

## **CABINET**

**Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 26th January, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford**

**PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 1st FEBRUARY, 2012**

**(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2012)**

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

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

### **CB-84      MINUTES**

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

### **CB-85      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor C.F. Smith

### **CB-86      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **CB-87      SCRUTINY REPORT – LEISURE CONCESSIONS AND ARTHOG REMISSIONS POLICY REVIEW**

**Key Decision** identified as **Scrutiny Committee Reports** in the Forward Plan published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Councillor A. McClements, Chairman of the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee, presented the Committee's report on the review of the leisure services concessions policy. The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing and senior officers had put the suggestion forward, and the Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be engaged at an early stage of the policy review.

The review was driven by the need to make non-staff savings of around £400k for Leisure, of which £50k was proposed from a review of concessionary charges from 2012/13. In carrying out their review, the Committee met with the Cabinet Member and the Head of Service/Service Delivery Manager. The Committee considered the existing concessions policy and appraised the options for revising the schemes to generate the required level of additional income. A wide range of options were considered across all age groups and activities. Members considered the potential impact on service users, and the

financial risks associated with each option, as well as new ideas for income generation. Members had also considered the Remissions Policy for Arthog Outdoor Education Centre following a complaint that it was unfair that pupils were either required to pay the full course fee or nothing. The recommendations arising from the review were:

- To remove the automatic concessionary status for new over 60s except for those in receipt of Pensions Credit
- To introduce a flat rate £1 charge for swimming for all concessionary groups
- To standardise and increase concessionary Health & Fitness memberships to £21.50 pcm for all members
- To remove concessions on golf for all groups
- To retain the existing Arthog Remissions Policy

The Committee felt that their recommendations were fair, and that those in genuine need would continue to benefit from the leisure concessions scheme. Even with these changes, Telford & Wrekin's concessions policy would still be relatively generous compared with other authorities.

Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing, presented the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny Committee's report and recommendations. He thanked the Committee for their report and officers for the modelling work that had been done on the various savings options. Cabinet was accepting all the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, and the proposed actions and timescales to implement them were detailed in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report. The revised leisure concessions scheme would be operational from 1 April 2012.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- that the response to the Scrutiny Committee's report, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;**
- that the revised policy and new charges be implemented from 1 April 2012.**

#### **CB-88      REGENERATION OF BROOKSIDE CENTRE**

**Key Decision** identified as **Proposed Brookside Regeneration** in the Forward Plan published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Head of Property and ICT, which set out proposals to work co-operatively with Brookside residents, public sector partners, the third sector and businesses to facilitate the physical regeneration of Brookside Local Centre.

Brookside was the Council's co-operative pilot ward and, while the initial focus was on the Local Centre, the Council was committed to working closely with residents to deliver major improvements across the estate. It was proposed that consultation and resident involvement would be discussed initially with

the Brookside Co-operative Pilot Steering Group, which was made up of key stakeholders and representatives from the residents-led Brookside Improvement Group. Residents had previously identified a number of environmental and social issues around the Local Centre that were of particular concern, and a “quick win” action plan had been developed to urgently address these concerns ahead of the main scheme. This would represent a statement of intent to residents and partners of the Council’s commitment.

The Local Centre scheme would need to fulfil the requirements and aspirations of the community and would need to be commercially viable. It was anticipated that the scheme would focus on the design and usage of the Community Centre (including the existing Youth Building), the detailed design and layout of any new public realm and open space areas, and the viability of a road link to further improve connections across the estate and make the Centre sustainable in the long term. The Council was currently consulting on its draft Budget strategy which included the proposed investment in Brookside. The feedback from this consultation would be used to inform the Council’s final Budget Strategy and the investment in Brookside.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Officers who had worked on this project, as well as the local ward members and Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) that a public consultation be undertaken to fully develop a proposed scheme for the regeneration of Brookside Local Centre, working directly with the Brookside community through the Brookside Co-operative Pilot Steering Group;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, to take all steps necessary to deliver the “urgent actions” for Brookside Local Centre, subject to being in accordance with the Council’s Budget Strategy following budget consultation;**
- (c) that a further report be brought to Cabinet to confirm the design proposals and to provide a budget update following the public consultation and approval of the Council’s Budget Strategy.**

**CB - 89      CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL – 6 MONTHS ON**

**Non-Key Decision**

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Managing Director, which updated Members on the steps towards becoming a Co-operative Council and to set out a proposed programme of work to further develop and embed co-operative working across the Council.

The Council had made a clear commitment to become a Co-operative Council, which was about working together with residents, partners and other local organisations to collectively deliver the best services within the resources available. The initial programme of work was agreed by Cabinet in July 2011, and progress to date on the delivery of the Early Adopter projects was detailed in the report. These included the Brookside ward initiatives, the 'Your Money, Your Projects' scheme to allocate £1000 to each ward member, the launch of a new Schools Learning Partnership, establishment of a Health Hub at Civic Offices First Point (in conjunction with the Primary Care Trust), and taking steps to bring Dawley Town Hall back into community use. The other main priority had been the establishment of the Co-operative Commission involving community and business leaders and residents, and an internal Employee Commission. The Cabinet Member thanked the members of the Commissions, who were working voluntarily to find solutions to the issues facing local people at a time of tough economic conditions and reducing council budgets.

In terms of the way forward, the report set out the six main work-streams –

- continuation of the Adopter Programme;
- Cabinet to receive the recommendations of the Co-operative Commission;
- Employee Commission to carry out a co-ordinated consultation exercise;
- Working in Partnership – a proposed new partnership framework was appended to the report;
- Strengthening relationships with the Community – including developing a new overarching Settlement in conjunction with the community;
- Making the Change – changing the culture and working in new ways

Members welcomed the report, and highlighted some of the initiatives that were already demonstrating the benefits of co-operative working. Councillor A. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) expressed disappointment that the proposed Small Loans Business Fund had not been established. The Cabinet Member advised that there had been limited interest from local businesses in contributing to a co-operative small business loans fund. However, businesses were now working together to develop a 'business angels' model, which the Council would help to promote but would not contribute to financially. Cabinet Members also expressed the hope that all political groups on the Council would get involved on the Co-operative Commission.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) that the proposed work programme, as set out in Section 5 of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Co-operative Council and Partnerships, to take all steps necessary or appropriate to implement the work programme set out in Section 5 of the report, and to deliver the proposed Adopter Programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**

**CB-90            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.

**CB - 91            REGENERATION OF BROOKSIDE CENTRE**

**Key Decision** identified as **Proposed Brookside Regeneration** in the Forward Plan published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Head of Property and ICT, which followed on from the report considered earlier on the agenda. In taking forward the proposals for the regeneration of Brookside Local Centre (as resolved at minute CB-88 above), there were a number of commercial and financial implications that necessitated this particular report being considered as an exempt item of business.

The report set out the Development Concept for Brookside Local Centre, including details of land and property ownership, along with proposed acquisition and disposal of land, buildings and third party interests required to deliver the scheme. The proposed capital programme 2012/13 to 2014/15 included £6.155m in respect of improvements, and the report outlined the proposed funding and cashflow relating to the delivery of the indicative scheme for the Local Centre.

Consultation would take place with the local community on the design and planning of the scheme, after which a planning application based on the agreed design would be submitted.

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, to submit an application for planning permission in respect of the Scheme, following the outcome of the budget consultation;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, to negotiate and finalise the terms for acquisition and disposal of land, buildings and third party interests required to deliver the Scheme, and to take all steps necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Scheme;
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to take all steps necessary to facilitate land assembly and otherwise to deliver the Scheme, including the exercise of relevant powers of compulsory acquisition (if required) and to execute all documents

required to give effect to the recommendations in this report and the report considered earlier on the agenda;

- (d) **TO RECOMMEND** to Council that the necessary capital and revenue estimates as detailed in the report be approved, subject to being in accordance with the Council's Budget Strategy following budget consultation.

**CB-92      BSF – ERCALL WOOD TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL**

**Key Decision** identified as **Building Schools for the Future – Ercall Wood Land Acquisition and Disposal** in the Forward Plan published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Head of Property & ICT, which sought approval for the acquisition, swap and disposal of land in order to facilitate the construction of a new School as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The report also provided an update on the construction costs for the new Ercall Wood School, and the proposed site plan. Ercall Wood Technology College would be the 'sample' scheme for procuring from the PfS framework contract for the construction of the remaining schools in the BSF programme.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) **that approval be given to (i) the acquisition of land adjacent to the existing Ercall Wood Technology College; (ii) a land swap with the Governing Body of the College; and (iii) subsequent to the construction of the new School, disposal of the School's existing playing field to generate a capital receipt to contribute to the construction of the new School;**
- (b) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Property & ICT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, to agree the land acquisition, swap and sale arrangements;**
- (c) **that authority be delegated to the Head of Governance to agree and execute all necessary documentation.**

The meeting ended at 5.40 p.m.

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

**Jonathan Eatough  
Head of Governance  
Date: 1 February 2012**

**Signed: .....**

**Date: .....**