

Cabinet Report to Council

Since the last report to full Council, Cabinet has met three times on 19th September, 17th October and 14th November 2012. This report enumerates activities from both the formal meeting and other activities being undertaken by portfolio holders.

1. Decisions of Cabinet can be found published

Given the volume of decisions made by Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, it is not feasible to list all of them. As such, a complete list of decisions made by Cabinet can be found by following the links below. Paper copies are available upon request.

19th September 2012

<http://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/documents/g1591/Decisions,%2019th-Sep-2012%2019.30,%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

17th October 2012

<http://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/documents/g1592/Decisions,%2017th-Oct-2012%2019.00,%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

14th November 2012

At the time of writing this report, the decision sheet had not been published but a link will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

2. Borough Corporate Plan (19/09/2012)

The new Borough Plan was adopted by the Cabinet to reflect the political mandate held by the new administration. The plan also encompassed the recommendations regarding performance management and the move toward qualitative rather than quantitative monitoring of the Borough Council's activities.

3. Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership (19/09/2012)

Following the success of the Newcastle Town Centre Partnership, Cabinet resolved to instruct officers to commence work on the formation of a Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership which would be constituted in the same way as the Newcastle TCP with emphasis on engaging private sector partners.

4. Localisation of Council Tax Support (19/09/2012)

Cabinet approved the Borough's component of the County-wide consultation on the changes to Council Tax Support being forced on Council's by the Westminster Coalition. Under the Government's plans, Council's will become directly responsible for the administration of Council Tax Support. The Government have used this opportunity to reduce the budget by 10%, effectively cutting £835,000 in Council Tax Support from Newcastle Borough. A county-wide proposal has been endorsed by all Districts in the County as well as the City with an intent to avoid differences in neighbouring schemes. Full Council will be asked to ratify the final scheme in the New Year.

5. Refurbishment of St. Giles and St. Georges (17/10/2012)

Cabinet agreed to the marketing of the Building in its current condition with the removal of the requirement for any future proposal to contain public access. Cabinet also asked the officers to investigate the potential for Town Centre housing alongside the various other ideas being considered.

6. Review of integrated waste and recycling strategy (17/10/2012)

It was agreed that Cllr Beech would chair a cross-party Cabinet Panel to start work now on the future provision of the waste and recycling service ahead of the contract renewals in 2016. The Cabinet Panel will be tasked with assessing the potential options available and consider the benefits of each before making a report to both Cabinet and Scrutiny. The panel is not intended to replace the scrutiny process but instead provides an opportunity for wider member involvement from the earliest aspects of the process.

7. Allotment Review (14/11/2012)

Cabinet resolves to commission the Culture and Active Communities Scrutiny Committee to undertake a thorough review of the Council's current allotments service with the sole intention of ensuring that the Council is maximising the subsidy it provides and meeting the needs of the plot owners. Cabinet members sought an assurance from Cllr Cairns as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that members with a specific interest in allotments or whom have allotments in their wards would be free to contribute to the review.

8. Portas/Town Team Partner £10,000

Following support from Paul Farrelly MP, Newcastle was selected as one of the Portas Partners towns and will receive £10,000 toward implementing some of the aspects of our (unsuccessful) Portas Pilot bid. The Cabinet would like to thank Paul for his support for the work we are undertaking in the Town Centre and the Town Centre Partnership. As a partner, the TCP and Borough Council can access the resources made available to the Pilot towns and share best practice.

9. Briefing to Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates

Cabinet members and Senior Officers have met with both candidates to brief them on the work the Council and our partners do and demonstrate our commitment to the wider Crime Prevention partnership work. It is hoped that whichever candidate is elected will recognise the importance of the work undertaken by the Borough Council in keeping local residents safe and secure and continue our funding accordingly.