

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 13th April, 2010 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON MONDAY, 19th APRIL, 2010

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN THURSDAY, 22nd APRIL, 2010)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors R.K. Austin, G.M. Green and V. Tonks
(Opposition Group Leaders)

CB-184 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23rd March, 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-185 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-186 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-187 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11

Key decision identified as **Highways & Transport Capital Programme 2010/11** in the Forward Plan published on 12 February 2010.

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area, presented the joint report of the Head of Planning & Transport and the Head of Environmental Services, which inform Cabinet of the proposed highways and transport programmes and schemes in the 2010/11 capital programme.

The Highways and Transport Capital Programme set out the proposed schemes that were to be taken forward in 2010/11 and covered all work on the highway and transport network. The total value of investment in 2010/11 was expected to be around £14m, which was recognised as one of the largest capital programmes the Council had ever undertaken on the highway and transport network. The programme covered the areas of highways maintenance (excluding reactive highways maintenance), traffic and transport projects, street-lighting, bridges and highway structures and Borough Towns Initiative schemes proposed to take place on the highway.

The investment covered wards and parishes across the borough and a number of projects had been developed in partnership with parish and town councils. As well as more typical highway and transport schemes, the programme also confirmed the investment being made through the Borough Towns Initiative on regeneration schemes that would improve the physical appearance and condition of footways and roads in the centres of Wellington, Newport and Dawley. The programme also specifically identified additional funding for road markings and signs, recognising the need to address a backlog of repairs and improvements to signs and road markings across the borough.

It was noted that the investment in highways maintenance in 2010/11 which totalled over £5m (including £600k for street lighting) would enable planned and structural repairs to be made to roads across the borough following the damage that has been caused during the cold winter of 2009/10. The planned maintenance programme would support the successful 'pot-hole busters' campaign launched in winter 2009/10 (which had seen over 10,000 pot-holes repaired to date) by ensuring that roads in the poorest condition received more significant maintenance work, to prevent further deterioration in road condition.

The Highways and Transport programme was funded through a range of different funding sources including Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital funding from the Department for Transport (DfT), the Council's own capital funding, contributions secured from developers through the planning process and grants for specific projects (such as funds provided by Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust to support walking and cycling projects in the borough's industrial estates). Appended to the report before Members was a table that detailed the 2010/11 funding allocations to support the implementation of the Highways and Transport Capital Programme.

Members commended the report that offered a clear response to the needs of the Borough. There was particular praise for the format of the appendices that outlined future highway & transport schemes area by area. The Chairman commented that the Council was now responding to residents comments regarding roads and footpaths in the Borough.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the programme as set out in Appendices 1 & 2 to the report, be approved;**
- (b) that Delegate Authority, for agreeing any variations or changes to schemes in the capital programme that remain within overall approved budget limits, be given to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.**
- (c) That Delegated Authority, for the responsibility for allocating funding contributions to appropriate Public Realm Improvements**

and Borough Towns Initiative schemes on the highway, be given to the Head of Planning & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Cabinet Member for Environment.

CB-188 FUTURE PROVISION OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Key Decision identified as **Kerbside Food Waste Collections** in the Forward Plan published on 15 January 2010.

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member: Environment & Rural Area, presented the report of the Head of Planning & Transport, which sought approval to undertake a trial household food waste collection scheme as a response to: the priority to increase re-use, recycling and diversion from landfill to meet waste National Indicators (NIs) and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) targets; and the increasing cost of disposing of waste to landfill including gate fees and known Landfill Tax escalations.

Approval was also sought to waive the requirement to obtain tenders for the provision of trial food waste collections and provide instructions to Telford & Wrekin Services (TWS) to carry out the trial

Members were reminded that in 2008/09 the Council landfilled 37,450t of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW). Food Waste was a large proportion of the BMW currently landfilled by the Council, desk studies suggested that a collection scheme could divert over 6,000t of BMW from landfill.

The Council was on course to meet its LATS allowance target in the current year. The Councils LATS allowances reduce year on year and it is predicted that at current levels LATS credits would have to be purchased from other Councils with a surplus from the 2010/11 year onwards. Diverting 6,000t of food waste from landfill could reduce the number of LATS credits, predicted to be required, by at least 6,000/year in a full year following Borough wide implementation. Dependant on the outcome of the trial food waste collection could therefore form a key element of the Councils LATS strategy.

Whilst it was anticipated that a Borough wide household food waste collection scheme would yield in the region of 6,000t per annum, there was potential for that to be greater, potentially up to 9,000 t/a. The precise timing of a full implementation of the service would be dependant on the revenue cost of the service being covered by the savings to be achieved from reduced landfill gate fees, landfill tax and LATS penalty avoidance. The trial would help, to inform the decision by providing more accurate tonnage projections.

A trial of food waste collection would provide critical information on the potential costs and subsequent savings that a Borough wide scheme could achieve. A trial area was likely to affect several wards and would be identified when the trial area is known. All wards would receive a kerbside food waste

collection if it was decided that a Borough wide scheme should be implemented in the future.

Members welcomed the initiative, was confident of the success for the trial period and looked forward to a possible future roll out of the food waste collection across the Borough.

RESOLVED-

- (a) that the implementation of a trial household food waste collection scheme be approved;
- (b) that approval be given to waive the requirement to obtain 4 written tenders for the provision of a food waste collection scheme trial and authorise the Head of Planning and Transport, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Area, to commission TWS, following negotiation, to implement the trial as described in this report;
- (c) that the Head of Planning and Transport be requested to identify a suitable trial area and the Head of Planning and Transport be authorised, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Area, to agree the area;
- (d) that officers be requested to identify a preferred treatment facility for the disposal of collected waste and that Delegated Authority be given to the Head of Planning and Transport, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Area, to make a decision over the facility to be used.
- (e) that officers be requested to prepare a report on the findings from the trial and the implications for the viability of a Borough wide scheme.

The meeting ended at 5.16 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Head of Governance
Date: 19th April 2010**

Signed:

Date: