

Cabinet

Tuesday 21 May 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans, in the Chair.

Councillors Coker, Lowry, McDonald, Penberthy and Williams.

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Adam Broome (Director for Corporate Services), Carole Burgoyne (Director for People), Anthony Payne (Director for Place), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), David Northey (Head of Finance), Paul Palmer (Principal Surveyor (Corporate Estates)), Candice Sainsbury (Senior Policy, Performance and Partnerships Advisor), James Watt (Head of Land and Property) and Nicola Kirby (Senior Democratic Support Officer (Cabinet)).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Peter Smith (Vice Chair) and Vincent.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.40 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Cabinet will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **WEBCASTING**

The Chair welcomed Cabinet Members to the meeting of Cabinet which would be webcast today and for all future meetings.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in relation to items under consideration at this meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2013.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public for this meeting.

5. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

6. **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY: Recommendation to the City Council**

The Director for Place submitted a report proposing the adoption by the City Council of the newly drafted Community Asset Transfer Policy which would give local people and community groups greater control of their area and community in the future, in accordance with the council's cooperative agenda.

The policy set out the benefits and risks to the council, the local policy context and the impacts on other council strategies, who could and how to apply for a community transfer, the basis of transfer and how the council would assess each application.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development) presented the proposals and thanked David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), James Watt (Head of Land and Property) and Paul Palmer (Principal Surveyor (Corporate Estates)) for their work.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

The City Council is Recommended to adopt the newly drafted Community Asset Transfer Policy.

7. **LANGAGE EMPLOYMENT UNITS**

The Director for Place submitted a report on a proposed scheme to provide 2,787 square metres of industrial workspace at Langage at an estimated cost of £2.5m.

The direct development commercial employment scheme would comprise high quality, sustainable accommodation for small and medium sized businesses on council owned land at Langage Science Park, Plympton, and up to 80 full time jobs would be created or supported.

A detailed demand and supply report had concluded that there was a shortage of high quality, modern employment space facilities, which the private sector had been unable to provide.

David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), James Watt (Head of Land and Property) and Paul Palmer (Principal Surveyor (Corporate Estates)) attended the meeting for this item and Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the proposals.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed, subject to approval of minute 7a below, to –

- (1) approve a tender exercise using a two stage design and build procurement process for the delivery of a £2.5m direct development commercial employment scheme at Langage to provide 2,787 square feet of high quality, sustainable accommodation facilitating or supporting up to 80 full time jobs;
- (2) delegate to the Cabinet Member for Finance the authority to make the key decision to award the building contract following the tender exercise.

7a Langage Employment Units - Recommendation to the City Council

Further to minute 7 above, the City Council is Recommended to amend the capital programme to include £2.5m for a scheme to provide 2,787 square feet of industrial workspace at Langage.

8. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2013 - 2016 AND ACTION PLAN

The Director for People submitted a report, following extensive consultation, on a draft three year strategy and accompanying action plan which outlined a proposed city wide approach to tackling the causes and impact of child poverty under four major schemes –

- financial support and independence;
- family life and children's life chances;
- communities and neighbourhoods;
- child poverty is everyone's business.

The report indicated that the child poverty action plan was a living plan and that more detail would emerge as work progressed and as more partners and services engaged.

Candice Sainsbury (Senior Policy, Performance and Partnerships Advisor) attended the meeting for this item.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development) presented the draft strategy and action plan and indicated that there had been extensive consultation and scrutiny. He reported that the Child Poverty Working Group would remain in place with an increased membership of one place to be filled by Father Sam Philpotts, who had also agreed to chair an Annual Standing Conference on Child Poverty.

Cabinet Members thanked Candice Sainsbury, her team and everybody involved in the development of the strategy for their work.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed the Child Poverty Strategy 2013-2016 and the accompanying action plan.

9. **FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2012/13 (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE)**

The Corporate Management Team submitted the final financial monitoring, or outturn, report for 2012/13 as at 31 March 2013.

The report indicated that, subject to approval of the recommendations, -

- (a) the revenue position for the year was a net spend of £204.270m;
- (b) the decisions would feed into the council's Annual Statement of Accounts which was subject to external audit;
- (c) the net working balance was £10,797m as at 31 March 2013;
- (d) the capital outturn position was £46.504m.

David Northey (Head of Finance) attended the meeting for this item.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the report and indicated that councillors would need to focus their attention on the Joint Commissioning and Adult Social Care area in the coming year. He also reported that he had instructed officers to present monthly financial monitoring reports to replace the current quarterly reporting arrangements.

Cabinet Members thanked Adam Broome (Director for Corporate Services) and the Finance Team for their work during the year.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

The City Council is Recommended to agree –

- (1) that the provisional outturn position as at 31 March 2013 is noted;
- (2) the additional transfers to reserves reflected in the outturn figures -
 - transfer to Plymouth Life Centre Dowry for £0.150m 2012/13;
 - transfer to Pensions Reserve; £0.150m
 - transfer to General Reserve for community £0.050m economic development trust development;
- (3) that the adjusted revenue deficit for the year of £0.504m is noted and approval is given to the deficit being met by a transfer from the General Fund Working Balance;

- (4) the following net nil transfers between reserves and provisions:
- creation of a Transformational Change Reserve £0.250m
 - transfer to Plymouth Life Centre Dowry (2013/14) £0.150m
 - transfer to Pension Reserve; £0.600m
 - net reduction to Insurance Provision and Reserves £(0.394)m
 - reduce VAT repayment reserve £(0.185)m
 - reduce Icelandic Bank legal reserve £(0.164)m
 - reduce Housing Rents provision £(0.171)m
 - reduce general commuted maintenance reserve £(0.086)m
- (5) that the capital financing requirement of £46.504m is noted and approval is given to the borrowing requirement of £4.806m for 2012/13;
- (6) the additional use of capital receipts totalling £0.840m and increasing the revenue Investment Fund Reserve by the same amount;
- (7) that the re-profiling changes to the capital programme identified during the outturn process subsequent to council approval in February 2013 are noted and approval is given to the latest revised forecasts totalling £122.670m for 2013/14 – 2015/16 which also include new approvals since February 2013 as set out in Table 5 in the report.

10. **CABINET APPOINTMENTS**

The Director for Corporate Services submitted a schedule of appointments for confirmation by Cabinet, as submitted to the Annual Meeting of the City Council on 17 May 2013.

Agreed the appointments as submitted.

11. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There was no exempt business.

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