

**Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 17th April, 2023.**

**Present:-** Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Mann (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Hulme, Nazir and Pantelic

**Apologies for Absence:-** None.

**PART 1**

**157. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**158. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2023**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**159. Garden Waste Disposal (Composting) Contract**

The Lead Member for Transport & The Local Environment introduced a report on the garden waste disposal (composting) contract.

The current contract with Shorts Agricultural Services Ltd would expire in September 2023 following a six-month extension to the contract by the Procurement Board in January 2023. The contract did not permit any further extensions therefore the Council would need to re-procure. Cabinet approval was sought to conduct a procurement exercise and to delegate authority to award the contract to the winning bidder, following consultation with the relevant Lead Members.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

**Resolved –**

- (a) Authorised the commencement of a tender process for a contract for the disposal of garden waste (composting) to start in September 2023.
- (b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial, the Lead Member for Customer Services, Procurement & Performance and the Lead Member for Transport and The Environment, to award the contract to the winning bidder and to enter into the contract.

*(Councillor Pantelic joined the meeting)*

**160. Process to Procure DSO Vehicles**

The Lead Member for Transport & The Local Environment introduced a report regarding the procurement options for the fleet of vehicles used by the environmental services team to provide waste collection, disposal, grounds maintenance, street cleansing and minor highway works.

The Council had been leasing a fleet of vehicles through a contract with Enterprise since 2017 but the contract was due to terminate and the vehicles were at end of life and procurement of replacement vehicles needed to take place. The preferred operating model was to continue to lease vehicles but that may be unaffordable so the alternative option of purchasing and maintaining vehicles would be considered. Once the pricing review of the options had taken place a report would come back to Cabinet in July 2023 to take the decision on the contract award.

The Cabinet agreed to test the market and requested that the options for electric or LPG vehicles was considered to attempt to achieve environmental benefits if possible. It was noted that the Council had previously had electric vehicles in its fleet. The Executive Director for Place & Community confirmed that all the options would be assessed, taking into account operational requirements, market availability and cost.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the use of the national ESPO framework and mini competition for the procurement of leased/contract hire vehicles where this provides best value be approved.
- (b) That the use of the CCS framework and mini competition for the purchase of vehicles where this provides best value be approved, noting that vehicle maintenance would be provided by Dennis Eagle under our existing vehicle maintenance contract.
- (c) Noted that a contract award report would be submitted to July Cabinet 2023.

**161. Re-commissioning of Berkshire East Specialist Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service**

The Lead Member for Social Care & Public Health introduced a report that set out recommendations about how the Council could secure provision of a new specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health service (SRH) contract by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

Sexual health services (contraception and testing/treatment for sexually transmitted diseases) were prescribed functions that local authorities had to fund through the public health grant. The Council had secured provision

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through a joint arrangement with other Berkshire authorities since the transfer of public health to local government in 2013. The contract with the current specialist provider expired on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The Lead Member commented that the current arrangements worked well and joint commissioning provided best value and opportunities for economies of scale. A comprehensive service was offered from the Garden Clinic and outcomes such as HIV testing rates in Slough were considered to be good.

After due consideration the Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) Agreed to the re-procurement of the Berkshire East Integrated SRH Service led by Bracknell Forest Council on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Slough Borough Council as a continuation of joint commissioning arrangements.
- (b) Approved the funding envelope for the Slough Borough Council element of the service to a maximum value of £6,256,691 over 5 years.
- (c) Agreed that Bracknell Forest Council would lead the procurement process, with representation from Slough Borough Council Public Health Team on the assessment and evaluation panel.
- (d) Delegated authority to the Executive Director People - Adults in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial and Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health, to take any action necessary and to sign all related legal and contractual documentation to enter into the new specialist SRH Service contract as a member of the Berkshire East joint commissioning arrangement.

## **162. School Places Strategy 2023-27**

The Lead Member for Children's Services, Lifelong Learning & Skills introduced a report that sought approval of the School Places Strategy 2023-27.

The strategy had been revised and updated to set out the current school place planning position and projected requirements for nursery, primary, secondary, post-16 and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Local authorities were required to offer a school place to every resident pupil and the strategy was an important document in detailing the approach to secure suitable provision.

The Cabinet discussed some of the key demographic trends that influenced the strategy. The number of births in Slough had peaked in 2012 and had since been declining and the reduction in birth rates had affected the west of Slough much more than other areas of the town. There had been a significant

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expansion of school places to accommodate the additional demand and it was noted that numbers of post-16 places were currently rising. There was also considerable fluctuation each year in the number of in-year applications from new arrivals to Slough and this made forecasting the future need for places challenging.

After discussion, the Cabinet agreed that the document was a sound basis to respond to these issues and approved the strategy as at Appendix A to the report.

**Resolved** – That the School Places Strategy 2023-2027 attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

### **163. Procurement forward plan for services in excess of £180,000 and works in excess of £1 million in 2023/24**

A report was considered that sought authority from Cabinet to commence the procurement for contracts of an estimated value of over £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works), that were proposed to be let in the 2023/24 financial year.

Further reports would be brought to Cabinet with an updated procurement forward plan for any services or works to be procured for the remainder of the financial year or before the cabinet meeting in April 2024. Lead Members were also asked to approve delegated authority to award a small number of contracts where tight timescales were involved.

The recommendations were agreed.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That commencement of procurement for the list of goods, works or services set out in Appendix A to the report be authorised;
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place and Communities, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport & The Local Environment and the Cabinet for Customer Services, Procurement and Performance to award contracts, to the best value bidder, for the Home to School Transport contracts indicated in Appendix A, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.
- (c) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Strategy and Improvement following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement & Performance to award contracts, to the best value bidder, for the Disaster Recovery for IT Systems, Backup Solution, Adults & Children's Social Care Systems SaaS Migration, Mobile Telephony Contract contracts indicated in Appendix A, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.

- (d) That delegated authority be given to Executive Director of Housing and Property following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Financial Oversight & Council Assets to award the contract, to the best value bidder for the Cornwall House Fire Safety works, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.

**164. References from Overview & Scrutiny**

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

**165. Disposal of 380 Bath Road, Slough**

The Lead Member for Financial Oversight & Council Assets introduced a report that sought approval to dispose of the asset at 380 Bath Road, Slough. The property was currently let to Halfords Limited.

The Cabinet agreed to consider the matter as an urgent item. Members noted the information in the Part II appendix without disclosing any of the exempt information. It was noted that the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had agreed that call-in could be waived to enable the disposal to be made as soon possible and minimise the risks to the Council if completion was to be delayed.

The Lead Member summarised the key aspects of the proposed disposal which was in line with the agreed Asset Disposal Strategy and had been declared surplus. The property had a good tenant in Halfords and if the disposal was agreed the Council would secure a sum in excess of the initial purchase price. The sale would contribute to the reduction in the Council's future financial commitments and generate a capital receipt to help reduce the Council's borrowing and MRP. Assurance was provided that the proposed sale had been subject to the due diligence process and reflected best consideration in relation to the relevant legislation.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations.

**Resolved –**

- (a) Agreed to the Council sale of 380 Bath Road, Slough with the bidder named in Appendix 1 – Heads of Terms;
- (b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Property, Planning and Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Oversight and Council Assets and the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial, to negotiate the terms of and enter into the contract and any associated documentation in connection with the disposal consistent with the disposal report and Heads of Terms appended at Confidential Appendix 1 to the report.

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### **166. Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was not necessary to exclude the press and public as all decisions were taken in Part I of the meeting without disclosing any exempt information.

### **167. Disposal of 380 Bath Road, Slough - Appendix**

**Resolved** – That the Part II Appendix be noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.32 pm and closed at 7.14 pm)