

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held in the Small Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2015 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Rasib), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chahal, Chaudhry, Cheema, Chohan, Dar, Davis, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Arvind Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Morris, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Sandhu, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Usmani, Wright and Zarait

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Coad, N Holledge, Nazir and Rana

### 22. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that family members worked for Slough Borough Council and arvato.

### 23. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 13 July 2015 and 21 July 2015

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Council meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

### 24. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Members were informed that the Civic Service would be held at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 11.00am. It was noted that the harvest contributions on the day would be distributed to Slough Homeless Our Concern and Slough Foodbank.

The Mayor announced with great sadness that Laurie Gleeson, former Councillor and Mayor 2003/2004, had passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Laurie was a dedicated member of the Council from 1996 to 2004. The Civic Funeral would be held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October to pay tribute to his contribution to Slough. Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Laurie.

### 25. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

The Mayor advised that two questions had been received from residents, copies of which had been tabled. One of the questioner's was in attendance and following a response to his question, asked a supplementary question. Copies of the questions and replies would be forwarded to the questioners.

**26. Petition - Burnham Train Station and Road Network Improvements**

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That in accordance with Procedure Rule 27.1, Rule 16.5 on Rules of Debate be suspended to allow Councillor Anderson to make a short presentation on Burnham Train Station and Road Network Improvements.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried by 27 votes to 9 votes with 1 abstention.

**Resolved** - That in accordance with Procedure Rule 27.1, Rule 16.5 on Rules of Debate be suspended to allow Councillor Anderson to make a short presentation on Burnham Train Station and Road Network Improvements.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, the Mayor invited Mr Stephen Gillingwater, who had assisted in organising the 5151 signature petition, to address the meeting.

Following completion of the subsequent debate,

It was moved by Councillor Munawar,  
Seconded by Councillor Sharif,

- (a) “ That Option 1 – implementation of a one way system as an Experimental Order for a period of 6 months not be accepted for the following reasons:
- It makes no reference to how the Council would deliver the wider regeneration scheme.
  - Should this regeneration scheme go ahead then a full closure of the road would have to be trialled in 2/3 years anyway, and it was considered appropriate to trial this option whilst the order was in place.
  - Implementation of a one way scheme would make it impossible to deliver the additional car park required for the regeneration scheme and would see the extra Crossrail parking pushed back onto residential streets.
  - The rigid timeframe of leaving one order in place for a full 6 months would not be feasible and would not provide the freedom to adapt as and when needed, and potentially run multiple experiments.
- (b) That monitoring data regarding the effectiveness of the scheme and its impact on the road network, local residents and businesses be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee after a three month period and a further one after 6 months at the end of the scheme.
- (c) That a working group will meet monthly during the trial period to react and review the data.

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- (d) That SBC officers will hold monthly meetings during the course of the experiment with councillors from affected wards (Haymill & Lynch Hill, Britwell & Northborough and Cippenham Green), and one representative from each of 'Think Burnham' and Burnham Parish Council".

The recommendations were put and a prior request having being made for a record of the voting:

There voted for the recommendations:-

Councillors Ajaib, Anderson, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Choudhry, Cheema, Chohan, Dar, Davis, Arvind Dhaliwal, Dhillon, M Holledge, Hussain, Malik, Mann, Mansoor, Matloob, Munawar, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Shah, Sharif, Sohal, Swindlehurst, Usmani and Zarait .....28

There voted against the recommendation:-

Councillors Morris, Smith, Strutton and Wright .. .....4

There abstained from voting:-

Councillors Abe, Bains, Chahal, Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Rasib and Sandhu .....6

**Resolved -**

- (a) That Option 1 – implementation of a one way system as an Experimental Order for a period of 6 months not be accepted for the following reasons:
- It makes no reference to how the Council would deliver the wider regeneration scheme.
  - Should this regeneration scheme go ahead then a full closure of the road would have to be trialled in 2/3 years anyway, and it was considered appropriate to trial this option whilst the order was in place.
  - Implementation of a one way scheme would make it impossible to deliver the additional car park required for the regeneration scheme and would see the extra Crossrail parking pushed back onto residential streets.
  - The rigid timeframe of leaving one order in place for a full 6 months would not be feasible and would not provide the freedom to adapt as and when needed, and potentially run multiple experiments.
- (b) That monitoring data regarding the effectiveness of the scheme and its impact on the road network, local residents and businesses be reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee after a three month period and a further one after 6 months at the end of the scheme.
- (c) That a working group will meet monthly during the trial period to react and review the data.

- (d) That SBC officers will hold monthly meetings during the course of the experiment with councillors from affected wards (Haymill & Lynch Hill, Britwell & Northborough and Cippenham Green), and one representative from each of 'Think Burnham' and Burnham Parish Council".

**27. Recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 14th September 2015**

**A. CONTRACT WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICES ORGANISATION FOR THE DELIVERY OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

"That the Council approves the increase in the current Children's Services base budget for the period 2015/2016 from £21.8 million to £24.4 million."

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Council approves the increase in the current Children's Services base budget for the period 2015/2016 from £21.8 million to £24.4 million.

**B. LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP PURCHASE (LAPP)**

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

"That the Capital Programme be adjusted to provide for the adoption of LAPP in accordance with the outline provided within the report, and the following parameters:

- The maximum local authority purchased (rented) share of £120k
- The split between the two shares of 70% purchased via mortgage and 30% purchased by LA
- The maximum limit for the total indemnity to be offered of £4.4m
- The maximum loan size (based on maximum property valuation) of £266k
- The qualifying post codes in a schedule to the indemnity deed to cover all in SBC area
- Based on these parameters, a maximum investment of £9.3m (£13.7m total costs including repayment interest) would be required (plus a further £4.4m indemnity guaranteed by way of a deed) to provide approximately 100 mortgages via the scheme."

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** – That the Capital Programme be adjusted to provide for the adoption of LAPP in accordance with the outline provided within the report, and the following parameters:

- The maximum local authority purchased (rented) share of £120k

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- The split between the two shares of 70% purchased via mortgage and 30% purchased by LA
- The maximum limit for the total indemnity to be offered of £4.4m
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- Based on these parameters, a maximum investment of £9.3m (£13.7m total costs including repayment interest) would be required (plus a further £4.4m indemnity guaranteed by way of a deed) to provide approximately 100 mortgages via the scheme.

### C. PROPOSED STRATEGIC ACQUISITION STRATEGY

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

“That –

- (a) The introduction of the proposed Strategic Acquisition Strategy and associated procedure to enhance the ability for the Council to compete for investment opportunities within commercial timescales be approved.
- (b) To accelerate regeneration objectives, realise local economic development outcomes and provide long-term strategic benefits, it be agreed that all strategic acquisitions should normally be made within the Borough of Slough.
- (c) The Council’s Financial Regulations be amended to enable the acquisition of assets by Cabinet up to £25m (inclusive of acquisition costs) and give authority for the capital programme to be amended as required.
- (d) The Strategic Director for Regeneration, Housing and Resources be given delegated authority, following consultation with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council, authority to introduce the proposed Strategic Acquisition Board (“SAB”).
- (e) Delegated authority be given to the SAB to make strategic acquisitions in line with the objectives, criteria and governance procedures set out in this report following consultation with the with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council.
- (f) It be noted that in the event that Strategic acquisitions exceed £25m per annum, flexibility is introduced to provide authority to make a bid subject to Council approval.
- (g) A balanced investment portfolio be created in line with set criteria, generating an independent income stream alleviating some of the pressure enforced by central government funding cuts.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

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**Resolved – That:**

- (a) The introduction of the proposed Strategic Acquisition Strategy and associated procedure to enhance the ability for the Council to compete for investment opportunities within commercial timescales be approved.
- (b) To accelerate regeneration objectives, realise local economic development outcomes and provide long-term strategic benefits, it be agreed that all strategic acquisitions should normally be made within the Borough of Slough.
- (c) The Council's Financial Regulations be amended to enable the acquisition of assets by Cabinet up to £25m (inclusive of acquisition costs) and give authority for the capital programme to be amended as required.
- (d) The Strategic Director for Regeneration, Housing and Resources be given delegated authority, following consultation with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council, authority to introduce the proposed Strategic Acquisition Board ("SAB").
- (e) Delegated authority be given to the SAB to make strategic acquisitions in line with the objectives, criteria and governance procedures set out in this report following consultation with the with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewals and the Leader of the Council.
- (f) It be noted that in the event that Strategic acquisitions exceed £25m per annum, flexibility is introduced to provide authority to make a bid subject to Council approval.
- (g) A balanced investment portfolio be created in line with set criteria, generating an independent income stream alleviating some of the pressure enforced by central government funding cuts.

### **28. Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

"That the appointment of Linda Walker as interim Monitoring Officer be noted."

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved -** That the appointment of Linda Walker as interim Monitoring Officer be noted.

### **29. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

#### **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

It was moved by Councillor Bal,  
Seconded by Councillor Pantelic,

"This Council, in recognising the national crisis affecting teacher recruitment and retention, to;

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- (i) Refer the issue of teacher recruitment and retention in Slough to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel and;
- (ii) to incorporate the findings of Slough Schools research into recruitment and retention of teachers into the work of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, should their funding proposal to the Slough Schools Forum be approved and will;
- (iii) continue to work constructively with local schools, partners, parents and children to ensure that all children in Slough continue to receive the highest standard of education possible in Slough."

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** – That this Council, in recognising the national crisis affecting teacher recruitment and retention, to;

- (i) Refer the issue of teacher recruitment and retention in Slough to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel and;
- (ii) to incorporate the findings of Slough Schools research into recruitment and retention of teachers into the work of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, should their funding proposal to the Slough Schools Forum be approved and will;
- (iii) continue to work constructively with local schools, partners, parents and children to ensure that all children in Slough continue to receive the highest standard of education possible in Slough.

### **30. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled).**

A copy of the question from Councillor Coad and the reply received was tabled.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.50 pm)