

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20th December, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the AFC Telford Learning Centre, Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford

PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: THURSDAY, 3rd JANUARY, 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)

Lee Carter (Chairman of AFC Telford Utd FC) welcomed Members and all those present to the AFC Telford Learning Centre, which would be the regular venue for Cabinet meetings for the rest of the municipal year.

CB-77 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th December 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

CB-79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-80 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Key Decision identified as **Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14 September 2012.

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which sought approval for the adoption of a revised framework for public engagement in planning. A copy of the finalised Statement of Community Involvement was attached to the report, along with a summary leaflet that would be produced to accompany the final document.

Following an update of the existing Statement to reflect the Council's Co-operative values, Cabinet had approved a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in July 2012. This had been subject to public consultation between 28 August and 9 October 2012. 36 comments had been received from a range of stakeholders. Members had been able to analyse the comments received, the changes that had been made to the document as a result, and identify matters raised from the consultation that had been referred to other Officers for action. Proposed changes to the Statement included adding more detail in relation to neighbourhood planning, adding a diagram illustrating the processes of an application for planning permission, and adding greater signposting to the Council website.

The SCI formed the basis for engagement in the planning process, but all stages of formal engagement in development plan preparation would be developed further in consultation with the corporate Community Engagement team.

Having considered the comments received from the consultation process, and the resulting changes to the SCI, it was

RESOLVED – that the Statement of Community Involvement, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted.

**CB-81 IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST (IGMT) –
PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the joint report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance and the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which proposed a change to the arrangements for a loan to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) that had been approved in November 2009.

The contribution that the IGMT, as one of the world's largest independent museums, made to the local economy was recognised as extremely valuable. As well as the large number of visitors it attracted to the area, it also provided a significant number of free services to the local community, including the provision of education services for Telford & Wrekin schools. In November 2009, Cabinet agreed to support further investment in the Museum's facilities with a loan of £0.5m to the Trust. The repayment period was due to end on 15 January 2013.

Although the partnership with the IGMT had gone from strength to strength, repayment of the loan had been limited. It was recognised that a more realistic payment plan needed to be agreed, and an extension would ensure that opportunities to develop the 'Destination Telford' offer and to promote the economic regeneration of the Borough were driven forward. Key to the loan agreement would be provision by IGMT of a formal core management function across the World Heritage Site. A Supplemental Agreement had been drafted

to ensure the effective and co-operative delivery of this function, and the report detailed the key elements of the proposed management role for the IGMT. Loan repayments and the effectiveness of the management function would be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Council. The proposed new arrangements would be cost neutral to the Council.

Members reaffirmed their support for the partnership between the Council and the IGMT, and recognised the valuable role the Trust played as a key contributor to the local economy and 'Destination Telford'. It was felt that the proposed new arrangements would give the IGMT more flexibility, while still retaining value for money for the taxpayer. However, it was recognised that there needed to be regular monitoring and review of the arrangements to ensure the loan was fully repaid in line with the Agreement.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that a ten year extension to the current £0.456m loan arrangements with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, as outlined in the report, be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection to execute all appropriate contract documentation to give effect to the resolution above.**

CB-82 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection concerning appointments to two outside bodies.

Telford & Wrekin Local Access Forum, which provided advice to the Council and other bodies on how to improve public access to land for open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area, included two representatives from the Council – the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing and Councillor T.J Hope. These appointments were now due for renewal, and were for a two year term of office.

In May 2012, Council approved the establishment of a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP) as a joint committee covering 10 local authority areas. Councillors R.K. Austin and C.B.A. Elliott had been appointed as the Council's representatives on the PCP, but there was also provision to appoint a substitute to attend meetings when one of the appointed representatives was not able to attend. One nomination for an appointed substitute had been received.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing and Councillor T.J. Hope be re-appointed to the Telford & Wrekin Local Access Forum until the end of the 2014/15 civic year;
- (b) that Councillor F.R. Picken be appointed as a substitute representative to the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel until the end of the 2012/13 civic year.

The meeting ended at 5.13 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 27 December 2012

Signed:

Date: