

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 2nd June 2008 at 5.00 p.m. in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices

PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY, 6th JUNE 2008

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN WEDNESDAY, 11th JUNE 2008)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors R.K. Austin, W.L. Tomlinson and V. Tonks. Plus Cllrs V A Fletcher and T J Hope; and Caroline Oakes (Locality Manager)

CB-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 12th May 2008, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors D.G. Allen, and G.M.Green

CB-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-4 CAMPUS TELFORD & WREKIN: PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME – STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Key Decision identified as **Campus Telford & Wrekin – Primary Strategy for Change** in the Forward Plan published on 14th May 2008.

Councillor S.Burrell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, presented the report of the Interim Head of Policy, Resources and Social Regeneration, which sought approval for the submission of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change, to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

The Government was committed to renewing at least half of all primary school buildings by 2022/23 through the Primary Capital Programme. The aim was to create primary schools that were equipped for 21st century teaching and learning, and were at the heart of their communities with children's services in reach of every family.

The primary capital investment would support a wide range of policies with the Children's Plan at its heart. The investment would support the transformation of education, including raising standards and improving the life chances and well being of all children, the removal of surplus places, inclusion, Every Child

Matters, and the provision of extended services for the local community. Schools that did not benefit directly from the Primary Capital Programme would continue to receive funding via the devolved programme and, where appropriate, the targeted capital fund. Every Council must submit a Strategy for Change which detailed their proposals for the provision of primary education in their area. Telford & Wrekin's proposed submission was attached to the report before the Cabinet.

Members generally welcomed the report and the initiatives proposed. Comments had been electronically received from Cllr G Green and they would be taken into account with the Strategy. It was also stated that the Council were at the cutting edge of education in the region.

RESOLVED - That the proposed strategy for primary school provision, as detailed in the Primary Strategy for Change document, be approved for submission to DCSF by 16th June 2008.

CB-5 ADULT HEALTH & WELL BEING PARTNERSHIP

Key Decision identified as **Adult Health & Well Being Partnership Board** in the Forward Plan published on 14th May 2008.

Councillor J.M.Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adult & Consumer Care, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Adult & Consumer Care that sought approval of the revised Adult Health & Well-being Partnership terms of reference that had been reviewed by the Partnership Executive. It was also proposed that there should be changes in the arrangements for pooled budgets that reflected current funding and management arrangements

The report provided details of proposals for governance of the Adult Health & Well-being Partnership which had been up-dated following review of the present arrangements.

Approval was also requested for changes in Section 31 Health Act 1999 pooled budgets so that the continuing nature of those successful arrangements was consolidated into renewed agreements; together with proposals that the management of the pooled budget for the joint commissioning teams be transferred to the Council following the initial period from 2003 in which the PCT accounted for the budget

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the arrangements proposed in the report be approved;**
- (b) that the terms of reference and pooled budget changes be approved; and**
- (c) that delegated authority be granted to the Leader to approve nominations for membership of the Adult Health & Well-being Partnership.**

CB-5 TRANSFORMING TELFORD QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

Non-Key Decision

Councillor E.J. Carter, Cabinet Member: Regeneration, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Environment & Regeneration that provided an overview of performance and update on the key performance activities of Transforming Telford Ltd for the period April 2007 – March 2008.

The report provided the appropriate level of detail to be able to judge the company's performance against the contractual Service Level Agreement with the Council. The performance report demonstrated a reasonable performance for the year end, as out-turns on all key performance indicators had improved. Some annual targets had already been achieved, and others were forecast to meet target by year-end. The performance of Transforming Telford also had to be set within a wider trend of population and job increases within the local economy. As stated by the Cabinet Member on a previous occasion, the report now included more information on job creation opportunities in the Borough, and to identify whether those new jobs were directly attributable to the activities of Transforming Telford. He also stressed that the local business community recognised the valuable role that Transforming Telford played in promoting economic development in the Borough.

RESOLVED – that the current performance of Transforming Telford Ltd, in relation to its performance against economic development services and company led capital projects, be noted.

Prior to the next item, Councillor S Bentley left the room during its consideration.

CB-6 POST OFFICE CONSULTATION

Non Key Decision.

Councillor V.A.Fletcher, on behalf of the Cabinet Member: Community Services, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Community Services that conveyed information gathered from the post offices that had been proposed for closure in Telford and Wrekin, and recommended how Telford and Wrekin Council should respond to the proposals.

On April 1st 2008 Post Office Ltd announced the proposed closure of 4 post offices in the Telford and Wrekin area. The post offices affected were at Church Aston, Randlay, Sambrook and Wellington Park Corner.

Consultation with parish councils and post masters had highlighted concern over the consultation process and the evidence that had been used to make the decisions on which post offices should be closed.

Randlay had a large campaign in operation, working with the community and Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council. Church Aston and Wellington had petitions circulating in the community and Wellington Town Council and Church Aston Parish Council had written letters opposing the closures. The Council were not aware of any campaign that had been developed by the local community against the closure of Sambrook Post Office. The Chetwynd and Woodcote Parish Council had not made any public statement and the post master was not making a case to remain open.

Members commented on the particular merits, both community and business, of the Randlay Post Office together with the other proposed closure sites and stated their role as a vital part of the community. It was also stated that the Council should comment that if certain Post Offices were saved from closure as a result of the consultation, other sites should not be selected for the same closure measures.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **That the Post Offices which are under threat and opposing closure be supported in their case to remain open through a submission from Telford and Wrekin Council to Post Offices Ltd.**
- (b) **That the Network Development Manager for Post Offices Ltd and Post Watch be invited to meet the Council to hear the cases against closure prior to the consultation period ending.**

Councillor S.Bentley returned to the meeting room.

CB-7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-8 STREET LIGHTING & ILLUMINATED SIGNS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Key Decision identified as **Street lighting & Illuminated Signs Maintenance Contract** in the Forward Plan published on 16 April 2008.

Councillor S.Bentley, Cabinet Member for Environment, presented the report of the Head of Mobility & Development, which updated members on the Council's street lighting services, including performance and its impact on the environment. The report also sought approval for delegated authority to award the above contract.

The report summarised the important role that street lighting played in the Council's Community and Road Safety initiatives together with its impact on

Council reputation. There was a need to ensure future service provision offers best value for money and aims to minimise adverse environmental impact.

The report further sought approval to let a contract for Street Lighting & Illuminated Signs Maintenance for a period of 4 ¾ years. There was also an option for the contract to be extended for an additional 3 years.

Members supported the proposals.

RESOLVED – that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Mobility & Development, following consultation with the Cabinet Member: Environment, to award the above contract.

CB-9 HORSEHAY VILLAGE GOLF CENTRE

Key Decision identified as **Horsehay Village Golf Centre – Awarding of Management Contract** in the Forward Plan published on 16th April 2008.

Councillor V.A Fletcher, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Community Services, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Community Services, that appraised the Cabinet of the findings of the procurement process undertaken in respect of Horsehay Village Golf Centre and also sought approval to appoint a preferred contractor.

Horsehay had experienced a decline in the number of rounds of golf played and subsequent reduction in income leading to an increase in level of subsidy. Consultants were requested to undertake a strategic review of the facility. The consultants brief was to produce an options appraisal for the sustainable provision of accessible, high quality, affordable municipal golf. The findings of which were presented to members on 16th July 2007.

Outsourcing the service through a partnership arrangement was recommended by the consultants as the most sustainable option in the medium to long term.

A soft market testing exercise identified significant interest from potential operators, which could produce additional capital investment at Horsehay together with revenue savings for the Council. Confirmation was also provided that the Council's social objectives around accessible play and play provision could continue to be delivered.

In December 2007 members approved the undertaking of a formal procurement process and requested that final proposals for the management of Horsehay Village Golf Centre be brought back to Cabinet for approval.

Following approval by Cabinet in December 2007 a formal procurement process had been undertaken in respect of identifying a partner to operate Horsehay Village Golf Centre.

The results of the procurement process identify that the Council's objectives of providing accessible and sustainable pay and play golf for the community, and generating ongoing revenue efficiencies, and capital investment could be achieved through a partnership arrangement.

Evaluation of tender submissions had identified the preferred bidder, as stated within the report.

Members welcomed the report as a positive way forward for the Horsehay facility but emphasised the need to retain the municipal golf usage at the site.

RESOLVED – that the appointment of the preferred bidder, as identified in the report, be approved and that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director: Community Services, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services, to award a contract for the management of Horsehay Village Golf Centre.

**CB-10 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER BRIDGE SPECIAL SCHOOL,
BROOKSIDE AVENUE, BROOKSIDE**

Key Decision identified as **Disposal of Land – Various Sites** in the Forward Plan published on 16th April 2008.

Councillor S.Burrell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, presented the joint report of the Head of Asset & Property Management and the Interim Head of Policy, Resources and Social Regeneration, which sought approval for the disposal of the former Bridge Special School, Brookside Avenue, Brookside.

The report indicated that the land was surplus to requirements and consent for its disposal was sought. The site was located adjacent to the Holmer Lake Primary School and was the former site of the Bridge Special School, Brookside (its location was detailed on a plan attached to the report).

RESOLVED – that the land, as indicated on the plan attached to the report, be disposed of in accordance with terms to be agreed by the Head of Asset & Property Management and the Head of Legal Services.

The timing of the disposal was to be recommended by the Head of Asset & Property in the light of current market conditions to maximise the capital receipt. The capital receipt would be treated corporately to address previously identified priorities as part of the Council's overall capital strategy.

The meeting ended at 5.49 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Ken Clarke
Head of Audit & Democracy
Date: 6th June, 2008

Signed:

Date: