

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 11th April, 2011.

Present:- Councillors Anderson, S Chaudhry, Matloob, Pantelic, Parmar, Small and Swindlehurst

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor A S Dhaliwal

PART 1

123. Declarations of Interest

In relation to agenda item 4 Regeneration and Community Hubs – Projects Update Presentation Councillor Maclsaac advised that he was a governor for the Lea Nursery and would be asking questions on the item.

124. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

125. Regeneration and Community Hubs – Projects Update Presentation

Cabinet received a presentation which brought together the current position and planned activity on the regeneration schemes in Slough. The presentation included details of both the physical aspects of the building scheme and how the projects would be used to develop the capacity for community services. The Assistant Director for Environment and Regeneration detailed the progress made on the Slough Town Football Club development, the Britwell Community Hub and the Chalvey Early Years Centre. The Assistant Director for Culture and Skills advised Cabinet of the community provision that would be available on each site.

A Member present under Rule 30 asked about the provision of a satellite library on the Lea Nursery School site as it was a very small space and there may be noise and safeguarding issues. The Assistant Director advised that these concerns had been taken on board and advice had been received regarding safeguarding issues. An options appraisal was taking place for the development of the community hub. The Council would liaise with the head and governors regarding the options available before an update report would be brought back to te Cabinet.

The Leader affirmed that the level of work taking place on the different projects across the Borough and the collective impact of the different areas of regeneration was promising.

Resolved – That the regeneration and development of community hubs across Slough be noted.

126. Phase 1 and 2 Britwell and Haymill Regeneration Scheme - from concept to reality

The Cabinet considered a report which detailed the progress made following the most recent decisions by Cabinet and which sought approval for further accelerating the delivery of the scheme. There was a proposal to bring together sites in the Council's ownership to enable the relocation of the residents from Wentworth Flats to further accelerate the demolition of the flats as this was clearly a priority for residents. The Leader asked about a possible timescale for the demolition. It was noted that this would need to be discussed once a developer was on board but it was possible that demolition could begin as early as June 2012. Cabinet agreed that this was positive news but noted that it was important to ensure that the flats were properly maintained until they were emptied.

A Member present under rule 30 asked about the land owned by SEGRO. It was noted that this was detailed in an appendix to the report and the Council was still awaiting a report on the land which was due to be completed by April.

Resolved –

That the progress reported at Appendix B of the report be noted and

- (a) That sites 3-5 on the Plan at Appendix A to the report, be subject to individual redevelopment for the supply of Slough Borough Council social housing.
- (b) That subject to (a), at the earliest opportunity, the tenants from Wentworth Flats be relocated and given prior consideration for the new housing, subject to the normal rules about property size relating to tenants needs;
- (c) That subject to (a), to work with the commercial tenants in the properties immediately beneath the Wentworth Flats and in the properties facing the Flats to further discuss their future needs and aspirations;
- (d) That the existing capital provision of £1.679 million previously reported, be increased to £2,679 million by combining all Britwell regeneration activity funding into a single Britwell Regeneration Scheme. These funds, plus the £6 million HRA contribution for the social housing are to fund the cost of the Britwell Community hub, make provision for the preliminaries required and development of the three satellite housing sites and associated costs.
- (e) That a further update report be made to the next Cabinet meeting.

127. Performance and Financial Monitoring 2010/11

The Cabinet considered a report which highlighted the Council's overall performance from delivery of service to financial management for the period up to and including February 2011.

The Director of Resources and Regeneration advised Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had queried how there was an underspend when the Council was undergoing heavy spending cuts. However it was explained that savings for the 2011/12 financial year were introduced during the previous financial year therefore ensuring an underspend proportional to the level of cuts required. It was reported that the current budget planning framework was volatile but the Council had a good budgetary basis to deal with the issues arising.

A Member present under rule 30 asked about the spend on consultants. The Chief Executive advised that the spending was less than that suggested by the Member and agreed that the actual spend would be provided to the Member.

The initial indication on the census return was very positive and the total return was Slough was much closer to the national average than the previous census.

Resolved - That the following aspects of the report be noted:

- i. Performance and Project management
- ii. Financial performance – revenue and capital

128. Introduction of Dog Control Orders

The Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for implementation of a range of Dog Control Orders to balance the interests of dog owners against those of the wider population, improve the look of the town, ensure people were not harassed by nuisance or dangerous dogs and to enable effective enforcement. The Director for Community and Wellbeing advised Cabinet that the Orders would be subject to a Borough wide consultation process.

A Commissioner asked if it would be possible to lobby government to increase the maximum fine permitted or retrieve the costs of clearing dog fouling. It was agreed that the Head of Neighbourhood Enforcement would look into what action could be taken regarding this. Cabinet noted that enforcement was difficult as dog owners needed to be caught in the act. There was a lot of ongoing work to try to highlight the issue but the problem was down to a small number of irresponsible dog owners.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team carry out statutory public consultation to introduce Dog Control Orders in order to tackle the following prescribed offences under Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005:
 - (i) Failure to remove dog faeces (Borough wide Order);
 - (ii) Failure to keep a dog on a lead in specified locations;
 - (iii) Failure to put and keep a dog on a lead when directed by an Authorised Officer (Borough wide Order);
 - (iv) Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
 - (v) Limit the number of dogs under control of any person in a designated area (Borough wide Order).

(b) That the following be added as paragraph 85a, Part 3 to the Scheme of Officer Delegations for Assistant Director of Public Protection:
Authority to amend and/or extend existing Dog Control Orders in consultation with the relevant Commissioner.

(c) That the current level of fine for dog fouling of £50 be increased to £80 (this is the maximum permitted fine under The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties)(Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2006) and that officers look into the possibility of lobbying for an increase to the maximum permitted fine for dog fouling.

129. Contracts in Excess of £250,000

Cabinet considered a report which listed the contracts of an estimated value of over £250,000 that were proposed to be let in the 2011/12 financial year and any exemptions to competitive tendering due to be approved. The Director of Resources and Regeneration advised of an additional contract for Internal Audit and a probable additional contract for the new central library. Cabinet noted that there was also an additional contract circulated in the supplementary Cabinet papers.

Resolved - That the list of contracts attached at Appendix A to the report, the additional contract detailed in the supplementary paper and additional contracts for internal audit and the new central library be endorsed.

130. Tender Award - Mobile Telephony and Furniture

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the tender panel recommendations for the contract award of Mobile Telephony Contract to Telefonica O2 UK Limited and the Furniture Contract to AFI Group Limited for the approval of Cabinet. The Director of Community and Wellbeing advised that the Mobile Telephony contract presented a saving of £59k on the current contract. A key element of the savings was the free O2 to O2 calls included in the package. The Leader emphasised the importance of the Council ensuring that the conditions of each contract suited each situation including the length of each contract and the options to extend contracts. The details of the bids were contained within a Part II appendix to the report but it was agreed that the item would be considered in the Part I meeting without reference to the Part II information.

Resolved:- That the contract award recommendations for the:

- (a) Mobile Telephony Contract
 - (b) Furniture Provision Contract
- be approved.

131. Play Area Development

The Cabinet considered a report which detailed the progress of the development of Slough's play areas and achievements in play development work. The Head of Culture and Sports Delivery advised that 42% of the Council's play areas had been refurbished with BIG Lottery and Playbuilder funding. The excellent work that had been undertaken to establish new play

areas and make significant improvements to others was noted. The Commissioner for Education and Children thanked everyone in the play team for their hard work.

Resolved - That the achievements over the last two years in the provision of play and in the improvements made to the Council's play areas across the borough be noted.

132. Internal Audit Plan - First Quarter 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report which detailed the first quarter's Internal Audit Plan for 2011-12. The Director of Resources and Regeneration advised Members that this was slightly unusual because an Annual Audit Plan would usually be reported to the Audit Committee but due to difficulties with timings this had not been possible. The audit function was due to go out to tender and an internal audit plan needed to be in place until then. The Cabinet was advised that the move to a risk based audit plan would ensure that audit would be focused on the areas that really needed it.

Resolved: -That the Internal Audit Plan for the first quarter of 2011-12 and the changes made to the approach to Internal Audit following re-organisation of the service be endorsed

133. Future Provision at Haymill - Need for Additional SEN Places and Planning for the Future of Haybrook College

The Cabinet considered report on the anticipated pressure for special school places at Haybrook College from September 2011 and having regard to the condition of the Haybrook College buildings, the future needs of the School and the potential to regenerate the site and the options for the future location of Haybrook College.

The Director of Education and Children's Services advised Cabinet on the options for increasing the school's capacity. Cabinet agreed that it was important to keep young people in Slough especially as the unit had received excellent reports from Ofsted. It was noted that the School would have been rebuilt as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme but different options now needed to be looked at for future provision. An Options Appraisal would be undertaken which would look at the current site and other options and would then be reported back to Cabinet.

The Cabinet noted that the rent for the additional buildings required by the school would be paid through the Dedicated Schools Grant. It was agreed that using the additional buildings at the centre provided the best options as it may also contribute to the beginnings of a long term solution.

Resolved:-

- (a) That for a temporary period of 12 months, additional rooms, currently available in the Haymill building are rented to Haybrook College to create the capacity required for September 2011;

- (b) That a costed options appraisal be prepared on future options for the location of Haybrook College and for the future use of the Haymill site.

134. Highway Changes in Chalvey

The Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to carry out a consultation of Chalvey residents and affected road users to gauge support for a range of measures to ease traffic flow and reduce congestion in this area of the town. It was noted that there was an expansive consultation carried out last year with Chalvey residents in which traffic problems was raised as a major issue. The outcomes of the consultation would be reported back to Cabinet at the next meeting. A Commissioner asked what the timeframe was for carrying out highway improvements. It was noted that this would need to be looked into once the consultation had been completed.

Resolved:-

- (a) That Officers draw up a number of options for measures to improve traffic flow and safety for pedestrians and road users in Chalvey.
- (b) That an experimental consultation exercise be held with road users and residents affected by changes outlined in (a) so that public support can be gauged and the scheme amended as appropriate.
- (c) That the scope of consultation be delegated to the Head of Transport in consultation with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods & Renewal.
- (d) That options for the implementation of a scheme be reported to Cabinet at its next meeting.
- (e) That expenditure of up to £40k is agreed from the available capital allocation within the Chalvey regeneration project.

135. References from Overview and Scrutiny

None were received.

136. Executive Forward Plan

Resolved: - That the Executive Forward Plan for the period March to June be approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.34 pm)