

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20th October, 2011 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 2011

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN MONDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 2011)

PRESENT: Councillors K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), S. Davies, A.R.H. England, W.A.M. McClements, R.A. Overton, H. Rhodes and C.F. Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor G.M. Green (Lib Dem/Independent Deputy Group Leader)

CB-46 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd September 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors E.A. Clare and P.R. Watling

CB-48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-49 UPDATE ON CONFIGURATION OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN SHROPSHIRE, TELFORD & WREKIN

The Chair welcomed Adam Cairns, Chief Executive of the Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, who was present to give an update on the proposals for the future provision of hospital services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

Mr Cairns reported that the Outline Business Case for the proposals had been approved by the various Trust Boards, but dialogue was continuing with local stakeholders and the community on developing the designs for the new facilities at the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) and putting together the Full Business Case. Mr Cairns reminded Members of why the changes to services were required, particularly in relation to keeping services in the county. For most patients, most of their services were not changing – 98% would continue to go to the same hospital as now. The improved services and facilities for patients would be focussed on the landmark development at PRH for a new Womens and Childrens Centre, and on the concentration of acute inpatient surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

There had been a high level of support for the proposals from Telford & Wrekin residents. One significant area of concern, however, related to travel and transport for those services moving from Telford to Shrewsbury. In response to this, it was proposed to have a shuttle bus service between the hospital sites for patients, visitors and staff. Work was progressing on a Travel and Transport Plan, and this was something the Council might be able to assist with.

In terms of next steps, the Full Business Case would be submitted for approval in Spring 2012, after which the main changes could start to be put into effect. It was expected that the new Women and Childrens Centre at the PRH would open in 2014. One earlier change would be implemented shortly with the move of vascular surgery to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. This would assist in the Trust gaining designation as a centre for aortic aneurysm screening. It was also reported that the Trust had been designated by the Department for Health as a "trauma unit", which was essential to the retention of services within Shropshire.

Members asked Mr Cairns a number of questions, and affirmed their support for the objective of retaining acute services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. In response to a question about the time/cost of medical consultants/specialists travelling between the two hospital sites, Mr Cairns advised that job planning ensured that consultants had dedicated time at both sites, and there was no risk to patient wellbeing. In response to a question on current waiting times, Mr Cairns stated that the Trust was focussed on dealing with a backlog of patients, through additional outpatients clinics and increased surgical activity, with the aim of resolving the issue by the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

CB-50 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2011/12

Key Decision identified as **Financial Monitoring and Financial Updates** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2011.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Head of Finance, which provided Members with the latest financial monitoring information for 2011/12.

It was reported that Revenue spending for the year was projected to be within budget at year end, but only after using £2.011m of the remaining corporate contingency. The call on the contingency would be reduced by £0.3m if the proposals in the 100 day Budget Review (currently out for consultation) were approved at Council on 24 November 2011. The main pressures were: the cost of Adult Social Care purchasing (projected overspend of £0.9m); the cost of Children in Care placements and use of agency staff in the Safeguarding service (projected net overspend of £0.76m); the cost of Specialist Education (projected overspend of £0.33m); along with income shortfalls and inflationary pressures. Projected variances of over £0.100m for each service delivery unit were detailed in the report.

There were benefits from active treasury management, the New Homes Bonus Grant, restructure/employee savings and transport efficiencies, and it

was proposed to carry this benefit forward to 2012/13 to create a one-off contingency for 2012/13. But it was clear that the Council would have an extremely challenging position for next year, and it was essential that very tight control on spend was exercised for the remainder of the current year.

If the 100 day Budget proposals were approved, the capital programme would total £100m, which also reflected adjustments for re-phasing and new approvals. Spend to date was 21% and robust programme management and monitoring was in place to ensure schemes were delivered. Appended to the report were a number of new allocations and virements for approval. The capital programme over the next few years relied on a significant amount of capital receipts as part of its funding which was also being closely monitored.

Collection levels for NNDR and Council Tax collection were behind target at the end of August, and were being closely monitored. Provisional figures for September were closer to the target position. Sales Ledger debt continued to be pursued, and was now part of the new financial management system. This was still in a transitional phase, and further detail would be brought to future meetings.

During the ensuing discussion, Cllr Eade (Conservative Group Leader) expressed concern at the continued overspend on Children in Care placements and questioned whether this budget was out of control. The Cabinet Member responded that there was an action plan in place, and no placement could be agreed without Head of Service approval. There had been a recent increase in numbers of children in care, but this reflected national trends. The over-riding consideration should be on the welfare of the child.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the 2011/12 revenue spend, currently projecting to be within budget at year end, be noted.**
- (b) **that the proposed uses of the Contingency, as detailed in section 6.2 of the report, be approved.**
- (c) **that the position in relation to capital spend be noted;**
- (d) **To RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the new capital allocations and virements detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved;**
- (e) **that it be noted that income collection was slightly behind target for NNDR and Council Tax at the end of August 2011.**

CB - 51 INVESTMENT INTO TELFORD ICE RINK (BUSINESS CASE)

Key Decision not in the Forward Plan and taken with the consent of the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with paragraph 2.7 of the Cabinet Decision Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 Section 4 of the Constitution.

Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing, presented the joint report of the Head of Leisure, Libraries & Customer Services and the Head of Property & ICT, which set out proposals for an 'in-house' option for the management of the Ice Rink. He thanked the officers involved for their hard work in developing these proposals.

The Ice Rink was in need of significant investment, and a procurement process was commenced in June 2010 for an external operator under a lease agreement. However, an 'in-house' option was now being explored as a more viable financial business model which could see the income from the Ice Rink retained by the Council and reinvested into the facility longer term, and not lost to a private sector provider.

Proposals for an 'in-house' option included the refurbishment and extension of the Ice Rink to provide a soft play facility, enhanced reception, boot change and welfare facilities, and the creation of a restaurant unit leased to an independent operator. There would also be significant work on improving the ice pad and replacement of the refrigeration plant.

A financial business case had been prepared, and was appended to the report. There would be a small additional cost of £8k in the current financial year due to the cost of borrowing. This identified both the capital and revenue implications of the 'in-house' proposal. If approved, the Ice Rink would need to close for four months from June 2012 whilst internal refurbishment works were carried out. There would also need to be a staff restructure which would be carried out in line with the wider corporate restructuring process.

Councillor Eade (Conservative Group Leader) questioned the use of prudential borrowing to fund the proposals, and stated that he did not think all the options for a private sector or social enterprise business model had been explored. In response, the Cabinet Member reported that the revenue cost of the borrowing would be recouped within a few years through increased income and efficiency savings. The potential risks of transferring the running of the Ice Rink to a private sector company were also referred to.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the proposed 'in-house' development option for the Ice Rink be approved, subject to inclusion in the approved Service & Financial Planning Strategy for 2012/13;**
- (b) To RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the inclusion of the revenue and capital implications in the Budget Strategy for 2012/13 as well as the expenditure in 2011/12, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be endorsed.**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to award any contracts necessary for the delivery of all the works outlined in the report;**

- (d) that the incorporation of the retail unit into the Property Investment Portfolio in return for a capital investment, as set out in the report, be approved.
- (e) that authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to seal or sign any documents required to give effect to the above resolutions.

CB - 52 DAWLEY SPORTS & CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY – SPORT ENGLAND BID SUBMISSION

Key Decision identified as **Dawley Sports & Learning Community – Sport England Grant Funding** in the Forward Plan published on 16th September 2011.

Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing, presented the joint report of the Head of Leisure, Libraries & Customer Services and the Head of Property & ICT, which updated Members on the funding bid to Sport England to contribute towards the sports and leisure provision at the new Dawley Sports & Co-operative Learning Community.

Since a successful Stage 1 funding submission to Sport England of £1.210m, a number of the contributing sports bodies had had to reduce or withdraw their funding following a reduction in their capital and revenue allocations from Government. There were also some changes in technical requirements for the project. The overall impact was a funding gap of £683k for the sporting element of the project outlined in the Stage 1 bid.

As a result, the Council had considered a revised option with the full support of Sport England, who had encouraged the Council to increase their Stage 1 bid from £1.21m to a Stage 2 bid of £1.5m, and had given their support to continue with an 8 court sports hall solution. The total projected capital cost for the sporting facilities was therefore £1.965m, with the Stage 2 bid consisting of a national BMX track, full size 3G pitch for Rugby League and an 8 court sports hall facility for Netball, Table Tennis and Rugby. The full financial implications were detailed in the report. There was currently a funding gap of £290k that the Council would be required to underwrite. Sport England's decision on the Stage 2 bid would be made on 16 November 2011.

The Cabinet Member thanked the officers involved for their hard work in developing the revised option.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that a Stage 2 bid for £1.5m to Sport England as per the agreed timescales and advice be approved, taking into account the major opportunities of the iconic sporting facilities to be developed in Dawley, and the identified risks;**

- (b) That, subject to full Council approval of the funding as part of the approved budget, authority be delegated to the Head of Leisure, Libraries & Customer Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing, to accept the Sport England offer if successful; enter into all necessary legal and financial agreements; and take all steps necessary to progress and deliver the alternative project in accordance with the proposals outlined in the report and the required timescales.

CB - 53 DECLARATION OF MADEBROOK POOLS AND STIRCHLEY DINGLE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Key Decision identified as **Declaration of Madebrook & Stirchley Dingle Local Nature Reserve** in the Forward Plan published on 16th June 2011.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Head of Housing & Planning that sought approval for the declaration of a new Local Nature Reserve (LNR) around the pools in Madebrook and Stirchley Dingle

The proposal had been developed in liaison with a local community group (the Madebrook & Stirchley Dingle Steering Group) and would involve volunteers carrying out small scale conservation tasks as part of the management of the site. A plan showing the boundary of the site was appended to the report. The land to be designated as the LNR was in Council ownership, and fulfilled the requirements for becoming a formal designated site.

Subject to approval, the next stage would be to seek formal designation of the LNR with Natural England prior to final declaration.

Members welcomed the report, and the level of community involvement in the development of the proposals.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the declaration of the Madebrook Pools and Stirchley Dingle Local Nature Reserve be approved;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Housing & Planning, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, to complete the declaration process.

CB-54 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES REVIEW – PROPOSALS FOR BUSINESS RATE RETENTION

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Head of Finance which contained suggested responses to a Government consultation on proposals for a

scheme of business rate retention that would replace the current system of local government finance

The proposed Business Rate Retention Scheme would operate from 2013/14 onwards and was designed to provide strong incentives for local economic growth. The proposal included a number of components, including setting a baseline using the 2012/13 formula grant as a reference point; applying tariffs and top-ups to establish a fair starting point; charging levies for disproportionate growth; and a safety net mechanism to ensure no marked year-on-year fluctuations in resources.

The consultation documents contained 33 questions supplemented by eight technical papers with further questions. Detailed responses to the consultation questions had been prepared, and were appended to the report. Among the key points made were the need to use 2012/13 formula grant before damping as a true reflection of the needs of an area, and agreement that new burdens should be funded by way of specific grants. The Cabinet Member added that there were some concerns about the impact on the Council's funding under this system if a large business enterprise in the Borough were to close.

RESOLVED - that the consultation responses shown in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

CB-55 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2011/12

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Head of Governance which asked Cabinet to consider some revisions to the list of Member appointments to Outside Bodies.

The Local Access Forum had amended its terms of reference to provide that one of the two elected representatives from the Council should be the relevant Cabinet Member. There was currently a vacancy on the Forum, as Councillor S Bentley's membership had ceased (for being absent from meetings for at least 12 months). Vacancies had also arisen for appointments to Age Concern Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and to Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau following Councillor F Bould's wish not to continue with these commitments due to a change in personal circumstances.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing be appointed to the Telford & Wrekin Local Access Forum until November 2012;**
- (b) that Councillor F.R. Picken be appointed to Age Concern Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin for the remainder of the Municipal Year;**

- (c) that Councillor A.R.H. England be appointed to the Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau – Management Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

CB-56 URGENCY RESOLUTION – SECTION 100B(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Chair 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.”

CB-57 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES – COUNCIL RESPONSE

Non- Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Head of Governance regarding initial proposals published by the Boundary Commission for England for future parliamentary constituencies in England.

The Boundary Commission’s proposals for the Borough were that there should be a Telford North and The Wrekin constituency and a Bridgnorth and Telford South constituency. Appended to the report was a more detailed consideration of the Commission’s initial proposals against the statutory criteria – foremost of which was that every constituency must have an electorate of between 72,810 and 80,473. At the request of the Mayor, and Extraordinary Council Meeting had been convened for 3 November 2011 to agree a Council response to the proposals in advance of public hearings in Ludlow on 7 and 8 November.

Members noted that the only practical options for change would only take place using the overall envelope of the two proposed constituencies. However, it was felt that there were other ways in which it could be looked at, to better reflect the boundaries of the New Town urban conurbation in particular.

RESOLVED – that officers be asked to work on an alternative proposal for debate at full Council on 3 November 2011 that, instead of splitting the Borough into a north and a south, using the M54 as a dividing line, presents two constituencies, one as an urban centre with a second constituency with a rural/ market town hinterland, providing arguments for and against such a proposal based on the secondary criteria detailed in paragraph 3.3 of Appendix 1 of the report.

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

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

Signed:

Date: