

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 18 October 2018 at 5.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3-G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2018)

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

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

CB-019 Apologies for Absence

Councillor P R Watling

CB-020 Declarations of Interest

None.

CB-021 Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-022 Overnight Closure of A&E at Princess Royal Hospital

The Leader provided an update on the Council's work to safeguard overnight A&E services at Princess Royal Hospital. This included a meeting of the Leader and the Mayor with the Consul General of India, Birmingham to promote the need for doctors among Indian Hospitals, lobbying NHS Education to secure junior doctors and training places; and arranging a petition, rally and march to support the campaign. He welcomed a meeting which had taken place between the MP for Telford, the Ward Member for Ironbridge Gorge and the Secretary of State for Health but expressed disappointment that this had only resulted in a promise to monitor the situation, rather than rescue action. He also criticised calls to place the Hospital Trust in special measures, urging instead for the instatement of a rescue plan. During his speech the Leader criticised current government policies which he considered thwarted proposed measures to support the retention of services. The Leader stated that the Cabinet would do all in their power to stop the proposed overnight closure; he called for unity across the political divide and urged anyone with any influence to stop the overnight closure happening to take action.

A number of Cabinet Members supported the Leader's sentiments, sharing personal experiences and the fears constituents had expressed about the proposed overnight closure. Cabinet Members were also alarmed by the wider impact that the proposals

would have across the West Midlands as patients were diverted to hospitals across the region.

The Conservative Group Leader and Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader also expressed their concerns about the proposals and supported a cross-party approach.

CB-023 Pride in Our High Streets – Supporting Business

Key Decision identified as **Pride in Our High Street** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 September 2018.

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 Pride in Our High Streets programme. He noted that since the launch in 2015, more than £1.5m had been invested into supporting businesses in the Borough's high streets recognising their value to local communities and economies. Phase one of the programme was completed in March 2018 which had seen nearly 30 projects supported across the borough, with the Council's investment of over £800,000 matched by £400,000 in in-kind and financial contributions from local organisations delivering activity. One of the most high profile projects funded was 'Let's Go Quackers' which brought fun, creativity and a significant increase in visitor numbers and social media interest in Ironbridge and Southwater generating £32,000 for charities Severn Hospice and the Jayne Sargent Foundation.

Phase 2 of the programme was investing a further £700,000 directly into High Streets, providing grant funding to bring empty properties back into use, improving shop fronts and facades and working with Parish and Town Councils to market and promote their High Streets. The programme was taking place alongside significant investment being made by a number of Town Councils, including Wellington, Oakengates and Dawley, who were investing in excess of £1m in high street regeneration projects.

The Empty Unit Retail Grant had attracted over 60 initial enquiries. The first grant award was made in Oakengates to support the establishment/expansion of Gems Haberdashers, with another award pending for a new shop to open in Wellington and a number of other investments in the pipeline. The Property Façade Improvement programme was also underway and would be transforming key parts of 6 of the borough town high streets over the coming months.

Almost 1,000 young people had engaged in the innovative Young High Street Challenge, a unique project that involved young people directly in the future of the high streets. Such was the interest from schools and the quality of proposals to reinvigorate the High Street that 3 schools were due to see their ideas delivered in their local High Street supported by funding of £10k- £20k apiece.

The programme was also delivering a pilot scheme for high street wi-fi to meet a public demand for wi-fi over and above that already available through public buildings, cafes and other hot spots.

The targeted activity was complemented by the wider Community Pride programme, which was delivering further investment across all the borough's high streets and local centres to encourage growth.

Members welcomed the report.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the progress made to date in the Phase 2 Pride in Our High Street programme be noted; and
- (b) the inclusion of Ironbridge in the Empty Retail Unit grant programme be approved for the reasons set out in the report.

CB-024 **Supported Employment Scheme**

Key Decision identified as **Supported Employment Policy** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 September 2018.

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member: Customer Services, Tourism & Partnerships, presented the report of the Organisational Delivery & Development Manager, Skills Service Manager & My Options Manager which set out a renewed approach to the Council's work to support a number of key groups to help them tackle barriers to employment and support individuals to fulfil their potential. The revised scheme would deliver:

- 'work experience' placements for young people and adults returning to work;
- ring-fenced apprenticeships for care leavers;
- paid-employment placements for adults with learning disabilities;
- supported internships for young people with Education, Health & Care Plans.

Members welcomed the report and ethos of raising aspiration.

RESOLVED that the proposed **Supported Employment scheme** be approved.

CB-025 **Adult Social Care Local Account 2016/17 – 2017/18 & Telford & Wrekin's Making it Real Board**

Non-Key Decision

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Children & Adults Early Help & Support, the Assistant Director: Adult Social Care presented this report. Local accounts were a core component of the overall approach to sector led improvement in Adult Social Care. Other areas of the include peer challenge and support, benchmarking common data sets and making best use of resources from accessing best practice in how to deliver good outcomes for local people who use services, at a time of diminishing resources and growing demand. Together, these improvement components enabled the Council to be self-aware of performance and to set priorities through engaging with local people.

A key vehicle for engaging with local people with lived experience of adult social care was the new Making It Real Board for Telford and Wrekin. This was a national initiative that set out what people who used services and carers expected to see and experience if support services were truly personalised. There was a set of "progress markers" - written by real people and families - that could help the Service to check progress towards transforming adult social care. The aim of Making it Real was for people to have more choice and control so that they could live full and independent lives.

The draft Local Account for 2016/17 and 2017/18 was appended to the report.

Members welcomed the report, noting the outcomes that had been achieved against a backdrop of financial pressure.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the draft Local Account 2016/17 and 2017/18 be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.15pm

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 24 October 2018

Signed:

Date: