

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 24th March, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2016

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2016)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

PHIL SMITH

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Leader reported that this would be the last Cabinet meeting to be attended by Phil Smith, Democratic Services Team Leader, who would be leaving the Council in May. He thanked him for all his work and the support he had provided to Elected Members and the democratic process at the Council.

CB-82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-84 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-85 HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Key Decision identified as **Housing Investment Programme** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 27 January 2016.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, presented the report of the Managing Director, which provided an update on progress on the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) since Nuplace Ltd, the Council's delivery vehicle for developing, managing and

maintaining the HIP rental property portfolio, had been operational, and sought approval for proposed amendments to the Business Case and Terms of Reference.

The two Phase 1 sites at Pool View, Randlay and Woodlands, Madeley were under development, with all the 31 units at Randlay being reserved shortly after availability was announced. The first tenants had moved in on 11 March. Planning applications had been submitted for two of the Phase 2 sites (Matlock Ave and Madeley Court) with imminent submissions for the sites at Newport and Hadley. However, following detailed feasibility and viability assessments of all the identified sites in the HIP Business Case, the sites at Wildwood, Woodside and Deercote, Hollinswood were not viable and had been removed from the Programme. In addition, there was a proposed reduction in the number of units at Southwater and a need for further analysis of the Business Case for the site given the untested apartment market and high build costs. A Site Assessment Summary was appended to the report, which included the potential for delivering additional units at Matlock Ave and introducing a site adjacent to the new Hadley Centre. These proposals had been included in a revised Business Case, which was appended to the report.

The current financial position of the HIP was contained in the revised Business Case. The key financial assumptions underlying the Programme had been reviewed, and it was now projected that there would be a benefit of £70m to the General Fund over 30 years – an increase of £6m from original assumptions. The revised capital costs as a result of changes to the Programme were within approved capital allowances.

Councillor A. J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) expressed concern at the intention to build houses on the former CRC site at Newport, when there were more suitable sites elsewhere in the locality. The reduction in the number of units at Southwater was concerning, and they were probably not viable in the first place. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the Newport site would be 100% affordable housing and had been chosen because it was on Council owned land unlike the other sites referred to by Councillor Eade. The draft Local Plan had designated a number of sites in Newport as employment land, and had been widely supported by the business community. In relation to Southwater, a more pragmatic position was being taken about the type of housing, but they would still be for rent rather than for sale.

Councillor W. L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader) recognised the need to be cautious and to adapt to changing circumstances. However, the HIP involved mostly brownfield sites that commercial developers may not have been keen to develop, and it would bring in much needed income to the Council.

Other Members referred to the benefits that the HIP would bring in terms of raising standards in the private rented sector, giving tenants security and high quality homes, and bringing sites back into use that otherwise might become eyesores. The Cabinet Member also stated that other local authorities were looking at this initiative, and that this could bring in further income through advisory/consultancy fees.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the revised Business Case, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that the revised Project Board Terms of Reference, as shown at Appendix 3 of the revised Business Case, be approved;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services and Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, and the Housing Investment Project Board, to execute any documents necessary to implement the revised Business Case and enter into any agreements necessary for the disposal or acquisition of land required to give effect to the resolutions above.**

CB-86 ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT 2015/16

Non-Key Decision

The statutory Director of Public Health presented her Annual Report for 2015/16 – Living Well for Longer in Telford & Wrekin, a copy of which was appended to the agenda.

The Report focussed on the health and wellbeing of people in their 50s, 60s and 70s within the following areas – Looking After Yourself – Healthier Lifestyles, Recognising and Supporting those in Difficulty, Valuing Contributions and Staying Well. There was strong evidence that improving lifestyle behaviour for people in midlife would significantly improve health and wellbeing in the Borough. Underpinning this was support within communities from family, friends and neighbours, as well as good quality employment opportunities for older people. Prevention was better than cure, and actions at a local level were needed for awareness raising and early diagnosis of health risk factors and symptoms.

The Report contained a number of recommendations that Cabinet was asked to support. These would be used to shape the Living Well and Ageing Well programme that would support the delivery of the new Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

The report was interactive in style and included a video clip and infographic links. The document and its messages had been promoted through a social media campaign.

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, thanked Liz Noakes for her Report, and advised that it had been endorsed by the Health & Wellbeing Board. Councillor A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care, added that the recommendations in the Report linked to the strategy for keeping people healthy at home and away

from high cost social/health care. Councillor W. L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader) referred to the Cabinet's previous decision, as a result of a reduction in the Government's Public Health Grant, to end free swimming for over 50s, and whether this could be reconsidered. Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member: Leisure Services & Culture, reported that the scheme had been successful in getting over 50s to use the Borough's swimming pools. To support the recommendations in the Annual Health Report, a reduced charge of £1 per swim (with a TLC card) would be brought in for over 50s, which was in line with the cost for over 60s.

RESOLVED – that the 2015/16 Annual Health Report be endorsed, and that the following recommendations be supported:

Recommendation 1: Action should be taken by the Council and partners to encourage and support people over 50 to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviours, which incorporate opportunities to volunteer and ensure advice, signposting into services by health and social care professionals is systematic.

Recommendation 2: The Council's public health team should work with key partners to develop the wider public health workforce to expand our local capacity and capability to improve the health and wellbeing for our ageing population.

Recommendation 3: Action should be taken by the Council, NHS Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group and partners to ensure good access to healthy lifestyle support for the most vulnerable adults, such as those with long term conditions or mental health illness.

Recommendation 4: The Council, its partners and communities should support and promote a range of group, one-to-one and volunteering activities that meet the needs and interests of local older people.

Recommendation 5: Building on work already underway, the Council and partners should take a community-centred approach to improving the health and wellbeing of our ageing population.

Recommendation 6: Action should be undertaken by the Council with local employers to raise awareness of the links between work, healthy lifestyles and wellbeing and the action employers can take to increasing employment opportunities and retention for older people.

Recommendation 7: Action should be taken, by NHS Telford & Wrekin CCG with the Council and other partners to maximise every opportunity for awareness raising and early detection of risk factors and symptoms, ensuring early diagnosis and treatment for cancer, cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke) and Type 2 Diabetes.

CB-87 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Health & Wellbeing, which sought endorsement of the new Health & Wellbeing Strategy for the Borough for the period 2016 – 2019. A copy of the Strategy was appended to the report.

The new Health & Wellbeing Strategy had been developed by the Health & Wellbeing Board over the last 6 months. The purpose of the Strategy was to identify priorities against which the Board would drive delivery. The development of the Strategy had been informed by using existing information about health and wellbeing in the Borough and the results of a public consultation survey. The draft Strategy was considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board in December 2015, followed by a further period of public engagement asking the public what they would want to see change in their communities as a result of the Strategy, and how they could contribute. The draft Strategy was also sent to all organisations represented on existing partnership boards.

The Strategy set out a new vision for the Health & Wellbeing Board – “Together we will work to enable people in Telford & Wrekin to enjoy healthier, happier and longer lives”. It also incorporated three cross-cutting priorities where fastest progress was needed:

- Encourage healthier lifestyles;
- Improve mental wellbeing and mental health;
- Strengthen our communities and community based support.

RESOLVED – that the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19 be endorsed.

CB-88 GREEN GUARANTEE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment, which sought approval for the protection of 104 green spaces owned by Telford & Wrekin Council as part of the Council’s Green Guarantee referred to in the Local Plan publication document.

The Green Guarantee identified a range of locally important green spaces in the ownership of the Council and which were not currently protected by other designation such as Local Nature Reserves etc. The Green Guarantee recognised the value of these areas for purposes including the provision of open space for leisure, recreation and biodiversity, and the report detailed the processes that would be followed to protect these sites and control any development.

In October 2015, Cabinet approved a list of 116 potential sites for designation under the Green Guarantee for public consultation. A total of 136 comments were received, a summary of which was appended to the report. As a result of the feedback received, six sites were removed from the initial list and a further six were combined with adjacent sites to leave a final list of 104 sites. This list was appended to the report, as was a list of sites that were removed and the reason for that removal. Extensions to the boundaries of some sites had been included where they met the criteria and were not constrained by any current planning applications, permissions or designations.

Following the publication of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan, it was intended to consult with the public to identify a further 50 or more community green spaces. This was anticipated to commence from December 2016.

In response to questions regarding protection of land that was not in the ownership of the Council, the Development Services Manager advised that such land could be put forward for Green Network designation in the Local Plan. Some of the land transferring to the Council under the Telford Land Deal would be included within the Green Guarantee. In response to a comment about the relatively small number of respondents to the public consultation, the Cabinet Member stated that the initiative had been welcomed by the public, who had been reassured to see that the vast majority of their local green areas in Council ownership were included.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the protection of 104 green spaces, as identified in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved, and that the current officer delegation relating to these spaces be removed so as to ensure that all decisions relating to disposals or changes of use are determined by Cabinet, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report;**
- (b) that the 104 green spaces identified in Appendix 1 of the report be protected under the Council’s Green Guarantee Land Management Commitment;**
- (c) that the intention to bring approximately 50 additional areas forward for similar protection, via a public consultation at the conclusion of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan, be endorsed.**

CB-89 COMMUNITY PRIDE FUND

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, presented the report of the Managing Director, which proposed that an extension to the original deadline for the completion of a small number of projects funded by the Community Pride Fund be agreed.

The Community Pride Fund had been delivered as part of the Council’s Pride in Your Community programme, and comprised a total of £1.26m of grant

funding to support the physical, social and economic regeneration of Telford. Following a comprehensive application and evaluation process, Cabinet approved funding for 37 projects in November 2014. The deadline for completion of the projects was 31 March 2016 and, while the majority of organisations had spent their grant and completed their projects, a small number of organisations had experienced delays in delivering their projects, for a number of valid reasons. A list of the projects concerned was shown at paragraph 4.4 of the report. It was therefore proposed to give an extension to organisations to enable them to complete their projects. It was envisaged that most projects would be completed by Autumn 2016, but the final deadline would be 31 March 2017.

Appended to the report were examples of some of the projects that had benefited from Community Pride funding. A final report on the outcomes delivered would be prepared as part of the programme evaluation.

RESOLVED – that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, to extend the deadline for expenditure of Community Pride Fund grants beyond 31 March 2016, with the final deadline for completion of projects and receipt of financial and monitoring information from organisations being 31 March 2017.

CB-90 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PERMIT SCHEME

Non-Key Decision

Councillor A.D. McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services, which set out proposals for adopting a permit scheme to regulate works/activities on the Telford & Wrekin highways network.

At present the Council only had a limited amount of control over the way works are undertaken on the network by utility companies, developers etc, which often led to frustration for residents and businesses in terms of delays and un-coordinated works. Under a permit scheme, promoters wishing to undertake works on the highway had to 'book' their road-space and , if a permit was granted, conditions could be attached to provide more control on how and when the work was carried out. If the permit conditions were not met or work was undertaken without a permit, the Council could issue a fixed penalty notice or prosecute.

A number of neighbouring Highways Authorities had adopted the West and Shires Permit Scheme (WaSP), which had been developed in line with the requirements of the relevant legislation. Telford & Wrekin's scheme would match the WaSP scheme with the addition of an addendum which would set out how the WaSP scheme would apply to the Borough. The Council would retain full control of operating the system in the Borough. It was anticipated that adoption of the scheme would reduce disruption on the network and reduce the amount of time utility companies spend on the network. A consultation exercise with all stakeholders was currently being undertaken,

and would run until 22 April 2016. The target date for the commencement of the scheme was 1 June 2016.

Members welcomed the proposal for the introduction of the permit scheme and the benefits this would bring in terms of better planning and co-ordination of highway works, including the Council's own repairs programme. It was also hoped that it would help to improve the notifications of highways works provided to Ward Councillors.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the preparation and implementation of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin Traffic Management Permit Scheme to manage activities on the Borough's road network be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services (or any other officer authorised in writing by the Assistant Director), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Regeneration & Transport, to exercise all powers under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) to enable the Traffic Management Permit Scheme for the area of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin to be prepared, processed, for all relevant matters to be considered and for an Order to be made to bring it into effect;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services (or any other officer authorised in writing by the Assistant Director), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Regeneration & Transport, to exercise all powers under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) to apply, implement, operate and enforce all the provisions of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin's Traffic Management Permit Scheme, once the required Order has been made and come into effect.**

CB-91 WROCKWARDINE CONSERVATION AREA – APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment, which sought approval for the adoption of an Appraisal and Management Plan for Wrockwardine Conservation Area. A copy of the proposed Plan was appended to the report.

Wrockwardine Conservation Area was adopted in 1999 as an area of special architectural and historic interest, but had not to date had an Appraisal and

Management Plan undertaken – as prescribed by the National Planning Policy Framework. A Plan had been developed, which identified and supported the conservation area designation, created a framework for the control of development, and considered and strengthened design controls. The boundary of the conservation area had been reviewed and remained as adopted. Consideration had also been given to the adoption of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights to domestic properties. However, such development did not pose a potential threat and was therefore not recommended at present.

The draft proposals had been publicised in accordance with the relevant regulations, with an 8 week period of public consultation. Six comments were received, which supported the aims and objectives – and a number of minor revisions had been incorporated into the final draft as a result of these representations. A summary of the consultation responses was appended to the document.

RESOLVED – that the Wrockwardine Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals document be adopted to provide a sound basis for considering planning applications and for developing initiatives to improve the area.

CB-92 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Key Decision identified as **Procurement Update Report** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 27 January 2016.

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Legal, Procurement & Commissioning, which provided an update of the Council's Procurement Intentions Document and on general progress with effective procurement and contract management.

Appended to the report was a benchmarking document which showed the Council's procurement performance against the four key areas in the National Procurement Strategy. Challenges lay ahead with optimising supplier relationship management to get the most out of the Council's contracts. It was also important to ensure that all Officers were suitably trained to procure and contract manage in an efficient and effective way, and Councillors and senior management were encouraged to engage with procurement and commissioning training offered through the LGA Leadership Academy.

Also appended to the report was the updated Procurement Intentions document. To improve the efficiency of the procurement process for lower value contracts, it was proposed to lift the threshold for advertising of any procurement to £10k which would be in line with Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the procurement updates in the report be noted, and that the proposed change to the advertising threshold be approved;**

- (b) that the Procurement Intentions Document, as shown at Appendix B of the report, be noted and, where indicated, delegations to the appropriate officers (as per the Contract Procedure Rules) to progress new procurements through the tender process to contract award be approved.

The meeting ended at 5.56 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Legal, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 1 April 2016

Signed:

Date: