

## **Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 17th July, 2017.**

**Present:-** Councillors Munawar (Chair), Hussain (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Bedi, Bal, Arvind Dhaliwal, Matloob, Nazir and Sharif

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillor Strutton

**Apologies for Absence:-** None.

### **PART 1**

#### **17. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked for Slough Borough Council.

#### **18. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th June 2017**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

#### **19. Monthly Financial Report 2017/18 - Procurement Decisions**

The Leader of the Council and Assistant Director Finance & Audit introduced a report that sought approval for the following recent and proposed procurement decisions:

- A further year's extension to the existing highways resurfacing contract with Aggregate Industries to provide sufficient time for the procurement of a new three year contract.
- A re-procurement of the mental health service at Hope House / Doddsfield Road following the review of the current pilot ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- The procurement of an interim Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to ensure there was no interruption to the statutory service ahead a procurement exercise for a new long-term contract.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton commented on the need to more clearly state the reasons for such procurement decisions in future reports. Cabinet Members considered the specific circumstances of each of the three contracts and agreed the recommendations in each case.

It was also noted that the audit of the 2016/17 financial statements was underway and that the first budget monitoring report of the 2017/18 financial year would be considered by the Cabinet in September.

**Resolved –** That approval be given to extend and/or commence tendering for the following contracts:

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- Highways Resurfacing Contract
- Hope House & Doddsfield Road
- Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT)

### 20. Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy - Public Houses

The Assistant Director Finance & Audit introduced a report that sought approval for a policy for Discretionary Rate Relief for public houses.

The scheme had been designed in accordance with government guidelines following the Chancellor's announcement in the spring budget to provide additional support for certain businesses affected by the revaluation of business rates in April 2017. The Cabinet had approved a Discretionary Relief Policy on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, however, the guidance relating to the operation of the scheme for public houses had not been published until 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, which was why the policy required separate approval. The scheme would be funded by the Government and was designed to spend up to but not beyond the sum allocated. It would provide up to £1,000 per public house with a rateable value below £100,000.

The Cabinet noted that there were 29 public houses in Slough as defined by the guidance. Nightclubs, cafes and hotels were not eligible for a relief under the government's definition. After due consideration, the policy was approved.

**Resolved** – That the policy for Discretionary Rate Relief for Public Houses as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

### 21. Statutory Service Plans

The Cabinet Member for Regulation & Consumer Protection introduced a report that sought approval of the Cabinet to recommend to full Council the Statutory Service Plans in relation to Food Safety; Health & Safety; and the Trading Standards service.

In addition to fulfilling statutory obligations, each plan set out the detailed work planned over the next year to promote public safety and provide a fair trading environment for local businesses. The protection of vulnerable people in Slough was a key priority for the Council's enforcement activity such as underage sales, fraud and scams. There was an increasing commercialisation of some services such as the Primary Authority work.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed to recommend approval of the Statutory Service Plans to full Council at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Recommended** – That the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards work undertaken by the Council be endorsed.

**22. SBC Annual Report 2016/17**

The Head of Policy, Partnerships & Programmes introduced a report that provided the Cabinet with an Annual Report of the Council's progress and achievements against the Five Year Plan for 2016-17.

The Annual Report was the first annual progress check since the Five Year Plan had been refreshed and it was an important document in demonstrating whether actions on the agreed priorities were being delivered. The performance data was more streamlined and focused to more clearly show whether key targets were being met. A number of case studies had also been included at the request of the Cabinet to bring the document to life.

The Cabinet discussed the overall performance over the past year and agreed the importance of clear strategy which 'put people first' to provide strategic direction at a time of rapid change for both the Council and the town more widely. It was felt the report would be useful in communicating progress to residents and partners, and the document would be prepared for publication on the Council's website. A number of specific achievements were highlighted that had contributed to performance including the public health programme, working with partners such as the Children's Trust and the voluntary and community sector, and the provision of new community based facilities such as green gyms.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton commented that whilst progress overall was positive in a number of areas, more planning and co-ordination of new schemes and developments was required in the future to minimise the impacts of traffic across the town.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Annual Report was agreed.

**Resolved –** That the Council's Annual Report for 2016-17 be agreed.

**23. Small Sites Strategy Update - Wexham Phase 3 and Land Adjacent Mercian Way**

The Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal introduced a report that sought approval to give delegated authority to the Assistant Director Finance & Audit to dispose of two sites to Slough Urban Renewal (SUR) for private housing led schemes.

The principle of disposal as part of the small sites programme had been approved by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and any disposal of the sites at Mercian Way and Norway Drive Recreation Fields would be subject to there being no objections in response to the publication of the statutory notices published in the local press relating to the Public Open Space. The notice period would expire on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and an addendum to the report was tabled which confirmed that no objections had been received to date. If objections were received before the end of the notice period a further report would be brought to Cabinet.

After due consideration, it was agreed to provide delegated authority to dispose of the sites to SUR, on the terms set out in the report, subject to no objections being received to such disposal.

**Resolved** – That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director, Finance & Audit to effect the disposal to Slough Urban Renewal of the sites detailed in Appendix One and Appendix Two to the Report to Cabinet of 19 June 2017 subject to Cabinet approval for a transfer sum that represents no less than the best value land valuation and subject to there being no objections received by the Council to any such disposal.

#### **24. Accommodation & Hub Strategy 2017-2020**

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure introduced a report that sought approval of the Council's proposed Accommodation & Hub Strategy 2017-2020.

The Strategy set out the overall approach to work across the Council, and with partners as part of a 'One Public Estate' approach where feasible, to provide 'fit for purpose' buildings to enhance services. It would support Phase 2 of the Council's Accommodation Strategy which aimed to reduce property costs, increase income generation and promote staff working closer to local people by embracing new technology. One of the objectives of the plan was to free up space at St Martins Place and vacate Landmark Place.

The Hub model would bring services together and included accommodation for Housing and Neighbourhood Services staff to enable them to be more accessible to local residents. There would not be a hub development in all parts of the borough, and locations would be considered on a needs basis. Each business case requesting capital investment would be considered by the Capital Strategy Board. Hubs at Chalvey, Britwell, Trelawney Avenue and Farnham Road would be the leading hubs, subject to more detailed analysis, community needs assessment and financial evaluation.

The Cabinet strongly welcomed the cross-Council approach that had been developed to seek to co-locate appropriate services in communities and to make best use of the Council's assets. It was emphasised that a clear vision for the integrated hubs was required to maximise their community benefit. The financial viability of the current hubs was raised and it was confirmed that a significant amount of work was taking place to put the right hub model in place in each locality.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton raised concerns about parking provision at the hubs, particularly where they included GP or other health services, and requested that this be fully considered as each hub was planned. The Leader confirmed that accessibility for hub users should be considered as each proposal was fully developed.

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At the conclusion of the discussion, the Accommodation & Hub Strategy was approved.

**Resolved** – That the Accommodation & Hub Strategy as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

### **25. References from Overview & Scrutiny**

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

### **26. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions**

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Key Decisions published on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 which set out the decisions expected to be taken by the Cabinet over the next three months.

**Resolved** – That the published Notification of Decisions be endorsed.

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

**Resolved** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part 2 of the Agenda, as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the individual as defined in Paragraph 1 and the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

### **28. Part II Minutes - 19th June 2017**

**Resolved** – That the Part II minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.08 pm)