

# **Scrutiny**

**Monday, 22 October 2018**

## **Additional Information**

Agenda Item 6 – Consideration of Cabinet Decisions  
Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Contact: Vicki Yull, 01793 463603, [VYull@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:VYull@swindon.gov.uk),

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**NOTICE OF DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CABINET HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2018**

**40. Budget Management Update**

Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Director of Finance, submitted a joint report providing Cabinet with an update on the position in relation to the 2018/19 forecast outturn and setting out the approach for addressing the financial challenge in the period to March 2020.

Councillor Mary Martin, with the Corporate Director, Children's Services, responded at the meeting to questions put by Councillor Jim Grant, the Leader of the Opposition, regarding the overspend in relation to Children's Services provision and, in particular, measures being taken by the Council to (a) reduce social workers' caseloads and limit reliance on the use of agency social workers, (b) address issues of remuneration disparity between council employed social workers and agency staff, and (c) improve the offer available in order to retain Council employed social workers and also to encourage agency staff to consider full time employment by the Council. Councillor Martin also responded to a supplementary question put by Councillor Grant regarding the possibility of utilising land identified in the Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment to provide accommodation that might be utilised to alleviate the budget pressure of out of borough placements for vulnerable people.

Resolved – (1) That the in-year forecast outturn position for 2018/19 and the responding actions in place to manage the projected year-end overspend, be noted.  
(2) That the development of the Council's capital strategy and the approach to delivering a balanced revenue budget for 2019/20 be also noted.  
(3) That the virements set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

**41. Polling District and Places Review (Minute For Confirmation)**

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report seeking authorisation to (i) create a new polling district SAF within the St Andrews ward, and (ii) re-adjust the boundary of SAB & SAC polling districts in St Andrews ward.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to endorse the following changes to Polling Districts within the St Andrews Ward:

- a) The polling district boundary for SAB and SAC be adjusted as shown in Appendices 1 and 3, to create a more convenient Polling District and Electoral Register for electors.
- b) A new polling district SAF, as shown in Appendix 2, be created to provide a more convenient Polling District for electors and a more balanced Electoral Register
- c) A new polling place be created for the SAC register at The Jovial Monk, as shown in Appendix 3 to the report.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to

the meeting.

**42. Swindon Borough Council (Southern Connector Road, New Eastern Villages) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018**

Councillor Gary Sumner, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, and the Corporate Director Communities and Housing submitted a joint report requesting Cabinet to authorise an amendment to the area of land required for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to be made for the construction and delivery of the Southern Connector Road (SCR), to enable access to the New Eastern Villages (NEV).

It was noted that, further to the Cabinet's decision on 14th March 2018 (Minute 94 2017/18 refers), design work and negotiations with landowners had progressed and that, in response to more detailed ecological mitigation design, land owners had requested amendments to the design of farm accesses and drainage infrastructure. As a result, a small amount of additional land was required to ensure that these features are contained within the Southern Connector Road improvement scheme red line boundary, where CPO's may need to be made to ensure that land is assembled.

Resolved – That extension of the land area approved by Cabinet in March 2018 for compulsory purchase relating to the New Eastern Villages Southern Connector Road scheme, as shown on the revised plan attached (Appendix A to the report), be authorised.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

**43. Kimmerfields - Purchase Opportunity**

Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Chief executive submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's approval for the proposal for the Council to purchase two office buildings that the anchor office occupier for the Kimmerfields development is proposing to construct and occupy. The occupier, a strong covenant and important strategically significant employer that is critical to the town's economy, has been in Swindon for 40 years and has 1,200 staff.

The report also sought funding approval for the Council to (i) contribute to the funding of the access road and servicing of the plot to be sold to the anchor occupier for the development to enable it to be built out, and (ii) to fund the professional advice needed to progress the purchase and further develop the masterplan.

Resolved – (1) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Head of Property Assets, and the Cabinet Member for Finance, be authorised to agree a contribution to the funding required to construct the access road and provide utilities to service the office plot, as detailed in the main body of the report.

(2) That the Head of Property Assets be authorised to appoint an additional property agent to provide a second opinion on the terms of the proposed purchase, as

detailed in the main body of the report.

(3) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Head of Property Assets, the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre and the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity, be authorised to progress negotiations with the anchor occupier on the proposed purchase and simultaneous lease back of the two office buildings that the anchor occupier is proposing to construct and occupy at Kimmerfields, as detailed in the main body of the report, and that, once negotiations have been completed, the Chief Executive seek approval to the finalised terms from the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre and the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity.

(4) That funding from the Infrastructure Reserve to progress with the next steps of the project as identified in paragraph 3.29 to 3.31 in order to arrive at a viable Masterplan, be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

#### **44. Wichelstowe Parcels Proposed Phase 0**

In their capacity as Council-appointed members of the Wichelstowe Joint Venture Board, Councillor David Renard and the Chief Executive and Director of Finance left the room during the discussion and voting on this item. In the absence of the Leader, Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, chaired the meeting for its consideration of this item.

Councillor Gary Sumner, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, and the Corporate Director, Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's approval to the proposal from the Wichelstowe Joint Venture Company (JV) to acquire and develop the Council owned land at Wichelstowe known as Phase 0, as shown in the plan attached as an appendix.

It was noted that this acquisition and development would then trigger the process set out in the joint venture agreements for the transfer of development land, which involves the production of a final business case by the JV, for consideration by the Council.

The report also sought approval for the Corporate Director Communities and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Head of Property Assets, to determine whether to agree the final business case and sell the land.

Resolved – (1) That the Corporate Director, Communities and Housing, be authorised to confirm the proposal from the Wichelstowe Joint Venture Company outlining its interest in acquiring Phase 0 at Wichelstowe, as identified in the plan attached as an appendix.

(2) That the Corporate Director Communities and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Head of Property and Assets, be authorised to assess the final business case that, based on Cabinet approval to the above, item would be worked up by the Wichelstowe JV Co., and to agree or reject the final offer.

(3) That the Corporate Director, Communities and Housing, in consultation with the

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and the Director Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to complete the necessary contractual arrangements to amend the Joint Venture Agreement to include Phase 0 on such terms as he considers necessary to protect the council's interests.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

*Date of Publication of Draft Decisions: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

*Issued to Members of the Scrutiny Committee: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018*