

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2019

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CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2019

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor N Barker
" M Gordon
" P R Kerry

Councillor J Lilley
" R Smith

Also Present:

D Swaine - Joint Chief Executive Officer
L Hickin - Joint Strategic Director – People
K Hanson - Joint Strategic Director – Place
M Broughton - Joint Head of Partnerships and Transformation
D Clarke - Joint Head of Finance & Resources and Section 151 Officer
G Galloway - Joint Head of Property and Commercial Services
S Sternberg - Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer
D Cairns - Senior Governance Officer

464 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E A Hill.

465 Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor M Gordon declared a significant other interest in Agenda Item No 9 – Manor Farm Update – arising from his membership of the Northwood Group Board. Councillor M Gordon left the room for consideration of this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

466 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

Non Key Decisions**467 North Derbyshire Construction Skills Pilot**

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Strategy and Transformation, which requests that North East Derbyshire District Council work in partnership with Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council to submit a funding application to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to develop a North Derbyshire Construction Skills Pilot and requests that North East Derbyshire District Council be the accountable body and lead partner.

The Construction Industry Training Board had invited bids for funds to help under-represented groups into jobs in construction and training that leads to jobs in construction, having identified a shortage of skills workers in the construction industry, including in the East Midlands.

The report set out the criteria that suitable projects must meet to be eligible for the funding. The aim of the funding was to increase the pool of talent within the construction sector and increase jobs and training opportunities, diversity, social ability and domestic talent. The deadline for applications was 21 January 2019.

Officers from North East Derbyshire District Council, Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council had developed a proposal for a North Derbyshire Construction Skills Pilot, also having met with other stakeholders within the region.

Details of the proposal were set out in the report, including details of the priority target groups.

It was proposed that North East Derbyshire District Council be the accountable body and lead partner for the project.

The proposed funding requested in the application was approximately £160,000 and further information on the financial implications were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) North East Derbyshire District Council work in partnership with Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council to submit a funding application to the CITB to develop a North Derbyshire Construction Skills Pilot with the aim of addressing local skills shortages.
- (2) North East Derbyshire District Council be the accountable body and lead partner.

REASON FOR DECISION – The proposal for a North Derbyshire Construction Skills Pilot was developed to address construction skills shortages across North Derbyshire.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option not to pursue a Construction Skills Pilot was rejected as this would not have addressed the skills gaps that had been identified. The option to develop a Construction Skills Pilot without applying for the Construction Industry Training Board funding was also rejected as this would have been more challenging to achieve.

(Employment & Skills Officer)

468 Sharley Park Leisure Centre Development

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Strategy and Transformation, which sought approval to progress redevelopment of Sharley Park Leisure Centre and engage with partners to invest in and/or deliver services from the facility.

Cabinet approval was also sought to commence the re-branding of the wider leisure facilities to maximise the impact of the new and refurbished facilities and introduce/revise concessions and offers, including family memberships. It was further proposed to invest £25,000 from the Invest to Save reserve to develop the concept, undertake surveys and further consultant work in order to develop a robust business case and secure investment from partners in relation to the redevelopment of Sharley Park.

Cabinet considered the Leisure Facilities Investment Programme previously implemented at Dronfield Sports Centre and Eckington Pool, resulting in significant growth in memberships, improved facilities for the community and improved financial positions. Cabinet had previously commissioned the development of further comprehensive facility development proposals, including future facilities development options at Sharley Park Leisure Centre.

A recent asset condition survey had identified maintenance and refurbishment costs for the current Sharley Park Leisure Centre facilities which impacted on consideration of the potential future development options.

The Council had commissioned Strategic Leisure Ltd to review the leisure needs and aspirations of the community that Sharley Park Leisure Centre served. Significant consultation was undertaken with the community as part of the review. The review identified that a new build facility was likely to be the better option due to the costs of maintenance and refurbishment of the current Centre and the opportunities that a new build would present.

Other key findings and recommendations included:-

- The minimum facility mix of the new facility;
- Identified priorities for services;
- Programmes and initiatives;
- That further feasibility work be undertaken to determine the optimum location of the site;
- That consideration be given to a consultative group being created;
- That a review of existing membership offers be undertaken; and
- That the Council engage in early discussions with potential external funders.

The report outlined the actions taken already to commission a feasibility study, and the results of the study were attached to the report. Officers had also worked alongside Clay Cross One Public Estate Group to review the redevelopment within the One Public Estate aims. Details were also included of the meetings with partners to discuss potential investment and location within the facility.

Cabinet considered the financial overview of the proposed development both in terms of capital and revenue. It was forecast that the significant reduction of the subsidy to the facility, less the potential borrowing costs, would save the Council approximately £250,000 per year.

It was proposed that a review be undertaken during 2019 into the branding, marketing and pricing of the leisure services across the Council's leisure facilities.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Acknowledge the work undertaken to date and support the proposed multi million pound investment in Sharley Park Leisure Centre, subject to a full and viable business case.
- (2) Agree to progress the redevelopment of Sharley Park Leisure Centre rather than refurbishment and support the engagement with partners to invest in and/or deliver services from the facility.
- (3) Agree to commence the rebranding of the wider leisure facilities to maximise the impact of the new and previously refurbished facilities and introduce/revised concessions and offers including family memberships.
- (4) Agree to invest £25,000 from the Invest to Save Reserve to develop the concept, undertake surveys and further consultant work in order to develop a robust business case and secure investment from partners.

REASON FOR DECISION – To continue with the Leisure Facilities Investment Programme in order to reduce the operating costs of the Council's leisure facilities and to move the Council closer to delivering the multi million pound flagship communities facility in Clay Cross Town Centre. In addition to the sports facility, the vision for the development was to be a true community public sector hub where residents could improve their health and well-being in a welcoming and modern facility.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option to do nothing and maintain Sharley Park Leisure Centre's existing facilities was rejected as this would be at significant capital cost with little or no improvement to the facility. Full refurbishment of the facility was also rejected as this was not considered to be feasible.

(Joint Head of Partnerships & Transformation)

469 Urgent Business (Public Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the public session at this meeting of Cabinet.

470 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006). [The category of exempt information is stated after each Minute].

Non Key Decisions

471 Dronfield Sports Centre Café

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor G Baxter MBE, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Strategy and Transformation, which sought approval for the investment of a new café to be installed at Dronfield Sports Centre and to delegate approval to the Joint Head of Partnerships and Transformation to award the contract should the outcome of the tender process be in excess of the threshold specified in the report. It was also proposed that approval be delegated to the Joint Head of Finance & Resources and Section 151 Officer to quantify the budget requirements for the proposed Dronfield café in relation to staffing, other costs and income to ensure the income and expenditure is properly reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Cabinet were advised of the significant positive impact on both Dronfield Sports Centre and Eckington Pool from the Leisure Facilities Investment Programme during 2016/17 and 2017/18. To build on this investment it was proposed that a new café be developed at Dronfield Sports Centre based on the success of the recent café installation at Eckington Pool.

The report set out the potential costs and income forecasts and a potential payback period. A proposed layout and other details of the proposal were outlined in the report, including staffing implications.

It was noted that whilst the primary purpose of Dronfield Sports Centre was to provide sporting facilities to increase activity in sport and fitness in the community, social isolation was a major concern in the overall health and well-being of the area. The proposed café was to be a community social space where people could meet and engage in the community.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Approve investment from the Invest to Save Reserve, as detailed in the report, to fund the installation of a café in Dronfield Sports Centre.
- (2) Delegate authority to the Joint Head of Partnerships and Transformation, in consultation with the Leader, to enter contracts in order to deliver the aims outlined in the report, including where the contract award exceeds the amount specified within the report but within the agreed budget.

- (3) Delegate responsibility to the Joint Head of Finance & Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Joint Head of Partnerships and Transformation, for quantifying the budget requirements for staffing, other costs and income to ensure the income and expenditure would be properly reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

REASON FOR DECISION – The addition of a café at Dronfield Sports Centre was to improve the facility, directly addressing feedback from the most recent customer survey and was forecast to generate a surplus which was to contribute to the overarching aim of reducing the cost of leisure facilities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option not to install a café at Dronfield Sports Centre was rejected as this would have missed the opportunity to improve further the quality of the facility and generate additional income.

(Joint Head of Partnerships & Transformation)
(Paragraph 3)

472 Joint ICT Service Desk Resource

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor J Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing, which sought approval for the creation of two new permanent posts within the Service Desk Team from October 2019, creating permanent roles for apprentices who have completed their apprenticeships. It was also recommended that Cabinet acknowledge and support the Joint ICT Committee recommendation to undertake a wider review of the ICT structure which will likely lead to a further Cabinet report outlining a proposed future structure.

The success of the Apprenticeship Programme within the ICT Service was noted and Cabinet supported the recruitment of further apprenticeships when Service Desk posts become vacant in the future. It was also agreed that two further Service Desk Technician posts be established following the expiry of two current temporary posts.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Approve the annualised joint ICT Service funding be increased by the amounts specified within the report to accommodate additional Service Desk Technician posts, as detailed in the report.
- (2) Notes that following approval the increase and future year costs will be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- (3) Requests that the Joint Chief Executive Officer exercise delegated powers to implement the changes to the establishment as set out in the revised structure attached to the report.
- (4) Support the recruitment of up to a maximum of two apprentices when Service Desk Technician posts become available in the future, whilst retaining funding for permanent positions at the end of the apprenticeships.

- (5) Acknowledge and support the Joint ICT Committee recommendation to undertake a wider review of the ICT Service structure.

REASON FOR DECISION – To maintain existing levels to Council employees and Members and to reinforce the Council’s commitment to apprenticeships and ensure investment in their training is not lost to the Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option to do nothing was rejected as this was likely to lead to the service being unable to maintain its performance levels. The option to recruit apprenticeships to cover the shortfall in staffing levels was also rejected as this would have resulted in the loss of the investment in the existing apprentices and due to the impact of the time and resource required for new apprentices to gain sufficient knowledge to function effectively in the role.

(ICT Manager)
(Paragraphs 1 and 3)

Councillor M Gordon left the meeting at this point

Key Decisions

473 Manor Farm, Dronfield - Update

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor N Barker, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Property and Assets, which sought approval for the sale of Manor Farm, Dronfield to Northwood Group Ltd (NGL).

Cabinet considered the current state of the Manor Farm site which had been unused for many years and had been boarded up. It was considered desirable to ensure the area was improved and enhanced for the community and to prevent the site from falling into further disrepair.

Cabinet had previously agreed that any capital receipts arising from the sale of the site be utilised for future social housing for the benefit of inhabitants of Dronfield to ensure that the scheme continues to benefit the local community.

In considering the offer from Northwood Group Ltd to purchase the site, Cabinet considered the promotion of improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Approve the sale of the land and property at Manor Farm, Dronfield to Northwood Group Ltd for the sum specified in the report.
- (2) Delegate authority to the Joint Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Commercial Property and Assets, to agree the remaining terms and conditions of the sale and sale agreement.

REASON FOR DECISION – It was considered desirable to ensure the area was improved, enhanced for the community and that the site was prevented from falling

into further disrepair. It was also considered that the sale would secure improvements to the environmental economic well-being of the area.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option of retaining the site was rejected as in addition to foregoing capital receipt this would have prevented the development furthering the Council’s objective of promoting economic growth and potentially led the site to fall into further disrepair. The uncertainty and delay arising from the option to dispose of the site via the open market also led to this option being rejected.

(Strategic Director – Place/
Head of Property & Estates)
(Paragraph 3)

474 Urgent Business (Private Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the private session at this meeting of Cabinet.
