

## CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 23 March 2017 at 5.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2017

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2017)

**Present:** Councillors R A Overton (Vice Chair in the Chair), L D Carter, E A Clare, A R H England, A D McClements, G C W Reynolds, H Rhodes and P R Watling.

**Also Present:** Councillors A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader).

### **CB-070      Apologies for Absence**

Councillor S Davies

### **CB-071      Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R A Overton declared an interest in minute number CB-074 and indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during determination thereof.

### **CB-672      Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **CB-073      Telford Central Footbridge Replacement**

**Key Decision** identified as **Telford Central Footbridge Replacement** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 22 February 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services presented the report of the Assistant Director: Customer & Neighbourhood Services. The report was seeking formal authorisation and delegations to the relevant Cabinet Member and Assistant Directors to enable to delivery of the new bridge by summer 2018, and to seek authorisation to award contracts and implement all other agreements to ensure the delivery of the project.

The Footbridge Replacement Project was part of the Telford Town Centre Connective Package and had secured £10.3m of funding though the Department for Transport's Highways Maintenance Challenge Funding.

The existing footbridge was over 30 years old, expensive to maintain and a poor gateway to the Borough.

The proposed replacement footbridge would span two dual carriageways and the Shrewsbury to Wolverhampton railway line. Detailed designs were being progressed and these would be overseen by the Governance Board, attended by all key stakeholders.

The Cabinet Members supported the proposal, stating that the development would enhance the gateway to the Borough.

**RESOLVED** – that

- (a) **the Council should take any required procedural steps, enter into any required legal agreements, deeds and land transfers and to take any required actions to reconstruct the bridge, implement station changes, install facilities and alter the public highway and other approaches to provide connectivity with the new bridge and the station to deliver the Project as described in the report**
- (b) **the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning and the Assistant Director Customer & Neighbourhood Services be authorised to take any required procedural steps, enter into any necessary legal agreements, deeds and land transfers and to take any required actions to reconstruct the bridge, implement station changes, install facilities and alter the public highway and other approaches to provide connectivity with the new bridge and the station to deliver the Project as described in the report**
- (c) **the Assistant Director: Customer & Neighbourhood Services and the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member for Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services, be authorised to award the construction and other necessary contracts to reconstruct the bridge, implement station changes, install facilities and alter the public highway and other approaches to provide connectivity with the new bridge and the station**
- (d) **the Assistant Director, Customer & Neighbourhood Services and the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member for Transport, Customer & Neighbourhood Services to be authorised to vary the Project where required and exercise the Council's power to implement the Project (as varied) in accordance with a) to c) above.**

**CB-074**      **Selective Licensing**

*In accordance with his previous declaration of interest Councillor R A Overton vacated the Chair before this item of business, with Councillor L D Carter taking the Chair.*

**Key Decision** identified as **Selective Licensing** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 22 February 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Safety & Enforcement presented the report of the Assistant Director: Customer & Neighbourhood Services. The report sought formal authorisation to consult on a selective licensing scheme for properties within four residential zones, which met the criteria for this scheme, identified in the following wards: Hadley & Leegomery, The Nedge, Malinslee & Dawley Bank, Brookside, Woodside, Madeley & Sutton Hill.

The Selective Licensing Scheme was a discretionary scheme, which required all private landlords (with certain exemptions) who operated within the designated zones to operate under the terms of the license awarded by the Local Authority. The conditions of the license typically included a range of requirements aimed at ensuring the properties were safe and managed in a satisfactory way.

The proposals had been discussed at the Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, where it was agreed the scheme was a welcomed step forward.

The Cabinet Members noted that the report was seeking authorisation for a consultation, which would involve landlords, tenants, residents of the areas, town and parish councils and stakeholders. Members noted that in general, a scheme of accreditation was accepted by landlords, however, concerns were raised regarding enforcement.

The Conservative Group Leader stated that the scheme would penalise good landlords. He stated that the proposed scheme would increase the costs for tenants, as landlords would pass along the cost of the license to their tenants. The scheme would force bad and criminal landlords underground and there would be an increased risk of anti-social behaviour.

The Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Communities, stated that the scheme was standing up for vulnerable people. The scheme would not penalise landlords but would raise standards in the area. The consultation would be positive and would be the opportunity to get the scheme right.

**RESOLVED – that:**

- (a) The consultation with residents, private landlords, town and parish councils, businesses and other stakeholders within the potential licensing zones to designate a selective licensing scheme within the geographical areas highlighted in the report and outlined in the business case, at Appendix A to the report, take place.**
- (b) Subject to the outcome of satisfactory consultation authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Customer & Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Safety & Environment to approve the designation of the four selective licensing zones identified in the report and make arrangements to implement the new scheme.**
- (c) The Licensing fee of £160 for a 5 year license as outlined in the business case attached as Appendix A to the report and within that report**

itemised in Appendix 1, page 55, be approved and the late application fee of £860, which will apply to landlords who fail to apply for a license within the three month deadline be approved.

- (d) The re-launch of the Telford & Wrekin Landlord Accreditation Scheme be approved, and authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Commercial Services in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member: Housing, Leisure and Health to make any arrangements on behalf of the council to implement this resolution.

*Following determination of this agenda item Councillor R A Overton resumed his position of Chair.*

#### **CB-075      Business Rates Discretionary Relief**

##### **Non-Key Decision**

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance, Partnerships & Commercial Services, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & HR, which proposed refreshed guidelines for the awarding of discretionary Council tax discount and the granting of discretionary rate relief for businesses.

From April 2013, 49% of business rates were retained locally by the Council, the Discretionary Relief Guidelines (last updated in January 2014) had been reviewed to take account of the Government changes to rate relief from April 2017.

The Government were introducing Local Newspaper Relief and an additional 50% rural rate relief from April 2017. Any discretionary awards would be fully compensated by the Government to the Council by a S31 Grant.

In the Chancellors Spring Budget, it was announced that there would be further assistance to businesses in the following areas;

- £1000 discount for pubs with a rateable value below £100,000
- A discretionary relief system to provide targeted support to the most hard pressed ratepayers as a result of the revaluation
- A supporting small businesses rate relief which limited the increase in business rates per year to £600 (or £50 per month) to those who had lost small business rate relief or rural rate relief as a result of revaluation.

A Government Consultation paper was out on some of the proposals and further guidance would be issued. This would be brought back to Cabinet.

##### **RESOLVED – that**

**The proposed guidelines for awarding discretionary rate relief for businesses be approved as detailed in Appendix A to the report.**

#### **CB-076      Annual Public Health Report**

##### **Non-Key Decision**

The statutory Director of Public Health presented her Annual Report for 2016/17 – Community-centred approaches, a copy of which was appended to the agenda.

The Report focussed on community-centred approaches within the following areas – doing things differently – the case for change, making it real – our local commitment and ambition, what are community-centred approaches to health and wellbeing? Facilitating stronger communities, growing volunteer and peer roles, maturing collaborations and partnerships, improving access to community resources and assets. It was acknowledged that when people were connected and contributing to their communities, both communities and individuals became stronger and more resilient, leading to better outcomes.

One of the priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy was to strengthen communities and community based support. This was a strategic ambition and commitment between the Council and the local NHS to build community resilience.

The Report contained a number of recommendations that Cabinet was asked to support. The recommendations would be used to ensure that the Health & Wellbeing Board took a systematic and comprehensive approach to community-centred approaches.

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.

The Cabinet Members welcomed the report.

**RESOLVED – that the 2016/17 Annual Health Report be endorsed, and that the following recommendations be supported:**

**Recommendation 1: Health & Wellbeing partner organisations in Telford & Wrekin should consider how community-centred approaches, which build on individual and community assets, become an integral part of our action plans and work programmes put in place to deliver the aspirations of the health and wellbeing strategy.**

**Recommendation 2: Local commissioners of health improvement and preventative services in the CCG and Council should consider the use of community-centred approaches more systematically through their commissioning frameworks, using best practice evidence to: strengthen communities, build the volunteer workforce as agents of change and co-design local services.**

**Recommendation 3: Health & Wellbeing partners and Community Voluntary Services organisations in Telford & Wrekin should collectively celebrate and support formal and informal volunteering, through a variety of ways, such as: providing organisational support, commissioning services, awarding grants, offering training and raising awareness through marketing and publicity.**

**Recommendation 4: Health & Wellbeing partners in Telford & Wrekin, should work collectively with local Community Voluntary Sector organisations to ensure a Borough-wide evaluation programme is developed for our local community-centred approaches in order to determine their impact. This**

**evaluation should aim to share local learning with others and contribute to the national body of best practice evidence.**

**Recommendation 5: Commissioners of health and wellbeing services in Telford & Wrekin, as part of their duty to reduce inequalities in health, should proactively engage people at risk of social isolation in the design and delivery of solutions to narrow inequities.**

**Recommendation 6: As part of the neighbourhood working approach an organisational development programme should be put in place so Health & Wellbeing partners in Telford & Wrekin are able to up skill the local workforce to confidently and effectively deliver person and community centred approaches.**

The meeting ended at 5.35pm.

**Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices**

Jonathan Eatough  
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Signed: .....

Date: .....