

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 27th October, 2009 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON MONDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER, 2009

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN THURSDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 2009)

PRESENT: Councillors A. Lawrence (In the Chair), S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, M.B. Hosken, and S.M. Kelly

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor E.A.Clare, (representing Main Opposition Group Leader)

CB – 82 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor A.Lawrence be elected Chairman for the meeting.

CB-83 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th October, 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A.J. Eade, J.M. Seymour, R.K. Austin and G.M. Green

CB-85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S.M Kelly declared a personal & Prejudicial Interest (as a member of the Oakengates Regeneration Partnership) in the Supplementary Agenda item – “Oakengates Regeneration Partnership”, and left the room during its consideration and determination.

CB-86 SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2010/11 to 2012/13

Key decision identified as **Budget Strategy / Service & Financial Planning Process** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2009.

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Resources, presented the report of the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director: Resources which provided the medium term service and financial planning context ahead of more detailed consideration of the 20010/11 – 2012/13 service planning and budget process.

In March 2009, a medium-term Service & Financial Planning Strategy for 2009/10 – 2011/12 was approved. That strategy, was informed by the Community Strategy, Priority Plans and Local Area Agreement (LAA), was developed by carrying out an assessment of service pressures, developments and savings options and through consultation with a wide range of local people and organisations.

The Service & Financial Planning Strategy was based on a number of guiding principles, which have been endorsed by consultation with the community.

Members were reminded that the Council had a gross annual revenue budget (including schools) of around £386m and a capital programme of just under £68m in the current year i.e. an organisation with a total turnover approaching £0.5bn a year. The net revenue budget for the current year stood at £124m after adjusting for specific government grants, charges for services, rents and investment income

During discussion of the report, Members recognised the pressures that the current economic climate could have on the Council's budget.

RESOLVED – that the report, in terms of providing the background context for the review of the current 3 year service and financial strategy and moving medium term planning on to the 2012/13 period and beyond, be noted.

CB-87 FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2009/10 – Half Year

(i) Performance Management

Key decision identified as **Performance Management, Value for Money and Best Value** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2009.

Councillor S. Kelly, Cabinet Member for Policy, Performance & Partnership, presented the report of the Head of Policy, Performance & Partnership which outlined a first look at performance information for 2009/10 against the Council's corporate priorities, identifying areas of good performance, and those areas where improvement was required. The report also set out an approach to support performance improvement in 2009/10.

It was reported that 2009/10 was the second year of monitoring the new performance framework, including the National Indicator Set (NIS). Unlike 2008/09 the Council now had trend information (local only) with which to identify 'direction of travel' as well as performance against targets in 2009/10 (where targets were available).

At the present stage of the year it was only possible to report on NIS, Priority Plan and LAA indicators. It was not possible to report on annual survey based satisfaction indicators and other annual indicators (such as crime and anti-social behaviour, conditions of roads and footpaths).

Performance and targets were currently available for 194 out of 394 indicators in the corporate performance framework. Of those 194 indicators, the Council was currently projecting to achieve 78% of its targets overall (151 indicators). The number of PIs projecting to have improved at year end was 63% (compared to 59% at the end of 2008/09).

Members commented upon the successes of young offenders who had sought suitable accommodation in the Borough.

RESOLVED – that the current projected level of end of year performance be noted; and the approach to refer LAA targets identified as of concern to the Partnership Planning & Performance Group be endorsed.

(ii) **Financial Monitoring**

Key decision identified as **Financial Monitoring and Financial Updates** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2009.

Councillor A Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Resources, presented the report of the Head of Finance & Audit that provided the latest financial monitoring information for 2009/10 relating to: the revenue budget and capital programme, income and the payment of supplier invoices.

Overall revenue spend was currently projecting to be within budget by year end. The cost of Looked After Children had significantly increased since the last report with an overspend of £2.1m currently being projected. The overspend on Specialist Education had also increased and now stood at £0.536m. CYP had identified some one-off funds which assisted the overall position, however the underlying cost was a key pressure that needed to be addressed in the remainder of the year and for the future budget strategy. Pay and General inflation allowances had been reviewed and gave a benefit of £0.970m which together with Treasury Management surpluses of £0.900m had assisted the overall position.

The 2009/10 approved capital programme was £67.6m; to date 14.6% spend had taken place, which was normal at the current early stage in the year. Council tax collection and A&CW sales ledger were ahead of target; NNDR and General Sales Ledger were behind target which was a reflection of the impact of the recession. It was also noted that targets were adjusted to take into account the economic conditions.

The target for 2009/10 was to pay 95% of invoices within 20 days; overall year to date performance was below that at 94%. All Portfolios, except CYP, met or exceeded the target in August. Portfolios were asked to review processes to ensure prompt processing of invoices so that the target was met by year end.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the overall financial position which was currently projecting to be within budget by year end, be noted
- (b) To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to approve the virement of £1m into Children & Families, as detailed in para. 5.4 of the report,
- (c) That the performance against income targets be noted.
- (d) That the underperformance against the target for paying supplier invoices and the action needed to address that, be noted.
- (e) To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to approve the new capital allocations, capital virements, and re-phasing detailed in Appendix III of the report; and the use of the revenue contingency detailed in para. 6.1 of the report.

CB – 88 PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: STIRCHLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THREE OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUST STATUS

Key decision identified as **Planning of School Places – Co-Location of Three Oaks and Stirchley Primary Schools to form a new Primary School at Stirchley District Centre** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2009.

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred, pending further detailed analysis, for consideration at a future meeting.

CB-89 CORONERS' SERVICES FOR TELFORD & WREKIN

Non Key Decision

Councillor A Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Resources, presented the report of the Corporate Director: Resources that requested a proposed shared Coroners service with Shropshire Council for Telford & Wrekin and Mid and North Shropshire to protect the local provision of the service in the light of impending legislative changes and the proposed retirement of the current Coroner for Telford & Wrekin

Members considered a report about the future of Coroners' services for Telford & Wrekin on the 7th July 2009. It was agreed that the Head of Legal Services should discuss developing a shared service for the whole of Shropshire as a means of securing the best local service in the light of proposals for the reform of the Coroners' service contained in the Coroners and Justices Bill and the desire of the current Coroner to retire before the end of the calendar year.

In the light of that decision a proposed shared service had been developed that had the agreement of the Coroners for Mid and North Shropshire (who

would become the Coroner for Telford & Wrekin also), the Coroner for South Shropshire, Shropshire Council and officers from Telford & Wrekin Council.

It was proposed that the service be administered by Shropshire Council. A key element of the proposed arrangement was that the Coroner would continue to provide the service for residents of Telford & Wrekin within the Telford & Wrekin area.

Members recognised the services of the existing Coroner, Mr Gwynne, and asked that their best wishes be communicated for his retirement.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the resignation of the current Coroner be formally accepted**
- (b) That John Ellery be formally appointed as the Coroner for Telford & Wrekin.**
- (c) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised, on behalf of the authority, to enter into an agreement for a shared Coroners service with Shropshire Council.**

CB – 90 EDGMOND CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Non Key Decision

Cllr S Bentley, Cabinet Member for Environment, presented a report of the Head of Environment & Transport that sought approval to the adoption of the Edgmond Conservation Area Management Plan as a sound basis for considering planning applications and for developing initiatives to improve the area.

Members were reminded that Telford & Wrekin Council was required to prepare Management Plans for all Conservation Areas within its boundary (Government Planning Policy Guidance - PPG15, Planning and the Historic Environment). The development of Management Plans was also in line with English Heritage's best practice guidelines. The intention was that a clear and concise Management Plan for each Conservation Area would provide a sound basis for its future management. The report sought the approval and adoption of the Management Plan which has been drawn up for Edgmond Conservation Area , details of which were appended to the report.

As part of the adoption process the Management Plan had been subject to full public consultation for six weeks between August and September 2009. Prior to the consultation and drafting of the document, contact was made with the Parish Clerk for Edgmond who was most helpful in providing comments and questions regarding the conservation area from the Parish Council. No adverse comments were received during the consultation.

RESOLVED – that Edgmond Conservation Area Management Plan be adopted, to provide a sound basis for considering planning applications and for developing initiatives to improve the area.

CB- 91 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 paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB- 92 FACILITIES MANAGEMENT – SERVICE EFFICIENCY REVIEW

Key Decision identified as **Facilities Management Review** in the Forward Plan published on 14th August 2009.

Councillor S. Burrell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, presented the report of the Head of Customer Services & Transformation which detailed the findings and recommendations contained within the recent Facilities Management Review undertaken by Northgate Kendric Ash, the company supporting the completion of the authority's service review programme. Options for moving into the implementation stages were outlined, along with the available cashable savings post implementation.

The review of the operational Facilities Management arrangements of the Council was undertaken between April and June 2009. The review focused on the catering and cleaning service now referred to as facilities management which employed approximately 800 full and part time staff in total. The cleaning team covered 173 individual cleaning contracts from local community centres, libraries, leisure centres, schools and civic offices and had recently diversified and now offered several services including low level support which was an integral part of the family outreach service. The catering service supported the schools meals programme in over 57 schools and was delivered by 550 employees. In the case of schools both of those services were offered on a buy in basis, offering schools the choice to buy services from the local authority or employ their own. Schools were supported by a direct grant, therefore it was important to note that many of the financial improvements described would require general acceptance by schools.

The report summarised the required changes and the financial improvements available as a result – and a copy of the full findings was appended to the report before Members.

Councillor E.A.Clare (representing the Labour Group Leader) expressed some concern over the reduced menu schedule and the timing of the proposals for shared services in the light of the recently formed Shropshire Council. Councillor Kelly emphasised the serious impending financial constraints facing the Council and recognised the need for more efficient ways of working in the future.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That option 2 on page 8 of the Executive Summary which was to realise the available internal efficiencies identified by the review team, be endorsed.
- (b) That a twin tracking of a shared service model alongside implementing internal efficiencies be explored.
- (c) That the Steering Board, who were responsible for the overseeing of phase 1 of the review, be requested to continue to oversee the implementation stages, ensuring regular updates were provided to both the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet
- (d) That the Head of BSF, Resources and Social Regeneration be requested to outline the support required to implement the review findings and to work with the Head of Customer Service & Transformation to procure any external expertise required by placing a tender via the Catalyst procurement framework, as advised by the Head of Legal Services.
- (e) That section 5.0 of the report which outlined the high level recommendations which propose a change to the current service delivery methods, and particularly those which had a perceived higher profile, be recognised.

CB - 93 URGENT ITEM – Section 100B(4), Local Government Act 1972.

The Chairman of the meeting made the following statement:

“I am of the opinion that the following item of business should be dealt with as a matter of urgency at this meeting in order to avoid any unnecessary delay”.

Note: Councillor S.M.Kelly, declared a personal & Prejudicial Interest in the next item of business, and left the meeting room prior to its consideration.

CB – 94 OAKENGATES REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Non Key Decision

Councillor E Carter, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, presented the report of the Head of Planning & Transport that advised of the current status of the Oakengates Regeneration Partnership and sought approval to inform the Partnership that, in view of its recent performance, it had failed to meet the requirements of an acceptable regeneration partner and consequently the Council was unable to engage in any further business with the Partnership.

Members expressed concern over the apparent poor administrative operation of the Partnership and supported the proposals outlined in the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Oakengates Regeneration Partnership be advised that it had failed to perform at a standard acceptable to the Council and consequently had failed to meet the requirements of a regeneration partner.
- (b) That the Oakengates Regeneration Partnership be informed that the Council was no longer able to provide any further resources or support and will no longer recognise the Partnership as the Regeneration Partner for Oakengates.

The meeting ended at 5.46 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Head of Legal Services
Date: 2nd November 2009**

Signed:

Date: