Heritage and Culture introduced the report, and thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their consideration of this matter. He acknowledged that perhaps the form of words in the report to the Cabinet on 15 July 2015 could have been clearer to show that the £7,500 underspend was being put back into reserves and then used to ensure there was enough money to fund the Localism Grant Scheme. He proposed the recommendation in the report, and explained he considered it would be fairer for the rollover to be shared equally between all Members of the Council. This was seconded by the Chairman who explained why it was important for the funding to be allocated in accordance with the Council's priorities, and not just spent to use up the allocation by the end of the financial year.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee referred to the review undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee and said that he was disappointed that the Cabinet would not be taking forward its recommendation.

Another Member spoke in support of the Cabinet's proposal and gave an example of how the Scrutiny recommendation could be unfair, for example, if a Member was ill.

Resolved:

That the rollover be distributed equally between all Members as per the original proposal put to Cabinet on 15 July 2015 and that the proposal from the Scrutiny Committee be rejected.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel