

## **CABINET**

**Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 22nd September, 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford**

**PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 2011**

**(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN MONDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 2011)**

**PRESENT:** Councillors K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, R.A. Overton, H. Rhodes and P.R. Watling

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader)

### **CB-34      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th July 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **CB-35      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors W.A.M. McClements and C.F. Smith

### **CB-36      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **CB-37      SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2012/13 – 2014/15**

**Key Decision** identified as **Budget Strategy / Service & Financial Planning Process** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the joint report of the Interim Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer that updated the financial projections for future years, and set out the processes and timetable for the agreement of the Service and Financial Planning Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15.

In terms of Government grant, there was some uncertainty arising from the Local Resource Review of the local government finance system, which made projections of the likely level of resources available to the Council after 2012/13 very difficult. The projected base budget deficit had been revised, however, to take account of the proposals currently being consulted on as part of the 100 day budget review. Other key changes to be considered included allowance for inflation, continuing pressures on Adult Care budgets, funding for single status, and the New Homes Bonus. After adjusting for these factors and the saving on insurance premia previously reported through financial

monitoring, the updated funding shortfall projection was £21.1m for 2012/13 rising to £31.4m in 2014/15.

The report also set out the progress in achieving savings through the organisational restructuring process and reductions in non-staff expenditure. A capitalisation direction of £2.9m had been received from the Government enabling statutory redundancy payments to be treated as capital expenditure.

Given the scale of the cuts to Council grants and inflationary and other pressures, it was inevitable that many savings proposals would have service impacts. It was therefore intended to have more extensive consultation on service and financial planning proposals than in previous years, so enabling the community to shape the Council's budget in future years. Details of the proposed consultation activities and timetable were set out in the report.

Councillor Eade referred to the assumptions built into the budget for a large capital receipt from the disposal of land at Newport, and what impact there might be if this receipt was not realised. The Deputy Leader responded that it was usual for anticipated capital receipts to be included in budget forecasts, something the previous administration had done.

**RESOLVED** – that the updated projections for the period 2012/13 – 2014/15 and the proposed timetable and consultation activities summarised in the report be noted.

#### **CB-38            LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND**

**Key Decision** identified as **Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) – Small Project** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection, presented the report of the Head of Environmental Services, which confirmed the recent announcement from the Department for Transport (DfT) regarding the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). The Fund was designed to support sustainable transport projects that delivered economic growth and reduced carbon emissions. An amended report, containing some minor changes to the detailed funding figures, was tabled. The report had been published before the recent changes in Cabinet designations, and therefore it was proposed to amend recommendation 2b) accordingly.

The Council's bid to the LSTF was for two elements – a Large Project which covered Telford Town Centre, and, secondly, a Key Component which was a package of smaller scale sustainable transport initiatives to help distribute the economic and environmental benefits of the Large Project throughout the rest of the Borough. The DfT had now confirmed an offer of £3,525,920 in grant towards the Key Component Bid. Matched funding of £2.997m from existing Council and partners' programmes made up the balance of the funding for the project.

The Key Component submission included projects to upgrade the Silkin Way, improvements to the cycle route between Stafford and Telford, a Park & Ride

scheme for the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, and improved walking links between Telford railway station and Telford town centre. Further details of the expenditure and capital/revenue funding for the identified projects was set out in the report.

For the Large Project, the Council had been shortlisted to submit a full business case to DfT by 20 December 2011, with a decision expected by the end of June 2012. The Large Project was vital to both the successful delivery of the Central Telford Area Action Plan, and for enabling the release of privately owned and Council owned land for development purposes. It included making the Box Road a two way road, with associated junction improvements. In relation to recent press statements from the owners of the Town Centre about lack of consultation on the Box Road proposals, The Deputy Leader stated that the proposals were contained in the Central Telford Area Action Plan adopted by Council in March 2011. The Plan had been subject to extensive consultation, including public examination by a Planning Inspector who had concluded that the Box Road proposals were sound. The Cabinet Member added that Officers would be meeting with the Town Centre owners for further discussions.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) that Council's acceptance of £3,525,920 of DfT Local Sustainable Transport Funding to deliver the Key Component projects, as set out in the Council's submission to the DfT, over the period 2011/12 – 2014/15 be endorsed.**
  
- (b) that the development and submission of a full business case for funding for Telford Town Centre (the Large Project) be approved, with authority delegated to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Transport & Community Protection; Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development; and Resources & Service Delivery, to agree the content of the full business case for submission by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

#### **CB - 39      HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – WINTER SERVICE REVIEW**

**Key Decision** identified as **Winter Maintenance Service Review** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor S Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Head of Environmental Services, which set out recommendations following a review of the operation and effectiveness of the Winter Service in the light of the issues encountered during the 2010/11 winter season.

The winter of 2010/11 was at its most severe during the months of November and December, with extremely low temperatures and early snowfall resulting in a significant increase in salting and clearing operations. Despite having a full storage capacity of 2700 tonnes of salt at the start of the season, stocks

were put under significant pressure due to a shortage of national salt supplies and orders not getting through. A detailed analysis of performance during the 2010/11 winter season was appended to the report. A review of this information had identified some areas where service improvements were recommended.

In terms of requests for gritting roads that were not included on the primary and secondary gritting routes, it was proposed that the access road to Harper Adams College, Newport be added to the defined network. In respect of the rate of spread of salt, benchmarking with the Midland Service Improvement Group had identified that Telford & Wrekin was the only Council who applied a higher rate of spread of salt for both frost prevention and snow events. The lower rates that were the regional norm met Department for Transport guidance, and it was therefore proposed that the Council revise its application rate accordingly. This would potentially result in a reduction of 900 tonnes of salt being used during a normal winter season.

**RESOLVED** – that the recommended changes to the Winter Service, as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be approved, namely:

- the existing above regional average coverage for salt treatment of the road network to remain the same for 2011/12, with the addition of the access route to Harper Adams College;
- existing grit bin policy to remain for 2011/12, and to continue working closely with Parishes and community groups for local co-operative opportunities;
- to provide greater resilience and efficiencies – to revise the rate of spread of salt from 15g per m<sup>2</sup> to 10g per m<sup>2</sup> for frost prevention and from 30g per m<sup>2</sup> to 20g per m<sup>2</sup> for snow events;
- continue to improve communication channels and access to information for residents and businesses within the Borough.

**CB - 40      TELFORD & WREKIN JOINT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2011 - 2015**

**Key Decision** identified as **Telford & Wrekin's Joint Mental Health and Well-Being Commissioning Strategy 2011-2015** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member: Adult & Social Care, presented the report of the Head of Care & Support that outlined the Strategy and action plan for how the Council and NHS Telford & Wrekin planned to commission services to improve the mental health of people living in the Borough, and to improve outcomes for those with poor mental health. Appended to the report were an executive summary of the Strategy and the associated action plan..

The Joint Strategy was structured around six shared, cross government and multi-agency objectives, and was informed by a new national strategy for mental health – “No health without Mental Health”. Development of the Strategy had included a 13 week public consultation, and plenty of feedback was received. Much of the Strategy was focussed on the modernisation of mental health services, with the aim of having earlier, preventative

interventions carried out by strengthened and integrated community teams. This would reduce the need for in-patient stays, although 12 beds would continue to be funded at Castle Lodge, Dawley and a new purpose-built in-patient facility – the Redwood Centre – was due to open in Autumn 2012.

Members welcomed the report and the proposed Joint Strategy. In response to a comment about the increased numbers of patients being cared for in the community, the Cabinet Member advised that close monitoring of the Strategy would be undertaken by the Mental Health Partnership Board, and that the project plan ensured that community teams were strengthened prior to linked bed closures. At each stage, clinical sign-off would be required from the relevant consultant.

**RESOLVED** – that the Joint Mental Health and Well-Being Commissioning Strategy 2011-2015 be endorsed.

(NB: Councillor K. Sahota abstained from voting on this item).

**CB - 41      PROPOSAL FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF REHABILITATION AND RE-ABLEMENT SERVICES WITHIN TELFORD & WREKIN**

**Key Decision** identified as **Proposal for the Transformation of Rehabilitation and Re-ablement services within Telford & Wrekin** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member: Adult & Social Care, presented the report of the Head of Care & Support that set out a vision for rehabilitation and re-ablement services in Telford & Wrekin. Attached to the report was a draft Strategy document.

The overall aim was to provide a range of services that improved the quality of life for people and enabled them to live as independently as possible. Rehabilitation services provided essential support (either short-term or long-term) to help, for example, adults return to work after an illness or older people to live as independently as possible in their own homes. Re-ablement was an approach or philosophy within home care services that aimed to help people do things for themselves, rather than having things done for them.

The proposed model was based around working in partnership with NHS colleagues to deliver co-ordinated and effective pathways for community based rehabilitation and re-ablement services. The Council and Telford & Wrekin Primary Care Trust (PCT) had agreed that resources would be made available to develop services in line with the strategy. The Council would make available £500,000 from monies transferred to it under a Section 256 agreement, with the PCT investing an additional £488,000. In order to progress implementation, endorsement was required from the key players..

In response to a question concerning the priority this strategy would receive in the face of budget cuts, the Cabinet Member and Head of Service advised that this was part of the wider Transformation programme to re-direct

resources towards prevention and re-ablement.. As well as improving people's quality of life, it would also play a key role in achieving non-staff savings by reducing the need for long-term care (including nursing and residential care).

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) that the strategy for Rehabilitation and Re-ablement Services be endorsed, including the building of constructive relationships with NHS partners and the voluntary sector;
- (b) that a partnership commitment to resourcing community rehabilitation be noted;
- (c) that the implementation of the model, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, be supported;
- (d) that the use of funding transferred to the Council by the Primary Care Trust under a Section 256 agreement to develop rehabilitation services be approved.

**CB-42      SHORT BREAKS STATEMENT**

**Key Decision** identified as **Short Breaks Statement** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Group Manager: Procurement, Placements & Commissioning that sought approval for the publication of a Short Breaks Services Statement.

Short Breaks services had been prioritised as an area for development and growth over recent years and a comprehensive programme of short breaks services were now provided for families of disabled children in the Borough. The Council now had a duty to publish a Short Breaks Services Statement for publication by October 2011. A copy of the proposed Statement was appended to the report. It set out the services available, the eligibility criteria, and how the services were designed to meet the needs of qualifying families.

Members welcomed the report, and that the funding of the service would be at the same level as last year.

**RESOLVED -** that the Short Break Services Statement be endorsed for publication by October 2011.

**CB-43      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.

**Key Decision** identified as **Corporate Property Amendments** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Head of Property & ICT which sought authority for the disposal of land off Station Road, Newport, and to enter into a Joint Venture agreement for the proposed development in south west Newport.

The Council was the owner of 4.57ha of land off Station Road, which had been identified as being suitable for retail development. The report contained details of bids received for the site, along with proposals to enter into a Joint Venture Agreement with other landowners in South West Newport for the purposes of maximising the development potential of the land. Further detailed financial information was also provided.

Public exhibitions of the development proposals had been held in Newport prior to the submission of a planning application. There would also be a full consultation as part of the planning process.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, to negotiate and enter into a conditional contract for the sale of land off Station Road, Newport as shown indicatively only on the plan appended at Appendix 1 of the report;**
- (b) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, to negotiate and enter into a Joint Venture agreement to procure development in South West Newport;**
- (c) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery to negotiate and enter into any other agreements necessary to procure development in South West Newport as described in the report;**
- (d) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to execute all legal documentation to give effect to the above resolutions;**
- (e) **that it be noted that an Outline Planning Application for South West Newport and a detailed Planning Application for the land off Station Road would be made shortly, and that these would be dealt with separately by the Council's Plans Board.**

**CB-45      PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION**

**Key Decision** identified as **School Organisation/Capital Financing/Borough Towns Initiative/Building Schools for the Future/Planning School Places** in the Forward Plan published on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Head of School Improvement regarding proposed revisions to the Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Following a review of secondary school places in the Borough, proposed revisions to the BSF programme had been submitted by Partnership for Schools for a ministerial decision to be made on whether the scope of the proposed changes was reasonable within the current financial package and in line with current Government initiatives. It had been hoped that ministerial approval would have been forthcoming in time for this meeting, but no decision had yet been received. Should the decision be in the Council's favour, formal consultation would need to take place to consider the views of all key stakeholders and partners. In the meantime, it was proposed to undertake informal consultation on the proposals, which had already received a positive response from Partnership for Schools.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) that, if there is a positive ministerial decision on the proposals, authority be delegated to the Head of School Improvement, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, to begin informal consultation with key stakeholders and partners.**
  
- (b) that a further report be brought to Cabinet to seek approval to begin a formal consultation process.**

The meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.

**Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices**

**Jonathan Eatough  
Head of Governance  
Date: 28 September 2011**

**Signed: .....**

**Date: .....**