



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 25th JULY 2012

PRESENT: Councillor D Cook (Chair), Councillors R Pritchard, L Bates, S Claymore, M Greatorex and J Oates

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Rob Barnes (Director - Housing and Health), Tina Mustafa (Housing Operations Manager), Karen Taylor (Head of Benefits), Michael Buckland (Head of Revenues), Sue Philp (Housing Manager), Neil Mason (Community Leisure Manager), Elanor Thompson (Arts and Events Manager), Stephanie Ivey (Children and Young Person Officer) and Claire Keeling (Housing Strategy Officer)

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Doyle

29 CORPORATE UPDATE

The Head of Benefits and the Head of Revenues gave a presentation on the changes to Council Tax Support and reforms which was endorsed by Members, going forward for consultation and report back to Cabinet on 15 August 2012.

30 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor J Oates)

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

32 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

None

33 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (SMALL GRANTS SCHEME)/LOCAL ARTS GRANT SCHEME

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Core Services and Assets informing Members of the Small Grants, Arts Grants and Sport Grants awards made during 2011/12 was considered.

RESOLVED: That the outturn of the Cabinet (Grants) Sub-Committee be endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

34 RE-DEVELOPMENT OF TRANCHES 2 AND 3 GARAGE SITES

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Portfolio Holder for Core Services and Assets providing members with an update on progress concerning the disposal of 26 Council owned garage sites for the purpose of developing affordable housing was considered.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 The progress made to date regarding the disposal of garage sites to partner Registered Providers (RPs) to develop affordable housing be noted, and;
- 2 The commencement of work in relation to sites identified in Trenches 2 and 3 be approved.

(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

35 TAMWORTH HOMELESSNESS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing seeking approval for the revised Tamworth Homelessness Education Project (THEP) was considered.

RESOLVED: That the use of the revised Tamworth Homelessness Education Programme as a key prevention tool to support homelessness prevention activity be approved.

(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor J Oates)

36 THE IMPACT OF WELFARE BENEFIT REFORM ON TENANTS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing setting out the challenges and opportunities arising from the Welfare Reform Act 2012 following the receipt of Royal assent in March was considered.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 The impact arising from the key legislative changes, as set out at Annex 1 as set out in the Member Presentation delivered at the end of May 2012 be acknowledged, and;
- 2 Investment in the Third sector be increased to £10,000 in order to facilitate the improvement of debt management services and sensible lending solutions, and;
- 3 The principles used to access funding available through the “homelessness prevention grant” as set out in the report, delegating authority to the Portfolio Holder to agree the final details of a scheme be endorsed, and;
- 4 The increase in income management staff, subject to the usual Appointments and Staffing Committees arrangements be supported, and;
- 5 The investigation into the introduction of electronic means to pay rent using the rent app, mobile payment methods as part of the corporate change management programme be endorsed, and;
- 6 The development of a Social Enterprise Partnership with Mears to develop a skills academy, delegating authority to the Portfolio Holder of Housing to agree the detail be supported, and;
- 7 The Communications and Action plans (attached at annexes 2 and 3) which set out the next steps in relation to the wider partnership opportunities around the LEP and the banking sector to help tackle financial exclusion and worklessness be agreed, and;
- 8 A further report to be received in the summer of 2013 detailing the initial impact of the changes and to set out final preparations for Universal Credit in October 2013.

(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

37 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing updating Members on the number and type of initial safeguarding concerns that the council received between April 2011 and March 2012 and informing Members of the current position in relation to our Policy regarding safeguarding children and vulnerable adults was considered.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 The proposal to delay (until the autumn of 2012) the scheduled review of our current Safeguarding policy in order to benefit from the national guidance due to be published in summer 2012 be endorsed, and;
- 2 Attendance by Tamworth Borough Councillors be promoted at all future Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult awareness training.

(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

38 TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS DEVELOPMENT PHASE

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise updating Members on the Tamworth Assembly Rooms Development Project and seeking permission and agreement on the "Development Phase" timeline and actions was considered.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 The £88,200 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) round one grant be accepted and the use of £50,000 TBC capital (from the £400k) budget be endorsed to enable further feasibility work as part of the Development Phase, and;
- 2 The actions contained in the Development Phase timetable attached at appendix 1 be endorsed, and;
- 3 The procurement of Architectural support (Including survey works) and the procurement of a project manager be approved, and;
- 4 It was noted that a further report detailing the proposal for a second round Heritage Lottery Grant will be brought to Cabinet prior to the submission in December 2012.

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

Leader