

## **Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 16th November, 2015.**

**Present:-** Councillors Anderson, Carter, Hussain, Mann, Munawar, Parmar, Sharif and Swindlehurst

**Apologies for Absence:-** None

### **PART 1**

#### **54. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **55. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2015**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

#### **56. Finance & Performance Report: 2nd Quarter 2015/16**

The Assistant Director Finance & Audit introduced a report that provided the Cabinet with the latest forecast financial information and performance report for the period to the end of September 2015.

The Council was forecasting an overspend of £2.046m at the end of the second quarter, primarily arising from overspends in Children & Families, Adult Social Care and Public Health. Action was being taken to address the underlying overspend and it was anticipated that future reports would show an improved position. The work being done to deliver the savings programme for 2015-16, particularly the £2.6m worth of savings currently rated as 'red' was discussed. The Cabinet noted the current financial and performance position and approved the virements in section 8 and write off requests detailed in section 12 of the report.

The Cabinet was informed that £39k of capital from the Community Investment Fund remained unallocated. The Commissioner for Neighbourhoods & Renewal proposed, and it was agreed, that this be made available for further neighbourhood improvements as part of the environmental improvements programme.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the virements and write offs contained within sections 8 and 12 of the report be approved.
- (b) That the current financial forecast position, balanced scorecard and update on Gold projects be noted.

- (c) That it be noted that £39k of the Community Investment Fund remained unallocated, and that it be agreed to allocate this amount to make further neighbourhood improvements under the environmental improvements programme.

**57. Medium Term Financial Planning Update Including Savings Proposals for the 2016-17 Financial Year**

The Assistant Director Finance & Audit introduced a report that summarised the latest financial planning assumptions and included a tranche of savings proposals to move towards the preparation of a balanced budget in the 2016-17 financial year.

The Comprehensive Spending Review would be published on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and was expected to provide greater clarity on the level of funding reductions to local government in future years, although it had already been announced that the DCLG had settled with a reduction of approximately 30% over the next four years. The full implications for the Council would not be known until the Local Government Finance Settlement due in December. Commissioners noted a summary of the Medium Term Financial Strategy model and underlying assumptions as detailed in sections 5.8 and 5.10 of the report.

The Cabinet was updated on the preparation of the budget for 2016-17, which had focused on the delivery of the 5 Year Plan outcomes. Savings of £29m between 2016-17 and 2019-20 had so far been identified and a series of proposed savings totalling £4.8m in 2016-17 were presented in Appendix A to the report. If agreed, these savings would be included in the budget to be considered by the Council in February 2016 for final approval. Most of the proposed savings presented at this stage were either income generation, transformation or efficiency savings.

The profile of the savings programme was discussed and it was noted that the level of savings required was highest in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Income generation would be key to help close the gaps caused by substantial further reductions in the Revenue Support Grant and the Cabinet also recognised the crucial importance of successfully delivering the savings programme. Several Commissioners explained in more detail the specific savings proposed under their portfolios, including the merger of the highways and transport teams which would result significant revenue savings. The success in attracting external funding and support from the capital programme would still enable strategic transport improvements through schemes such as Slough Mass Rapid Transit and A332 and A355 enhancements.

After due consideration, the Cabinet agreed that the savings proposed in Appendix A of the report be included in the 2016-17 revenue budget to be considered by Council in February 2016 and noted that further savings proposals would be presented to Cabinet at future meetings.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the savings set out in Appendix A to the report be included in the Revenue Budget 2016-17 to be approved by Council in February, subject to the final Local Government Finance Settlement, taxbase papers and any further adjustments.
- (b) That the latest financial planning assumptions and the impact of these on future service delivery be noted.

**58. Trelawney Avenue Redevelopment Plan - Progress Report**

The Head of Asset Management introduced a progress report on the Trelawney Avenue Redevelopment Plan. The Cabinet had resolved in February 2015 that further discussions be held with health partners, and particularly Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), to work together to meet the Council's aspiration for a mixed use development including modern health facilities, housing and a community hub.

A collaborative approach had since been taken between the Council, the CCG and the landlord and positive progress had now been made. The plans included the relocation of an existing GP practice, the Orchard Surgery on Willow Parade, to the proposed redevelopment at Trelawney Avenue along with the pharmacy and dental practice. These services would be co-located with housing and/or community services and potentially a library service and community police services, subject to a Thames Valley Police review of their estate. There would also be space to allow community groups and activities already operating from the existing hall to continue to do so. There were several options to facilitate the development of the hub and a number of practical issues to resolve. These would be considered in a business case that would be presented to the Cabinet in a further report in the new year. Agreement was sought in principle to the General Fund appropriating the area of land required from the Housing Revenue Account to develop the hub. The remainder of the land would be retained by the HRA to build new affordable housing. The Cabinet also noted the proposals in relation to Langley Police Station, relocation of New Langley Community Group and of the football teams currently based at the Merry Makers Public House to Kedermister Park.

Commissioners welcomed the considerable progress that had now been made in bringing forward a proposal that included health facilities on the site which would help meet the demand from local residents in the area. It was recognised that a number of practical issues still needed to be resolved by the various partners, however, the Cabinet were pleased that the plans now met the original ambition for a mixed use hub serving the local community. The recommendations, as detailed fully in the report, were agreed.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That it be noted that following further discussions since February 2015, Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) support the relocation of

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the existing Orchard Surgery located on Willow Parade, High Street, Langley to Trelawney Avenue and has received NHS England support, subject to compliance with SCCG policy.

- (b) That subject to compliance with Housing Revenue Account (“HRA”) guidance, that it be agreed in principle to the General Fund (“GF”) appropriating the area of land required from the HRA to develop the hub, with the remainder of the site retained by the HRA and used to build affordable housing for rent.
- (c) That the potential for the hub to be jointly owned and managed between Raw Investments Limited (“RIL”) and the Council be noted. RIL would have ownership of the health-led area, with the remainder owned by the Council (GF) and used to provide local services, including the potential relocation of Langley Library.
- (d) That subject to the relocation of Thames Valley Police (“TVP”), the scope of the plan would increase to include the redevelopment of the police station into affordable housing for rent.
- (e) That following its discussions with New Langley Community Group (“NLCG”) an agreement had been reached on their relocation to alternative premises to enable the redevelopment of the site.
- (f) That it be noted that the February 2015 authority to proceed to develop housing on part of the site would be undertaken by Slough Urban Renewal via the Small Sites Strategy.
- (g) That a follow-up report including financial options and a business case would be presented to Cabinet in February 2016 or sooner if key decisions were required.
- (h) That Asset Management would continue to explore the feasibility of relocating the football teams currently based at the Merry Makers PH to Kedermister Park.

### **59. Learning Disabilities Change Programme - Re-modelling of In-House Residential and Replacement Care Services**

The Assistant Director Adult Social Care introduced a report on the Learning Disabilities Change Programme that had been reviewing in-house residential and replacement care services. The report covered the residential care service at Lavender Court and the replacement care service, Respond.

The review had examined how services could be re-modelled to improve the outcomes to service user with learning disabilities, contribute to the savings target and ensure provision was compliant with the requirements of the Care Act 2014. Both staff and service users had been engaged in the review. It was recommended testing the care market to assess the potential savings that could be made from alternative models of support. The preferred option

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of the Programme Board was summarised and this included deregistering the residential care service and re-modelling it as supported living service, refurbish 1 and 3 Priors Close, re-model respite services and promote independent living.

The Cabinet considered the options proposed, the potential level of achievable savings and the implications for the service, before agreeing the recommendation to test the market for alternative models of support. It was also agreed to delegate authority to implement alternative models of support if it was considered they could meet the needs of service users and deliver savings. It was also noted that a further report would come to the Cabinet at a later date on the review into the Elliman, Priors and Phoenix day services.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the care market be tested for alternative models of support for service users with Learning Disabilities and to assess the potential savings that could be made.
- (b) That implementation of alternative models of support be delegated to the Director of Adult Social Services, following consultation with the Commissioner for Health and Wellbeing if these are proven to deliver positive outcomes for service users and deliver savings.

## **60. Libraries Contract Review**

The Head of Learning and Community Services introduced a report that sought approval to extend the existing library services contract to the end of June 2016 and then transfer the service back in house from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

The report set out the rationale for this proposal and the options that had been considered during the review, which included re-tendering, extending the existing contract or bringing it back in house. It was noted that the current arrangement with Library Services (Slough) Ltd had secured ongoing revenue savings of £214,134 from 2011-12 to 2015-16 and further savings of £191,000 could be achieved by bringing it in house from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. There were opportunities to deliver more savings through service redesign and improved integration. Extending the existing contract for six months would enable a properly planned transition, particularly in view of the move to the Curve.

The Commissioner for Community & Leisure supported the recommendation and highlighted that the scale and expertise of the current provider had helped to positively transform library services in recent years through technology, new satellite libraries and bulk purchasing of books. Taking the service back in house would now build on this success and provide the flexibility to introduce different models of delivery as well as make immediate savings. The Cabinet felt that the previous outsourcing had successfully delivered the desired objectives at that time and agreed that a short term extension before bringing the service back in house would be the best model for the future.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the library service be transferred back in house from 1st July 2016.
- (b) That the existing contract with Library Services (Slough) Ltd, a commercial arm of Essex County Council, be extended by six months from its current end date (31st December 2015) to 30th June 2016.

**61. Slough Mass Rapid Transit Scheme (SMaRT) Compulsory Purchase Order**

The Cabinet considered a report providing an update on the progress of the use of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to deliver the Slough Mass Rapid Transit (SMaRT) scheme.

Approval had previously been given by the Cabinet in September 2014 to use CPO powers to obtain the necessary land for the new bus lane for the SMaRT scheme and future redevelopment opportunities. The requirement for land at 124 and 128 Bath Road for junction improvements at the Three Tuns Pub junction had been designed out of the scheme due to the prohibitively high levels of compensation. Most of the land now required for the scheme was already within the existing boundaries of the highway or acquired by negotiation over the past 12 months. The Cabinet was asked to approve the use of CPO powers to acquire land around 142 Bath Road and land south of Tintagel House, if it could not be acquired via negotiation at a fair price, to deliver the social and economic benefits of the SMaRT scheme and wider regeneration.

There would be significant benefits to local residents of the SMaRT scheme by improving the speed and reliability of bus journeys and mitigating against forecast levels of traffic congestion as well as facilitating new housing and employment opportunities. Commissioners requested that consideration be given to maximising the benefits of the additional capacity by allowing it to be used for electric vehicles or those who were car sharing. The trials of multiple occupancy vehicle lanes elsewhere in the country had had limited success, however, the Head of Transport confirmed that officers would investigate the opportunities to use the new bus lanes for such purposes to reduce congestion and promote the use of cleaner vehicles. The Cabinet emphasised the importance of promoting greener travel as part of the wider strategy to improve air quality and ultimately improve the health of local residents. There was significant activity underway to collect the data needed to effectively monitor air quality and there was engagement with the public health team. It was noted that recent research indicated that half of all electric cars in Berkshire were registered in Slough and the Council was committed to continue to expand the number of electric charging points.

The Cabinet welcomed the progress being made in delivering the SMaRT scheme; emphasised the need to maximise the benefits to residents; and agreed the recommendations to use CPO powers as detailed in the report.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the offer of the Berkshire Local Transport Body to provide £5.6m towards the cost of the SMaRT major transport scheme be welcomed;
- (b) That the terms of the offer, including the need for the remainder of the scheme cost approximately £2.5-3m to be met by local funding contributions, be noted;
- (c) That the local funding contribution (outlined in the capital strategy business case) required from Council revenue and capital resources be agreed;
- (d) That the design of the scheme submitted for planning consent under reference S/00713/000 be noted;
- (e) That land negotiations around 142 Bath Road and land south of Tintagel House proceed via the compulsory purchase order process;
- (f) That the Strategic Director, Regeneration, Housing and Resources be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the making, submission, confirmation and implementation of the CPO of the third party land required to deliver the SMaRT Scheme (following statutory process set down in the Highway Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.)
- (g) That Officers investigate further the opportunity to utilise the bus lane to reduce congestion and improve air quality by promoting cleaner vehicles and multiple occupancy vehicles.

**62. References from Overview & Scrutiny**

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

**63. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions**

**Resolved –** That the published Notification of Decisions for the period between November 2015 and January 2016 be endorsed.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.32 pm and closed at 7.19 pm)