

REPORT TITLE Report from Cabinet to Full Council
Submitted by: Leader of the Council
Portfolio: Communications, Policy & Partnerships
Ward(s) affected: Non specific

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to the Council on the actions, activities and decisions of Cabinet that have taken place since the last Full Council Meeting.

Recommendation

To note the report and receive questions accordingly.

1. Cabinet Meetings since the last Full Council meeting.

Cabinet has met once, on the 17th July 2013, since the last Full Council meeting and a full list of decisions taken by the Cabinet can be found online using the link below.

<http://modern.gov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/documents/g1892/Decisions%2017th-Jul-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

2. Town Centre Parking Initiatives

Cabinet, working in conjunction with the Town Centre Partnership and on the advice of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, agreed four proposals designed to help stimulate footfall in the Town Centre through parking initiatives.

These were trialling a cashless parking system in the Midway multi-storey car park, free short stay (nipper) parking on Merrial Street, introduction of a 'double-ticketing' scheme allowing shoppers to get discounts in local shops and an enhancement to the number of free parking days which can be deployed in the Town Centre on days when the Town Centre Partnership have organised large scale events.

The cost for these trails has been funded through a partnership between the Borough Council and Benrose Booth, who will be supplying equipment for number-plate recognition technology to assist with the cashless parking provision in the Midway car park.

3. Revenue Investment and Budget Support Cabinet Panel

This panel has been meeting to consider bids made by Heads of Service for funding for a variety of schemes to support service delivery through the Revenue Investment Fund and to prepare services for future saving opportunities through the Invest to Save fund.

4. Silver-Gilt award at RHS Tatton Park Flower Show

Our display at the RHS Tatton Park Flower show was awarded a Silver-Gilt by judges. The display was an homage to John Cook, a former miner born in Silverdale who became the Prime Minister of Australia and a founding member of the Australian Labor Party.

5. Keele Golf Course

Cabinet Members continue to monitor the situation of Keele Golf Course and are pleased that the Council has received two high-quality and well-considered bids. Both bids are currently being scored by the relevant officers in line with our tendering processes. It is the intention of the Cabinet to share details of both bids with the Transformation & Resources and Active & Cohesive Overview and Scrutiny Committees and seek their views before any lease is awarded.

6. Budget Consultation

Cabinet members have been discussing the budget consultation process with officers and proposals have been shared with the Transformation & Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The intention for this year's consultation to build on the results obtained from last year's process.

Having learnt some important lessons from last year's consultation, this year's will contain more focussed interactions with a blend of public meetings, street stalls, mini-Reporters, partnership briefings, web-based questionnaires, use of the e-Panel and a member scrutiny cafe.

7. European Local Democracy Week

Working with the Democratic Services Department and the Partnerships Team, the Cabinet have agreed to participate in European Local Democracy Week with the intention of involving young people in the work of the Council and the important role played by Local Government.

Events over the week will include young people shadowing the Mayor and Cabinet Members, a debate in the Chamber on a topical local issue, a Young Person's Question Time session with the Leader and leads from partner organisations and a day following the scrutiny, cabinet and planning processes.

8. Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

After a number of meetings with businesses, local residents, Town Councillors and interested partners, the Kidsgrove Town Team have taken the decision to become a formally constituted Town Centre Partnership CIC.

As with the highly-successful Newcastle Town Centre Partnership, the Borough Council will have a minority stake in the CIC, it will be chaired by a private-sector lead and will be asked to determine its own priorities and work plans.