

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 20 July 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Blackburn, Charlton, Gofton, Kelly, P. Smith, Speding, Trueman and T. Wright

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 April 2011, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillors Blackburn, Speding and Watson in the recorded apologies of absence, the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the reports below as Members of the bodies indicated:-

Item 13 – Funding the Purchase of a new Mobile Crane	Councillors Speding and P. Watson	Members of the Port Board
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Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Report of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee, Part I

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7 July 2011, Part I (copy circulated) was submitted and consideration was given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the report of the meeting held on 7 July 2011, Part I be noted.

Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to advise of the responses received following public consultation on the Draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code and to seek approval to adopt the revised Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code as a Supplementary Planning Document.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Charlton reminded Cabinet Members that the Seafront Regeneration Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in February 2010 and provided an overarching framework to guide the future redevelopment of the seafront. He reported that a masterplan for Marine Walk was produced alongside the Seafront Regeneration Strategy to provide specific planning and design guidance for Roker and a similar approach had been taken for the Seaburn Promenade and Ocean Park areas.

Councillor Charlton highlighted that the vision for Seaburn was for a family focused resort offering high quality indoor and outdoor facilities for both residents and visitors. He added that the Seaburn Masterplan promoted a leisure-led development at Ocean Park featuring an all year round mix of uses.

Cabinet Members were advised that the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code had been the subject of statutory public consultation between 19 October and 29 November 2010 and 196 responses were received. Councillor Charlton advised that the responses were generally supportive of the approach and the main issues included the potential for new housing, consequent loss of green space, the level of parking available at the site, the future of the Seaburn Centre and the quantity and standard of public toilets available. He added that these had been addressed as set out in the body of the Cabinet Report and a final masterplan and design code had been prepared.

Councillor Charlton reported that an adopted masterplan and design code for Seaburn would provide guidance against which planning applications could be tested, as they came forward and it was an important step in the continuing regeneration of Sunderland's seafront.

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

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the amendments made to the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code in light of responses received during the public consultation on the document and other considerations be noted;
- (ii) the amended Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor (SSTC) – New Wear Crossing Progress

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the development of the Best and Final Bid (BAFB) to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by noon on 9th September 2011 and to describe the key activities throughout 2011 required to take the Project forward.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Blackburn highlighted that the report noted the progress that had been made to date in developing the SSTC New Wear crossing project in particular the substantial completion of the detailed design; delivery of a successful market sounding event and the submission to the DfT of an Expression of Interest. He reported that the next key stage was to submit to the DfT the Best and Final Bid on or before 9th September 2011. He explained that this was a key document as it set out the business case for the scheme and would contain the best estimate of the funding that would be required from the DfT.

Cabinet Members were advised that authority was sought for Chief Officers to finalise the Best and Final Bid and that the DfT would announce its decision in December following which a further report on the outcome would be submitted to Cabinet.

Cabinet Members having been advised that in the meantime Officers would continue to work on various aspects of the project all of which were intended to ensure that the project was ready to deliver as soon as a positive decision on funding was received, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposed actions in respect of progressing the Best and Final Bid (BAFB), be endorsed as set out in section 5 and the key activities summarised in section 6;
- (ii) the Executive Director of City Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services be authorised to finalise and submit the BAFB to DfT; and
- (iii) a further report on the outcome of the BAFB submission be submitted to Cabinet.

Annual Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide details of the findings of the 2010/2011 Annual Governance Review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Trueman highlighted the report and in particular reminded Cabinet Members that the Annual Review was designed to ensure that governance arrangements across the Council remained robust, appropriate and fit for purpose. He explained that the review had been conducted by means of a comprehensive and extensive process which was outlined in Section 4 of the report and had drawn assurance from a range of sources detailed within paragraph 4.2.

Turning to the results of the review, Councillor Trueman reported that these were very positive and it should be noted from the conclusion of the review that the Council continued to have robust and effective corporate governance arrangements in place. He referred to the Governance Statement which was included at Appendix 2 and Appendix 1 contained a small number of improvements which would be implemented to continue to further strengthen arrangements.

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

5. RESOLVED that the Draft Improvement Plan and Draft Annual Governance Statement be approved.

Procurement Procedure to Establish a Framework for Public Art Consultants

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for a procurement procedure to be undertaken to establish a framework of Public Art Consultants.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly highlighted the report and advised that it was hoped to establish a framework of Public Art Consultants following a procurement procedure being undertaken in accordance with the Appendix to the Procurement Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 7 of the Council's Constitution). He added that the potential value of services under the framework was currently unknown, but had the potential to be over £200,000 over the period of the framework and as such Cabinet approval was being sought for the procurement procedure to proceed.

Councillor Kelly reported that this procedure would ensure the Council had access to specialist knowledge and skills of the selected Consultants, ensuring continuity in the development of Sunderland's Public Art programme and sustaining quality provision. He added that the Framework would establish a robust value for money service, enable the call-off consultants as and when required at a competitive price, provide access a diverse range of skills depending on the project and the ability to purchase only the number of consultant hours required.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Council did not have the necessary skills available to provide this type of service in-house. In addition to ensure that the expertise was available at the point of project approval would mean employing staff specifically for each project which would be costly to the Council.

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

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to the establishment of a framework of Public Art Consultants following a procurement procedure being undertaken in accordance with the Appendix to the Procurement Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 7 of the Council's Constitution).

Extension of Current Agreements with Housing Related Support Providers

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to request Cabinet to note and endorse extensions to the current agreements with housing related support providers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Wright highlighted that the report seeks retrospective approval to the extension of all housing related support agreements for a further year to ensure services continue to be provided. He explained that the current agreements ended on 31 March 2011.

Councillor Wright highlighted the importance of extending all current agreements with housing related support providers until 31st March 2012 and enabling current provision of housing related support to continue. He explained that this would reduce the risk of vulnerable people entering high cost care services or being at risk of homelessness.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Directorate would continue with ongoing engagement and consultation with providers and service users to establish what services needed to be commissioned and how they needed to be commissioned in the future. Councillor Wright assured that this would ensure a smooth transition from the current commissioned housing related support market to the newly commissioned services in April 2012, in line with the principles set out in the service assessment for housing related support, which was being led by Health, Housing and Adult Services.

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

7. RESOLVED that the extension of the current agreements with housing related support providers for housing related support contracts for a period of 12 months (1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012) be noted and endorsed.

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

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

8. 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 any individual, which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

(Signed) P. WATSON,
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.