

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 18th July, 2011.

Present:- Councillors Anderson (Chair), A S Dhaliwal, Matloob, Pantelic, Parmar, Swindlehurst and Walsh

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Rasib and Sharif

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor S Chaudhry

PART I

22. Declarations of Interest

None.

23. Minutes of the Meetings held on 31st May and 13th June 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on 31st May and 13th June, 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24. Performance and Project Reporting for 2010/11 - End of Year Out-turns

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the performance outturns for 2010/11 for the Corporate Balanced Scorecard and Local Area Agreement performance measures. The report highlighted those indicators where performance had not met target.

In addition to the summary of performance Members were asked to note a proposal for new Balanced Scorecard for the remainder of 2011/12. The proposal was for a revised single model to be adopted that also met requirements for scrutiny and for determining successful achievement of manifesto commitments. The first revised balanced scorecard would be submitted to the Cabinet in September.

Members welcomed the improvements that were being proposed.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress and status of performance measures in the balanced scorecard report be noted.
- (b) That the actions for those indicators that have not met their targets highlighted in the exceptions report be reviewed.
- (c) That the continuing gaps in the report be noted and actions endorsed.

25. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 31st May 2011 - (periods one and two)

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the latest financial position as at the end of May 2011.

The current forecast overspend for 2011/12 General Fund at the end of period two was reported as £632K with the level of overspend related primarily to the costs of looked after children. This had been anticipated as members had already agreed a £600K contingency sum to be allocated to this area. Members had further requested a full review of all associated costs in this area to ensure adequate resources continued to be maintained. The only other forecast variance from budget reported at this stage was a small under spend within Resources and Regeneration. The Director of Resources and Regeneration advised that she was confident that the Council would deliver an outturn position within the budget that Members had set. In answer to a question she confirmed that the overspend was not as a result of failure to achieve the savings agreed from 2010/11.

Resolved –

- (a) That the current projected outturn position on the General Fund of an overspend of £632K be noted.
- (b) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reported a projected overspend of £86.5K be noted.
- (c) That the identified areas of risk and emerging issues be noted.

26. Capital Programme 2011 - 2017

The Cabinet considered a report detailing a proposed revised, reshaped and affordable Capital Programme in the light of the current economic climate. Members were also asked to consider the creation of an investment vehicle to allow the Council to deliver ambitions for major regeneration of the Town.

Pending the exploration and decision on whether to proceed with a LABV a revised interim capital programme was presented to members to provide flexibility should members decide to proceed with the Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV).

The Director of Resources and Regeneration outlined the key features of an LABV and how it may operate in Slough. Members were advised that many organisations were investigating this type of proposal. It was acknowledged that this would be a significant decision for the Authority to take and that members would want to take time to explore the proposal thoroughly and it was for this reason an interim capital programme had been put forward for agreement. Members asked a number of detailed questions with regard to LABV and how it would operate.

Cabinet - 18.07.11

Members noted that the proposal was for initial detailed work to be done on the establishment of an LABV with a further report brought back to the Cabinet in September. An LABV would give the Council more control of the disposal of its assets and would allow the Council to deliver major regeneration of the Town and Members agreed the proposal for report back in September.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Capital Programme for 2011-2017 in Appendix A of the report be endorsed.
- (b) That the revised Asset Management Strategy disposal schedule in Appendix B of the report be endorsed.
- (c) That the creation of a Slough Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) be explored and in particular, to:
 - a. Develop the outline project plan for creating the LABV, for consideration by Members;
 - b. To review the strategic risks and how these can be mitigated, for consideration by members;
 - c. To appoint specialist legal advisors to support detailed exploration of the concept to support members decision making in advance of any formal commitment to proceed.
- (d) That a further report be presented to Cabinet on the 19 September 2011.

27. The Revised Sustainable Community Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report outlining issues that had emerged during a review of the Slough's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and seeking agreement to the next steps.

The SCS set out the strategic objectives and priorities for the Borough for the period 2008 to 2028. These were reflected in Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011 and other key strategies, policies and plans produced by the Council. The SCS was a partnership document and although the Government had recently signalled its intention to repeal the duties to prepare an SCS, Local Authorities were still expected to work with partners and local communities to develop shared strategies for what they need to improve in their areas. A decision had therefore been taken to review and refresh the SCS and the report set out the timetable for the review. Members welcomed the report and a refreshed strategy that would help create a shared vision and sense of priorities for the Borough to achieve better outcomes and services for residents. Members noted that there would be further work on the detailed targets which would need to be agreed with partner organisations in the autumn.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress made thus far with the Slough Story and the priorities for the SCS be noted.
- (b) That the emerging priorities for the SCS be agreed.
- (c) That the Chief Executive be authorised after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to review and implement further amendments to the SCS and the Slough Story.

28. Britwell Regeneration Scheme - From Concept to Reality - Update

The Cabinet received an update report following decisions made by the Cabinet at its previous meeting for the delivery of the Britwell Regeneration Scheme. Members were also asked to agree to proceed with the demolition of key buildings in the regeneration area. It was noted that a further update report would be brought to the meeting of the Cabinet in September. The Leader asked whether there were any plans to refurbish the flats in the area that the Council were due to keep. Members were advised that officers were currently looking at all options to make the existing stock meet the needs of the residents.

Resolved -

- (a) That as the sites become vacant, to agree to proceed with the demolition of:
 - 1. The Jolly Londoner Public House, Wentworth Avenue;
 - 2. Newbeech House, Long Readings Lane;
 - 3. The Library and car sales site, Wentworth Avenue;
 - 4. Phase 1 Marunden Green: 1 to 15 (and garages to the r/o 1 to 15), 14 to 18, 41 to 51 Marunden Green (See the Plan in Appendix C);
 - 5. Phase 2 Marunden Green: 2 to 12, 20 to 36, 38 to 42 Marunden Green.
- (b) That a further update report be made to the Cabinet meeting on 19th September 2011.

29. The Proposal to Implement Additional Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing for Chalvey Ward

The Cabinet considered a report seeking agreement to implement an additional licensing scheme for the Chalvey ward to regulate HMOs in the area. The report set out the background to the proposal and the consultation that had been undertaken. It was proposed to introduce additional licensing to Chalvey in view of the strong local support for the scheme that had emerged as part of the consultation. In addition, Chalvey had the largest number of HMOs. It was noted that this would be a pilot in the first instance

Cabinet - 18.07.11

with an aspiration to extend to further wards over time. In answer to a question the Private Sector Housing Manager advised that officers did not believe that the introduction of the scheme in Chalvey would impact on other neighbouring wards but that this would be monitored closely.

Resolved -

- (a) That the implementation of the additional HMO licensing scheme for the Chalvey ward be approved as attached in Appendix A to the report.
- (b) That the Director of Resources and Regeneration in conjunction with the Head of Legal services be authorised to exercise powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 to designate for additional licensing of the Chalvey area.

30. Empty Homes: Housing Solutions - A Strategy for Slough

The Cabinet considered a report detailing progress to date in dealing with empty homes in the private sector and seeking approval for a new strategy following the interim policy that was approved in March 2010. Members were advised that the strategy had been prepared with support of a range of stakeholders who had been consulted during its preparation. Slough had a relatively low level of empty homes when compared to the rest of the South East region. Whilst it was recognised that empty homes would have a lower priority than other private sector housing issues and taking the current economic climate the Council would need to find ways of bringing empty homes back into use to meet the housing needs and reduce overcrowding. The strategy would be kept under review to ensure that it was suitable for the housing issues and concerns in Slough.

Resolved - That the Empty Homes: Housing solutions – A Strategy for Slough, as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

31. Wexham Satellite Library Options and Community Hubs Progress

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the results of an assessment of a number of options to provide a satellite library to serve the community in Wexham. Officers recommended the provision of a self service satellite library as part of the Wexham Road Children's Centre site off the Wexham Road. The report also included an update on progress with community hubs and satellite libraries at Chalvey and Colnbrook which included a summary of opening hours and staffing arrangements for self service satellite libraries.

The report set out the options that had been considered for the Wexham satellite library with the recommended option being the reception area of the Wexham Road Children's Centre. Members asked a number of questions with regard to this proposal which included whether the fire risk assessment had been concluded, whether safeguarding issues had been considered and concerns about vehicular access to the site. The Assistant Director of

Cabinet - 18.07.11

Learning and Cultural Engagement advised that the fire risk assessment was not yet complete but he believed that there were no particular issues that would be insurmountable. With regard to safeguarding issues there would be a staff control entry to the reception area, visitors would be required to sign in and all areas for children were behind locked doors away from the reception area. The existing pathway access from Grasmere Avenue was at the far end of the campus and it was considered to be worth exploring a planning application for an additional pedestrian access. There was a proposal for there to be a locked gate on this pathway which would be locked when the Centre was closed which would assist in preventing vandalism.

Councillor Swindlehurst advised that as he was a member of the Planning Committee, which would be considering the application for planning permission for this site, he would be approaching the application with an open mind and would be considering it afresh.

The satellite library would help improve access to learning opportunities to families in particular and complement other services provided through the Centre. Slough was in a position to open three new satellite libraries and was increasing opening hours which was unprecedented in the current economic climate and Cabinet members congratulated officers on the proposal that was before the Cabinet.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Assistant Director for Culture and Skills be authorised to implement the recommended solution for a satellite library in the reception area at the Wexham Road Children's Centre and commit capital expenditure as identified in section 5 of this report.
- (b) That the progress on community hubs at Chalvey and Colnbrook be noted.

32. Contracts in Excess of £250,000

The Cabinet considered a report detailing additional contracts of an estimated value of over £250,000 that were proposed to be let in the 2011/12 financial year. Members noted that the contracts had not been included in the list submitted to Cabinet in April 2011.

Resolved - That the contracts set out in the supporting information to the report be endorsed.

33. Highway Changes in Chalvey

Members were advised that since the Cabinet had considered Highway Changes in Chalvey on the 31st May, Members and Officers had met with representatives of the Chalvey community including individuals and residents groups. It had not been possible to achieve a consensus on a preferred option as responses to the options had varied considerably amongst different

Cabinet - 18.07.11

groups and individuals. Members were asked to agree to the implementation of all the options on an experimental basis and the report outlined the proposed programme of works. The experimental procedure provided ample opportunity for all affected stakeholders to experience the measures for themselves and to make representations. The procedure provided the Council and the Chalvey community an opportunity to test all three options and also some of the suggestions received from the community.

The programme had been designed to follow on after Thames Valley Water works that were currently going on in Chalvey and in view of the need to be able to respond flexibly to the impact of the experimental measures and to the representations made it was proposed that the Head of Transport be given delegated authority to manage and modify the programme and detail of the experimental measures during the course of the experimental procedure.

Members noted that the final decision on whether to make any permanent change rested with the Cabinet and the Cabinet would be receiving making update reports during the course of the experimental procedures. Members welcomed the proposals and the opportunity they would give to undertake wide and extensive consultation with many interested parties. Members present under rule 30 asked whether any consideration had been given to the antisocial behaviour aspects of the pedestrianisation. It was agreed this would be taken up with the Director of Community and Wellbeing for report back to a future meeting.

Resolved –

- (a) To authorise the Head of Transport, after consultation with the Commissioner, to implement a number of Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:
 - i. Full closure of Chalvey Road West;
 - ii. One-way operation of Chalvey Road West eastbound;
 - iii. One-way operation of Chalvey Road West westbound;
 - iv. One-way operation of Ledgers Road northbound;
 - v. One-way operation of Ragstone Road southbound;
 - vi. One-way operation of Chalvey Road East westbound;
 - vii. One-way operation of Martin Road southbound;
 - viii. Parking measures as necessary to compliment the experimental road layouts.
- (b) That the programme of experimental measures be based on the programme outlined in Annex B to the report.
- (c) That the detailed design for the experimental measures be based on the plans shown in Annex C to the report.
- (d) To authorise the Head of Transport, after consultation with the Commissioner, to modify and manage the programme of

Cabinet - 18.07.11

experimental measures, to be able to respond appropriately to both the impact on the Highway network, and any representations made.

- (e) To authorise the Head of Transport, after consultation with the Commissioner, to modify and manage the detail of the experimental measures, including modifications to the experimental orders where appropriate, to be able to respond appropriately to both the impact on the Highway network, and any representations made;
- (f) That the final decision on any permanent measures rests with Cabinet;
- (g) That an update on progress be reported to Cabinet at it's next meeting.

34. References from Overview and Scrutiny

None.

35. Executive Forward Plan

That the Executive Forward Plan be approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.45 pm)