

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor H. Trueman in the Chair

Councillors Gofton, G. Miller, Mordey and Speding

Also present:-

Councillor Wiper

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 March 2015, Part I (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minute of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 March 2015 Part I be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Kelly, P. Smith and P. Watson.

Disposal of land at Aster Terrace, Philadelphia, Sunderland and land at Dene Street, Silksworth, Sunderland.

The Executive Director of Commercial Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for the disposal of land at Aster Terrace, Philadelphia, Sunderland and land at Dene Street, Silksworth, Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding reported that the Council owned the freehold of the two areas of land and drew attention to the plans attached to the report. He advised that both sites had been declared surplus to Council requirements.

Cabinet Members were advised that Tolent Construction Limited had approached the Council to acquire the two sites for the construction of a range of extra care housing for older households. There was a confirmed need for this type of development in these areas of the City and as such the proposal would help respond to the Council's Enabling Independence Strategy.

Councillor Speding highlighted that Tolent had an established track record in the city of delivering similar schemes from sites it had acquired from the Council and it was therefore considered appropriate to negotiate directly with Tolent to achieve the desired outcomes at the earliest opportunity.

Cabinet Members were advised that it had been confirmed by an external Chartered Surveyor that the offer made by Tolent represented best consideration.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that approval be given to the disposal of land at:-
 - (i) Aster Terrace, Philadelphia, Sunderland to Tolent Construction Limited at a price which is the best reasonably obtainable and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary, and
 - (ii) Dene Street, Silksworth, Sunderland to Tolent Construction Limited at a price which is the best reasonably obtainable and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

Seafront Regeneration: Update and next phases.

The Executive Director of Commercial Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to the next phases of the delivery of the Seafront Regeneration Strategy at Roker and Seaburn, including the Round three Coastal Communities project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding reminded Cabinet Members of the considerable success of the Council in attracting external funding to deliver the regeneration of the seafront as laid out in the Seafront Regeneration Strategy. He reported that in order to continue the delivery of the Seafront Regeneration Strategy the approved capital programme 2015 to 2017 included an allocation of £1.15 million for further improvement works at Seaburn and Roker.

Councillor Speding explained that this funding would deliver a third phase of improvements at Roker, including a new toilet block with a Change Place facility. Repairs and restoration to the lighthouse on Cliffe Park, Seaburn would also be undertaken. He added that the funding would also deliver the repair and restoration to the railings on Roker Pier and £545,000 funding awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) would restore Roker Lighthouse and open it up, with the pier tunnel, as a visitor attraction.

Cabinet Members were advised that in 2014, a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) was submitted to deliver further infrastructure works at Seaburn Recreation Park and Cliffe Park together with a programme of business support, events and marketing. Councillor Speding reported that the Council had been awarded £540,000 from CCF to deliver this project and £250,000 match funding would be required from the Council.

Councillor Gofton welcomed the proposals and reported that it was a credit to the Council that year on year it had been able to bring regeneration to the City's seafront in particular to the Fulwell and St Peter's Wards, but nevertheless to the whole of the city. She added that the City was lucky to have such a wonderful resource and whilst there would be some disruption during the works, it would be enjoyed for generations to come.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the enhanced seafront regeneration programme for Roker and Seaburn, and receipt of £0.540m from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) and £0.545m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF),
- (ii) approval be given to the inclusion of the funding for the CCF scheme and the HLF funding for Roker Pier within the Council's Capital Programme, and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme which will be reported to Scrutiny and Council for information,
- (iii) the Executive Director of Commercial Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, be authorised to procure and appoint contractor(s) to deliver all required infrastructure works, and

- (iv) the Executive Director of Commercial Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, be authorised to procure and appoint contractors and/or consultants to deliver elements of the business support, events, and marketing activities of the CCF project where appropriate.

Education and Skills Strategy – Get Ready ...

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to present the Sunderland Education and Skills Strategy to Cabinet for approval.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Mordey highlighted that the Sunderland Education Leadership Board had a variety of key stakeholders with a clear role to play in improving education and skills in Sunderland, had led the development of the Education and Skills Strategy 'Get Ready...' for the City. He reported that significant changes in national education and skills policy posed new challenges and opportunities for Sunderland's education and economic partners. He advised that the Strategy provided a shared goal and a framework for key organisations and individuals to help shape the future education and skills landscape for the City.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Education Leadership Board was proposing to launch the Strategy at the annual Education Conference at the Stadium of Light on Thursday 2 July 2015.

Cabinet Members having welcomed the report and Strategy, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Education and Skills Strategy be approved for publication, and
- (ii) the Executive Director People Services, be authorised to make non-substantive changes to the document prior to publication and, with the Education Leadership Board members, to agree how it is presented and launched.

Procurement of Care and Support at Home

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to procure care and support at home services from 2016 onwards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller reported that currently the Council commissions care and support at home under a framework agreement with eight providers, supporting vulnerable adults to remain living independently within their own homes. He advised that this framework would end on 2 January 2016.

Councillor Miller highlighted that in order to continue to secure best value and ensure quality of the services provided, the Council intended to continue to commission care and support at home services through a framework arrangement, following a tender process and the continuation of this service would:-

- (a) Ensure that there were services in place to meet the needs of people either now or in the future,
- (b) Support the Council in meeting its obligations under the Care Act, specifically with regard to promoting well-being and market shaping and commissioning,
- (c) Allow fair and equal access to all interested providers to tender for care and support at home services, and
- (d) Ensure value for money was achieved.

Councillor Mordey expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director and his team for the professional and rapid responses to requests for support at home for service users. Councillor Miller concurred that the service had the vision to plan well ahead to ensure that the service was delivered to meet needs, particularly as these were some of the most vulnerable service users.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

- 5. RESOLVED that approval be given to procure care and support at home services from 2016 onwards.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

- 6. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3). The public interest in maintaining these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) H. TRUEMAN,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.