

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 24th November, 2008 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 2008

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 2008)

PRESENT: Councillors A.J. Eade (Chairman), J.M. Seymour, S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, M.B. Hosken and A. Lawrence

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S.M.Kelly (Cabinet Assistant: Policy & Performance)
Councillors R.K. Austin, G.M. Green, W.L. Tomlinson and V. Tonks (Opposition Group Leaders)

CB-91 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10th November, 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None – as all Members present.

CB-93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CB-94 PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: CAMPUS TELFORD & WREKIN:

Key Decision identified as **Campus Telford & Wrekin (incorporating BSF)** – **Outline Business Case** in the Forward Plan published on 16 October 2008.

Councillor S.P. Burrell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Children & Young People, which sought approval to a range of proposals included in the Outline Business Case (OBC) which planned to transform learning 11-18 through the Building Schools for the Future Programme, known locally as Campus Telford and Wrekin. The programme supported the Council in delivering one of its main priorities set out in Vision 2026 i.e. the development of a Borough wide Learning Community. Full details were appended to the report, together with the Executive Summary to the OBC.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) was a strategic capital investment programme that aimed to transform education in England. It would see every single state secondary school rebuilt or renewed over the next 15-20 years alongside a substantial investment in ICT.

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The Building Schools for the Future programme would act as a major catalyst for regeneration across Telford and Wrekin and provided significant capacity for raising achievement and transforming learning. It was bringing together strategies for children and learners, extended schools, childcare and family support and leisure facilities. The plans for collaborative working and the development of Learning Communities would embrace fully the government strategies for children and learners, extended schools; childcare and family support and reflect the increasing cultural diversity of the community.

Campus Telford & Wrekin proposals as outlined would be procured as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme maximising opportunities for integration and reducing procurement costs.

The report particularly outlined that the Madeley Academy had been procured outside the BSF programme. It is anticipated that these facilities will be open in September 2009. The medium and long term future of leisure provision within the Madeley area is outlined within the Sports Facility Framework. It identifies the need for a new pool and associated leisure provision to replace the existing facilities. The new Academy, although providing facilities such as a new sports hall, fitness suite and artificial sports pitch and providing continuation of community football provision does not fully replicate current provision at the Madeley Court Sports Centre. The continued operation of existing buildings is not financially sustainable as a consequence of the capital costs of continuing to maintain a 35 year old leisure building. In order to comply with planning conditions and to ensure there is no net loss of leisure provision the facilities of a Swimming Pool, Health and Fitness Centre and a Multi Purpose Community Hall needed to be provided in addition to those at the Madeley Academy:

The preferred option is to relocate the facilities to the Abraham Darby site. Academy sponsors are supportive of the proposal to develop a learning community comprising secondary school, primary school and range of leisure and community facilities.

It was also proposed that a number of Learning Communities include a range of health facilities. It was anticipated that those will be provided in partnership with the Telford & Wrekin Primary Care Trust working alongside multi agency teams.

The Strategy for Change Part 1 document (copy in the Members Library) had been approved by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF). It placed the Council's educational priorities at the forefront of the BSF planning processes, ensuring that more forward looking learning environments were developed. The DCSF had also approved the proposal for delivery of ICT to schools through our own managed service. The Council's Sports Facilities Strategy had been endorsed as national good practice.

Furthermore, the Our Strategy for Change Part 2 (copy in the Members Library) had also been approved DCSF. It set out how the challenges and key objectives identified in part 1 would be met and set out key estate proposals. It also included proposals for incorporating Thomas Telford City Technology College (CTC) into Campus Telford & Wrekin, which would present opportunities for greater collaboration between the CTC and schools across the Borough.

The aim of the Outline Business Case (OBC) (Executive Summary attached to the report– a full copy in the Members Library) was to set out in detail the scope, cost, affordability, risks procurement route and timetable for the project. The OBC draws from the Strategy for Change. The OBC once endorsed by Cabinet will be submitted to the DCSF for approval. Once approved we can begin procuring a partner to deliver the programme of projects set out below; incorporating primary, leisure and community elements.

Integral to the proposals Cabinet will receive future reports on separate proposals for: Providing additional post 16 provision serving The Lord Silkin School, The Phoenix School, Wrockwardine Wood Arts College, The Burton Borough School and Madeley Academy. These proposals are currently the subject of a period of consultation in accordance with statutory requirements. The Council was currently working with a range of partners to establish Trust (Foundation) Schools at Wrockwardine Wood Arts College, Sutherland Business and Enterprise College, The Lord Silkin School and Phoenix Schools

During discussion of one of the most important reports to be considered by Cabinet, Members welcomed the significant proposals for the development of educational and community facilities in the Borough. It was a rich opportunity involving up to £200m of Government funding to improve many of the Borough's schools and provide exciting new facilities for the benefit of the whole community.

Opposition Group Leaders made particular reference to facilities in Dawley and Madeley, and the Cabinet Member for Community Services stated that their views will be considered in the ongoing process of the provision of the new facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, who had been a longstanding Councillor since 1973, commented that the report on the proposals was the most exciting prospect for improvement of educational facilities that he had ever known in his municipal career.

The Leader commented that the proposals would be a major positive impact upon the future for children in the Borough.

RESOLVED –

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(a) That the Outline Business Case be approved for submission to the Department for Children, Families and Schools (DCSF), including, at paragraph 1.4.3, approval to use the proceeds of the sale of surplus assets to procure new sites and grant a capital approval for Abraham Darby Learning Community based upon the estimate set out at paragraph 1.4.4.

(b) That delegated authority be given to the BSF Project Board or the Corporate Director: Children and Young People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People to amend/revise the Outline Business Case to take account of suggested changes by DCSF

(c) That delegated authority be given to the BSF Project Board to authorise submission of subsequent mini business cases to the DCSF for their approval where the business case remains in line with the overall Campus Telford & Wrekin vision set out below.

(d) That a further report be presented for Cabinet consideration prior to submission of the Final Business Case to the DCSF and which sets out the results of the procurement evaluation and seeks the required capital approvals to commence the construction phase

(e) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to sign the Outline Business Case (OBC) Declaration regarding Site Surveys, Site Ownership and TUPE as required by Partnership for Schools (PfS)

(f) That a request be made for the consideration of proposals for additional build schools (paragraph 9.2), a contribution toward facilities management (secondary school element only) and project costs (paragraph 15.10 and 15.11) when preparing future year budget strategy.

CB-95 REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY REVIEW

Key Decision identified as **Regional Spatial Strategy – Preferred Options: Telford & Wrekin Response** in the Forward Plan published on 16 October 2008.

Councillor M.B. Hosken, Cabinet Member for Environment, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Environment & Regeneration that outlined the Council's proposed response to Phase 2 of the Regional Spatial Strategy Review.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2 Preferred Option Report was submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of 2007. Formal responses to the report would be submitted by the beginning of December, 2008 and an Examination in Public (and Inquiry) into the submitted Preferred Options report was scheduled to take place at the end of April 2009.

The RSS set out a housing allocation for the Borough of 26,500 (2006 -2026). Evidence would be submitted to the independent Examination Panel by the Government seeking to demonstrate that the Region could accommodate more housing growth than that advocated by RSS. That may mean the Borough having to accommodate up to 10,000 additional dwellings on top of the figure proposed by the RSS (i.e. a total of 36,500 by 2026). Whilst the Council supports the RSS allocation and the broad policies that underwrite that level of growth, there were concerns about the capacity, delivery and sustainability implications arising from growth above the RSS proposals.

The report before the Cabinet sought to establish the Council's position on several of the main issues in RSS that would guide the Council's formal written and verbal responses on the Preferred Option and its assessment at the Examination in Public. It also set out the Council's position in response to growth levels that could arise from the options set out in any Government proposals for additional growth.

Members referred to the level of expected growth in numbers of new dwellings in the Borough and hoped that the necessary infrastructure would also be provided to support the residents.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **That the position statements set out in the report as the basis for developing the Borough's case at the forthcoming Examination in Public of the Phase 2 Regional Spatial Strategy be approved**
- (b) **That the formal response to the West Midlands Regional Assembly, summarised in the report be approved;**
- (c) **That the position that will be adopted by the Borough at the Examination in Public Inquiry in response to the Nathaniel Lichfield and partners Study be noted;**
- (d) **That the Head of Planning & Environment, following consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment and the Council Leader, be authorised to amend the response to the West Midlands Regional Assembly and make additional comments and representations to the Examination in Public in accordance with the positions summarised in this report if further evidence or information should become available.**

CB-96 MONITORING PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

Key Decision identified as **Regional Spatial Strategy – Revised Conformity Protocol** in the Forward Plan published on 16 October 2008.

Councillor M.B. Hosken, Cabinet Member for Environment, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Environment & Regeneration that sought

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approval of the adoption of a revised agreement between the Regional Planning Body (West Midlands Regional Assembly) and the Region's planning authorities to secure the general conformity of Development Plan Documents and regionally significant planning applications with the policies of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

All strategic planning authorities within the West Midlands Region had been requested by the West Midlands Regional Assembly to adopt the revised RSS conformity procedure (Protocol) in order to fulfil their strategic planning responsibilities. .

Under the Protocol Telford & Wrekin was grouped with the City of Stoke on Trent and Herefordshire Unitary Authority to ensure conformity with RSS. The Protocol required Telford & Wrekin officers to evaluate the general conformity to RSS of regionally significant planning applications submitted to Stoke-on-Trent and their Local Development Framework. They then would advise the Regional Planning Body of their opinion. The same areas of work in Telford & Wrekin are evaluated by Herefordshire.

Members supported the new procedures.

RESOLVED – that the revised **Regional Spatial Strategy Conformity Protocol** as summarised in the report, and detailed in the supporting appendices A, B and C, be adopted.

(The appendices were available in the Members' Room and on public deposit in the Council offices and the Council's website.)

CB-97 TELFORD & WREKIN AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY
2008/11

Key Decision identified as **Affordable Warmth Strategy 2008-2011** in the Forward Plan published on 16 September 2008.

Councillor J.M.Seymour, Cabinet Member: Adult & Consumer Care, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Adult & Consumer Care, which sought the endorsement of an affordable warmth strategy, and related action plan, for the Borough.

The report stated that a fuel poor household was one that could not afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household was one that needed to spend more than 10% of its net income on fuel in order to heat their home to an adequate standard of warmth.

The Telford & Wrekin Affordable Warmth Strategy 2008/11 and related action plan provided the basis for a coordinated inter-agency approach to tackling fuel poverty and reducing health inequalities in the Borough.

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Whilst it was difficult to give precise figures for the number of households affected by fuel poverty locally it was estimated, from the T&W housing stock condition survey 2008, that up to 3200 [4.7%] of households were in fuel poverty compared to an estimated 13.9% from the national house condition survey

Within Telford & Wrekin 4.1% of owner occupiers and 5.5% of households in the private rented sector endured fuel poverty, and fuel poverty was more prevalent in our rural areas affecting 6.1% of households.

By its nature, fuel poverty directly affects those residents on the lowest incomes. The draft strategy identified some specific issues including:-

- An ageing population;
- Rural fuel poverty which makes access to advice and services for vulnerable groups more difficult;
- A significant proportion of the former new town stock built to non-traditional standards making up-grading thermal efficiency more difficult.
- The affordable warmth strategy and action plan were developed by carrying out action centred workshops with key partner agencies which were facilitated by the National Energy Agency (a leading organisation responding to issues of fuel poverty issues in the UK).

A key element of the strategy was to encourage local people to regularly compare energy prices and to switch suppliers if they can get a better deal.

Members welcomed the introduction of the Strategy that was hoped would provide useful information and guidance for those residents facing difficulties with the heating of their properties.

RESOLVED – that the “Telford & Wrekin Affordable Warmth Strategy 2008/11” be endorsed.

CB-98 **OVERVIEW OF SERVICE, FINANCIAL AND RISK
PERFORMANCE OUTTURNS AT HALF YEAR 2008/09**

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S.M.Kelly, Cabinet Assistant for Policy & Performance, presented the joint report of the Head of Policy, Performance & Partnership, Head of Finance and Head of Audit & Democracy that requested the Cabinet to take stock of service, financial and risk performance at both corporate and portfolio levels at half-year 2008.

The report analysed performance outturns for key targets and performance indicators at half-year 2008/09. It was the first time the Council had monitored the new corporate performance management framework in 2008/09.

Messages on service, financial and risk performance were summarised in the individual reports. Bringing together the information showed that the Council was controlling spending and risk, and achieving value for money for local people and on-going efficiencies.

Overall spend was currently projected to be in budget in 2008/09. There were a number of variations which were all being offset by savings and contingencies elsewhere. The report focused on areas where there were current over and under-spends as they related to performance issues.

The issues raised by the over and under-spends identified in the Financial Monitoring Report had been taken into account in the Risk Assessment process; and the key risks that they related to were outlined within the report before Members.

The key over and under-spends linked to performance issues related to Children & Families, School Catering, Street Lighting, Waste Management, Care Packages for Adults with Learning Difficulties, and use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation for homeless households; and were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That it be noted that the Council is projected to be on budget at the end of the year, any pressures are being met by efficiencies and savings elsewhere.**
- (b) That the recommendations in the report relating to Service Performance be agreed.**

CB-99 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – PROGRESS AGAINST THE NEW PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2008/09

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S.M.Kelly, Cabinet Assistant for Policy & Performance presented the report of the Head of Policy, Performance & Partnership that set out the current situation regarding the collection and analysis of performance information in 2008/09. It included an analysis of performance information available for the Council's outward-looking indicators at half year

Analysis of progress against targets set out in Priority Plans and the LAA2 agreement showed that the Council was performing well. The report stated that:-

- 75% of targets were projected to be achieved for the LAA2 agreement.
- 81% of targets were projected to be achieved at year end for our Priority Plans,

- 85% of targets were projected to be achieved for the National Indicator Set.

We have a brand new performance management framework for 2008/09, which includes the new national indicator set (NIS), our recently negotiated Local Area Agreement (LAA2) targets, and the Council's key targets that are set out in the recently developed Priority Plans.

The new performance management framework was still being refined. Many of the indicators in the NIS were new, and definitions were still being finalised by Government.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **That performance at half year be noted and proactively managed and that portfolios look at where improvements can be made by the end of the year.**
- (b) **That a further report be presented to Cabinet highlighting performance at 8 months**

CB-100 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Non-Key Decision

The report of the Head of Audit & Democracy requested Cabinet to appoint two Members to the Telford & Wrekin Local Access Forum.

The purpose of the Telford and Wrekin Local Access Forum (TWLAF) would be to provide advice to Telford and Wrekin Council (and the Countryside Agency and other bodies specified in S94(4) of the CRow Act if required to do so) on how to improve public access to land for open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area.

The Association of Parish & Town Councils had appointed Councillor J.M.Seymour as their representative, so there was an opportunity for the Council to appoint two representatives onto the Forum.

RESOLVED – that Cabinet approves the appointment of Councillors S.Bentley and T.J.Hope as the two representatives to the Telford & Wrekin Local Access Forum.

The meeting ended at 6.06 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Ken Clarke
Head of Audit & Democracy
Date: 28th November 2008

Signed:

Date: