

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 13th October, 2014.

Present:- Councillors Anderson (Chair), Carter, Mann, Munawar, Parmar, Sharif and Swindlehurst

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillor Smith

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Hussain

PART 1

37. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

38. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2014

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

39. Windsor Road Regeneration Scheme Update

The Head of Asset Management introduced a report updating Members on the progress made on the regeneration of Windsor Road since the Cabinet decided on 15th September 2014 to work collaboratively with Shanly Homes Limited (MSH) on the comprehensive redevelopment of the area.

The Cabinet had agreed to dispose of the Council's interest in 81-12 Windsor Road to realise the long term objectives of the road widening scheme and regeneration of properties from 81-127 Windsor Road. The Heads of Terms had subsequently been agreed with Sorbon Estates, the subsidiary of MSH, that owned the properties to the south of the site and the access land to the rear of the property, which is subject to planning permission for a scheme for circa 110 flats. In response to the issues raised by Cabinet on 15th September 2014, it was confirmed that the agreement included a stipulation that development commence within three years of planning permission being granted; a planning clawback on the vendor if the scheme exceeded more than 110 two bedroomed flats; and a profit share with SBC if the net development profit was more than 17.5% of the schemes Gross Development Value. Members attention was drawn to the legal implications set out in section 5(e) which detailed the requirements in terms of appropriating the relevant land for planning purposes and this was agreed.

The Cabinet considered a range of issues including the proposed timescales for the planning process and redevelopment; the working relationship with MSH; and the funding arrangements for the road widening scheme. It was noted that whilst the capital receipt from the disposal was not ring fenced for the road widening scheme, provision had been made in the Capital Programme. Commissioners welcomed the progress that had been made in

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reaching an agreement that would both facilitate the long term aspiration for a road widening scheme as well as securing the delivery of a comprehensive redevelopment of a key gateway site. Members also emphasised the importance of proactive communication with local residents now that the progress update was in the public domain.

Resolved –

- (a) That progress with the proposed sale be continued, conditional upon planning consent, at existing use value, to Shanly Homes Limited and/or its asset holding subsidiary with a view to comprehensive redevelopment of the area for private residential use, and
- (b) Seek to appropriate Council land to planning purposes to facilitate this as detailed in section 5 (e) of the report.

40. Leisure Strategy

The Assistant Director, Community & Skills introduced a report updating Commissioners on the implementation of the Leisure Strategy approved by the Cabinet in July 2014.

The strategy aimed to get ‘more people, more active, more often’ and Commissioners were advised of the progress made in relation to the modernisation of core leisure facilities and implementation of a community based programme of activity that delivered leisure opportunities in open spaces and community venues. Members were also advised that the full 5-year implementation plan for the leisure strategy was on track to be considered by Cabinet in December 2014. Since the Cabinet had agreed to refurbish the ice arena at its meeting in July, a full structural survey had been completed and Morgan Sindall had been engaged to develop designs and plans to take account of the site layout and future development opportunities at the Montem Lane site. The project budget of £3.5m would deliver a wide range of improvements including a two-storey extension with frontage on the A4, a new reception area with space for a café and potential space for the leisure contractor to introduce adventure activities. The initial outcomes of the Community Sport Activation Fund ‘Get Active’ programme were also reported and it was noted that launch events had been held and 80 people had registered with the scheme to date.

The Commissioner for Community & Leisure welcomed the progress that had been made and emphasised the ambition to maximise the linkages between strategies for leisure, parks and health & wellbeing. The Cabinet noted the report and agreed to widen the delegation to both the Assistant Directors for Community & Skill and Assets, Infrastructure and Regeneration, following consultation with all relevant Commissioners to demonstrate the corporate buy in to the delivery of the Leisure Strategy.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Assistant Director for Community & Skills and the Assistant Director for Assets, Infrastructure & Regeneration be authorised to implement the next steps as set out in section 9 of the report, following consultation with the Commissioners for Community & Leisure, Neighbourhoods & Renewal, Environment & Open Spaces and Health & Wellbeing, including:
- i. Agree the best scheme for the ice arena for the budget available, working initially with Morgan Sindall through the Slough Regeneration Partnership.
 - ii. Develop and assess options to make a recommendation for a new leisure centre.
 - iii. Develop a 5 year implementation plan for the leisure strategy.

41. Arrangements for School Expansion: Langley Grammar School

The Chief Executive introduced a report seeking approval to fund a one form of entry expansion of Langley Grammar School from Basic Needs Grant in association with other major works for which the school was seeking national funding.

The Cabinet noted that the school's bid for inclusion on the Department for Education's Priority School Building Programme 2 would, if successful, result in a major rebuilding of the school and it was considered that expanding the school at the same time would both cost-effective and efficient. The proposals included the creation of much needed new SEN provision. Commissioners also noted that the funding allocation for new school places in Slough was sufficient to support the funding required for this proposal and the investment offered an opportunity to meet the growing demand for secondary school places in the borough.

In order to satisfy the principles in Slough's school places strategy relating to the balance of selection and non-selective places, some changes to Langley Grammar's admissions policy would be required. A number of adjustments had already been agreed from September 2015 and further options were being positively explored between officers and the school.

After due consideration, the Cabinet agreed to support the proposal which it believed would help meet the rising demand for secondary school places and SEN provision, and offered an opportunity to increase the number of Slough children at the school. It was agreed that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to conclude the agreement including any adjustments to the school's admissions policy.

Resolved –

- (a) That a maximum of £3,000,000 of grant funding (Basic Needs Grant) be allocated to fund construction of one form of entry at Langley Grammar School; and
- (b) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Commissioner for Education, be given delegated authority to agree the final sum, based on construction costs, and any conditions including appropriate changes to the school's admissions policy.

42. War Memorial Maintenance

The Communications Manager introduced a report regarding the funding arrangements for the maintenance works carried out to a number of the Borough's war memorials in advance of the World War 1 Centenary commemorations in August.

The Cabinet noted that maintenance to clean and tidy four town memorials at Langley Memorial Ground, St Peter's Church, College Green and St Mary's Church at a total cost of £8,394.60 had been supported by the general fund due to the tight timescales and the possibility of extra work being undertaken. Members were asked to make a recommendation to full Council, as trustee of the charity, that the general fund be reimbursed for £8,394.60 from the War Memorial Garden Trust established to maintain the town's memorials.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Smith asked a number of questions about the work that had been carried out and the rationale for the proposed delegation of future approvals. In response, it was noted that the delegation would ensure that any future maintenance could be carried out swiftly, following the necessary professional advice and agreement of the relevant parties.

Commissioners agreed to recommend the reimbursement to Council and to further recommend that the Head of the Legal Services be given delegated authority to approve expenditure of less than £10,000 in the future.

Recommended –

- (a) That the amount spent on maintenance of the war memorials from the general fund be reimbursed from the War Memorial Garden Trust; and
- (b) That any individual item of expenditure of less than £10,000 from the War Memorial Garden Trust be approved by the Head of Legal Services following consultation with the Commissioner for Neighbourhoods and Renewal.

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43. References from Overview & Scrutiny

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

44. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions

Commissioners considered the Notification of Key Decisions published for the period between October to December 2014. The Cabinet agreed to endorse the Notice and add a further report to the November Cabinet in relation the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Education regarding the arrangements for Children's Services in the Borough.

Resolved –

- (a) That the published Notification of Decisions be endorsed.
- (b) That the Cabinet receive a report on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Education on Children's Services in Slough at the next meeting in November 2014.

45. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item in Part II of the agenda as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 the Schedule 12A the Local Government Act 1972.

46. Part II Minutes - 15th September 2014

Resolved – That the minutes of the Part II meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.32 pm and closed at 7.06 pm)