

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 17th September, 2015 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2015

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2015)

PRESENT: Councillors K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, A.R.H. England, A.D. McClements, R.A. Overton, G.C.W. Reynolds and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and P.J. Scott (Liberal Democrat/Independent Deputy Group Leader – deputising for Councillor W.L. Tomlinson)

CB-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S. Davies, and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-28 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-29 A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR TELFORD & WREKIN

Non-Key Decision

The Leader, Councillor K.S. Sahota, presented the report of the Managing Director which informed Members of a proposal that had been submitted to HM Treasury on 4 September 2015 with suggestions for the devolution of a range of powers and responsibilities to the Council. A copy of the Proposal document was attached to the report.

As part of the Government's 2015 Spending Review, representative bodies, interest groups and individuals had been invited to submit written representations for devolving powers to local areas and for facilitating integration between public services. The date of the announcement and submission deadline had fallen over the summer 'recess' period, but work was undertaken with Cabinet members to complete the submission before the

deadline of 4th September. The Chair of the Telford Business Board had been closely involved in the process. The suggestions in the submission built on the existing and very positive relationship that the Council had with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA), and the ‘Strengthening Families’ approach being taken with local partners, with the aim of accelerating the delivery of sustainable economic growth, increasing prosperity in the Borough and reducing demand and costs for the public purse. The main elements of the proposal were as follows:

- Enterprise Telford – to drive the competitiveness of Telford as a place to invest through local freedoms and flexibilities;
- Employment and Skills – joining together national and local programmes including DWP and the Council’s ‘Job Box’ initiative;
- Transport – to seek the transfer of powers to franchise all bus services which would ensure a more integrated public transport system to connect more deprived communities to employment opportunities.

The submission included a proposal for the retention by the Council of 100% of business rate growth, and building on the existing Land Deal with the HCA to bring forward more constrained and brownfield public sector sites for development. The submission also put forward the case for Telford to become the West Midlands HMRC Tech Hub, given that HMRC already had a significant base in the Borough with the Aspire ICT contract being delivered through Cap Gemini and Fujitsu.

Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Employment & Skills, referred to the programmes already offered by the Council to support young people into employment, and that this offer would be further enhanced if responsibility for commissioning the DWP’s Work Programme and Youth Contract were devolved to the Council. Councillor A.D. McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, referred to the franchising of bus services and how it was important to have more say in how bus routes and services were run.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) welcomed the suggestion for 100% retention of business rates, and offered support to help achieve that. In relation to Enterprise Telford, it was felt that any package should also include support for the refurbishment and improvement of existing industrial estates. In relation to Education and Skills, it was important that the Council worked with other agencies/institutions in order to establish common goals as to what was needed in the Borough in terms of skills and employment. Councillor P.J. Scott (Liberal Democrat/Independent Deputy Group Leader) asked if there were any proposals to support Harper Adams College, Newport in their bid for being the location for an Agri-tech centre. The Acting Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment advised that the Council would be trying to maximise the potential of all its industrial areas/estates, and would have some discretion on how any additional funding was spent if the bid was successful. In relation to Harper Adams College, the Council had supported the bid for an Agri-tech centre through the Marches LEP, and that Enterprise Telford would be able to help attract businesses from that sector. In response to concerns that had been expressed, it was clarified that the

designation of Telford as an 'Enterprise Area' was not the same as an 'Enterprise Zone'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Devolution proposal submitted to HM Treasury on 4 September 2015 be noted and endorsed;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Service, to enter into discussions with HM Treasury and other Government departments and organisations as appropriate, with the aim of developing a detailed arrangement for devolution of powers as outlined in the Proposal for consideration by Cabinet and Council in due course.

CB-30 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 likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-31 STREET LIGHTING SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Key Decision identified as **Street Lighting Contract** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14 August 2015

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services.

The current contract for Street Lighting and Maintenance expired on 31 March 2016. Soft market testing had been undertaken, and there was a strong indication that the Council could achieve significant energy and maintenance savings by investing in LED lighting technology. This would involve developing a viable 'invest to save' proposal as part of the procurement process. In order to look at all the different options, and to ensure that the inventory of street lighting was up-to-date and accurate, it was proposed that the existing contract with the current supplier be extended for a maximum of nine months. This would then facilitate a robust procurement process which would ultimately deliver best value for the Authority and maximise savings opportunities. The report also set out detailed financial and legal considerations regarding the proposed procurement and tendering process.

Members referred to the community safety and environmental benefits of improved street lighting. In response to a question, the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services stated that Town and Parish Councils

who provided street lighting had been contacted about whether they wished to be included in the procurement process.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that an extension to the contract with the current street lighting supplier for the provision of essential street lighting maintenance services from 1 April 2016 up until 1 January 2017, for the reasons detailed in the report, be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services to negotiate and agree the terms of the contract extension referred to in (a) above;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services to execute all necessary contractual documentation in accordance with the Constitution, including the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council.**

The meeting ended at 5.29 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services
Date: 23 September 2015**

Signed:

Date: