

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 6th December, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 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, 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-65 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th November 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-68 DRIVING DELIVERY OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES – HALF YEAR POSITION

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Managing Director which presented a review of performance against the Council's priorities at half year.

Two areas identified by Cabinet in September 2012 for improvement were supporting 16 to 24 year olds and homelessness, and the report detailed work that had been undertaken to take these services forward. For example, the number of nights of B&B usage for homeless cases had dropped dramatically due to a change in the type of temporary accommodation use, and there were currently no 16 or 17 year olds in bed and breakfast accommodation. Appended to the report was the detailed analysis of progress against the basket of performance measures for each Council priority, as at September 2012. Among the headline messages were a continued fall in recorded crime and anti-social behaviour; continued progress in educational attainment (particularly at 5 GCSE A*-C which was now above the national average);

another reduction in teenage pregnancy rates; and the overall level of unemployment now being below the regional average. However, youth unemployment continued to rise – up to 26.3% from 23.2%.- and there was concern that national government was not doing enough to tackle the lack of jobs and training opportunities for 16-24 year olds. Therefore, Cabinet would be targeting jobs and youth unemployment as areas for improvement, as well as prioritising the retention of front line services.

During the ensuing discussion, concern was raised about the apparent deterioration of the indicators relating to the educational achievement of children in care and accommodation for care leavers. Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families accepted that more needed to be done, but that the corporate parenting team was now working across all age groups, with a ‘virtual head’ to ensure everything was connected.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the on-going progress that the Council and its partners is delivering in key areas be noted;**
- (b) that jobs and youth unemployment be targeted as key areas for improvement.**

CB-69 SCHOOL ORGANISATION – BEHAVIOUR REVIEW/JIGSAW SCHOOL

Non-Key Decision

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Education & Skills which provided an update, following a period of consultation, over proposals for Behaviour Management including Jigsaw School.

The report outlined the current provision across the Borough to meet the needs of those students experiencing barriers to accessing mainstream education. This had been reviewed by a Behaviour Working Party, who had established five task and finish groups to collect evidence and undertake discussions with key partners. It was concluded that the biggest individual cohort of children and young people placed were those who fell into the Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Behaviour, Emotional & Social Development (BESD) category of need. It was therefore proposed that the Jigsaw School site be used to provide ASC/BESD specialist provision. However, a period of transition would be required to develop this setting, and it was proposed that in the short term the existing Jigsaw School be annexed to a mainstream secondary school from September 2013.

In terms of other sites, it was proposed to establish Assessment & Intervention centres at Haughton and Southall schools to replace the current provision for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 at Admaston Pupil Referral Unit. For students aged 14 or over, it was proposed to establish specialist provision at

Telford College (TCAT) to replace the current provision at King Street – this would provide students with better support and greater continuity in their studies.

Feedback during informal consultation on the proposals had been positive, and examples of comments received were shown in the report. In order to end the contract with the current provider at Jigsaw School, and transfer the school to become an annex of a mainstream secondary school, a 6 week statutory consultation period would have to be undertaken. Cabinet would then consider the outcome of the consultation at a future meeting.

Members welcomed the proposals as a positive step forward in the delivery of these services.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the placing of a statutory public notice for transferring the responsibility for delivering education on the Jigsaw site to the control of the Local Authority with effect from September 2013 be approved;**
- (b) **that the Jigsaw site be used to establish a specialist ASC/BESD provision extending the age range on the site from 11-16 to 10-18, and to provide a limited number of places for Year 6 pupils and post 16 provision for this specialist group;**
- (c) **that an Assessment and Intervention Centre with the capacity for 16 full-time equivalent places should be established under the leadership of Haughton School to replace the Key Stage 1 and 2 provision at Admaston;**
- (d) **that an Assessment and Intervention Centre with the capacity for 16 full-time equivalent places should be established under the leadership of Southall School to replace the Key Stage 3 provision at Admaston;**
- (e) **that specialist provision be established at Telford College (TCAT) for students aged 14 or over, with the capacity for 32 full-time places, to replace the current provision at King Street.**

CB-70 RELOCATION OF THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SERVICE AND DISPOSAL OF THE SOCIAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Key Decision identified as **Re-location of Social Education Centre Services and Disposal of Property** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 October 2012.

Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member: Adult & Social Care, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Care & Support which set out proposals arising from a review of 'in-house' provider services.

The review of the services included two residential homes, day services, community support and shared lives providing predominately for clients with a learning disability, and would explore options and models of service delivery to ensure the future requirements of personalisation were met. A programme of stakeholder engagement was planned to roll out to January 2013, including workshops with service users. A specific piece of work within the review was a proposal to relocate the service for Adults with Learning Disabilities currently delivered at the Social Education Centre based at the campus of Telford College of Arts & Technology (TCAT), and the sale of the building to TCAT. The sale would realise a capital receipt of £635,000 and allow for the relocation and development of the services to other settings. A number of options for relocation were being explored, and were detailed in the report.

As part of the condition of the sale of the property, TCAT would, at no cost to the Council, lease the building back whilst service delivery was relocated. There would be no loss of employment for members of staff. Members commended the quality of the facilities and staff at a number of community day centres, and emphasised that it was important to keep clients informed of the plans.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the sale of the Social Education Centre to Telford College of Arts & Technology be approved;**
- (b) **that the relocation of the current service within existing service provision be approved;**
- (c) **that a proportion of the funding realised from the sale of the Centre be used for re-development of existing buildings in order to accommodate the relocated services, with the residual funding maybe being used to develop cost effective longer term options within the provider review;**
- (d) **that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in conjunction with the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, to agree terms and conditions in order to complete the sale of the property, and to enter into any contracts and transfer of documents that may be required to achieve the sale of the property and the relocation of the service.**

CB-71 DEVELOPMENT OF A POOLED BUDGET (SECTION 75 AGREEMENT) FOR CARERS SERVICES

Key decision identified as **Development of a Pooled Budget (Section 75 Agreement) for Carers Services** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 October 2012.

Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member: Adult & Social Care, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Care & Support which set out proposals for a

Pooled Budget for Carers to be hosted by the Council in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to become operational from 1st April 2013.

Within Telford & Wrekin, through joint commissioning with the Primary Care Trust, a Multi-Agency Strategy for Carers had set out a framework to support family carers and develop service improvements to increase the level of support offered. The Strategy reflected the national expectations and key priorities. The proposed pooled budget would maximise the required delivery of national policy guidance and maintain ongoing service development and improvement at a local level. It was proposed that the Council would take a lead role in the commissioning and development of carers' services which would enable the CCG to discharge its responsibilities to carers via the local authority. A number of other benefits from a joint approach were detailed in the report.

It was proposed to transfer existing Council budgets into the pooled arrangement. With £195k of NHS funding, this would lead to a pooled budget of around £340k. Co-ordination would be via the role of a jointly funded Commissioning Officer post, and it was proposed that the pooled budget would be monitored through the Carers Partnership Board. Overall governance would be maintained through the Health & Wellbeing Board. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the proposal would be cost neutral – it was the pooling of existing money, but that this would allow greater flexibility and remove any duplication.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the proposal to develop a Pooled Budget for Carers be endorsed, and that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Care & Support, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Care & Support, to complete and sign the required agreement;**
- (b) that it be noted that the proposed governance arrangements will be subject to further consultation in relation to the developing Health & Wellbeing Board.**

CB-72 TELFORD ICE RINK – NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Non-Key Decision

Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services which set out proposals for the piloting of a new management model for Telford Ice Rink.

Following the refurbishment and re-opening of the Ice Rink, it was recognised that in keeping with Co-operative principles, an opportunity existed to work more closely with stakeholders, many of whom had a long association with the facility. A vision of enhancing and supporting the financial model for the Ice Rink through a recognition and development of social values had emerged

following engagement and consultation with stakeholders including ice rink users, staff, senior managers and Members. From this, there were clear views from stakeholders on the areas for improvement and where co-operative working could be adopted – eg: management & decision making, marketing & promotion and innovation. Appended to the report was an interim model which had been developed with stakeholders. This included the establishment of a steering group to reflect the community and users of the ice rink. Linked to the proposed new management model, there was an opportunity to review working practices and to support a creative and entrepreneurial spirit amongst management and staff.

During the ensuing discussion, the importance of the Ice Rink as a vibrant community facility, particularly for young people, was noted. In response to comments from Councillor Eade (Conservative Group Leader), the Leisure Service Delivery Manager advised that this was a step-by-step approach, and that there would be an opportunity to work with business partners in promoting the wider Southwater re-development.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the proposed interim ice rink steering group model, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be endorsed, and that a review be received after a 12 month period of operation;**
- (b) that the general review of working practices and resource alignment detailed within the report be endorsed, and that authority be delegated to the Managing Director to progress and implement these.**

CB-73 MARCHES LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY

Non-Key Decision

Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services concerning arrangements for the devolvement of the major scheme transport funding programme to Local Transport Bodies (LTB).

Following a consultation, to which the Council responded, the Department for Transport had now published its proposals. These included the need to formally establish a Local Transport Body based on the geographical area of the existing Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It had been agreed that the three Transport Authorities (Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire) would form the basis of the LTB in conjunction with the Marches LEP in an advisory capacity. The final governance structure was subject to imminent guidance and to confirmation of the LEP's role, but at this stage it was proposed that a joint Cabinet committee would be the most appropriate solution in terms of meeting the assurance framework required by Government. Each Authority would appoint 2 Cabinet members, and the report set out their powers and responsibilities and how the LTB would be supported.

The devolved funding from the Department for Transport would be allocated through a formula based on population size, with the Marches region expected to receive around £16m. This would be in addition to the LTP block allocation, and would need to be spent on major schemes. A provisional list of prioritised schemes would need to be submitted to the DfT by April 2013. In response to a question about reporting back of decisions taken by the new Local Transport Body, it was suggested that this could be done through the Cabinet.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the establishment of a Marches Local Transport Body, as set out in the report, be approved;**
- (b) **that the Cabinet Member for Transport & Community Protection and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development be appointed to represent the Council on the Marches Local Transport Body board, as set out in the governance proposals in the report;**
- (c) **that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Transport & Community Protection and for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to agree documentation and terms of reference for the LTB;**
- (d) **that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute all necessary documentation to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report.**

CB-74 TELFORD & WREKIN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented a report which sought approval for the Council to sign up to the Telford & Wrekin Armed Forces Community Covenant.

An Armed Forces Community Covenant was a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community – this included serving personnel, reserve forces, veterans and their families. The aim of such a Covenant was to encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community. A proposed Covenant for Telford & Wrekin was appended to the report. It incorporated Co-operative Values, and included a number of measures about how the Council would support the Armed Forces community and help them access Council services. In order to be effective, the Covenant

needed support from a range of agencies, and it was suggested that the oversight of the delivery of the Covenant be undertaken by a Community Covenant Partnership via the existing Local Strategic Partnership Executive Group.

Once signed, it was possible to access the national Community Covenant Grant Scheme, which delivered financial support to projects at the local level. Bids in the first instance must be considered by the Community Covenant Partnership.

Members welcomed this commitment to support local people in the armed forces, and their families, and noted that the official signing of the Telford & Wrekin Covenant by key representatives would take place on 14 December 2012.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the development of an Armed Forces Community Covenant within Telford & Wrekin, along with the specific commitments made by the Council within the draft Covenant appended to the report, be approved;**
- (b) that the Leader of the Council and the Mayor be authorised to sign the Covenant on behalf of the Council;**
- (c) that support is given to establishing a Community Covenant Partnership linked to the Local Strategic Partnership, with responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Community Covenant and considering local applications to the national Community Covenant Grant Funding Scheme.**

CB-75 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it 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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-76 NEWPORT PLANNING - UPDATE

Key Decision identified as **Planning Application – Land at Newport** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 8 November 2012.

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which updated Members on the progress of various planning and property matters in relation to developments at Newport.

The report detailed the current position regarding the planning application for land at Station Road, Newport, which the Council, as landowner, was contractually committed to pursue. That application was subject to a Public Inquiry, and the report outlined the likely costs arising from being represented at the Inquiry. In addition, there were a number of related issues relating to planning applications and permissions that had been granted on other sites in Newport, and the intention of the Council to pursue a High Court challenge in respect of the Audley Avenue site. There had also been costs incurred in relation to Council representation at an inquiry to determine an application by local residents for the Council's land at Station Road to be designated as a village green.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the decision made by the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to pursue a High Court challenge to the decision of the Secretary of State dated 2 August 2012 in respect of the site at Audley Avenue be ratified;**
- (b) that it be noted that the Council, as landowner, is contractually bound to support St Modwen Developments in pursuing the planning application for Station Road, Newport on the land shown in the appendix to the report.**
- (c) that it be noted that the Council's position at the Station Road call-in inquiry be one of continuing to support its decision that the application should be approved;**
- (d) that the potential costs which may be incurred as detailed in the report be approved, including a capital allocation and expenditure of £0.4m and the use of the corporate contingency of £0.3m for the revenue costs as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, and that the potential additional revenue liability of £0.2m should planning appeals be lost and costs granted against the Authority be noted.**

The meeting ended at 6.02 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 12 December 2012

Signed:

Date: