

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 12 July 2018 at 5.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3-G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2018

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 23 JULY 2018)

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

Also Present: Councillor A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CB-01 Apologies for Absence

Councillors J C Minor, S A W Reynolds and W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-02 Declarations of Interest

None.

CB-03 Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 31 May 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-04 2018/19 Financial Management Report

Key Decision identified as **Financial Management Report 2018/19 Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 13 June 2018.

Recommendations for Full Council – not subject to Call-in.

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer.

Members were informed that the net projected outturn position for 2018/19 was estimated to be within budget.

It was a positive start to the year given that £7.6m savings were required to balance the 2018/19 budget and the aim was that senior managers would sustain this position and make further improvements where possible by year end.

Children's Safeguarding and Early Help & Support continued to be key areas of focus and both had cost improvement plans in place to reduce costs and deliver savings. Adult Social Care was showing a neutral position. These plans were monitored on a regular basis both by senior managers and Cabinet Members.

There were a number of variations from the approved budget, including some beneficial variances. The main areas were highlighted as:

- A benefit of £1.5m relating to Treasury Management activities - the majority of which related to benefits from low interest rates for short term borrowing. Some long term borrowing had taken place in 2018/19 to reduce interest rate exposure and the position was regularly monitored by senior finance staff with advice taken from the Council's external treasury management advisors.
- Early Help & Support – overall the service was currently projected to be £0.8m overspend at year end. This was the position after applying £0.5m one off balances.
- Education & Corporate Parenting – overall the service was projected to be overspent by £0.5m. This was from a combination of the cost of providing school transport and an increase in the number of children with high needs.

The funding outlook for the medium term remained uncertain however it was anticipated that the Council would need to identify a further £20-25m savings by the end of 2020/21 on top of the £117m savings already delivered, so it was important to maintain the excellent track record in managing budgets and maximise the position in 2018/19 which would assist in future years.

RESOLVED -

(a) that it be noted that the 2018/19 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget and that work will continue with SMT to sustain this position and to approve the use of the contingency detailed in paragraph 5.1;

(b) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the new allocations, virements and slippage detailed in Appendix 3 be approved; and

(c) that the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted.

CB-05 Housing Investment Programme

Non-Key Decision

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment which provided an update on the programme to the year ending 2017/18.

The Housing Investment Programme (HIP) was a strategic programme, delivering a portfolio of properties for private and affordable rent. Nuplace Ltd was the Council's chosen delivery vehicle for the programme. Having been incorporated in April 2015, Nuplace had been operational for just over three years. Over the period, Nuplace had:

- Delivered 290 homes, including all four-bed properties on Coppice Court, Snedshill which were reserved on the day of release.
- Delivered an income of £1.23m in 2017/18.
- Generated £367k since 2016/17 from the New Homes Bonus and Council tax, which was expected to rise to £756k per annum.
- Cumulatively since 2015/16 Nuplace Limited was forecasted to have delivered a profit before interest and taxation of £1.5m and £683k after interest but before taxation. In 2017/18 alone Nuplace achieved a forecast profit of £1.002m before interest and taxation and £343k after interest but before taxation.
- Regenerated over 20 acres of brownfield land.

In response to comments from the Conservative Group Leader, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Enforcement stated that Nuplace had provided affordable housing in Newport and plans were being developed for future sites. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Enforcement noted that residents want to move to Nuplace houses and they were highly valued by the community.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) The progress made in the delivery of the Housing Investment Programme during 2017/19 be noted**
- (b) The development proposals for 2018/19 be noted**
- (c) The financial performance of Nuplace for the year 2017/19 and the impact of Nuplace's operations on the Council's budget position be noted.**

CB-06 The Telford Land Deal

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Communities, Housing and Enforcement, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Customer and Neighbourhood Services which provided an update on the programme.

Enterprise Telford, the Council's investment brand, continued to attract investment, both commercial and residential development into the Borough. The Council had entered into a 10 year Land Deal with Homes England (HE) in March 2016. In the last 12 months, the Deal had secured gross land sales of c £17.9m, which had enabled the delivery of 359 new homes and 553 new jobs.

The highest profile investment in the last 12 months was Magna International's new plant at T54, which was set to deliver over 600 jobs in a state of the art manufacturing plant. Polytec had also invested in a new manufacturing plant at T54 which was set to deliver 243 new jobs.

By the end of 2017/18, the Deal had delivered c£3.1m in local profit share, which were retained locally for investment. This profit share was channelled into new incubation

units for start-up companies. In the next 12 months, the Deal would support delivery of NI Park in Newport, the Agri-Tech Innovation Park.

RESOLVED that the outcomes achieved since the Land Deal was completed as set out in section 4 of the report be noted.

CB-07 Response to Future Fit Hospital Reconfiguration

Non-Key Decision

Councillor A R H England, Cabinet Member: Health and Wellbeing, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Health & Well-Being which outlined the Council's response to the Future Fit consultation regarding the future of hospital services in the Borough, Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Option 2, where the Princess Royal Hospital would be the Emergency Care site, retaining the Women & Children's unit, was the Council's preferred option. The CCG's preferred option, Option 1, was for Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to be the Emergency Care site, with the Women & Children's unit being moved to Shrewsbury.

The report outlined the Council's reasons for their preferred option, Option 2, which had fewer capital costs, placed the Women & Children's unit in the area of highest need and that the Princess Royal Hospital was the closest hospital for 60% of residents.

The Conservative Group Leader stated that cross-party support for the proposals was important, to protect local NHS services. The Leader stated that it was important that Councillors of all parties stood together to ensure that Telford retained a full A&E service and the Women & Children's unit.

RESOLVED that the Council's response to the proposed hospital reconfiguration that will be sent to the Clinical Commissioning Groups be approved.

CB-08 Library Services Strategy

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member for People Service, Visitor Economy and Partnerships, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services which outlined the future for library services in the Borough.

Seven objectives had been developed which would continue to improve the well-being of residents and visitors. The vision was to provide safe hubs at the heart of the community, which provided a free service that opened up inspirational opportunities for reading, information and discovery. It was noted that library staff would be digital champions, supporting residents in accessing information.

The Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing paid tribute to the partnership working between the Council and Town and Parish Councils to keep libraries open.

RESOLVED that –

- a) **The Telford & Wrekin Library Service Strategy 2018-2020 be approved**
- b) **Responsibility be delegated to the appropriate Assistant Director with responsibility for the library service to implement, review and further develop the action plan for delivery of the Strategy.**

CB-09 **Driving Delivery of the Council's Priorities – End of Year Performance Report 2017-18**

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member for People Service, Visitor Economy and Partnerships, presented the report of the Managing Director, which presented an overview of the progress made in delivering the Council's community facing priorities as identified by the Council Plan

This illustrated how the Council continued to make real progress against these priorities despite having made £110m+ in savings, which included:

- Sustained progress as a "Business Supporting, Business Winning Council" securing investment and the creation of jobs in the Borough.
- The Council's new approach to enforcement had seen a 15% reduction in environmental crime.
- A 10,000 increase in the number of visits to Council leisure centres – a core part of the approach to residents adopting healthy lifestyles

Key challenges across the year included:

- Increased demand pressure into services that support vulnerable children and adults, and housing and homeless services.
- The need to ensure that all pupils attend a good or outstanding school and achieve their potential whatever their background.

RESOLVED that the end of year performance against the Council's priorities be noted.

CB-10 **Representation on Outside Bodies**

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member for People Service, Visitor Economy and Partnerships, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning which set out the appointments to outside bodies that the Council was required to make for 2018/19. Nominations had been sought from the political groups for those appointments that were not by position. Following discussions with the political groups, a list of representatives for approval by Cabinet

had been proposed, and this was tabled as Appendix 1. It was noted that the Madeley Regeneration Partnership had ceased, and no longer required an appointment.

RESOLVED – that the nominations to represent the Council on Outside Bodies for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, with the exclusion of the Madeley Regeneration Partnership, be approved.

The meeting ended at 17.40pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning
Date:

Signed:

Date: