

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 25th July, 2013 at 5.00 p.m. at the AFC Telford Learning Centre, Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 31st JULY, 2013

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 5th AUGUST, 2013)

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, C.F. Smith and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CB-18 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27th June 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-19 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

CB-21 **FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14**

Key Decision identified as **Financial Monitoring 2013/14** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 30 April 2013.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Finance & Enterprise, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance, which provided Members with the latest financial monitoring information for 2013/14.

Revenue spending was projected to be within budget at year end, after using £4.1m of the budgeted contingencies (including allocation of the contractual inflation contingency) leaving £1.36m available in remaining contingencies. In previous years the use of contingencies had reduced as the financial year progressed. There were still a number of significant pressures on the budget, including the cost of Children in Care placements (overspend of £1.3m); the cost of Adult Care and Support services (overspend of £1.6m); and the cost of ICT maintenance contracts (overspend of £0.303m). Projected variances of

over £0.100m for individual service delivery units were detailed in the report. There were benefits from active treasury management of £0.500m, a refund of £0.731m in relation to previously top-sliced revenue support grant, and dividend of £0.148m from West Mercia Energy.

The capital programme totalled £127.7m, which included slippage from 2012/13. Spend was currently standing at 4%, which was broadly in line with previous years. Robust programme management and monitoring was in place to ensure schemes were delivered. 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. Early monitoring indicated that £30m of these receipts would not now be received until future years, and options to manage this issue were being developed.

Collection levels for Council Tax and NNDR income and Sales Ledger debt were behind the targets set for the year.

The Government's spending plans for 2015/16 had recently been announced, and included a 10% cut to local government funding and plans to increase overall capital spending. The actual impact on Telford & Wrekin would not be known until the detailed Local Government Finance Settlement announcements for 2015/16 were made.

Cllr A Eade queried the capital receipts shortfall and the capital and revenue implications.

Cllr W McClements commented that any plans regarding the capital receipts would be made public at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that it be noted that the 2013/14 revenue spend is currently projecting to be within budget at year end, and that the uses of the budgeted contingency detailed in paragraph 6 of the report be approved;**
- (b) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted, and that it be RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that the new allocations and slippage detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved;**
- (c) that performance against income targets be noted;**
- (d) that the key points in the Government's latest Spending Round, which re-affirmed the continued pressure on local government funding, be noted.**

CB-22 WINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICE REVIEW

Key Decision identified as **Winter Maintenance Review** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 29 May 2013.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services, which provided a review of the performance of the service during the 2012/13 winter season, and options for an enhanced winter maintenance service from 2013/14.

During the last winter season, there were a total of 49 turnouts for the pre and post treatment of snow and ice. It had been concluded that by increasing the carriageway spread rate of salt from 20g to 30g, the number of turnouts could have been reduced by 9 – and this was being proposed for 2013/14 when dealing with the risk of significant snow events. Other issues that had arisen were the gritting and snow clearance of Council owned car parks, access to public buildings, footway gritting, routes to schools and the misuse of grit bins. A detailed review of service performance was appended to the report.

The report also provided information on long-term trends on winter maintenance budgets, and to continue to provide an effective winter maintenance service, it was recommended that the budget be increased by a further £66k in 2014/15 to remove the budget gap for an average winter. The current service standard was appended to the report, and the report set out two options that would build on the existing arrangements in order to address the issues raised over the last winter season. The service options included additional treatment and snow clearance of certain footways and highways across the Borough. Full details of each option were appended to the report.

Following the success of the introduction of Neighbourhood Snow Wardens, it was intended to recruit a further 156 wardens in addition to the existing 44 volunteers. This would further complement the Council's service by covering locations not included in the Winter Maintenance Policy.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the following changes to the Winter Maintenance Service be adopted:**
- **the carriageway spread rate for salt when dealing with the risk of significant snow events be increased from 20g to 30g when required;**
 - **the 'winter season' be changed to cover the period from 16 October to 16 April;**
 - **existing treatment routes to remain the same for 2013/14 with the addition of one location – access to the Severn Hospice at Apley Castle;**
 - **service option 2, as detailed in the report, be approved for commencement in October 2013 to provide an enhanced service during extreme snow events; the projected costs of £62k to be met from Corporate contingency funding.**
- (b) **that the winter maintenance budget for 2014/15 be increased by £66,000.**

**CB-23 IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE –
JACKFIELD STABILISATION**

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Public Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services, which provided an update on land stabilisation works in the Ironbridge Gorge and which sought approval for a range of property actions to enable the project to progress further.

The scale of risk from land slippage varied throughout the World Heritage Site. A small number of “hotspots”, where the potential for movement was significant, were being monitored closely, and were the subject of ongoing discussions with Government regarding funding to address them. Two phases of stabilisation work had been completed at The Lloyds and Lloyds Head. A further “hot spot” was on the lower part of the Jackfield slope, which had resulted in damage to a number of properties, services and roads – in particular, Salthouse Road which had had to be reconstructed with a temporary “wooden road” pavement.

The Jackfield Stabilisation Scheme needed to be completed by 1 April 2016, and to deliver the project it would be necessary to acquire land and/or rights in/on at least three parcels of unregistered land together with other land owned by third parties. Where ownership was not known, a Compulsory Purchase Order would be required. Where ownership was known, it was hoped that acquisition could be reached by agreement with landowners, because of the benefits it could bring to owners in the area. Negotiations had already commenced, as well as the process to procure a contractor. This would be subject to a future report to Members.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the progress on the Jackfield Stabilisation Project be noted;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Public Protection and the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services, to take any required procedural steps to enter into any necessary legal agreements (whether or not under seal), land transfers, vesting and other legal documentation – and to take any required procedural steps to acquire land or rights in, on or over land by agreement or compulsorily, to facilitate land assembly and deliver the Project, including the exercise of relevant powers of compulsory acquisition as required.**

CB-24 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve

the disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-25 RE-PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Key Decision identified as **Re-provision of Mental Health Services at Ellen Court** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 26 June 2013.

Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Care & Support, which sought approval for a tendering process that would lead to an award of contract for the provision of seven residential rehabilitation placements for adults with mental health issues based at Ellen Court in Wellington.

The current contract for the service was due to expire in March 2014, and in order to ensure the continuity of services, work would be undertaken to complete tendering processes during 2013/early 2014. The re-commissioned service would also provide individually tailored programmes of practical support and rehabilitation to promote independent living after residing at Ellen Court. It would also provide an opportunity to bring people back from costly out of county placements. The report provided detailed financial and contractual information in relation to the provision of the service. The NHS funding commitment to the service would be formally agreed with the Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the re-tendering for the provision of residential mental health, care and support services at Ellen Court be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Care & Support, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to award a contract for a term of three years, with an option to extend for up to a maximum of a further two years, for the provision of mental health services following competitive tendering in accordance with the Council's Constitution.**
- (c) that a new Section 256 National Health Service Act 2006 Funding Agreement between Telford & Wrekin Council and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group be established with regard to Ellen Court;**
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to execute all documentation required to give effect to any agreement reached pursuant to the resolutions above.**

CB-26 ACQUISITION OF LAND AT DONNINGTON WOOD AND SNEDSHILL

Key Decision identified as **Acquisition of Land at Donnington Wood and Snedshill** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 26 June 2013.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Finance & Enterprise, and C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Development & Borough Towns, presented the report of the Assistant Directors: Development, Business & Employment, Family & Cohesion Services, and Law, Democracy & Public Protection, which sought authority to acquire land to accommodate gypsies and travellers.

The Council owned and managed two Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Borough, for which there was high demand for plots. Unlawful Gypsy and Traveller encampments were a continued problem for residents and businesses, and to alleviate the problem, it was proposed to accommodate these encampments on a "Tolerated site". A site off Holyhead Road, Snedshill had been identified for this purpose as part of a larger landholding designated for employment purposes. The report set out the costs and associated matters relating to the purchase of this land. In the medium/long term, it was proposed to develop this site for commercial/employment purposes.

The "Tolerated site" at Snedshill would be a temporary site for use whilst works were ongoing at the existing Lodge Road Caravan Site in Donnington Wood to provide further permanent accommodation. This would involve the purchase of additional land adjacent to the current site. Considerable ground and infrastructure improvements would be required, and a bid for funding these costs had been submitted to the HCA's Traveller Pitch Fund.

In addition, approval was sought for an additional capital allocation of £50k to cover recent emergency works on Stafford Park 12 to prevent illegal traveller encampment, and to cover any future one-off expenditure of this nature.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Finance & Enterprise, to acquire the two parcels of land at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood and off Holyhead Road, Snedshill, as shown on the plans appended to the report;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Family & Cohesion Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Housing, Development & Borough Towns, to develop the Lodge Road land and part of the Snedshill land as a Gypsy and Traveller site;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to seal or sign any documents to give effect to the resolutions above;**

- (d) that the capital allocation and expenditure, detailed in section 3 of the report, in respect of the acquisition of land off Holyhead Road, Snedshill and in relation to meeting costs incurred as a result of illegal traveller encampment, be approved;
- (e) that the submission of a bid for external traveller funding for the scheme of works at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood be noted, and that such funding be accepted should the bid be successful.

The meeting ended at 5.31pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 31 July 2013

Signed:

Date: