

## CABINET

17th January 2017

**Present: Councillor Gregson in the Chair**

**Councillors Berry, L. Denham, J. Squires  
and G. Williams**

**Also in Attendance:**

**Councillors Amos, Bayliss, Feeney,  
Johnson, Knight Mackay and Mitchell**

### **74 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **75 Public Participation**

Jane Moorhouse, Chairman of the Arboretum Residents Association, spoke in relation to Agenda item 5 - Sansome Walk Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre – Key Decision. In summary, she referred to the comments from Scrutiny Committee and highlighted that many local residents were concerned about the future use of this site. Residents had previously expressed the view that the site should be developed for low-cost housing. Converting the site to a car park was not the right solution and she urged the Cabinet to come to a decision without any further delay.

### **76 Minutes**

With reference to minute 72, the Leader stated that consideration of the draft Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan would be dealt with by way of an all-Members briefing, rather than through Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **77 Sansome Walk Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre - Key Decision**

The Cabinet considered comments from the Scrutiny Committee regarding Sansome Walk Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. The Committee had considered this matter at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and had accepted recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 of the Cabinet report. The Committee recommended that the reference to housing in recommendation 1.3 be withdrawn. The Chairman of the Committee was given the opportunity to comment and he explained the background to the Committee's response.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources responded to the points raised. The Leader also commented and explained that a range of options would be looked at.

Having reconsidered the decision it was proposed and seconded and

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:**

1. **approve the demolition of Sansome Walk Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre;**
2. **delegate to the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources authority to approve financing for the demolition works, to include site security, ground condition surveys and applications for all relevant planning and environmental consents; and**
3. **ask officers to prepare an options appraisal for the development of the site, particularly housing, for which the site is allocated in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), and to report back their findings to a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet.**

**78 Update - Draft Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2022**

The Cabinet considered an update on the draft Budget including details of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 to 2020/21, Pay Policy Statement 2017/18, Fees and Charges 2017/18 and a proposal to create a Small Project Development Fund from half of any surplus of actual income in excess of the budgeted income across the City Council. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources summarised the main headlines and in particular the position in relation to New Homes Bonus.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposals, which supported the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2022 and Draft Budget 2017/18 as presented to Cabinet in December 2016. Feedback from consultation and from the Performance Management & Budget Scrutiny Committee process would be considered prior to finalisation of the budget papers for Cabinet on 14th February 2017.

Other Members present also commented and in response to questions raised Officers gave more information on rationale for the Small Project Development Fund.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:**

1. **note this update report on the Draft Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the details of which are deemed part of the budget consultation process and therefore will be referred to Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and**
2. **approve the creation of a Small Projects Development Fund from any surplus income from 2016/17 onwards and:-**
  - (a) **invite schemes from Members by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017;**
  - (b) **instruct officers to design a project appraisal scheme which rewards projects which fulfil priorities within the City Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017; and**

- (c) undertake the appraisal of projects in April 2017 for Cabinet approval ready to start as soon as the resources are available in the Project Development Fund.**

## **79 Worcester City Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2022 - Key Decision**

The Cabinet considered the Worcester City Tourism Strategy 2017-22. The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth presented the report and explained the background to the Strategy, which set out the Council's goals in relation to the economic growth and prosperity through sustainable tourism development.

Other Cabinet Members spoke in support of the Strategy, which would contribute to the delivery of a number of objectives in the Council's City Plan.

Other Members present also commented and Officers responded to a number of detailed questions about the Strategy.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:**

- 1. approve the Worcester City Tourism Strategy 2017-2022;**
- 2. agree to establish a stakeholder forum that will provide strategic leadership and ensure stakeholder engagement; and**
- 3. approve £121,000 New Homes Bonus Corporate Priorities funding to enable delivery.**

## **80 Worcester 10k and Half Marathon 2017-2021**

The Cabinet considered a report on negotiations to secure the event for future years. The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities presented the report and explained that negotiations had not yet been concluded, however in principle agreement had been reached for the 2017 event to consist of a 10k and a half marathon, both utilising the established route. The 10k route would be fully wheelchair accessible. The event had the potential to attract many more participants. Details of the proposed budget allocation were provided in the exempt part of the agenda.

Other Cabinet Members spoke in support of the proposals, which would directly support the City Plan Theme 3 - A Healthy and Active City, as well as the wider City Plan objectives of attracting visitors and supporting the local economy. Other Members present also commented.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:**

- 1. note the continued success of the Worcester 10k event;**
- 2. support the event for a further five years from 2017, to include the addition of a half marathon and wheelchair event; and**

- 3. delegate authority to the Deputy Director, Cleaner and Greener Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for a Clean, Green and Leisure Services, for the completion of appropriate contracts or agreements with relevant event organisers and/or promoters.**

**81 Additional Resources for Meeting the Needs of Entrenched Rough Sleepers**

That Cabinet received a report on a new multi-agency approach to address the needs of entrenched rough sleepers. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Heritage presented the report and explained the "Making Every Adult Matter" (MEAM) approach, a new way of working which would be trialled in Worcester.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the initiative, which supported the delivery of the City Plan. Due to the time of year, it was appropriate to implement this new way of working quickly.

In response to questions from other Members present, Officers clarified that this approach would be funded from existing resources. The £390,000 of additional central government funding that had just been secured was for a separate initiative to prevent people from becoming entrenched rough sleepers.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to note that prior to implementing a restructure to respond to the new Housing Strategy that a multi-agency approach to addressing the needs of entrenched rough sleepers be trialled and funded from existing resources.**

**82 South Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee - Governance Arrangements - Key Decision**

The Cabinet considered a proposal to dissolve the South Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee and reconstitute the governance arrangements for the shared services. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources presented the report and explained that the current arrangements were effective when originally set up in 2009. However, circumstances had changed and the Joint Committee at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had voted unanimously for its functions to be dissolved and new arrangements put in place by each of the partner councils.

Other Cabinet Members spoke in support of the proposals, which reflected the requirement to delegate functions for 'in-house' provision while robust contract management was undertaken for outsourced provision.

Other Members present also commented and in response to questions, it was clarified that the proposals related to the exercise of executive functions and therefore this was a matter for Cabinet to determine.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree:**

1. that the South Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee be dissolved and the Corporate Director – Commissioning and Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be authorised to conclude arrangements relating to services currently delegated to the Joint Committee;
2. that the ICT functions previously delegated to the Joint Committee be delegated to Wychavon District Council with effect from 1 April 2017;
3. that the Council's Building Control functions, previously delegated to the South Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee, be delegated to Malvern Hills District Council with effect from 1 April 2017; and
4. the contractual arrangements with Civica for the outsourced Revenues and Benefits service and Customer Services function continue but consideration be given to future enhanced arrangements for performance reporting.

### **83 Use of Service Improvement Reserve**

At the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016, the Cabinet agreed to ask Scrutiny Committee to consider potential interventions and make recommendations for measures and investment to further mitigate adverse effects of Gulls in the City.

The matter was considered at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Committee agreed in response to refer Cabinet to the findings of 2014 City Centre Scrutiny Review in relation to Gulls. The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee commented further on the response.

The Leader stated that proposals for further measures would be considered by the Cabinet at the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet note the response.**

### **84 Any Other Business**

None.

### **85 Items Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information**

**RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.**

### **86 Proposal to Approve Grant Funding to Facilitate the Delivery of Affordable Housing - Key Decision**

The Cabinet considered a proposal for an in principle grant to Fortis Living to support the delivery of 13 affordable housing flats and houses from City Council available s106 funds for affordable housing purposes.

The Cabinet approved the proposal and further agreed that additional assessments of actual construction costs and sales values be undertaken through the development process and that funds be returned to the Council should these prove the level of affordable housing subsidy was not be needed.

**87 Fees and Charges 2017/18 - Exempt Items**

The Cabinet considered and noted details of proposed Building Control and Trade Waste fees and charges. These fees and charges were commercially sensitive and were not for publication.

**88 Worcester 10k and Half Marathon 2017-2021**

The Cabinet noted the proposed budget allocation to support the Council's contribution to support the event.

**Duration of the meeting:** 7.00p.m. – 9.25p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on  
14th February 2017