

CABINET

21st March 2017

Present: Councillor Gregson in the Chair

**Councillors Berry, L. Denham, J. Squires
(Vice-Chairman) and G. Williams**

Also in Attendance:

Councillors Knight and Mitchell

102 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Berry – Advance Payment of Pension Forwarding Fund (Minute 112) –
As a beneficiary of the Worcestershire County Pension Fund

Councillor Gregson – Advance Payment of Pension Forwarding Fund (Minute 112)
– As a future beneficiary of the Worcestershire County Pension Fund

103 Public Participation

None.

104 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105 The Shambles Public Realm Improvement - Key Decision

The Cabinet considered proposals for the next phase of public realm improvements in the city centre. The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth presented the report and explained that both the City and County Councils saw The Shambles as the next priority, with a provisional estimated total cost of £1.25m. The detailed design, construction timetable and costs were still to be confirmed. The proposed contribution from the City Council of a maximum of £400k was considered to be reasonable.

Other Cabinet Members spoke in support of the proposals, which would improve the amenity value of The Shambles. Improving safety was highlighted as a key issue.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to approve expenditure of £400,000 from the 2015-16 New Homes Bonus Allocation for public realm improvements to carry out public realm improvements to The Shambles in partnership with Worcestershire County Council.

106 Worcester City Masterplan Update

The Cabinet had previously agreed that the Council would work with key stakeholders including the County Council and the LEP to develop and adopt the City Centre Master Plan.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth explained the proposals for this project, which would be funded from the City Plan Fund with an additional contribution from the LEP. The development of the update would be overseen by a City and County Officers Group, including consultants/project officers, a Cabinet/Policy & Resources Committee Working Group and the City Strategic Delivery Board. It was not considered viable to deliver the update in-house as the Council did not have the capacity to produce the document within the required timescale nor the technical capability.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposals. The update was considered to be timely in view of the number of key town planning and economic plans and development projects now in place.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:

- 1. approve the allocation £75k from the "City Plan Fund" towards the production of an updated City Master Plan; and**
- 2. note the contribution of £25k from Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership towards the costs.**

107 Perdiswell Golf Course

The Cabinet considered proposals for the future provision of golf at Perdiswell. The Leader of the Council presented the report and explained that the outcome of the public consultation showed a high level of support for the current temporary arrangements continuing on a permanent basis. In light of the overwhelming public support external advisers had been appointed to negotiate a long-term lease with Ravenmeadow. The Council had published a notice of intention to dispose of land and at the time of writing, no objections had been received.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposals, which would ensure the continued provision of pay and play golf.

In accordance with the decision of Full Council on 22nd November 2016 this matter would be referred to the next Council meeting on 28th March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:

- 1. endorse the proposals in this report, in particular the maintenance of 'pay and play' provision at Perdiswell; and**
- 2. recommend to Council the grant of a long lease to the operator of the Ravenmeadow Golf Centre in respect of part of the golf course at Perdiswell.**

108 Refurbishment of the Cinderella Sports Ground - Key Decision

The Cabinet considered proposals to refurbish the Cinderella Sports Ground. The Leader of the Council presented the report and explained that the original project proposal, which remained unchanged, was that Heart of Worcestershire College take on a lease of the site from the Council, to provide football and cricket facilities.

Legal issues concerning the lease with the developers had delayed progress on the project, but these had been resolved and the report set out proposals for the project to proceed. Sufficient budget for the works was available as detailed in the table at Appendix B to the report.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposals, which would provide a sustainable community sports facility in this part of Worcester.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to:

- 1. approve the project to refurbish the Cinderella Sports Ground as a Community sports facility to be operated by Heart of Worcestershire College as detailed within this report;**
- 2. approve a budget for the project as detailed within this report at Appendix B; and**
- 3. delegate to the Deputy Director, Cleaner and Greener Service Delivery, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to enter into all necessary contracts and agreements to deliver the project.**

109 Worcester City Health And Wellbeing Activity Plan 2017-2019

The Cabinet considered proposals for the development of a Worcester City Health and Wellbeing Activity Plan. The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities presented the report and explained that the Worcestershire Health Improvement Group was tasked with the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy by way of the development and monitoring of local Health and Well-being Plans for each district/city with the aim of highlighting and co-ordinating local action and sharing good practice. In the spirit of working in partnership with the County Council and supporting the public health agenda, the City Council supported the development of a Worcester City Plan.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support of the Plan, which would support the delivery of the City Plan theme to be a "Healthy and Active" city.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to endorse the actions in the Worcester City Health and Wellbeing Activity Plan prepared by the Healthy Worcester Partnership.

110 New Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Plan

The Cabinet considered a report on the development of a Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Heritage presented the report and explained that the Plan was an overarching document setting the strategic direction for housing and extended on the partnership working achieved through the Housing and Homelessness Strategies. The Plan was one of the documents that would underpin and support the delivery of the Worcester City Plan. If approved, it would take effect from 1st April 2017, replacing the housing and homelessness strategies in their current format.

The Worcestershire Housing Strategy formed part of the Policy Framework. In accordance with the Constitution, approving or adopting the Policy Framework was a function of the Full Council. This matter would therefore be referred to the next Council meeting on 28th March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to note, prior to consideration by Council, the new Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan, which is an overarching partnership document setting the strategic direction for housing.

111 Procurement of Temporary Agency Staff - Key Decision

The Cabinet considered a proposal for the provision of temporary agency staff services. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources explained that since 2011 the Council had used Matrix SCM Limited, a Managed Service Provider that acted as a conduit between the client requiring agency staff and a wide range of temporary agency companies. Following a full evaluation, Matrix SCM Limited was found to offer best value in terms of quality of service and price and it was proposed to award a one year contract to with effect from 1st April 2017 with an option to extend the contract for a further year.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposal, which was in accordance with procurement legislation and would allow the Council to quickly and cost effectively fill human resource gaps.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet approve the award of a temporary agency staff service contract to Matrix SCM Limited.

112 Advance Payment of Pension Forwarding Fund

The Cabinet considered a proposal for forward-funding of pension contributions. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources presented the report and explained that the proposal would result in a net annual saving of £45k. The proposal was an amendment to the Budget agreed by Council in February 2017 and was therefore a decision for full Council.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposal as an effective way of achieving savings.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the advance payment of three years forward funding pension costs, estimated to be £2.4m, for a discount of approximately £150k.

113 Scrutiny Review - Impact of Individual Electoral Registration

The Cabinet considered the Scrutiny Review Group's final report. The Leader expressed support for all the recommendations set out in the report. The Scrutiny Committee had recommended that it would be appropriate for Policy and Resources Committee to consider the report and recommendations.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the recommendations and the proposed way forward.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree the report and recommendations of the Review Group.

114 Scrutiny Review - Street Cleansing Standards

The Cabinet considered the Scrutiny Review Group's final report. The Leader expressed support for all the recommendations set out in the report. The Scrutiny Committee had recommended that it would be appropriate for the Environment Committee to consider the report and recommendations.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the recommendations and the proposed way forward.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree the report and recommendations of the Review Group.

115 Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report - 2016/17

The Cabinet considered the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring report covering the period to 31st December 2016. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources presented the report and highlighted the main points. Other Cabinet Members and other Members present also commented.

In summary, performance at the end of Q3 showed expenditure to be well controlled and income ahead of budget. The forecast surplus for the year-end was £323k, mainly as a result of extra income over budget, particularly on car parking and trade and garden waste collections.

The Cabinet did not make any recommendations of action to take as a result of the information.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet note the financial monitoring report and variances highlighted for the third quarter ended 31st December 2016.

116 Quarter 3 Performance Report for 2016/17

The Cabinet considered a summary by exception of performance for the 3rd quarter for the period to 31st December 2016. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources presented the report and highlighted the main points. Other Cabinet Members also commented.

The Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee had considered the report at their meeting on 20th March 2017. There were no specific comments from the Committee to Cabinet in respect of this item.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet note the summary by exception of the Council's Quarter 3 performance for 2016/17.

117 Any Other Business

None.

118 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.

119 Perdiswell Golf

The Cabinet noted the draft heads of terms (Appendix 2).

120 Refurbishment of the Cinderella Sports Ground - Key Decision

The Cabinet noted the following Appendices:

Appendix A - Heart of Worcestershire College Heads of Terms

Appendix B - Project Budgets

Appendix C - Improvement Works Procurement Report

121 Procurement of Temporary Agency Staff - Key Decision

The Cabinet noted the confidential evaluation report (Appendix 1) and financial details relating to the award of this contract (Appendix 2).

122 Worcester Racecourse - Rent Review and Lease Extension - Key Decision

The Cabinet approved the terms of the rent review, the proposed lease extension and ancillary licences.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.25p.m.

Chairman