

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 16th July, 2012.

Present:- Councillors Anderson (Chair), Chaudhry, P K Mann, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Swindlehurst and Walsh

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Plimmer, Smith, Strutton and Wright

PART 1

12. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Chaudhry declared an interest in item 16 Asset Disposals by Lease – Chalvey Youth and Community Centre, as he was a member of the Pakistan Welfare Association.

13. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th June 2012

Resolved – That the minutes be approved.

14. Slough Cycle Hire Scheme

The Cabinet was introduced to Ben Hart (Energy Efficiency Analyst) of Anesco and Tim Knight (Director of Development & Innovation) of Groundwork Thames Valley who presented proposals for a Bike Hire Scheme in Slough, a vision which had been created by the Climate Change Sub-Group of the Local Strategic Partnership. The Scheme was to cover six sites initially and provide 120 bikes with hire points at all three railway stations and strategic points across the Borough. The project was to be delivered in three stages, the first being the designing of each site, followed by the supply and installation costs, and finally the on-going operation and maintenance costs and it was anticipated that the scheme would be up and running by April 2013. The Cabinet was advised that upon consultation cycle groups in Slough supported the scheme but had emphasised the need for improved infrastructure.

Commissioners voiced support for the scheme, particularly having regard to the environmental and health benefits of cycling and requested that officers ensured that the payment method for hiring the bikes would allow all members of the public to access the scheme.

Resolved -

- (a) That the pilot Slough Cycle Hire scheme for the borough be approved and that the Council work closely with local businesses to ensure sustainability of the scheme.
- (b) That discussions proceed with local businesses and partners Anesco and Groundwork Thames Valley for the introduction of a cycle hire scheme in Slough.

15. Slough Means Business: Positioning Slough to take Advantage of UK Economic Growth

The Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the activities across the Council that supported economic growth. Officers advised that despite the economic downturn and recession Slough had remained a strong economic force. Despite this, it was necessary to ensure that businesses remained committed to Slough and that local services, infrastructure and skills delivered what businesses needed.

Members were reminded that Aspire/Aspire For You had been launched on 2 July. The project would work with local businesses, educational institutions, employment services and training providers to raise the skills and aspirations of Slough residents, promote learning and development of skills and to increase recruitment opportunities for local people.

Companies in Slough had quoted their proximity to Heathrow and accessibility to other parts of the Country as being the key factor in moving into Slough. Consequently the Council had, with partners, focused on the delivery of strategic infrastructure notably Western Rail Access to Heathrow (WRAtH), which would result in 20% of the UK's population being within one interchange of Heathrow and journey time reductions of up to 70% for South east, South West, South Wales and West Midlands. The Government had published the Draft Aviation Policy Framework on 12 July 2012, which confirmed that funding would be provided for the project.

The Cabinet emphasised their full support for the WRAtH project and the importance of ensuring that Slough continued to remain an attractive location for national and international organisations.

Resolved to: -

- (a) Note the current activities led by the council and its partners.
- (b) Endorse the council's work on the Western Rail Access to Heathrow (WRAtH) project to improve connectivity between Slough and Heathrow Airport.
- (c) Agree to realign council material to ensure a holistic vision regarding the relation of the Council with Heathrow Airport and to report back to the Cabinet with regard to progress.

16. Residential and Nursing Care - Future Commissioning Intentions and Service Provision

The Cabinet was provided with a report regarding the proposals for the future commissioning of residential and nursing care for older people in Slough, including implications for the current service provision. Members were advised that this was Phase 2 of the programme of work and phase 1 had

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already been completed. Phase 1 had included a number of key initiatives including provision of a new purpose built residential and nursing care services in the 120 bed facility at Oak House; development of Extra Care Services at Northampton Place and the Pines, providing 126 self contained flats with on-site care and support; and the enhancement of intermediate care services.

It was noted that there had been a clear reduction in demand for residential care, whilst the number of patients falling into the 'elderly mental health' category (EMH) had increased. In addition projected needs data indicated an increase of approximately 10% in the number of people in Slough with dementia. The Cabinet was advised that future commissioned services must reflect these changing patterns of need.

The Cabinet was requested to approve consultation of the strategy for future commissioning of residential care and the services provided at Gurney House.

Resolved: -

- (a) That consultation be undertaken with key stakeholders on the strategy for future commissioning of residential care.
- (b) That residential and nursing care be commissioned in line with procurement guidelines and legislation following consultation to align with current and projected demand.
- (c) That consultation be undertaken with residents of Gurney House their family members and other key stakeholders on the future of that service.
- (d) That a market testing exercise be undertaken to explore the possibility of selling Gurney House to an organisation that would also provide a remodelled service on the site.
- (e) That following consultation on the future of services currently provided by BUPA at Gurney House, a report be presented to Health Scrutiny Panel in November for comment and to Cabinet in December 2012 for decision.

17. Project to Establish the Actual Cost of Care Relating to Registered Care Services for Service Users of Adult Social Care placed in Slough and Outside of the Borough

The Cabinet was presented with the fee proposals for 2012/13 based upon the actual cost of care relating to Registered Care Services for users of Adult Social Care placed within Slough and outside the borough. In order to set the 'usual costs of care' rates, the Council had undertaken a detailed consultation and information gathering exercise with all residential and nursing care providers in Slough and the responses were set out in the report. The Council had not received any response or cost information with regard to residential care and the proposals were therefore based upon examination of what the

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Council currently paid. Expert advice provided by Ernst and Young had fully supported the approach taken by officers.

Resolved -

- (a) That the “floor” and “ceiling” usual costs of residential care, residential dementia care, nursing care and nursing dementia care be approved as outlined in the report. These are:

	Floor	Ceiling
Residential Care	£466.40	£541.40
Residential Dementia	£583.14	£658.14
Nursing Care	£599.72	£674.72
Nursing Dementia	£609.72	£684.72

- (b) That the total cost of the fee increases of £468,900 be approved as outlined in the report and as follows:

1. Increases agreed for physically frail / dementia clients with residential and nursing homes in Slough - £71,100
2. Increases agreed / likely to be agreed for physically frail / dementia clients with residential and nursing homes out of borough - £47,800
3. Increases agreed / likely to be agreed for clients with a learning disability, physical disability or mental illness - £350,000.

- (c) That work proceeds with the providers to develop the quality standards to be achieved.

18. Corporate Plan 2012/13

The Cabinet considered a copy of the Corporate Plan for 2012/13, which set out the Council’s objectives and key work areas for the forthcoming years, following the agreement of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy in 2011. Detailed activity and statements about what was to be achieved in 2012/13 was set out under each of these objectives.

Recommended - That the Council agree the Corporate Plan 2012/13.

19. Project, Performance and Financial Monitoring 2012/13

The Cabinet was presented with a report highlighting the Council’s overall performance from delivery of service to financial management covering the period up to and including May 2012 against the Council’s Gold Projects and Performance Scorecard, both covering the period to 31 May 2012.

The Cabinet voiced approval of the decrease in headcount costs within the Council.

Resolved: -

That the following aspects of the report be noted:

- (a) Project management:
 - the current reported status of each Gold Project.
- (b) Performance Scorecard:
 - the performance issues identified and highlighted.
- (c) Financial performance – revenue and capital:
 - that a financial monitor for the first quarter monitor would be sent to members in July/August.

20. Raising Participation Partnership - Legal Agreement

The Cabinet was informed of the role, function and governance arrangements for the Raising Participation Partnership (RPP) and the implications of the legal agreement between Slough Borough Council, as Host Authority, and the other three Shared Service Local Authorities, being Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham. The RPP had been established in 2010, with the intention of recognising the travel-to-learn patterns of young people, with 90% of students from year 11 continuing their post-16 education and training within the sub region. In April 2010, in accordance with the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Act 2009, the responsibility for commissioning education and training for young people (defined as 16-19 or 16-25 if subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment) was transferred to Local Authorities. In addition the 2008 Education and Skills Act had placed a new duty on all young people to participate in education until their 18th Birthday. Officers advised that the RPP worked in partnership with key stakeholders including schools and academies, further education colleges and independent learning providers as well regional and national government including the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The Cabinet voiced support for the proposals and emphasised the importance of developing activities for young people within the borough.

Resolved - That Slough Borough Council continue as Host Local Authority within the Shared Service agreement.

21. Highway Changes in Chalvey

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the results of the recent consultation on the experimental highway changes in Chalvey that were completed in February 2012. The Cabinet was requested to make a decision as to whether the making of permanent traffic regulations orders should be undertaken or if existing residential orders should be rescinded. Commissioners were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees meeting of 10 July 2012 had considered the report and resolved:

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- (a) That the traffic system in Ragstone Road remain one-way and that conditions 25 to 30 set out in paragraph 2 of the report be implemented, with the addition of improved signage.
- (b) That the traffic system in Ledgers Road remain one-way and that conditions 16 to 21 set out in paragraph 2 of the report be implemented.
- (c) That the traffic system in Chalvey Road East remain one-way, that conditions 12 to 13 set out in paragraph 2 of the report be implemented, and that the Council explore subsidy options and other measures to improve the provision of bus services in the road.
- (d) That the Council undertake a further study of the impact of Chalvey Road West returning to two-way operation (in conjunction with the other roads remaining one-way) before making a final decision on the future of Chalvey Road West.
- (e) That the Council undertake conditions 1 to 5 set out in paragraph 2 of the report in implementing any final solutions.

Councillor Sharif, a Chalvey Ward Member had been unable to be present and his views were circulated at the meeting.

The Cabinet was reminded that the experimental measures had been implemented as a result of consultation with residents of Chalvey in 2009 during which the top three priorities identified by respondents were; better parking for residents and local shoppers; improvements to the look of street and open places; and changes to roads to deter rat running and reduce accidents. The catchment area for the consultation included the area between the M4, A4, Tuns Lane and Windsor Road, which was that most affected by the experimental measures.

The report set out the history of the project, the experimental measures that has been implemented, public engagement, consultation results and petitions received. Members were advised that the response for the Chalvey Roads public consultation had been one of the latest responses to any similar consultation and the strong feelings from both supporters and opponents of the experimental measures was reflected in the comments and correspondence.

The questionnaire responses did not provide a clear steer for a straightforward decision based on the community's preference. Whilst there was reoccurring themes in the responses it was for the Cabinet to weigh up the feedback received and decide which element of the experimental measures to make permanent and which roads should return to two way operation.

The Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal drew attention to the comprehensive consultation that had been undertaken, seeking residents view as to which of the changes they supported and thought were genuine improvements and which parts of the scheme they disliked. It was important that the Cabinet used the top three priorities identified during the 2009 consultation as key drivers. Members of the Cabinet discussed the responses to the consultation, particularly the responses of the emergency services and

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schools. It was noted that the supply of parking and loss of bus services within the area remained an issue.

The Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and renewal drew attention to the petition submitted by the Council by Mr Heer which was signed by [INSERT] and was opposed to the new road layouts and one way system. It was noted that over 10% of the petition were from outside of the borough and over 60% from outside of the Chalvey ward.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the Cabinet and spoke if the Committees recommendations. The Committee had felt strongly that further work was needed as the consultations were inconclusive and had recommended that a further study of Chalvey Road West returning to 2 way operation be carried out. Commissioners were concerned that the 'rat running' that the Council was seeking to reduce would return. The Vice Chair of the Committee advised that the Committee had been particularly concerned about the effects of the proposals on business viability.

In addition to a number of adjustments to the layout in order to ensure that the road ran safely and efficiently, the Cabinet acknowledge that the new road layouts had resulted in a loss of bus services within the area and agreed to fully investigate the potential to improve the penetration of bus services serving Chalvey, Cippenham and the wider area. In addition the Cabinet noted concerns of the local businesses and agreed to support businesses within Chalvey to appeal their rateable value through the local valuation office to identify whether changes made in Chalvey had materially affected business located there.

In summing up the debate the chair emphasised that through the consultation the Council had sought to work with Chalvey residents to deliver a way forward that was supported by the majority and which met the top three priorities from the original 2009 consultation. It was resolved and agreed unanimously:

Resolved:-

- (a) To work with the local community to finalise the design of the permanent solution;
- (b) To consider lowering the classification of the roads through Chalvey;
- (c) To review direction signage in and around Chalvey to discourage through traffic;
- (d) To review the pedestrian crossing points of all arms of the junction underneath the railway bridge, especially Ledgers Road, to ensure adequate visibility and promote safety of pedestrians;
- (e) To introduce a 20mph zone covering Chalvey Road West, Chalvey Road East, Ledgers Road (and its side roads), Montem Lane (and its side roads), Ragstone Road, Martin Road, College Avenue, The Crescent, and King's Road;

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- (f) To review the pedestrian crossing on the road hump between Alexandra Place and King Edward Street, to improve visibility and also consider installing a Zebra Crossing at this location;
- (g) To review the junction of High Street, Chalvey Road West and Church Street to clarify who has priority, and to assist right turns from High Street into Chalvey Road West;
- (h) To retain cycle contra-flow, but review the design to improve compliance and safety for cyclists, for example provision of coloured surfacing;
- (i) To retain cycle contra-flow, but review the design to improve compliance and safety for cyclists, for example provision of coloured surfacing;
- (j) To provide traffic calming to slow traffic;
- (k) To review the design of the junction with Montem Lane;
- (l) To extend the double yellow line across the front gate of the Methodist Church, to provide access for funeral vehicles, and at the same time extend the parking bay on the western side of Ledgers Road northwards by an equivalent distance, so there is no net reduction in parking for residents;
- (m) To provide as much formal parking as feasible for the benefit of local residents;
- (n) To review the southern entrance to Hillside with a view to introducing additional parking;
- (o) To retain cycle contra-flow, but review the design to improve compliance and safety for cyclists, for example provision of coloured surfacing;
- (p) To review the junctions with Martin Road, College Avenue and King's Road and in particular which road should have priority at these junctions;
- (q) To review traffic calming and remove the crooked speed cushions;
- (r) To reverse the one-way operation of College Avenue and Martin Road to improve access to College Avenue, Martin Road, and the northern end of Ragstone Road, and also to resolve concerns over visibility at the junction of Martin Road with Chalvey Road East;
- (s) To provide as much formal parking as feasible for the benefit of local residents;
- (t) To retain two-way access to Kings Road and the three places of worship, and ensure the detailed design does not interfere with access to the three places of worship;
- (u) To retain cycle contra-flow, but review the design to improve compliance and safety for cyclists, for example provision of coloured surfacing;
- (v) To undertake a viability and impact assessment study to:

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- (i) consider the impact of the temporary traffic management measures implemented within Chalvey on bus services in Chalvey and Cippenham; and
 - (ii) to investigate options and their potential implications, to enhance and improve the penetration of bus services serving Chalvey, Cippenham and the wider area, including the restoration of the bus network pre-November 2011; and
- (w) That a feasibility study on construction of a new north and south access road for buses, pedestrians and cyclists, between the eastern-most entrance to the Montem sports centre car park and Newbury way be undertaken, subject to the decision on a LABV, due in September.
- (x) That the Council support businesses within Chalvey to appeal their rateable value through the local valuation office to identify whether changes made in Chalvey have materially affected business located there.

Councillor Pantelic left the meeting.

22. Statutory Service Plans

The Cabinet was provided with Statutory Service Plans in relation to Food Safety Service, Health and Safety Service and Trading Standards Service. Officers advised that national guidance on the delivery of the Authority's enforcement activities was issued by The Food Standards Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Businesses, Innovation and Skills which set out standards for service provision, monitoring and audit arrangements in order to ensure that local authority activities were undertaken in a fair and consistent manner.

Recommended:-

That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards work undertaken by the Council be endorsed.

23. Review of Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The Cabinet was presented with a copy of the revised Slough Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which had been recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference for adoption as the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Slough Schools with effect of 1st September 2012, for a five year period. The Syllabus had been agreed across six Berkshire Authorities and teachers and representatives from faith groups had been fully involved in its composition.

Resolved - That the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education be adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for use in Slough Community

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and Foundation schools for a period of five years from 1st September, 2012.

24. References from Overview and Scrutiny

Resolved - The Cabinet resolved that the Forward Plan be approved, with the addition of an item regarding the recently published Censor results being brought to September's meeting.

25. Executive Forward Plan

Resolved - The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the Forward Plan be approved.

26. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved - That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part II of the agenda, as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(The following is a summary of the items considered in Part II of the meeting)

27. Asset Disposals by Lease - Horsemoor Green Youth & Community Centre off Common Road, Langley and Pakistan Welfare Association Youth and Community Centre, Darvills Lane, Chalvey

The Cabinet approved the proposed property lease for Horsemoor Green Community Centre and agreed to defer the decision regarding Chalvey Youth and Community Hall.

28. Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2012

The Cabinet approved the Part II minutes.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 10.10 pm)