

## CABINET

9th February 2016

**Present: Councillor Bayliss in the Chair**

**Councillors Mrs L. Hodgson, Johnson,  
Mitchell and Roberts**

**Also in Attendance:**

**Councillors L. Denham, S. Hodgson, Knight,  
Prodger, J. Squires and Williams**

**96 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**97 Public Participation**

None.

**98 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**99 Scrutiny Review - Traffic Reduction Through Positive Behavioural Change Activity - Final Report**

The Cabinet considered the final report of the Traffic Reduction Through Positive Behavioural Change Activity Scrutiny Review Group. The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee had invited Councillor Prodger to present the report on behalf of the Review Group and he spoke on the recommendations. He emphasised the need to work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council in order to take forward many of the recommendations.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Review Group for their work and explained that detailed consideration would be given to all the recommendations and a formal response provided in due course.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agreed to consider the recommendations and provide a formal response.**

**100 Proposed Budget & Council Tax 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-2021**

The Cabinet considered the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2016/17 and the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the next five year period 2016-2021. The Portfolio Holder for Resources presented the report and highlighted the main points. An updated summary of the Budget and MTFP, and an updated schedule of the proposed utilisation of Earmarked Reserves, were attached to the report.

Other Cabinet Members commented and expressed support for the proposed Budget and MTFP, which would deliver a balanced budget and a stable financial position for the next three years, with provision for continued capital investment.

The Deputy Leader and the Corporate Director – Resources responded to questions from other Members present on specific aspects of the Budget proposals.

The proposals had been considered by the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016, and the Chairman of that Committee also spoke and highlighted some of the points raised at those meetings.

In response to questions it was explained that the final settlement had just been received that day, and that the main figures were in line with the forecast for 2016/17, although the position on the four year offer was not yet clear.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet endorse the proposed Budget & Council Tax for 2016/17 and the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the next five year period 2016-2021, and recommend its approval to Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.**

### **101 Cleaner and Greener - Future Service Delivery - Key Decision**

The Cabinet received an update on progress in the procurement of Waste and Recycling, Street Cleansing, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Services and considered the high level service specifications as a basis for the procurement. The Portfolio Holder for a Clean, Green and Safe City presented the report and highlighted the main points. In summary, good progress had been made and the project remained on track to meet the desired outcomes of maintaining high levels of service and delivering financial savings.

The Portfolio Holder and the Service Manager, Cleaner and Greener City responded to questions from other Members present on specific aspects of the proposals. The Deputy Leader clarified that feedback from the consultation and from Scrutiny Committee would help to inform the competitive dialogue. It was clarified that the specifications were high level documents and had been developed from the original draft considered by Scrutiny Committee in November 2015.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposed way forward, which supported the Corporate Plan theme of “Ensuring our City is Clean Green and Safe.” It was anticipated that the outcome of the procurement process would be reported to Cabinet at the end of 2016 or early in 2017.

**RESOLVED: That the Cabinet:**

- 1. note the feedback from the public consultation;**
- 2. note the progress made with regard to the procurement of Waste and Recycling, Street Cleansing, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Services; and**
- 3. approve the high level service specifications at Appendix 1 to this report.**

**102 City Centre Trade Waste Presentation Policy**

The Cabinet considered a Draft City Centre Trade Waste Presentation Policy for consultation. The Portfolio Holder for a Clean, Green and Safe City explained that the Policy would assist businesses in complying with the law and would encourage them to assist in enhancing the City Centre. It was clarified that the proposed timescale for businesses to place their waste out for collection was 06.00 – 09.30 hours.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposed Policy, which would support the Corporate Plan themes of ensuring a clean green and safe city, and continuing to enhance the city centre.

Other Members present were given an opportunity to comment. In response, the Deputy Leader stated that any issues arising from the County Council's proposed review of public safety in the city centre would be taken into consideration at the relevant time. The Portfolio Holder stated that all Members would have an opportunity to submit specific comments as part of the consultation on the Policy.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet endorse the draft City Centre Trade Waste Presentation Policy for consultation.**

**103 Diglis Public Realm Project - Key Decision**

The Cabinet considered a report on progress with this project. The Portfolio Holder for a Clean, Green and Safe City highlighted achievements to date and explained that Officers had drawn up detailed specifications and contracts in order to tender for further works comprising footpaths, entrances, boundary fencing, landscaping and car parking. Delegation of authority to award a contract was being sought as this would allow the project to commence at the optimum time without risk of delay.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet delegate authority to award a contract for works as detailed within this report to the Service Manager, Cleaner and Greener City, in consultation with the Corporate Director (Resources) and the Cabinet Member for a Clean, Green and Safe City.**

**104 Single Person and Childless Couples Homeless Prevention Support Contract - Key Decision**

The Portfolio Holder for History and Heritage informed the Cabinet of the new commissioning arrangements for the homeless support contract across Worcestershire to commence on 1 April 2016. The funding of £300,000 per annum for three years would be administered by the City Council. The Cabinet were requested to delegate authority to the Service Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to enter into a legal contract with the preferred provider.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposal, which supported the Corporate Plan themes "Continuing to Enhance our City Centre and Riverside" and "Ensuring our City is Clean, Green and Safe." The award of this contract would also support two of the goals of the Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy.

Other Members present were given an opportunity to ask questions. In response, the Deputy Leader emphasised that tackling homelessness was a continuing priority and he welcomed the proposal to jointly commission a new service. It was recognised that the County Council would review their position after 2016/17 and funding would need to be considered against future financial settlements. This has been made clear in the tender documentation and the draft contract.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- 1. Cabinet note that the single homeless support service for Worcestershire will be jointly commissioned by the six Worcestershire districts and the funding of £300,000 per annum will be administered by Worcester City Council; and**
- 2. Cabinet delegate authority to the Service Manager Community Activity & Strategic Housing Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for History and Heritage to finalise the contract documents and award a contract to the preferred supplier.**

**105 Temporary Change to Golf Provision to Allow for Repairs to the Perdiswell Culvert**

The Cabinet considered a proposal for temporary closure of the Council's golf course provision at Perdiswell Leisure Centre as a result of the requirement to carry out repairs to the underground culvert. It was proposed to provide alternative golf facilities at Perdiswell Park by granting a temporary lease of the top 10 holes of the Council's golf course to Ravenmeadow Golf Centre to combine with their current 9 hole course for the duration of the proposed closure.

The Portfolio Holder for Sport, Leisure and Retail presented the report and explained that a recent technical survey of the culvert had shown that the condition had deteriorated and that the structural liner option was no longer viable. The proposal would ensure the continuing the provision of competition standard golfing facilities at Perdiswell and the financial risks had been mitigated.

The Cabinet resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting to answer a question about the redundancy situation that would arise as a result of the temporary closure.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- 1. Cabinet approve the temporary closure of the Council's golf course provision for a period of 15 – 18 months from 1 April 2016, as a result of the requirement to carry out repairs to the underground culvert; and**
- 2. Cabinet approve the grant of a lease to the operator of Ravenmeadow Golf Centre for the top 10 holes of the Perdiswell Golf Course for the duration of the proposed closure, requiring that a temporary 18 hole course with 9 Perdiswell holes and 9 Ravenmeadow holes is established and operated.**

**106 Any Other Business**

None.

**107 Item 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of information as defined in schedule 12A of the Act.**

**108 Temporary Change to Golf Provision to Allow for Repairs to the Perdiswell Culvert**

The Legal Services Manager explained the background to the redundancy situation that would arise as a result of the temporary closure of the Perdiswell Golf Course. This information was exempt as it related to consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

**Duration of the meeting: 7.05p.m. – 8.55p.m.**

Chairman at the meeting on  
22nd March 2016