

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 31st May, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 6th JUNE, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 11th JUNE, 2012)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S. Bentley (substitute for Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader)

CB-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th April 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P.R. Watling and Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CB-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-4 WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROCUREMENT

Key Decision identified as **Waste Management Procurement** in the Forward Plan published on 16th March 2012.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Environment & Leisure which proposed the commencement of a formal procurement process for Waste Management Services.

Further to the report to Cabinet in February 2012, a market sounding event was held to canvass industry views on the most cost effective and flexible way for the future delivery of the Council's waste management service. Further work had been undertaken on the scope and framework of a future contract, details of which were appended to the report. It was proposed that all the existing contracts that expired between 2014 and 2019 be procured together now through a single process in order to maximise synergies and minimise procurement costs. An overview of the proposed procurement process was appended to the report. In order to allow the single procurement of all existing

contracts, it was proposed to extend by one year (to April 2014) the current residual/municipal waste disposal to landfill contract.

Bids for services were to be evaluated in 3 lots to attract market interest and maximise competition. It was proposed that a 20 year contract (commencing in 2014) would provide best value to the Council, with services being phased-in as current contracts ended in the period up to 2019. To ensure the new contract remained flexible and efficient, a benchmarking review would be undertaken up to every 5 years. Part of the contract provided for the provision (by the appointed contractor) of a waste transfer station, which was seen as necessary in order to minimise costs from landfill tax. During the procurement process, the Council would assess the options for a waste transfer station site and monitor the proposals put forward by the bidders.

Councillor S. Bentley (Conservative Group) expressed a number of reservations about the proposals, which he felt would not benefit the Council. The potential revenue streams to the Council from the processing and recycling of waste had not been explored, and it was suggested that Scrutiny should examine the issue before the Council went to the procurement stage. The Cabinet Member advised in response that a lot of work had taken place in preparing this strategy, which was informed by experts within the waste management field. In terms of the provision of a waste transfer station, advice was clear that the risk should be with the private sector, and that the Council did not have the money to build such a facility without incurring more significant borrowing costs. Given the pressure to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill, it was important to get on with the procurement process now.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the commencement of a formal procurement process for Waste Management Services, as detailed in the report and its appendices, be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Environment & Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council and Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery, to progress the procurement process until the Council is in a position to award the contract;**
- (c) that it be noted that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet detailing the outcome of the procurement process and to seek approval to award the contract at the appropriate time;**
- (d) that the current residual/municipal waste disposal to landfill contract be extended by one year to April 2014, for the reasons outlined in the report;**

- (e) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection to execute any documents necessary to give effect to the above recommendations;
- (f) that £0.27m available from Environment Services underspends in 2011/12 be allocated to fund project costs.

**CB-5 PLANNING FOR SCHOOL PLACES – HOLLINSWOOD
INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

Key Decision identified as **Planning for School Places – Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools** in the Forward Plan published on 10 May 2012.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, on behalf of the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the joint report of the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills and the Assistant Director: Family & Cohesion Services which sought approval to consult stakeholders on the possibility of a school merger to establish one primary school to replace Hollinswood Junior and Hollinswood Infant Schools.

The Headteacher at Hollinswood Infant School had submitted formal resignation from the end of the summer term 2012. It was therefore proposed to apply the Council's policy on infant and junior school provision to consider the options available following consultation with stakeholders. One option was the merger of the Infant School with Hollinswood Junior School. Initial discussions had been held with headteachers and governors to explain the timetable and process necessary for consultation to take place in time for any possible changes to take effect from January 2013.

In response to a question about what would happen to the current school sites if a merger took place, the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills advised that the two sites were only 50 yards apart and so the buildings on both sites would probably be retained as part of a single school.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills to engage in formal consultation with key partners and stakeholders regarding the possible merger of Hollinswood Infant & Hollinswood Junior Schools;
- (b) that a further report on the outcomes of consultation be brought to the Cabinet meeting on 26th July 2012.

CB-6 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2011/12

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the joint report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance and the

Monitoring Officer, attached to which was the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12.

Under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011, the Council was required to produce an Annual Governance Statement, and it was best practice that it was signed by the Leader and Managing Director of the Council. The Statement included an action plan to ensure that the Council continued to improve its existing governance arrangements into 2012/13. The action plan attached to the 2010/11 statement (implemented during 2011/12) had been reviewed and updated and was appended to the report.

The Annual Governance Statement outlined that the Council had been adhering to its Local Code of Corporate Governance, continually reviewing and improving its procedures to maintain and demonstrate good corporate governance. The Council could be assured that during 2011/12, including during the organisational changes, the existing governance framework had continued to support proper governance. Assurance for the Annual Governance Statement was provided by all areas of the Council including senior management, Members, the Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer and internal audit.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Governance Statement 2011/12, as shown at Appendix A of the report, be agreed.

CB -7 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2012/13 – ENGLISH SEVERN & WYE REGIONAL FLOOD & COASTAL COMMITTEE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, which requested Cabinet to make a Member appointment to the newly established English Severn & Wye Regional Flood & Coastal Committee.

The English Severn and Wye Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) had been established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and replaced the former Severn Trent RFCC. The new RFCC consisted of a chair appointed by the Minister for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, eight Local Authority representatives, and six persons appointed by the Environment Agency. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, Telford & Wrekin was entitled to appoint one representative to the new RFCC.

The main list of appointments to outside bodies for 2012/13 would be considered by Cabinet at its 28 June meeting. However, this appointment was being considered before then because the Environment Agency had requested confirmation of the Council's appointee to the RFCC by 1 June. Group Leaders had been asked to submit any nominations for this appointment. One nomination, for Councillor H. Rhodes, had been received.

RESOLVED – that Councillor H. Rhodes be appointed as the Council's representative on the English Severn and Wye Regional Flood & Coastal Committee for 2012/13.

CB-8 UPDATE ON CONFIGURATION OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN SHROPSHIRE, TELFORD & WREKIN

The Leader welcomed Adrian Osborne (Communications Director) and Chris Needham (Associate Director of Estates) from the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, who were present to give an update to Members on the reconfiguration of hospital services.

Mr Osborne stated that the Full Business Case for the reconfiguration proposals was last week approved by the Strategic Health Authority. This meant that detailed work could now start on the new Women and Children's Unit at the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH), planning permission for which had been granted. Preparation work was also underway on centralising adult inpatient surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and moving head and neck inpatient services to the PRH. Feedback from patient and public workshops was being incorporated into a Travel and Transport Plan. Some indicative drawings of the exterior and interior of the new Women and Children's Unit were shown, and it was stressed that patients, families and local groups were being closely involved in the detailed planning and design.

Members welcomed the news that the Full Business Case had been approved, and that the PRH would be getting a fantastic new facility. Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Ind Group Leader) asked that the Trust and its contractors liaise with local Ward Councillors during the construction period at the PRH, so any issues arising from the work could be addressed. In response, Mr Needham stated that there would be a lot of publicity and information for local residents about what to expect during the construction phase, and local Elected members would be involved in this.

Mr Osborne also reported that the Trust had just appointed Mr Peter Herring as their new Chief Executive. Mr Herring currently worked at the Countess of Chester Hospital, and would be joining the Trust in September. The outgoing Chief Executive, Adam Cairns, would be leaving at the end of June, and interim arrangements would be in place from then until September. Members thanked Mr Cairns for all his work in securing the future of acute health services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and wished him well for the future.

CB-9 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it 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 - 10 SOUTHWATER ENERGY SERVICES PROVISION

Non-Key Decision

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which sought approval to appoint a contractor as the Energy Services Provider for the Southwater development.

A central component of delivering a sustainable Town Centre was the creation of a District Heating Network (DHN) which could supply heat and electricity, generated on site, to buildings throughout Southwater. In a previous report to Cabinet in July 2011, it was identified that, once constructed, the Energy Centre (from which the DHN would be operated) and associated pipework would become an asset owned by the Council, which could then be marketed to a service provider. Since then, a comprehensive procurement process had been undertaken, details of which were set out in the report. This included full financial and qualitative evaluations of the submitted tenders.

One of the tenderers had put forward a proposal that would allow the Council to receive rental income, as well as the benefit of energy cost savings. In response to a question, the Cabinet Member advised that District Heating systems were commonplace in many parts of Europe, and were now becoming more accepted in the UK as a means of reducing energy costs.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the appointment of Vital Energi Utilities Ltd (Vital) as Southwater's Energy Services provider be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to conclude contract negotiations and enter into a lease with Vital;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to conclude contract negotiations and enter into a Service Level Agreement with Vital Energi Utilities Ltd for the supply of energy to Council owned buildings;**
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to seal or sign any documents required to give effect to the resolutions above.**

The meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 6th June 2012

Signed:

Date: