

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 23rd February, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 29th FEBRUARY, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 5th MARCH, 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, H. Rhodes, C.F. Smith and P.R. Watling

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

CB-93 MINUTES

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

CB-94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-96 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2011/12

Key Decision identified as **Financial Monitoring and Financial Updates** in the Forward Plan published on 17th January 2012.

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, after setting aside £2.145m to support the 2012/13 budget, the creation of an invest-to-save fund on £0.500m for 2012/13, and using £1.121m of the remaining corporate contingency. This was an improvement of £0.836m compared to the position in December 2011, mainly due to the impact of vacant posts. However, there were still a number of significant pressures on the budget. The main pressures were: the cost of Adult Social Care purchasing (projected overspend of £0.973m); the cost of Children in Care placements and use of agency staff in the Safeguarding service (projected net overspend of £1.6m); the cost of Specialist Education (projected overspend of £0.4m); along with income shortfalls and inflationary

pressures. Projected variances of over £0.100m for individual service delivery units were detailed in the report.

There were benefits from active treasury management, the insurance renewal process, the New Homes Bonus Grant, and £0.580m 2012/13 efficiencies delivered early. It was proposed to carry this benefit forward, together with any unused part of the contingency in the current year, to 2012/13 to create a one-off contingency. 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.

The capital programme totalled £84.3m, which reflected adjustments for re-phasing and new approvals and the impact of the 100 day budget. Spend to the end of December 2011 was 47% and robust programme management and monitoring was in place to ensure schemes were delivered. Appended to the report were a number of new allocations, slippage 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, and the position was being closely monitored. There was no variation from receipts delivered compared to expectation to date.

Collection levels for Council Tax and NNDR collection were slightly behind target, while Sales Ledger debt was ahead of target at the end of December 2011.

Members welcomed the creation of an Invest to Save Fund. Concerns were expressed by Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) in relation to the continued over-spend in the budget for Children in Care, despite promises that had been given to get this expenditure under control. Cllr P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, advised that the numbers of children in care was continuing to increase. However, the current Administration would continue to put the needs of these young people first, and would not take risks with their safety because of financial considerations. However, every effort was being made to get the situation under control, and a cross-party corporate parenting group was being set-up to look at this issue.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the 2011/12 revenue spend, currently projecting to be within budget at year end, be noted.**
- (b) that the creation of an Invest to Save Fund totalling £0.500m, which will be carried forward to 2012/13, be approved;**
- (c) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted;**
- (d) To RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the new capital allocations, slippage and virements detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved;**

- (e) that it be noted that collection of council tax and NNDR income is slightly behind target, while Sales Ledger debt is ahead of target at the end of December 2011.

CB-97 SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2012/13 TO 2014/15

Recommendation to Council- not subject to Call-In

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery, presented a series of reports of the Managing Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance. The reports, detailing the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, formed the Council's overall Medium Term Service & Financial Planning framework, and identified the service priorities and budget for 2012/13 as well as savings proposals to be delivered over the next three years, and a medium term capital programme. There was a minor amendment to the table at paragraph 5.2 of the revenue budget report, whose columns should have been headed '£000' instead of '£m'

The report set out the pressures facing the Council, including projected grant cuts of around £40m in real terms, reduced income from having a relatively low council tax, increasing numbers of older people needing adult care services, increasing numbers of looked-after children, impact of the economic recession and inflation, the use of over £9.2m of one-off resources in the current year's budget, and the repayment of debt incurred in respect of past capital investment decisions.

The report also outlined the actions already being taken to meet the financial challenges, including reducing the number of senior managers, savings of almost £6m in "back-office" functions, a strong focus on procurement to deliver savings, and a rationalisation of operational buildings across the Borough. Following publication of the Cabinet's budget proposals in December 2011, there had been extensive consultation via a wide range of media and settings to involve local people and allow them to express their views. This had resulted in far more responses and comments being submitted than any other previous budget consultation. Among the key results of the consultation was strong agreement with the plans for Children & Family Services, for Adult Services and for Environmental Services. The most supported savings included the street lighting efficiency programme, with the least supported being the increase in parking charges in Ironbridge and the number of gritting routes for next winter. In the light of the comments received, some of the proposals for parking charges/permits, charges for low-level support to vulnerable adults who did not meet the eligibility threshold for community care support, and for winter maintenance had been revised to reflect the concerns that had been raised by the public. In total, 2,287 people responded to the question regarding Council Tax – 37% favoured Option 1 (use government grant to freeze council tax, but with implications for future years), 37% preferred Option 2 (increase Council Tax by 2.5%), and 26% opted for Option 3 (increase Council Tax by 3.5% with benefits in subsequent years).

An equality impact analysis of the overall impact of the budget was appended to the report, along with environmental and economic impact assessments.

Having considered the responses to consultation and equality analysis, the key proposals being recommended for approval by full Council on 1 March 2012 were:

- In line with the responses to the consultation exercise, a proposed increase in the level of council tax of 2.5% in 2012/13. It was also proposed to plan on the basis of increases at this level for the remainder of the term of this Council. This would ensure that the financial position and ability of the Council to deliver services was more sustainable than the short-term alternative of taking a one-off grant from the Government which would otherwise force greater cuts or a higher council tax increase in 2013/14.
- Implementation of the further reductions to the number of senior managers recently consulted upon and continuation of the organisation wide restructuring and service review process currently underway which would see budgets cut by 20% in most parts of the Council although the actual level of savings would vary between different services. Staffing budgets would have been reduced by over £17m and non-staff savings proposals included in this report totalled over £21m over the three year period.
- To protect the adult social care budget by reinvesting savings of £2.5m back in to adult social care services.
- To continue the Council's investment commitment in key infrastructure projects such as new and improved schools and the regeneration of Telford Town Centre as well as some new investment in Brookside.
- To suspend the contribution to the single status provision until implementation, planned for 2014/15.

The Council's Chief Financial Officer was required to give a view on the robustness of the Council's financial strategy, including the use of balances, and this was appended to the report. This had concluded that the Council was pursuing a sound financial strategy in the context of the most difficult financial position it had ever faced.

The report on the Capital Programme presented the Council's Capital Strategy for 2012/13 – 2014/15 and later years and a capital programme of £336.092m that included the proposed investments contained in the overall budget strategy. Details of the major projects and investments to be resourced were annexed to the report. It also set out the Council's Asset Management Plan and planned building maintenance programme, particularly focusing on 2012/13, and the three year Highways and Transport capital investment programme.

The report on the Treasury Management Strategy detailed the Treasury Strategy to be adopted for 2012/13. To comply with the latest guidance and standards, the Treasury Management Policy statement had been updated

with additional statements in relation to borrowing and investments. The report also provided an update on the treasury management activities during 2011/12.

The report on Prudential Indicators sought approval of the prudential indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15 required under the Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Recommendations by Cabinet would be considered at full Council on 1st March 2012 as full Council was responsible for setting the overall revenue and capital budget framework. At that meeting full Council would also set the Council Tax for 2012/13.

The Chairman of the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee, Cllr R.J. Sloan, presented the comments of the Committee on the budget proposals. The Committee recognised the challenge that was faced in setting the budget in the context of the cuts to the Council's grant settlement. With over 200 specific savings proposals, it had not been possible to review them all – rather, the Committee had focussed on some specific areas. Detailed comments were set out in the Appendix to the Revenue Budget report. The Committee had not made any specific comments on the issue of Council Tax, but recognised the difficult position facing the Council.

The Main Opposition Group Leader Cllr A.J. Eade was invited to comment on the Cabinet's budget proposals. Cllr Eade welcomed the retention of free parking in most areas of the Borough and the proposed investment in the Ironbridge Gorge Stability Project. However, he had considerable concerns at the scaling back of the Southwater Development and the impact this could have on jobs and the local economy. He also raised concerns in relation to proposed savings in the meals on wheels service and for domiciliary care packages. He also questioned the proposed closure of the Newport Community Recycling Centre; in the light of a likely increase in demand for this facility as a result of proposals for more housing and retail developments in Newport, it demonstrated a lack of "joined-up" thinking. In relation to the Council Tax options that had been consulted on, Councillor Eade asserted that the consultation survey was flawed in that not all the options had been presented to local people, and that it had not asked the question as to whether respondents were in receipt of council tax benefit.

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson, Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader, was then invited to comment on the budget proposals. He highlighted the unfairness of swingeing cuts being imposed by Government on an efficient, low tax Council – as well as the impact of the withholding of grant through the damping mechanism, and the underfunding of schools in the Borough. He welcomed much of the content of the service and financial planning reports, particularly the more prudent approach to capital investment in regeneration projects.

During the ensuing robust debate, Cabinet Members defended their revised proposals for the Southwater re-development, which would not harm the town centre nor the International Centre. The public had clearly indicated at last

year's Borough Elections that they did not want a new Civic Offices building as part of that re-development. In terms of proposed savings to domiciliary care packages, Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, stated that this represented only £50k out of a budget of over £8m, but that the over-riding priority was to ensure that vulnerable people were looked after in the best and most appropriate way. In response to the concerns raised by Councillor Eade about the consultation on the Council Tax options, Cabinet Members stressed the high levels of support for a council tax rise across all wards of the Borough, and expressed disappointment at the comments made about recipients of Council tax benefit.

RESOLVED – to RECOMMEND to COUNCIL on 1st March 2012

(i) Overview and Revenue Budget 2012/13 – 2014/15

- (a) that the base budget summarised by Service Delivery Unit in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;**
- (b) that an increase of 2.5% in council tax levels in 2012/13 (41 pence per week for the average property in the Borough) and a strategy of increasing council tax by 2.5% in future budgets set by the current Administration, in order to maintain financial stability and to protect the delivery of front-line services, be approved;**
- (c) that the reinvestment of £2.5m savings from Adult Social Care to offset service pressures being faced by Adult Social Care services in 2012/13, and the release of £0.9m from the proposed corporate inflation contingency in line with the savings proposals included at (e) below, be approved;**
- (d) that the feedback from the budget consultation summarised in Appendix 11 and from the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee in Appendix 9 be considered;**
- (e) that the 2012/13 net savings package of £8.899m (£9.48m gross) from non-staffing budgets and £8.158m (£9.59m gross) from staffing budgets detailed in Appendices 4, 5 and 6, and the savings proposals set out in these appendices for future years, be approved;**
- (f) that the planned savings targets in future years detailed in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 be approved;**
- (g) that the earmarking of the projected one-off funding transfer of £3m as outlined in section 4.3 of the report from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) anticipated to be received in 2011/12 to support the Adult Social Care budget on a one-off basis in 2012/13 following the transfer of significant costs relating to Continuing Health Care cases to the Council from the PCT be approved;**

- (h) that the earmarking of £2.145m underspends and savings delivered ahead of schedule in 2011/12 as a one-off budget contingency for use in 2012/13 be approved. This amount may be increased further should the Council underspend at the end of 2011/12 as currently projected.**
- (i) that the suspension of the contribution to the single status provision until 2014/15, with an ongoing reduction to this budget of £0.9m to offset the cost of the elimination of fixed point grades and to recognise the reduction in the size of the workforce following organisational restructuring, be approved;**
- (j) that the Education budget position set out in section 4.11 of the report be noted;**
- (k) that the statement of the Chief Finance Officer in paragraph 6 of the report (supported by Appendix 8 outlining the robustness of the Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves) be noted;**
- (l) that the policy framework for Reserves and Balances outlined in Appendix 8 be approved;**
- (m) that the use of £1.39m general balances to support the ongoing revenue budget in 2012/13 be approved;**
- (n) that the earmarking of £0.25m of the General Fund balance as a reserve to support greater flexibility in the working of leisure services be approved;**
- (o) that the revenue implications of the medium term capital programme for the period 2012/13 – 2014/15 set out in the Capital Programme report also on this agenda be noted;**
- (p) that the council's priorities as set out in section 4.5 of the report be confirmed, and that it be noted that the Council Plan will be brought to Cabinet for consideration during March 2012.**

(ii) Capital Programme 2012/13 – 2014/15

- (a) that the Capital Programme and associated capital estimates and variations for 2011/12 and 2012/13 – 2014/15, which incorporate the Capital Strategy, the Planned Building Maintenance Programme, the Asset Management Plan and the three year Highways & Transport capital investment programme, be approved.**

(iii) **2012/13 Treasury Strategy and Treasury Update**

- (a) that the treasury management activities for the first half year be noted;
- (b) that the updated Treasury Management Policy, as shown at Appendix A of the report, be approved;
- (c) that the Treasury Strategy, including the Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13, together with the associated Treasury prudential indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, be approved.

(iv) **Prudential Indicators**

- (a) that the prudential indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15, as set out in the report, be approved.

RESOLVED – that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing to deliver the planned programme of works within the Asset Management Plan, and to the Assistant Director: Environmental & Leisure Services to deliver the Highways and Transport capital investment programme, in line with the approved budgets with any variations or changes to schemes in these programmes, that remain within overall approved budgets, after consultation with the appropriate Cabinet members.

CB-98 SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Managing Director, which presented an overview of performance after the first six months of 2011/12 against the Council's interim priorities.

A number of changes and developments had influenced the performance measures used by the Council to understand progress against its strategic objectives. These included the removal of the National Indicator Set, the introduction of a compulsory basket of datasets which local authorities had to submit, and a new series of Council priorities. Whilst consultation was continuing on the Council's new set of priorities, as a stop-gap a basket of pre-existing indicators had been aligned to the interim priorities. Details of the performance at 6 months against the indicators for each interim priority was appended to the report – and the Cabinet Member highlighted particular areas of improvement as well as some worsening indicators. It was clear that the impact of the economic recession and higher unemployment was having an impact on some of the indicators.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

CB - 99 FAMILY AND FRIENDS POLICY

Key Decision identified as **Family and Friends Policy** in the Forward Plan published on 17th January 2012.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding, which sought endorsement of a policy relating to the care of children by family and friends where birth parents were unable to provide care temporarily or in the longer term. A copy of the Policy was appended to the report.

The Policy had been produced in response to new guidance issued by the Department for Education, and brought together in one place existing Council policies and procedures. The Policy recognised that in most situations, children were best cared for by family and friends, and that often this was an informal arrangement in which the local authority had no role. However, some families and friends carers might need some additional advice and support, and the Policy described those arrangements which the Council had a statutory duty to assess and support. This included private fostering arrangements.

The Policy also covered those situations where the child becomes looked after by the local authority, and the actions which the Council would take to determine whether the family and friends carers were able to care for the child under a fostering arrangement. The policy also included details of other legal arrangements which a court of law could make to determine where a child lives, eg: adoption, residence orders and Special Guardianship orders.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the Family and Friends Policy, as appended to the report, be endorsed;**
- (b) **that it be noted that the Policy will be launched from 1 April 2012 to enable appropriate training for staff.**

CB-100 WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Key Decision identified as **Waste Management Procurement Options Appraisal** in the Forward Plan published on 14th December 2011.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, and Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the lead Corporate Director for Environmental Services, which sought approval on the future waste management service options prior to the Council entering into formal procurement.

Waste management collection, disposal and treatment contracts were due for renewal from 2014. Based on analysis of waste composition and targets, population growth, emerging legislative considerations, and the results of community engagement on the future waste service, an Outline Service Framework had been scoped prior to formal procurement. A copy of the Framework was appended to the report. This framework set out the 'packages' of service elements which were likely to be procured through a single procurement exercise to maximise best value opportunities. In relation to legislative requirements and national/EU targets for diverting biodegradable waste from landfill, it was estimated that if further measures were not taken to reduce such waste going to landfill, it could cost the Council an additional £698,000 per year in landfill tax.

The options appraisal had demonstrated that a waste bulking/transfer station within or adjacent to the Borough would probably be necessary, and the report detailed three options for bringing such a facility into operation through a future contract.

To test the likely market response to the options and Outline Service Framework, it was proposed to hold a market sounding event with potential bidders.

During the ensuing discussion, the Opposition Group Leaders commented on the apparent lack of an option for a Council-run waste bulking/transfer station (as such a facility could bring in income), and the timescale for the procurement process. The Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships advised that this was very much the start of a process, and nothing had been ruled in or out at this stage. A further report would be brought to Cabinet by May 2012 to commence formal procurement.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Outline Services Framework, as shown at Appendix 2 of the report, to support the procurement process be approved;**
- (b) that a market sounding event be held to inform the procurement process;**
- (c) that the recommendations within this report be used to update the Municipal Waste Strategy 2005 – 2021;**
- (d) that a further report be brought to Cabinet by May 2012 to commence formal procurement.**

CB-101 SCHOOL ORGANISATION – JIGSAW SCHOOL

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 17th January 2011.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Families & Young People, presented the joint report of the Assistant Director: Family & Cohesion Services and the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills, which set out the proposals for the potential reconfiguration of education provision at the Jigsaw School site in Hadley following a recent review of the current service delivery arrangements.

Jigsaw was part of the Hadley Learning Community, and provided a school unit for 30 pupils in key stages 3 and 4 with significant and complex behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD), with four purpose built 4 bed children's homes adjacent to the school. Current special needs educational provision, including Jigsaw, did not meet present needs, leading to a number of high cost external placements. An analysis of need had concluded that the biggest individual cohort of children and young people were those who fell into the Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and BESD category – 41 in 2011/12. It was therefore proposed in the longer term to create an ASD/BESD specialist school provision at Jigsaw School. However, to allow time for the new arrangements to be implemented at Jigsaw, it was proposed that the existing school be annexed to the Hadley Learning Community (HLC) with leadership being provided by a Vice Principal Jigsaw working to the Principal at HLC with effect from September 2012. Preliminary discussions had taken place with the school and it was anticipated that these arrangements would be confirmed during the consultation phase.

The contract with the current providers of education at Jigsaw School was due to end in July 2012, and benchmarking work suggested the contract no longer represented value for money. Therefore, as part of the transitional arrangements, staff at Jigsaw would TUPE transfer to HLC with effect from 1st September 2012.

Options were also being considered for using the 4 houses on the Jigsaw site, which would be subject of a separate report following further consultation and taking into account the needs and wishes of the current residents. The report before Members also set out the proposed consultation (including a 6 week statutory consultation) work that would be undertaken with service users, partners and stakeholders.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that, subject to being able to appropriately re-commission accommodation provision currently provided at Jigsaw, a period of consultation, as outlined in the report, for establishing a specialist ASD school be approved;**
- (b) that the proposal for the school to be initially managed and governed by Hadley Learning Community be endorsed;**
- (c) that the results of the consultation be brought back to a future Cabinet for further consideration of a final option for Jigsaw School, including the four purpose-built 4 bed children's homes adjacent to the school.**

CB-102 DAWLEY TOWN HALL – INVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITY USE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which set out the proposals for working with partners and the community to return Dawley Town Hall to community use.

Community consultation had indicated that the building could be used for a variety of community activities including family and adult learning, toddler groups, dance and drama classes/performances, and for hire for celebration and social events. A steering group was progressing these ideas, with a view to creating a unique facility for the people of Dawley.

Various management models had been considered, and the preferred option for local stakeholders was for the building to be leased to a partnership group that was external to the Council. This 'Community Trust' model would enable access to a wider range of funding opportunities to refurbish the Town Hall, and provide a more sustainable future for the facility. Dawley Regeneration Partnership had agreed to manage the project in the interim until the Community Trust was fully operational. Great Dawley Parish Council and Capgemini had each pledged £10,000 towards the delivery of the project.

A number of options for refurbishing the building had been drawn-up, and it was proposed to submit an application to the Big Lottery (through the Dawley Regeneration Partnership) for a contribution towards the costs of the refurbishment and other capital costs. Through existing budgets, the Council had identified a contribution of £120,000 that could be used as match funding for the Lottery bid.

Members welcomed the work being undertaken to bring Dawley Town Hall back into community use, which represented a good example of Co-operative working with local people and organisations.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the Council continues to work with the Dawley Town Hall Steering Group, Dawley Regeneration Partnership, partners and the community to return Dawley Town Hall to community use, including support to secure additional funding and to establish the Dawley Town Hall Community Trust (under the umbrella of Dawley Regeneration Partnership) to manage the building in the future;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships, to negotiate and agree terms of an appropriate lease**

for Dawley Town Hall with the Dawley Regeneration Partnership or Dawley Town Hall Community Trust;

- (c) that the funding identified in section 4 of the report to contribute to the refurbishment costs to bring the building into community use be approved;**
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to execute any documents necessary to give effect to the above recommendations.**

CB-103 CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH TO WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnership, presented the report of the Managing Director which updated Members on progress on a number of initiatives in developing a co-operative approach to community working.

A key role of the Priority Action Team was to co-ordinate relationships between local services, communities, Town & Parish Councils and the voluntary sector. Members of the Team had been located at community centres in Woodside, Brookside and Donnington, with the Priority Action Co-ordinators able to work from a variety of community bases across the Borough. The report detailed work being carried out in Brookside, the Council's co-operative pilot ward. This included a lifelong learning plan to address inequalities in education, training and skills, and the delivery of this Plan would be key to supporting wider regeneration proposals for Brookside. In Donnington, support had been provided to the Donnington Partnership in helping them become a registered charity and developing the Community Café into a social enterprise.

In order to encourage more community involvement within the existing Council-run community centres, the management of these centres would transfer to the Community Engagement, Equalities & Action Team from 1 April 2012.

The report also detailed the delivery of the 'Your Money Your Projects' scheme, which allocated £1,000 to each ward member to use on local projects/schemes. Proposals had been received from the majority of ward members and the final funding agreements were currently being sent out, and payments being made. In some wards, Town & Parish Councils had also made a financial contribution towards the projects. Feedback had been received that the scheme would work more effectively if members had more flexibility around when the funding could be allocated. It was therefore proposed that the scheme be developed for 2012/13 into a 'Ward Co-operative Fund' – the criteria for which was detailed in the report.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the information relating to revised working arrangements for the Priority Action Team, Strategic Lead for the Voluntary Sector and future management of the Council's community centres be noted;
- (b) that a Ward Co-operative Fund be developed in 2012/13 in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Environment, Co-operative Council & Partnerships;
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Community Engagement, Equalities and Action Manager, in consultation with the relevant ward member, to approve and implement applications for funding from the Ward Co-operative Fund.

CB-104 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 - 105 SUTTON HILL LOCAL CENTRE – LAND DISPOSAL

Key Decision identified as **Sutton Hill Local Centre – Land Disposal Arrangements** in the Forward Plan published on 14th December 2011.

Councillor C. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which sought approval to market and dispose of the small housing development sites that had been created as a result of the re-development scheme for Sutton Hill Local Centre.

As part of the re-development, 32 housing units were acquired and demolished to enable the completion of new infrastructure and retail facilities, and to create sites for new, high-quality housing. The report detailed the sites for disposal and the likely valuations attached to them, based on District Valuation Office estimates and local factors. Market testing was now being undertaken to gauge the likely interest from the private sector, but that if no interest was forthcoming, the report detailed a preferred option for the disposal of the sites. The report outlined the financial implications of the proposals and the likely receipts to the Council, bearing in mind that the funding agreement for Sutton Hill stated that the net receipt would be split 50% for the Council and 50% for the Homes & Communities Agency.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the disposal of the sites detailed in the report (subject to formal market testing) be approved, in order to secure the timely

regeneration of Sutton Hill Local Centre with high quality new housing;

- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to carry out all steps necessary to facilitate disposal of the sites and negotiate and finalise the terms of the transactions required;
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to execute all legal documentation and take all steps necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Head of Governance
Date: 29 February 2012

Signed:

Date: