

**CABINET MEETING – 2 AUGUST 2023**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

MINUTES, PART I

**Author(s):**

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

**Purpose of Report:**

Presents the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023, Part I.

**Action Required:**

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.



At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held in **CITY HALL (COUNCIL CHAMBER)** on **THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023** at **10.00am**

**Present: -**

Councillor G Miller in the Chair

Councillors Chequer, K Johnston, Price, Rowntree, Stewart and Williams

**Also present: -**

Councillors A Smith, F Miller and P Walker – Deputy Cabinet Members  
Councillors Blackburn, Edgeworth and Laws.

**Part I**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 June 2023, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 June 2023, Part I, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations were made: -

Agenda Item 8 – Partnership Working with the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance and 9 – Procurement of a Solution for the Provision of Community Support Services with the Voluntary and Community Sector

Patrick Melia, Chief Executive declared an interest as a Board Member of the VCS Alliance CIO. He indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Agenda Item 12 – Grant Funding to Third Sector Organisations Providing Social Care Related Services

Councillor Stewart declared an interest as a Board Member of the Bishopwearmouth Co-operative Nursery CIC. He indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Agenda Item 15 –  
Construction of a new play  
area, Lowry Road, Seaburn

Councillors G Miller and Rowntree together with Patrick Melia, Chief Executive declared interests as Board Members of Siglion LLP. They indicated that they would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Agenda Item 18 – Proposal  
to Award Grant Funding for  
the Installation of a New  
Play Area in the St Anne's  
Ward

Councillor Walker declared an interest as an employee of Gentoo. He indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Scott.

### **Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management)**

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2023/2024 and progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024.

Councillor Stewart advised Members that the anticipated spend this financial year had increased by £2.3m, which took into account the spend reprofiled into 2023/2024 as reported in the 2022/2023 Capital Outturn position at last month's Cabinet. The overall increase also included:

- the reprofiling of £6.2m expenditure into future years; and
- the addition of new schemes or variations to the value of schemes of £8.5m within the Capital Programme.

These variations were set out in Appendix A of the report and Councillor Stewart reported that the revised capital programme therefore had planned investment of over £273m in the city this year.

Turning to the Treasury Management aspects of the report, Councillor Stewart directed Cabinet Members to paragraph 5.2 of the report which showed that the Council remained fully compliant with the Treasury Management prudential indicators. Following further increases in the Bank of England base interest rate, PWLB borrowing rates had remained at a high level and rates would be closely monitored along with cash flow requirements to identify when further borrowing could be taken to fund the capital programme. Aligned to this, returns on investments were also improving in response to the Bank of England's base rate increases.

Councillor Williams welcomed the investment into the city's families and made particular reference to the Lombard Street Family Hub; it had taken a long time to identify a suitable location for the Hub and she was very proud that Sunderland was one of the 75 authorities taking part in this initiative. Councillor Williams also drew

attention to the budget commitment to create new residential facilities for cared for children and that this was a great investment for the future.

Councillor Edgeworth referred to the Highways Maintenance Programme and that it was good to see additional funding coming in and area committees topping up this budget but he noted that there was some frustration regarding the backlog of these works and he was concerned that this might be made worse.

The Director of Finance commented that colleagues in City Development had to make progress with the programme but they were constrained by resource. The costs of funding additional staff to carry out the works would have to be met from the allocated resource, however the Council did allocate above and beyond what was passed over from the Government to address highway repairs.

The Leader added that the backlog and deficit in funding highways maintenance works was as a direct result of 13 years of cuts from central Government.

Having considered the report, it was: -

2. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) in respect of the first capital review for 2023/2024 the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2023/2024 detailed at Appendix A be approved;
- (ii) the increased cost pressures on the Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report be noted; and
- (iii) in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, the increase in borrowing interest rates, progress in implementing the 2023/2024 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be noted.

### **First Revenue Budget Review 2023/2024**

The Director of Finance submitted a report advising Cabinet of the overall Revenue Budget position following the first revenue review for 2023/2024 including proposed contingency transfers.

Councillor Stewart directed Cabinet Members to paragraph 3.1.3 of the report which summarised the financial pressures which the Council was currently facing. Demand and cost pressures continued in social care, the impact of continued high levels of inflation was also impacting on council services and pay pressures were forecast, with the yet to be agreed pay award likely to be beyond the budgeted level.

The report showed that in overall terms, a £0.404m overspend was forecast at this early stage in the financial year. This overspend would be met from the Energy and General Inflation reserve set aside as part of prior year's outturns. Full details of the variations by Portfolio were set out in Appendix A.

This forecast overspend position relied on some savings arising from Treasury Management activity which was linked to capital programme expenditure reprofiling and investment income and this was set out at section 3.6 of the report.

Councillor Stewart reminded Cabinet Members that the budget for this year was reliant on the delivery of £13.379m worth of savings initiatives. As set out in paragraph 3.3.2 of the report, of these savings plans, 59% of the savings had been delivered, 26% were making good progress and 15% were experiencing delays and as such were factored into the forecast position.

The Council would continue to seek to mitigate the overspend where possible, whilst ensuring that it continued to play its full part in supporting residents and businesses through the cost-of-living crisis.

The Cabinet therefore

3. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the contingency transfers proposed at section 3.4 be approved.

### **Structural Maintenance of A182 Bridges (Phase 3)**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report seeking Cabinet approval for the third phase of structural maintenance of highway structures on the A182, including commencement of the procurement process and subsequent appointment of a contractor to carry out the works.

Councillor Johnston advised that the scheme was to maintain and improve two bridges on the A182 Washington Highway in Washington East ward - Bonemill Lane Interchange Bridge and Chartershaugh Bridge.

The proposed works comprised re-waterproofing and repair of the bridge decks, repainting of parapets and steelwork and replacing bridge expansion joints. The project was estimated to cost £1,000,000, funded from the Bridge Maintenance Investment Programme, and was planned to be carried out between January and April 2024.

Councillor F Miller commented that she was very pleased to see these works were going forward as this was something which local residents had wanted for some time.

Having considered the report, it was: -

4. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) A programme of structural maintenance to Bonemill Lane Interchange Bridge and Chartershaugh Bridge be approved;

- (ii) the Executive Director of City Development be authorised, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder, to commence the procurement process and subsequently to approach a contractor to carry out the works; and procurement and award of a new framework agreement for ground investigation works and geotechnical services be approved; and
- (iii) the Chief Executive, Executive Director of City Development and/or the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised to execute all legal documents as required to give effect to the above.

### **Area Committee Area Plans 2023 – 2026**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report seeking approval for the five Area Committee Area Plans for Coalfield, East, North, Washington and West.

Councillor Price advised that the Area Committee Area Plans identified key local priorities that formed the basis of a structured delivery plan for each of the five areas across the city. The Area Plans would enable the structured delivery and effective implementation of activities by the Area Committees.

The Area Plans had been developed through working collaboratively with Local Members, Council Services and Partners and Area Plans would deliver local projects and activities and influence delivery of services at a local level which would support the resilience of residents and communities.

Councillor Rowntree commended the hard work that had gone into the development of the Area Plans, the Chairs of the Area Committees were very passionate about taking the lead on this work and the committees remained crucial in delivering bespoke services.

The Leader thanked the Area Committee Chairs and Members, including Councillors Blackburn and Laws who were in attendance at the meeting. It was important that these plans were right for the areas and they provided an opportunity to engage with residents on what they wanted to see in their neighbourhoods.

5. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the five Area Committee Area Plans for Coalfield, East, North, West and Washington be approved; and
- (ii) the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Area Committee Chairs, to finalise and implement the detailed delivery plans for each of the five Area Plans.

## **Partnership Working with the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report providing an update on the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance and seeking approval to future partnership working between the Council and the Alliance.

Councillor Price stated that the report presented the proposal that the Council would continue to maximise the support and capacity of the voluntary sector in Sunderland by collaborative working with the Alliance. The Council and wider partners aimed to develop place-based services and area-based initiatives and the success of this would be built on the skills and strength of the Council's voluntary and community sector partners supported through the Alliance.

Councillor Price highlighted the report aimed to formalise future arrangements for collaboration and joint working. A strong voluntary sector and a proactive Alliance would support and enable local outcomes for residents and contribute to the City Plan.

The report proposed a robust and structured partnership between the Council and the Alliance through a partnership agreement. The agreement would outline the respective responsibilities of each party and the public benefits and social outcomes to be delivered.

Councillor Stewart welcomed the report and proposed partnership and stated that the importance of the voluntary and community sector in the city could not be minimised; in the last year the Council had spent £18m on supporting the sector and they supported the people most in need in the city. Councillor Stewart also referred to the part that the Alliance played in the social value commitments undertaken by successful businesses and he looked forward to the close partnership between the Council and the Alliance.

Councillor Williams also welcomed the report and noted that the Council had taken the opportunity to develop this work with CLLD funding. It had taken hard work and commitment and the majority of voluntary and community sector organisation were now part of the Alliance. The principles were in place and were solid and this was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a city.

Councillor Rowntree agreed that the Partnership would be important in supporting grass roots organisations in the city and ensuring that small groups could become more sustainable.

6. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the progress to date in relation to the establishment and operation of the Alliance within Sunderland be noted;
- (ii) the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City and the Director of Finance, to take all



necessary action to support the transition of the Alliance to an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); and

- (iii) the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City and the Director of Finance, to agree and implement the detailed terms of a partnership and funding agreement with the Alliance.

### **Procurement of a Solution for the Provision of Community Support Services with the Voluntary and Community Sector**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report seeking approval to procure and establish a procurement solution to enable the engagement and commissioning of services by the Council from the voluntary and community sector.

Councillor Price advised that the presented a proposal to ensure that there was a compliant procurement process in place to maximise the work and services of the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland.

The Council was committed to working with the voluntary sector in many areas of activity which were needed to be delivered locally and now a formal procurement arrangement was needed which would ensure that the Council could work with the voluntary and community sector in a structured and compliant way.

The Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance had a vision to grow the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland and would enable the sector to secure long-term sustainable income, through external investment, formal commissioning arrangements, as well as social value.

Throughout the proposed procurement processes a range of support and advice would be offered and provided to the voluntary and community sector to ensure that they could bid effectively in any procurement process.

Having considered the report, it was: -

7. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City, to procure a solution and award subsequent framework agreements for community-based services including crisis support.

### **Proposed Extension of Contract for Public Health Services in Primary Care (Community Pharmacy)**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report seeking approval to extend the current Public Health Services in Primary Care

(Community Pharmacy) contract for a period of 12 months between 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024 with an option to extend up to a maximum of 12 months.

Councillor Chequer introduced the report and in doing so advised that it was also proposed that the provision of Health Start Vitamins be decommissioned from the Pharmacy contract.

The Council currently contracted Public Health Services for Primary Care through Community Pharmacy which offered smoking cessation services, the provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Varenicline to support smoking cessation, sexual health services including the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception, C-Card, and Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea screening as well as providing Healthy Start Vitamins.

The purpose of the extension was to allow time to consider how the new delegations which have been implemented by NHS England to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) would impact the Council and to formulate the Council's commissioning intentions moving forward. The detailed rationale for the extension was detailed in section 5 of the report.

The Cabinet therefore: -

8. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the variation to the Council's existing contract for Public Health Services in Primary Care (Community Pharmacy) in Sunderland to allow an extension of the contract period for a period of 12 months between 1 December 2023 and 30 November 2024 and a further option to extend to a maximum of 12 months, to allow time to plan the future commissioning intentions, be approved;
- (ii) the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City to determine and agree the further option to extend the period from 1 December 2023, up to a maximum of 12 months; and
- (iii) the provision of Healthy Start Vitamins be removed from the Public Health Services within Primary Care (Community Pharmacy) contract.

### **Commissioning of Child Vision Screening Programme for Reception Children in Sunderland**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report seeking approval of the proposed commissioning intentions for the Child Vision Screening Programme in Sunderland from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029.

Councillor Chequer reported that, in England, local authorities became responsible for funding vision screening for four- to five-year-olds, as part of the Healthy Child

Programme, in October 2015. The latest UK National Screening Committee (NSC) recommendation (August 2019) stated that there should be no change to the current guidance on screening for vision defects in children aged four to five, therefore local authorities should implement the NSC recommendation and commission an orthoptic-led vision screening programme for children aged between four and five years, to support the early identification of vision defects.

A service review of the current Child Vision Screening Programme for Reception Children in Sunderland had been undertaken and this had informed commissioning intentions. The current service model was in line with the national specification and the existing provider delivered a service which performed well and had the added benefit of seamless access to specialist ophthalmology services at Sunderland Specialist Eye Infirmary, when a clinical need was identified.

The existing contract was currently operating under an optional 12-month extension period, which would end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. There were no further extension options available within the present contract, therefore the procurement of the Child Vision Screening Programme was required.

Councillor Chequer advised that, based on the current contract price, the estimated overall contract price for the proposed new contract, including the optional extension (i.e. five years plus an optional extension of up to 24 months), would be approximately £815,000. However, the final contract price would be determined through the new procurement process.

Councillor Williams was pleased to see the continuation of the Vision Screening Programme and emphasised the need to identify conditions as early as possible so that children could get the necessary treatment at an early stage. The Leader agreed that it was very important to support young people with their health and this was another programme which would contribute to this aim.

Following consideration of the report, it was: -

9. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City, to undertake all necessary steps to procure and award a new contract for Child Vision Screening in Sunderland for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 (with the optional extension for up to 24 months thereafter, which would be at the discretion of the Council).

### **Grant Funding to Third Sector Organisations Providing Social Care Related Services**

The Director of Adult Services submitted a report seeking approval to award funding to Third Sector organisations providing social care related services.

Councillor Chequer highlighted that the report sought approval to award grant funding to the following organisations providing social care related support: -

- Sunderland People First Co-operative Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Washington Mind
- Bishopwearmouth Co-operative Community Interest Company (CIC)

Sunderland People First (SPF) were a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities and autism. SPF represented, championed and campaigned for the rights of people with a learning disability and autism to ensure that people were seen as equal citizens in society; that they had their voices heard so that they could have the best life; to ensure access to and experience of services; and that their rights were promoted and upheld. The grant funding was for £80,580.75.

Washington Mind were the lead partner in a consortium with Sunderland Mind and Sunderland Headlight, providing a My Life Support project to people with mental health needs. The project promoted practical help with day to day living that people with mental health problems often needed in order to stay well and live a full life. The project provided people with information, advice, support and guidance which were essential factors in people developing the capacity to problem solve, stay well and reduce risk of relapse. The grant funding was for £99,153.75.

Bishopwearmouth Co-operative CIC provided training and work-based placements for vulnerable adults with disabilities through delivering a wide range of horticultural and floristry services. The organisation was focused on reducing inequalities for disabled adults and helping support them to move on to greater independence, promoting social inclusion, equality and involvement within their local community. Working in partnership with the Council, the organisation would support training for adults with disabilities in the café and garden centre at the Elemore Green Space Project. The grant funding was for £20,000.

Councillor Chequer highlighted that the Council recognised and supported the important work that all three of the organisations were carrying out to support the City's vulnerable residents.

Councillor Rowntree welcomed the support being proposed for all three organisations, they were all absolutely crucial in delivering services. The support for an essential advocacy group was fantastic, along with Washington Mind and the support for adults at Elemore Green Space.

Councillor Williams commented that Washington Mind was based in her ward and was a fabulous facility. She emphasised the need to give people a sense that they were important and were a valued part of society.

Having considered the report it was: -

10. RESOLVED that the Cabinet approved the award of funding in 2023/2024 in the form of a grant to:
  - (i) Sunderland People First, a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities and autism;

- (ii) Washington Mind, the lead partner is a consortium with Sunderland Mind and Sunderland Headlight, providing a My Life Support project to people with mental health needs; and
- (iii) Bishopwearmouth Co-operative Community Interest Company to provide day/volunteer placements to adults with disabilities at the Elemore Green Space Project.

### **Special Provision – School Organisation Proposals and Procurement of Capital Works**

The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report seeking a decision on a proposal to commence the informal and statutory processes required to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision at Hudson Road Primary School, to amend the designation of the SEN provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School, to increase the number of commissioned places at SEN provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School and to procure capital works to facilitate both proposals.

Councillor Williams advised that the report outlined a proposal to commence the informal and statutory processes required to increase the number of school places available for children with special educational needs.

In recent years the numbers of children with Education Health and Care Plans had increased across the city and with that, the demand for special educational needs places had also increased. Through previous proposals the Council had responded by increasing the number of local special schools, expanding existing special school provision or, in some areas, developing special education units within mainstream schools to ensure needs of young children could be met in their home wards.

This proposal would continue the development of localised provision in mainstream schools and would commence the processes to eventually have a unit for primary aged children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs in the South of Sunderland while adding a similar unit and also increasing the number of autism places for primary aged children in Washington.

The two units would ensure that young people in the city continued to have access to high quality and appropriate provision so they stood the greatest chance of success in their school places. Councillor Williams highlighted that if approved the units would be operational for the commencement of the 2024/25 academic year.

Councillor F Miller welcomed the proposals and fully understood the need in the city for this provision. The Leader was delighted to see that localism was driving the provision and young people would be able to attend a school which was in their home area.

Following consideration of the report, it was: -

11. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Cabinet authorise the commencement of the necessary initial consultation processes and subsequent statutory process required to:
  - Establish a resourced Social, Emotion and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit at Hudson Road Primary School;
  - Amend the designation of the current Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit at Usworth Colliery Primary School to include Social, Emotional and Mental Health; and
  - Increase the number of commissioned SEN places at Usworth Colliery Primary School.
- (ii) the need to procure capital works to facilitate the amendment to the SEN provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School if the proposals were ultimately approved; and
- (iii) subject to the outcomes of the required School Organisation processes and subject to consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services to procure capital works and award contracts to facilitate the refurbishment of the former Bright Stars Nursery building at Hudson Road Primary School.

### **Land Exchange to Facilitate the Rebuild of St Patrick's Primary School, Ryhope**

The Executive Director of City Development and Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a joint report seeking approval to enter into agreements with the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust to facilitate the Department for Education's rebuilding of St Patrick's RC Primary School, Ryhope through the exchange of freehold land, and the surrender and grant of a lease of land for playing fields.

Councillor Williams reported that in July 2022 the Department for Education ("DfE") announced that St Patrick's Primary School, Ryhope had been included in the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme that would replace 500 schools across the country that were in poor condition.

Cabinet Members were advised that the school's current site was severely constrained and prevented the construction of a new school. It was therefore proposed, subject to Cabinet approval, that the Council enter into land transfer agreements with the Diocese and the Trust which would release Council owned land to allow a new school, nursery, and playing fields to be delivered on a single site.

The proposed transaction would provide much needed school and nursery places and support the wider investment in high quality family housing in the South

Sunderland Growth Area. The benefits being funded by the Diocese and DfE would justify the release of the Council land.

Upon consideration of the content of the report, it was: -

12. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) it be agreed in principle to dispose of the properties identified as Property 1 and Property 2 on the plan attached at Appendix A and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised to advertise the disposal of open space in accordance with section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972;
- (ii) the Executive Director of City Development be authorised in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Chief Executive to consider and determine any objections made in response to the advert for open space disposal referred to in point i. above.
- (iii) Subject to the responses to the advertisement referred to at point i. above being considered and determined, the transfer of the Property identified as Property 1 on the plan attached at Appendix A to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle (the Diocese) be authorised for a consideration that is less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained in the market and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance.
- (iv) Subject to the responses to the advertisement referred to at point i. above being considered and determined the Council be authorised to grant a 125-year lease to the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (the Trust) over the property shown as Property 2 on the Plan attached at Appendix A for use as school playing fields on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance.
- (v) the Council be authorised to take a transfer of the freehold interest in the Property identified as Property 3 on the plan attached at Appendix A on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance.
- (vi) the Council be authorised to accept a surrender of the existing lease of the current playing fields shown as Property 4 on the plan attached at Appendix A from the Trust on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance.

## **Construction of a new play area, Lowry Road, Seaburn**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report seeking approval to enter into a Development Funding Agreement (DFA) with Siglion Developments LLP (Siglion) for the funding and delivery of a new children's play area on land off Lowry Road, Seaburn.

Councillor Stewart advised that the existing play area at Seaburn had recently closed due to the unsafe condition of the play equipment and the Council had been working with Siglion, the local community, and pupils from Seaburn Dene Primary School to develop proposals for a modern new play area. As well as providing play provision for local residents, the new play area would be a key attraction as part of the wider seafront offer.

It was proposed that the Council entered into a Development Funding Agreement with Siglion on the terms described within the report, to allow financial resources to be pooled to secure delivery of the new play area. Subject to Cabinet approval and the relevant statutory consents, construction works were expected to commence in Autumn 2023 with a target opening date for the new play area in Spring 2024.

Councillor Johnston highlighted that this was another investment in the seafront and £1.5m to deliver a high-quality play area would be a fantastic addition to the seafront offer.

Councillor Edgeworth commented that local ward councillors were very much looking forward to this new development and were keen to see the equipment being accessible for children with disabilities and special educational needs. He also noted that the access road adjacent to the play area was quite busy and raised the need to design the facility so that children could not run straight out towards the busy road.

Councillor Chequer welcomed the investment into play areas on the seafront, noting that existing facilities had deteriorated and had been missed by families. The Healthy City portfolio was committed to the provision of open, accessible play areas across the city and the promotion of free, active play provision.

Accordingly, the Cabinet: -

13. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) it be agreed to enter into a Development Funding Agreement with Siglion for the funding and delivery of the Scheme on terms to be approved by the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary and the Director of Finance; and
- (ii) the allocation of £0.650m of previously approved Council capital towards the Scheme be approved with the balance of the funding being provided by Siglion.



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

At the instance of the Chair, it was: -

14. 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 exempt 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 this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed)	G MILLER	P STEWART
	Chair	Chair

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.

