

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 at 5.00pm at The Park Inn, Forgegate, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 30 APRIL 2018)

Present: Councillors S Davies (Leader and Chair), L D Carter, A R H England, R C Evans, J C Minor, A D McClements, R A Overton, S A W Reynolds, and P R Watling.

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

CB-168 **Apologies for Absence**

None

CB-169 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

CB-170 **Minutes**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 29 March 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-171 **Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Together**

Key Decision identified as **CSE Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 April 2018.

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member for Finance, Commercial Services and Economic Development presented the report of the Monitoring Officer which sought to update Cabinet on progress against recommendations since the last Cabinet meeting on 29 March 2018 and, in the context of the decision of full Council on 10 April 2018, to consider the implications of that decision, including agreeing the principles for the commissioning of an independent inquiry.

It was noted that whilst Councillor L D Carter had been appointed by the Leader as Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility for the Independent Council Inquiry, this was purely a liaison role and it would be an Advisory Group of Members, as set out in the report, which would lead the detail to progress the Inquiry.

The report set out the context to the Independent Council-Commissioned Inquiry and provided clarification on the Council Policy position which had initially been set by a Motion to Council on 22 September 2016 and more latterly by a Motion on 10 April 2018.

In order to take this decision forward, it was proposed that an independent group of members were brought together as an Advisory Group to consider the most appropriate independent body to approach which could, on the Council's behalf, develop terms of reference for an independent inquiry, recommend arrangements for the inquiry process and recommend and commission a suitably qualified and experienced individual who could act as the Chair of any such independent inquiry. A copy of the principles outlining the proposed process were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

It was further proposed, for the sake of transparency and openness, that rather than applying political balance, this Group's membership should consist of two representatives from each political group. Nominations had been sought from Group Leaders with the intention that the first meeting of the Group be organised and held before the end of May (subject to Members' availability). Initial training would be provided to the Members of the Group at their first meeting and meetings would be held in public.

The report also set out an update on actions which had taken place against recommendations made at the Cabinet meeting on 29 March 2018 and provided an update on the National Independent Expert Inquiry (IICSA) and the work that The Truth Project had commenced in Telford.

Councillor A J Eade, Conservative Group Leader, commented on the report and the terms of the reference of the Member Advisory Group and expressed a view on its composition and remit.

The Monitoring Officer provided clarification on the widely drawn terms which allowed a Commissioning Body to design the parameters for the Independent Inquiry and made provision for the proposed terms of reference for the Inquiry to be consulted upon.

Councillor W L Tomlinson, Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader, welcomed the report and emphasised his view that the Inquiry should reflect the views of victims, survivors and their families. He also expressed thanks to staff for their dedicated work.

RESOLVED-

- (a) that Cllr L D Carter becoming the Cabinet Member with special responsibility for the Independent Council Inquiry be noted;**
- (b) that the progress against the recommendations agreed on the 29 March 2018 report "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Together" be noted;**
- (c) that the proposed process as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report outlining the most transparent way of commissioning an independent inquiry, be agreed in principle;**
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to use the principles set out in paragraph (c) above to finalise a detailed process; and**

- (e) to **RECOMMEND** to **COUNCIL** that provision be made for £350,000 from the 2017/18 projected underspend as a provisional estimate to meet the costs of the independent inquiry and that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to use this budget as per the report.

CB-172 Update on Future Fit Hospital Reconfiguration

Key Decision identified as **Future Fit Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 April 2018.

Councillor A R H England Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing presented the report of the Assistant Director: Health & Wellbeing. The report noted that in August 2017 the Joint Committee of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCGs had recommended that a public consultation was launched with regard to hospital reconfiguration. At the end of March 2018, the Department of Health had announced £300m new capital funding to transform hospital services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales. This announcement meant that a 12-week public consultation would shortly commence, probably in May 2018. The consultation would include two options:-

- Option1: The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) became an Emergency Care site with Women & Childrens in-patient services and the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) became a Planned Care site;
- Option 2: The PRH became an Emergency Care site retaining Women & Childrens in-patient services and the RSH became a Planned Care site.

Under either option, both hospitals would have an Urgent Care Centre that was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The CCGs had recommended that their preferred option was Option 1. However, at the Council meeting on 21 September 2017 the Council had confirmed that its preferred option was Option 2 – ie that both the Emergency Centre and existing Women & Children’s Centre be located at the PRH.

This Council believed that it made the most sense for Option 2 to be the preferred option since the PRH was the key hospital for Eastern Shropshire which had the largest and fastest growing population and the highest health needs for Women and Childrens in-patient services. Additionally, Option 2 made the most financial sense and was the most attractive site to recruit new clinical staff being close to the conurbation and Birmingham.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) **the imminent launch of a 12 week public consultation by the CCGs with regard to hospital reconfiguration be noted and the Council’s response be discussed; and**
- (b) **authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with relevant cabinet members, to write to seek urgent clarification from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care that this public consultation will be open and fair and that the 300 million capital funding offered by**

the Department of Health is genuinely agreed to support either Option 1 or Option 2 and the offer is subject to public consultation.

CB-173 Procurement Update

Key Decision identified as **Procurement Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 22 March 2018.

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning which provided an update on the Council's Procurement Intentions Document and the latest information regarding effective procurement and contract management.

It was noted that council wide procurement continued to drive savings through robust competitive tendering and real time negotiation when brokering services.

As the Council continued to re-think and re-imagine the way services were procured and worked with neighbourhoods to support their communities, consideration of the various options available was required. Although the default position was generally to carry out a tender and let a contract for services, another way to support community services was via a grant agreement. The Council currently issued a variety of grants to support neighbourhoods on their journey to self-sufficiency with less reliance on public funds. The ways in which this was achieved and the Grant opportunities currently available was set out in the report.

The regular Procurement Intentions Document was set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The document presented up and coming procurements for the next few months.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the procurement updates in the report be noted; and**
- (b) the Procurement Intentions Document (set out at Appendix 1 to the report) be noted and where indicated, delegated authority to the appropriate officers (as per the Contract Procedure Rules) to progress new procurements through the tender process to contract award be approved.**

CB-174 The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 and Updated Local Code of Good Governance

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Tourism & Partnerships, presented the joint report of the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer, attached to which was the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

Under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011, the Council was required to produce an Annual Governance Statement, and it was best practice that it was signed by the Leader and Managing Director of the Council. The Statement included an action plan to ensure that the Council continued to improve its existing governance arrangements. The action plan attached to the 2016/17 statement (implemented during 2017/18) had been reviewed and updated and was appended to the report.

The Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Good Governance outlined that the Council was continually reviewing and improving its procedures to maintain and demonstrate good corporate governance, and that it had in place robust systems of internal control. The Council could be assured that during 2017/18, including during organisational and personnel changes, the existing governance arrangements had continued to support proper governance. Assurance for the Annual Governance Statement was provided by all areas of the Council including senior management, Members, the Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer and internal audit.

The Council’s current Code of Good Governance, had been approved in June 2017 to reflect the CIPFA/SOLACE updated framework including revised principles and guidance. There had been minor changes during 2017/18 which were reflected in the document appended to the report at Appendix C and presented for approval. The Code continued to reflect the Council’s culture and values, including the “Being the Change” document.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18, appended to the report as Appendix A, be agreed and the information in the report be noted; and**
- (b) that the revised Local Code of Good Governance appended to the report at Appendix C be approved.**

The meeting ended at 5.54pm

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 25 April 2018

Signed:

Date: