

## **CABINET**

**12th February 2013**

**Present:** Councillor Simon Geraghty in the Chair

Councillors Bayliss (Vice-Chairman), Mrs L. Hodgson, Knight, Riaz and Roberts

**Also in Attendance:**

Councillors Boorn, Gregson, Hodges, S. Hodgson, Lamb, Mrs L. Smith, J. Squires and Williams

### **79 Declarations of Interest**

Update to Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2018, and Budget and Council Tax 2013/14

(Minute 82)

Councillor Bayliss - As a Member of Warndon Parish Council

### **80 Public Participation**

None.

### **81 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **82 Budget and Council Tax 2013/14 - Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet received a report detailing the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2018 and Budget and Council Tax 2013/14. The Portfolio Holder for Delivering Value for Money summarised the main point of the report.

The Leader of the Council informed Cabinet that detailed comments requesting Cabinet's consideration had been received from Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman of Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny informed Cabinet that the Committee had met on three occasions, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February to consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2018 and Budget and Council Tax 2013/14. Following on from the three meetings a report to Cabinet had been compiled detailing the main issues raised at the meetings.

The Leader of the Council together with other Cabinet Members gave a detailed response to each of the issues raised by Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee. One of the suggestions of the Committee was regarding CCTV monitoring within the City. The Committee acknowledged that whilst CCTV was operating well it would be a good idea to allow for extra resources in busy periods and during planned events.

Cabinet stated that CCTV was currently delivering what is was intended to do. Cabinet did however agree the provision of £10k from the General Reserve to be used as a contingency to deal with any arising resource issues was a sensible approach. Cabinet agreed the amendment would be put to Council as part of the Budget 2013/14 on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee for its time in considering the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2018 and Budget and Council Tax 2013/14 and for the thorough and detailed comments produced to Cabinet. A detailed response from Cabinet to each of the issues raised would be compiled for Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet consider any feedback and proposals from the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee and, in the light of this, recommend that Council approve the following:**

- i. the budget assumptions set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report;
- ii. the Budget 2013/14 and MTFS 2013-2018 and the details underpinning the numbers as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- iii. the proposed savings for 2013/14 (included in December Cabinet papers);
- iv. the City Band D Council Tax of £162.10 (frozen at same level as for 2012/13) to meet the Council's budget requirement;
- v. the Capital Programme and Capital Financing as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- vi. earmarked reserves (included in December Cabinet papers);
- vii. the split of funding of New Homes Bonus into the three categories and the proposed allocations to projects, as set out in paragraphs 10.4 and 10.17 of the report;
- viii. the Commissioning Framework as set out at Appendix 3 of the report;
- ix. the detailed Fees and Charges as set out at Appendix 4 of the report;
- x. Treasury Management Annual Strategy and Prudential Indicators (included in January Cabinet papers and set out at Appendix 5 of the report);
- xi. the Pay Policy Statement 2013/14 (included in January Cabinet papers); and
- xii. the detailed revenue budget estimates as set out in the Budget Book (included in December Cabinet papers).

### **83 Revenues and Benefits Telephony**

The Cabinet received a report seeking approval of the proposal to transfer call handling for the South Worcestershire Revenues and Benefits Shared Service from the County Council Hub Contact Centre to the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service from 1 April 2013. A total of 12 full time equivalent staff were expected to transfer.

The Portfolio Holder for Delivering Value for Money presented the main elements of the report. Particular emphasis was made to the proposal and the rationale for the proposal. The Portfolio Holder informed Cabinet that the transfer of Revenues and Benefits calls would result in both improved customer service and revenue savings of around £60k per annum for the partner councils. The Cabinet were informed that improved customer service would result from reduced double handling and the use of service experts. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that face to face revenues and benefits enquires would continue to be dealt with by the Hub Contact Centre. The Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Communication also expresses her support for the proposal.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet approves the transfer of call handling from the County Council Hub Contact Centre to the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service with a target date of 1 April 2013.**

**84 Article 4 Direction for Conversion from Residential Dwelling Houses to Houses in Multiple Occupation**

The Cabinet received a report in relating to an Article 4 Direction for conversion from residential dwelling house to houses in multiple occupation. The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity presented the report and outlined the background to the change in planning regulations in respect of houses in multiple occupation. The Portfolio Holder explained that Cabinet were asked to authorise the making of an Article 4 Direction under Article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) to remove permitted development rights in relation to changes of use from Use Class C3 to Use Class C4 (as defined in the Town and Country Planning [Use Classes] Order 1987, as amended).

The Portfolio Holder also explained to Cabinet that twelve months advance notice of the Direction taking effect would be given and representations would be invited for a period of 28 days from the date of notification. The Direction would apply to all wards and parishes of the city. The Portfolio Holder also advised that Cabinet would receive a further report, following the period of 28 days on representation received by the Council, in order to decide whether or not to confirm the Article 4 Direction.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet:-**

- 1. agree the making of an Article 4 Direction is authorised under Article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) to remove permitted development rights in relation to changes of use from Use Class C3 to Use Class C4 (as defined in the Town and Country Planning [Use Classes] Order 1987, as amended).**

**Twelve months advance notice of the Direction taking effect shall be given and representations will be invited for a period of 28 days from the date of notification. The Direction shall apply to all wards and parishes of the city; and**

2. **agree to receive a further report, following the period of 28 days on representations received by the Council, in order to decide whether or not to confirm the Article 4 Direction.**

## **85 Equalities Priorities**

The Cabinet received a report in relation to Equality Priorities. The Portfolio Holder for Customer Service and Communications informed Cabinet that it was being asked to approve the Equalities Priorities, revised Equality and Inclusion Strategy, consultation Strategy and Equal Opportunities Policy. The Portfolio Holder outlined the proposed Equality Priorities as explained in the report. The Portfolio Holder also explained the purpose of the Equality and Inclusion Action Plan, the consultation exercised that had taken place and training arrangements for officers and Members regarding equalities.

### **RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-**

1. **approve the equality priorities;**
2. **approve the final versions of the Equality Strategy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Consultation Strategy (Appendices 2-4 of the report); and**
3. **note and approve the proposed training that will be developed.**

## **86 Any Other Business**

None.

**Duration of the meeting:** 7.00 pm to 8.25 pm

Chairman at the meeting on  
12th March 2013