

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 15 September at 5.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2016)

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

Also Present: Councillors A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader), and Peter Scott (Liberal Democrat/ Independent Group)

CB-025 Apologies for Absence

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

CB-026 Declarations of Interest

None.

CB-027 Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-028 Library Service Reconfiguration

Key Decision identified as Reconfiguration of the Library Service in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 17 August 2016.

Councillor E Clare, Cabinet Member: Culture, Sports, Parks and Green Spaces presented the report of the Assistant Director: Customer and Neighbourhood Services.

Members were reminded that in January 2016 as part of the budget strategy and savings exercise, proposals were put forward to close six of the Council's nine libraries, (Newport, Madeley, Stirchley, Hadley, Dawley, and Donnington) plus the mobile library and reduce the book fund, to help contribute towards the £30m savings target set for delivery before 2017. As a result of this first round of public consultation, a number of Town and Parish Councils along with HLC learning community indicated that they would be interested in running their local library as community led libraries. Additionally, Cabinet decided to continue to run and operate Newport Library and Madeley Library with reduced opening hours. These libraries, along with libraries at Southwater and Wellington provided a First Point service which would be difficult to replicate under a Community lead library model.

A further consultation was undertaken during June – July 2016 that shaped proposals as follows:

- that the Council would no longer operate libraries in Dawley, Donnington, Hadley and Stirchley and to open new community led libraries in the respective Town and Parish Councils areas in partnership with HLC learning community for at least six years
- the council would provide a package of support in terms of ICT and stock from the Council book fund as outlined in the report
- the Council would continue to operate and run Southwater, Madeley, Newport and Wellington Libraries with reduced opening hours and staffing levels from Autumn 2016
- from October 2016 Oakengates Library would continue to be run by the Council as it is part of Oakengates theatre however it would be open fewer hours during the week. Oakengates Town Council had agreed to fund the opening of the library on Saturday mornings when the theatre was not due to open and those days would be operated by Library staff
- the mobile library service would cease to operate from 31st March, 2017 as no organisation had come forward to support its continuance.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Sports, Parks & Green Spaces expressed her thanks to the Parish and Town Councils and the HLC Learning Community that had shown support for local library services and put forwards proposals to open community led libraries in Dawley, Donnington, Hadley and Stirchley. The Cabinet Member also appealed to Councillors to consider donations from their respective Community Pride Funds to the Book Fund.

Members noted the proposals to meet the savings targets and that important services such as First Point continued to operate in Newport and Madeley libraries as they would continue to operate as Council run libraries alongside Southwater and Wellington libraries. Concerns were expressed about the mobile library service being discontinued as no providers had come forward, but it was noted that there was still time, until 2017 for the provision to be met. It was also noted that the loss of the mobile library service was mitigated to an extent by online access to the library service, such as 24 hour library and eBooks/eAudio.

RESOLVED that -

- a) libraries including a First Point Service at Southwater, Wellington, Newport and Madeley Libraries continue to be operated and managed by the Council, be approved**
- b) the Council continues to operate Oakengates Library which remains part of Oakengates Theatre and staffed and run by the theatre team on a day to day basis continues to be operated by the Council; that Dawley, Stirchley, Hadley and Donnington libraries close by the end of this year as council run libraries, be approved**

- c) **partnership funding deals be provided by the Council to assist the respective Town and Parish Councils listed in 1.2 and HLC learning community to set up and run new community lead libraries in Dawley, Stirchley, Donnington & Hadley, which would help to sustain library provision in those areas for at least the next 6 years and assist the council to achieve the library savings target, be approved.**
- d) **in addition to the partnership funding deals the Council provides arm's length support to the new community lead libraries by sharing the use of the current library loans ICT system, provision of new book stock, help to refresh book stock and support to train new volunteers required to staff the new community lead libraries**
- e) **it be approved from 31st March 2017 the mobile library service ceases to operate if no organisation comes forward in that timescale with a firm proposal to run it.**
- f) **it be approved from Autumn 2016 the four remaining core Council run libraries (Southwater, Wellington, Madeley & Newport) including Oakengates Library amend their opening hours as described in the report and informed by public consultation to help achieve the savings target**
- g) **the introduction of the new charges as described in the report be approved.**
- h) **the proposal that Madeley Library relocate into Anstice Memorial Hall, or another community run facility in the future, subject to ongoing negotiations with Madeley Town Council be approved.**

CB-029 Marches Growth Hub & Marches Building Investment Grant

Key Decision identified as Marches Growth Hub ERDF Project in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 17 August 2016.

Councillor L Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Partnerships & Commercial Services presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development and Employment, which provided Members with details of the two new coaching and funding programmes which would support c. 800 small and medium sized businesses across the Borough to expand; and new entrepreneurs to set up in business, increasing employment opportunity and driving innovation.

Following a joint bid for funding under the European Union 2014-2020 Structural Funding Programme (ESIF) by the three Marches LEP Local Authorities, the Marches Growth Hub project would support the delivery of business support activity through the three physical Growth Hubs including the Telford Growth Hub and the Marches Building Investment Grant would create a capital grant programme for business to facilitate the growth of small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) in the Marches area. Both projects awaited the issue of Funding Agreements by DCLG. The target start date for both was October 2016; however Members noted that this

may slip if Government authorisation was not received in sufficient time to commence delivery.

The projects would complement the Business Growth Programme, a package of grants for SME's managed by Birmingham City Council and in which the three Marches local authorities were partners. Taken as a suite of complementary business support, across the Marches these projects would support more than 100 new businesses to start up, almost 700 businesses to expand through support and coaching and mentoring activity and support the creation of at least 400 new jobs.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Partnerships & Commercial Services noted that the projects demonstrated the Council's commitment to grow the local economy and create local jobs, furthermore, that funding honoured following Britain's exit from the EU was invaluable; and it was hoped that this would continue after 2020.

RESOLVED –

- a) that the Council act as Accountable Body and Project Manager for the Marches Growth Hub Project and the signing of a Funding Agreement with DCLG be approved.**
- a) that the Council becomes a Partner in the Marches Building Investment Grant Project and the signing of a Partnership Agreement with Herefordshire Council be approved**
- b) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Business, Development & Employment and the Assistant Director Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, to enter into the necessary Funding and Partnership Agreements.**

CB-030 Enterprise Telford – Skills for Growth

Non Key Decision

Councillor G Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Education, Employment and Regeneration, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development and Employment, which provided Members with an update on the success of the Job Box initiative launched in 2014 to tackle youth unemployment, and the extension through the Skills to Employment programme launched in 2015 preparing young people from school age for the world of work and strengthening engagement with the Borough's schools.

Members noted that through two initiatives, Life Ready Work Ready and Job Box, the Skills to Employment Programme aimed to ensure that every 16-24 year old seeking employment or training was fully supported and to decrease the Borough's youth unemployment levels in line with national levels by the end of 2015/16. It was also noted that Job Box had been recognised by Ofsted as an example of good practice. Members were provided with details of the next phase of development for the Life Ready Work Ready and Job Box; with the focus of Job Box on increasing the integration of employment support service offers from other organisations so that

the Job Box becomes the main portal for individuals to all employment and training support services in the Borough and addressing its sustainability.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Regeneration, highlighted the Council's recently published Economic Development Strategy, Enterprise Telford: Driving Growth and Prosperity which recognised the need to further align the skills of the workforce to business needs and opportunities. It was noted that in consultation with businesses across all sectors at a local, regional and national level, the skills gap was one of the most significant issues affecting business performance, with skills gaps at all levels but particularly at a higher level with businesses across all sectors identifying a shortage of technological, managerial and professional skills.

In response to this clear message from business, it was proposed that the Council launch a third initiative under the Skills to Employment Programme – Enterprise Telford Skills for Growth. The initiative would create a streamlined, single programme and point of access for businesses to information and individually tailored packages of support that aimed to help them to address their skills gaps, develop their own workforce growth strategies and to address their management and leadership challenges. Delivery would be through the Telford Growth Hub enabling business to benefit from the wider, tailored support packages provided by the Council Growth Hub Team and partners including Wolverhampton University

Members noted that within the Economic Development strategy the Council had made a commitment to improve the skills talent pool across the Borough and to make it more relevant to business; to deliver a skills brokerage service that would strengthen links between business and schools and training providers, remove barriers to engagement between businesses and schools and create bespoke solutions for businesses across all sectors to meet business skills and training needs.

RESOLVED that -

- a) **progress made to date against the Skills to Employment Programmes be noted**
- b) **the launch of Enterprise Telford - Skills for Growth be approved; and**
- c) **responsibility be delegated to the Assistant Director, Business, Development & Employment in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for the development and launch of the initiative.**

CB-031 Local Development Order – Householder Extensions and Alterations

Non Key Decision

Councillor R A Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Leisure and Health presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment which provided Members with details of the proposed consultation on the introduction of a

Local Development Order (LDO) which related to the number of householder planning applications submitted across the Borough. Members noted that the introduction of the LDO had been agreed as part of the budget strategy approved by Full Council on 3 March 2016.

The proposed Local Development Order (LDO) would enable a number of general types of applications for two storey and single storey extensions, in addition to other minor alterations to residential properties that are deemed to be non-controversial to be approved without the requirement for an application for planning consent to be made. However, there would still be a requirement to apply to the LPA for a Certificate of Compliance under the LDO which would be a more straight forward process that would provide certainty and would speed up the implementation of development.

In response to a question regarding the notification process to neighbours, it was confirmed that applications made under the LDO would be appropriately notified to neighbours and that details of all planning applications that met the LDO criteria would be uploaded to the website. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure & Health noted concerns about the management of planning application objections and encouraged Members to respond to the consultation, to allow for such concerns to be considered and addressed when the policy was shaped.

RESOLVED that –

- a) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment and any other officer authorised by that Assistant Director in writing, to draft and consult on the proposed three year Borough of Telford & Wrekin Householder LDO**
- b) following the consultation period, the proposed LDO as amended (if required) be presented to Cabinet for approval**

CB-032 Representation on Outside Bodies 2016-17

Non Key Decision

The Leader, Councillor S Davies presented the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning which provided details about a request for Council representation on three outside bodies for the first time until the 2019 borough elections. The outside bodies formed 'Joint/Community Use' Management Committees developed as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in respect of the three shared Council/Academy sports and Leisure Facilities at

- Oakengates Leisure Centre
- Telford Park Academy
- Telford Langley Academy

Nominations had been sought from all Groups. The Leader proposed that it was appropriate for Members with direct Ward interest to represent the Council on the aforementioned committees.

RESOLVED that the following representatives be appointed until the end of the 2018/19 municipal year;

- (a) **Oakengates Leisure Centre Joint/Community Use Management Committee – Cllr S J Reynolds;**
- (b) **Telford Park Academy Joint/Community Use Management Committee – Cllr C R Turley; and**
- (c) **Telford Langley Academy Joint/Community Use Management Committee – Cllr K S Sahota**

The meeting ended at 17.34

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 21 September 2016

Signed:

Date: