

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 12th December, 2011.

Present:- Councillors Anderson, S Chaudhry, A S Dhaliwal, Matloob, Pantelic, Parmar, Swindlehurst and Walsh

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

PART I

72. Declarations of Interest

None.

73. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st November 2011

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2011 be approved as a correct record.

74. Order of Business

The Chair advised that he intended to alter the order of business, taking item five, Draft Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan, 2012/13 and 2015/16, after item three, Project Performance and Finance Reporting 2011/12, and before all other remaining items.

75. Project Performance and Finance Reporting 2011/12

The Cabinet was presented with a report highlighting the Council's overall performance of the Gold Projects, Performance scorecards and revenue and capital monitoring, each covering the period up to 31st October 2011. The Cabinet was advised that the tenth gold project, Looked After Children's Placements, was currently in the initiation phase. Of the nine active gold projects, six had been assessed as to have an overall 'Green' status and the remaining 'Amber'.

Resolved:

(a) That the Cabinet note the following aspects of the report:

- i. Project management**
 - Note the current reported status of each Gold Project.
- ii. Performance scorecard**
 - Note the performance issues identified and highlighted.
- iii. Financial performance – revenue and capital**
 - Note the current projected outturn position on the General Fund of an under spend of £335K.
 - Note that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reported a forecast surplus of £171k.

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(b) That the Cabinet note the identified areas of risk and emerging issues.

76. Draft Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 and 2015/16

The Cabinet was advised that the latest projections of the Council's Revenue and Capital Budget for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16. The report outlined the main assumptions driving the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the strategy to address all known current requirements across the medium term. The report proposed a strategy for securing saving requirements whilst maintaining the focus on protection for front line services, wherever possible.

The Director of Community and Wellbeing outlines the proposals for new services relating to services within the Community and Wellbeing Directorate which were detailed in the report. The savings accounted to £680k in year one and £1.38million in the second year. The Director advised that the savings were dependant on statutory consultations. In answer to a question, the Director gave details of the timetable for the retendering of Supporting People Commissioned Services.

Resolved -

- a) That the Council's current projected Revenue Budget for 2012/13 to 2015/16 be noted.
- b) That updated assumptions underlying the Medium Term Financial Plan and the potential additional impact relating to the Chancellors Autumn budget statement be noted.
- c) That the overarching savings strategy and targets as set out on Appendix A to the report be approved and that additional proposals be further developed to meet remaining budget deficit.
- d) That the specific proposals set out in section 5.11 of the report be agreed and that officers be requested to implement them with immediate effect where possible. (Taken with urgency).

77. Award of Contract for Provision of Transactional Services for Slough Borough Council

The Cabinet was provided with an update as the procurement and establishment of the Transactional Services Centre in Slough, and was requested to approve the preferred supplier as detailed in the Part II report.

A Tender Evaluation Panel had evaluated the tender submissions. Delays had been incurred as a result of the evaluation of the Invitation to Submit Detailed Specifications taking longer than expected, due to the need to clarify technical and financial aspects of the submissions. Consequently the procurement timetable had been revised to allow additional time for the suppliers to submit detailed responses to the clarification questions, to allow

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more time for competitive dialogue and to allow the bidders to undertake due diligence.

The Invitation to Submit a Final Tender was issued on 21st October in line with the revised timetable.

A number of specific objectives had been established; including ensuring that existing employees were engaged in the processes set out within the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations, establishing clear performance standards and increasing the employment opportunities for local people in the future.

The Cabinet was advised that savings in the region of £1.4million would be achieved as a result of the revised contract. The Cabinet agreed to take the decision on the grounds of urgency, to enable the revised procurement timetable to be followed.

In order to consider the commercially confidential information of the two potential suppliers, it was;

Resolved –

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of remainder of this item as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

(The following is a summary of the Part II debate)

The Cabinet considered the detailed evaluation of the submissions from both suppliers and the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel.

Resolved on the grounds of urgency -

- (a) That the progress and status of the contract procurement project be noted.
- (b) That Company 1 (as detailed in the Part II Appendices to this report) be appointed as the preferred supplier.

78. Awarding of the Berkshire Community Equipment Service (BCES) Contract

The Cabinet considered a report detailing the recommendation of the tender panel for the contract award of the Berkshire Community Equipment Loan Store. The Strategic Director of Community and Wellbeing advised the Committee that a third party to the contract had requested further clarification. The Cabinet agreed that it was therefore prudent to defer the decision to award the contract and would delegate authority to award the contract to the

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Strategic Director of Community and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Commissioner for Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Resources and Regeneration.

Resolved - That the Strategic Director of Community and Wellbeing be authorised to award the contract for the Berkshire Community Equipment Service, following consultation with the Commissioner for Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Resources and Regeneration.

79. Highway Changes in Chalvey

The Cabinet was presented with a report providing an update on the implementation of the experimental highway changes in Chalvey. The Head of Transport advised that a number of the experimental measures had now been implemented, and completion of the measures was anticipated by January 2012, subject to completion of works by Thames Water.

A number of questions were raised, including how Officers intended to ensure that local residents were fully informed of the experimental measures and that responses were sufficiently analysed. The Cabinet was advised that consultation had only recently been rolled out, and that the opinion of local residents would become clearer once all experimental measures had been completed. The Cabinet confirmed that the consultation would be as inclusive as possible and that the Council welcomed all feedback, both positive and negative.

Resolved -

- (a) That the progress towards implementation of the experimental measures be noted.
- (b) That the Cabinet be updated in January 2012, when it is anticipated that the installation of experimental measures will be completed on site.

80. References from Overview and Scrutiny

None.

81. Executive Forward Plan

Resolved – That the Executive Forward Plan be approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)