



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2012

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

The following officers were present: John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Anica Goodwin (Director - Transformation/Corporate Performance), Rob Barnes (Director - Housing and Health), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Robert Mitchell (Director - Communities, Planning and Partnerships), Michael Buckland (Head of Revenues), Neil Mason (Community Leisure Manager), Matthew Fletcher (Economic Development Officer) and Jane Eason (Senior PR Officer)

67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Doyle and Anthony Goodwin (Chief Executive)

68 CORPORATE UPDATE

The Director (Finance) and Head of Revenues gave a presentation on Business Rates Retention Scheme.

69 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

None

72 BUDGET CONSULTATION REPORT

The Report of the Leader of the Council informing Cabinet of the outcomes arising from consultation undertaken with residents, tenants, businesses and voluntary sector in accordance with the Corporate budget setting process was considered.

RESOLVED: That the report be endorsed by Cabinet and the findings along with other sources of information be taken into account when setting out the 2013/14 Budget.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

73 BUSINESS RATE POOLING OPTIONS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Core Services and Assets seeking to endorse the decision to 'pool' Business Rates under the business rate retention scheme, effective from 1 April 2013, with the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership pool, in order to comply with the revised deadline of 9 November 2012 set by the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and to endorse the response to the DCLG 'Business Rates Retention Technical Consultation' was considered.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 The Decision to 'pool' Business Rates under the business rate retention scheme, effective from 1 April 2013, with the Greater Birmingham & Solihull pool be endorsed;
- 2 The response to the DCLG 'Business Rates Retention Technical Consultation' document be endorsed, and;
- 3 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with portfolio for Core Services and Assets, be authorised to agree the governance arrangements for the pooling arrangement with the Greater Birmingham & Solihull pool, to submit to DCLG by the revised deadline of 9 November 2012.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

74 TECHNICAL REFORM OF COUNCIL TAX

The Report of the Portfolio Holder, Core Services and Assets seeking Cabinet approval for proposed amendments to Council Tax discounts and outlining several reforms to the Council Tax system arising from the Local Government Finance Bill 2012 was considered.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 The following changes to Council Tax discounts and

exemptions with effect from 1 April 2013 be approved:

- a. The removal of the 50% second homes discount so that all second homes are liable for full Council Tax, and;
 - b. The granting of 50% discount on properties undergoing structural work for up to 12 months, and;
 - c. The granting of 100% discount for 2 months on dwellings which are empty and unfurnished. After this period a full charge shall apply, and;
 - d. The levying of the maximum allowable additional premium of 50% on properties that have been empty for two or more years.
- 2 The other technical matters identified be endorsed;
 - 3 The potential requirement for additional resources be acknowledged. This will be subject to approval by the Head of Paid Services or Appointments and staffing depending upon scale and cost, and;
 - 4 With effect 1 April 2013 the Authority will charge recovery costs of £60 on the issue of a summons and a further £35 if a liability order is awarded to allow for increased recovery costs (as identified in 3. above).

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

75 TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN SUBMISSION VERSION

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Enterprise seeking to update members on the Tamworth Local Plan Submission to Secretary of State was considered.

RESOLVED: That
If the matter arises, authority be delegated to the Director of Communities Planning and Partnerships and Head of Planning & Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise, under Section 20 (7C) of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 (Amended) to make a request to the appointment Inspector to recommend modifications to the plan to make it one that is sound, and to undertake any consultation required as a result of modifications.

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

76 GBSLEP ECONOMIC STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development outlining to Members the contents of the GBSLEP Strategy for Growth White Paper and the consultation arrangements and seeking delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Authority was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That:
- 1 The White Paper be endorsed and delegated authority be given to the Director Communities Planning and Partnerships in conjunction with the Head of Planning and Regeneration to formulate and agree a response with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development before submitting to the GBSLEP;
 - 2 The proposed local engagement arrangements to seek further responses to the GBSLEP be endorsed, and;
 - 3 Current GBSLEP related projects taking place in Tamworth be endorsed.
- (Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

77 CASTLE HLF UPDATE AND RELEASE OF FINANCES

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Enterprise updating members on the project building works at the Castle and seeking approval for the release of additional funds provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That:
- 1 The progress of the project building works to date be noted, and;
 - 2 The increase in the budget for the Castle Capital Scheme by £364,650 to be met wholly from additional HLF Grant funding to enable the work to be completed be approved.
- (Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

78 REVISED APPROACH TO LANDLORD ACCREDITATION

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing providing members with the rationale for reviewing the Private Sector Landlord Accreditation Scheme and putting forward a proposal to end the scheme was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That the Private Sector Landlord Accreditation Scheme be ended.
- (Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

79 A SOCIAL LETTINGS AGENCY FOR TAMWORTH

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing seeking approval for the implementation of a pilot project to introduce a social lettings agency for Tamworth was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That a 12 month pilot of the social lettings agency involving

no more than 10 properties be approved.

(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

80 REVIEW OF BANK HOLIDAYS

The Report of the Leader & Chairman of the Appointments and Staffing Committee seeking contingency provision in order to implement the recommendations associated with the report as presented to the Appointments and Staffing Committee on 19 September 2012 was considered.

RESOLVED: That the Members approved the release of the amount as detailed in the report from the specific contingency budget.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

Leader