

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2) on Wednesday 19 June 2013 at 2.00pm.

Present:-

Councillor H. Trueman in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Gofton, Kelly, Miller, P. Smith and Speding

Also in attendance:-

Councillors Francis, T. Martin, Price, Tate and Wood

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 May 2013 Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor P. Watson.

**Response from Planning and Highways Committee - 17th April, 2013 and Scrutiny Committee – 25th April, 2013 – Sunderland's Local Development Framework
Evidence Base: The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Strategic Housing Land Availability and Draft Settlement Break Review**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees on a report of the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Study (2013) and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013) for its use in developing the Local Development Framework and to assist in the determination of day to day planning applications. Cabinet was further requested to approve the Draft Settlement Break Review for public consultation.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Cabinet Members were advised that the Planning and Highways Committee endorsed the report with Members commenting on the need to also consider the priority of open spaces and people's quality of life as well as the need for more housing developments. In addition the Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet recommendation to approve the Strategic Housing Land Availability Study (2013) and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013) and to approve the Settlement Break Review for public consultation.

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

3. RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

Scrutiny Committee – Policy Review Final Reports

The Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director for Health Housing and Adult Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its scrutiny policy reviews into Domestic Violence, the Delivery of Apprenticeships in Sunderland and Increasing Young People's Involvement in Service Design and Delivery.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Tate, reminded Cabinet Members of the new streamlined model for scrutiny which included a single Scrutiny Committee supported by 6 Scrutiny Panels. He explained that each of the Scrutiny Panels were Chaired by a member of the Scrutiny Committee and played an important role helping the Committee to undertake policy reviews.

Councillor Tate highlighted that the report on the agenda included the outcomes and recommendations of three policy reviews undertaken by our Panels during the second half of the 2012/13 municipal year and a further 2 final reviews would be brought to the Cabinet for consideration in July.

Councillor Tate advised that he would present the Domestic Violence review on behalf of the former Lead Scrutiny Member for Responsive Services and Customer Care and Councillors T. Martin and Francis the Lead Members who had led on the other reviews would introduce their reports.

Councillor Tate drew attention to the policy report from the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel which looked at some of the measures in place to tackle domestic violence. He reported that the Review included evidence from a variety of stakeholders which was invaluable in enabling the development of recommendations. He added that the recommendations would be the joint responsibility of the Council and the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the action plan would enable progress to be monitored.

Councillor Tate thanked Cabinet for considering the Review and the Panel Members, officers and those participating in the evidence gathering for making it such an interesting and worthwhile review.

In response to the presentation, the Chairman thanked Councillor Tate, the Members of the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel and all of the partner agencies, who had contributed to the examination into how domestic violence is tackled in Sunderland. He reported that the Safer Sunderland Partnership had prioritised work to address domestic violence issues for many years by working together to share information and resources. He advised that as Portfolio Holder and also as Chair of the Safer Sunderland Partnership, he welcomed the report's recommendations, particularly the focus on areas where the Council and its partners could take an even more proactive role in ensuring that victims were provided with the support and safety plans they needed to reduce their risks of harm.

Councillor Martin then highlighted the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel's review into the delivery of apprenticeships in Sunderland. He reported that during the review, the Panel took the opportunity to visit and speak to key players to provide the basis for the Review's recommendations which included:-

- the National Apprenticeship Service
- training providers
- Schools
- Sunderland University and Sunderland College
- the Connexions Service

Councillor Martin reported that the Review Panel felt that the Apprenticeship programme would only succeed if there were a sufficient number of apprenticeship places available for our young people. He advised that therefore more apprenticeship places, of a high standard and quality, were needed. The Review Panel also felt it was important to raise the profile of apprenticeships and ensure that young people, their parents, teachers and local businesses were all aware of the benefits. Apprenticeships should be held in the same esteem as further and higher education and not seen as a lesser alternative for those less academically gifted. While families across the city valued apprenticeships highly, their value was not universally understood. He referred to the excellent apprenticeship event by Gentoo which had been well attended.

Councillor Smith agreed that sadly apprenticeships were not held in the esteem they should be and felt that all government agencies should promote them to give a higher profile and not just academic courses. Councillor Gofton concurred and added that the Area Committees had been looking at putting policies and strategies in place.

The Chairman reported that as an Apprentice Ambassador he was aware that whilst the large companies had budgets which could accommodate apprentice roles, many of the smaller companies were cautious of cost implications. He added that there was a wide variety of skills available in the City and it was clear that in the future engineering and fabrication roles would be required.

In concluding his presentation Councillor Martin thanked all of the members of the Panel for their hard work and also the officers who had assisted during the Review.

Councillor Francis then drew attention to the Policy Report from the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel which aimed to understand the importance of young people's involvement in service design and explore the potential to widen this further. He reported that the Review recommendations would be the responsibility of the Children's Services Directorate and the attached action plan would monitor progress on these recommendations.

Councillor Francis informed Cabinet Members that the Review had sought evidence from a variety of stakeholders which had proved extremely beneficial in developing recommendations and he welcomed that their views were reflected in the report. He added that from this evidence gathering, and more, the Panel formulated a number of conclusions and four recommendations. He thanked all of the Panel Members who had taken part in the Review and for their help and support during his time as Lead Member.

In response to the presentation, Councillor Smith thanked Councillor Francis and the Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel for their investigation and review of the participation and engagement of children and young people in service design and delivery. She welcomed the report's recommendations, particularly the focus on developing and enhancing engagement across the city to ensure the young people could continue to contribute to service design.

The Chairman on behalf of Cabinet Members also thanked Councillor Francis for his work as a former Lead Scrutiny Member and also thanked him, Councillor Tate and the other Scrutiny Committee Members for their very detailed examinations of the Policy Reviews.

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

4. RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and the proposed Action Plans for their implementation be approved.

International Strategy – Annual Report April 2012 to March 2013

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview of activity undertaken from April 2012 to March 2013 in relation to the City's International Strategy. The report highlighted the benefits this had generated, and identified the outline Work Programme for the year 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding reported that Sunderland's International Strategy aimed to ensure the City's international engagement supported the Sunderland Partnership in achieving its vision for Sunderland, maximising the opportunities and benefits for the City and its residents. He highlighted that this was the sixth Annual Report on the International Strategy and covered the period from April 2012 to March 2013.

Cabinet Members were informed that the Programme of activity had continued to have a strong economic focus and had helped deliver some significant investments in the City. Over the course of the last year overseas-owned companies had announced the investment of over £430 million in the City which would lead to the creation of some 1200 jobs. A range of trade missions had also been undertaken and had been successful in assisting the City's software and creative businesses to exploit new markets, particularly maximising the opportunity afforded by our Friendship Agreement with Washington DC.

Councillor Speding reported that the Programme also continued to open up new opportunities for the young people of the City through a variety of exchanges, for example:-

- Pupils from seven Sunderland schools visited Harbin, involving young people from primary, secondary and special schools,
- Four city schools developed new partnerships with schools in Saint-Nazaire, through an EU funded project on Fairtrade, as the 60th anniversary year of the twinning relationship was entered, and
- Sunderland companies hosted young people from Saint-Nazaire and Essen on work placements.

Councillor Speding then drew attention to Sunderland's membership of EUROCITIES and the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities Network which had also opened up opportunities to exchange good practice in key policy areas, and that the City had been chosen by 20th Century Fox Limited to host the UK premiere of the Oscar-winning film Lincoln.

The attention of Cabinet Members was then drawn to the detailed information on the full range of activity undertaken during the year included within the Annual Report itself, including an assessment of the benefits this is generating. The Chairman reported that a reduced number of actions had been identified as part of the Work Programme for 2013/14, to ensure the Partnership-wide Steering Group on the International Strategy could remain effective within the context of public sector budget reductions and work on these areas had begun.

Councillor Gofton highlighted how beneficial the international links were both to the young people involved in the exchange visits and to the City's economy. She reported that whilst costs were being kept to a minimum, it was an excellent investment and the City needed to be outward looking and the links and friendship agreements should continue to be pursued.

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

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the level and nature of activity developed under the International Strategy during 2012/13 be noted, and
- (ii) the series of actions proposed for 2013/14 be endorsed.

Approval of an alternative training delivery model for ITeC and Riverside Training

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform of the outcome of the review of the Council's training centres, ITeC and Riverside Training, and to recommend the establishment of a new delivery model for the centres.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding highlighted the report and advised that review had been carried out not only to sustain, but to give increased operating freedom with greater flexibility to benefit the centres and in turn the service for Sunderland residents. He reported that extensive consultation had taken place with the staff directly involved, the funders (principally the Skills Funding Agency) and union representatives. He added that there had been support for this model and an understanding of the importance of bringing about these changes.

Councillor Speding reported that the principal funder for this service, the Skills Funding Agency, had commented that the Council was one of the first nationally to propose this step, although others were now exploring similar changes, to ensure high quality training services, specifically with a community-focus, could be sustained.

Cabinet Members were advised that the service would be registered as a social enterprise, specifically a Community Interest Company with an "asset lock" to ensure its assets were to be used for social and community benefits only. The Council would be invited to nominate a representative to sit on the Company's board of directors, to ensure the Council continued to have an influence over its direction.

Councillor Speding reported that the Centres currently delivered apprenticeship training under an annual agreement between the Council and SFA but once established it would be the intention for the new company to subsequently apply direct to the SFA. He added that this was an exciting opportunity for Council services, delivered direct to Sunderland residents, to be operated as a social enterprise with every prospect of enhancing its offer.

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

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the outcome of the training centres review be noted and approval be given to the establishment of a new Community Interest Company (Quality Training and Development, or QTD) in order to operate the City's existing

training centres ITeC and Riverside Training on the terms set out in this report;

- (ii) the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the establishment of QTD, including appropriate pension arrangements, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary;
- (iii) it be recommended to Council to appoint a Director to the Board of QTD;
- (iv) the award of a contract, between the Council and QTD for the delivery of agreed training services in the City for the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) funding period 1st October 2013 to 31st July 2014 on terms to be determined by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services, be approved subject to QTD being accepted onto the SFA's register of approved contractors;
- (v) the completion of a funding agreement with QTD be authorised on terms to be determined by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services.

St Peter's Landscape Vision

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed implementation of the landscaping and interpretative works for the St Peter's site to be funded from the Council's Capital Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly reminded Cabinet Members that St Peter's Church was a grade I listed building, the Anglo-Saxon monastic archaeological remains within its grounds were a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the site formed one half of the twinned monastic sites of St Peter's, Wearmouth, and St Paul's, Jarrow, that together formed the candidate World Heritage Site (cWHS).

Councillor Kelly highlighted that the Landscape vision sought to enhance the grounds, expressing and interpreting the monastic footprint, and provide better linkages and legibility through the site including improved viewing points and a replacement lighting design. He reported that engagement had already taken place with English Heritage, the Church, the Diocese of Durham and the Ward Councillors and this engagement would continue to ensure that key stakeholders were fully engaged at all stages.

Cabinet Members were advised that the report sought approval to use £1.7 million budget allocated in the capital programme and to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary, to approve detailed designs and budgets and to appoint contractors to deliver the proposals.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary, be authorised to approve detailed designs and budgets and to appoint contractors to deliver the proposals,
- (ii) the use of £1.7 million budget allocated in the capital programme be approved.

Review of discretionary Home to School transport: outcomes from the consultation process

The Executive Director Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the review of discretionary transport including outcomes from the public consultation/ engagement sessions.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Smith reminded Cabinet Members that Cabinet, at its meeting on 13th March, had been provided with detailed information on the rationale for the proposed changes in relation to discretionary Home to School transport arrangements. She explained that report also set out the distinction between the statutory transport which the Local Authority had a duty to provide in accordance with the nationally determined Home to School transport policy and discretionary transport. She added that Cabinet had agreed that two proposals should be moved forward for consideration and these were:-

Proposal 1 – that all discretionary transport would be withdrawn from September 2013

Proposal 2 – that all discretionary transport would be withdrawn from September 2014

Councillor Smith reported that in addition there was a third suggestion that consultees could propose any alternative options that would still achieve the same efficiencies.

Cabinet Members were advised that there were currently 770 children and young people in receipt of discretionary support and the current costs of providing discretionary transport were in the region of £200,000 per year. The proposals, if agreed would achieve this as an efficiency.

Councillor Smith informed Cabinet Members that the consultation that had just been carried out involved briefing events for Ward Councillors and for those parents and schools most affected. She explained that the consultation leaflet was sent to families who were directly affected as well as providing copies to all schools in Sunderland to distribute to parents and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle had also been formally consulted.

Councillor Smith drew attention to section 4.5 of the report which provided a breakdown of the responses with 218 received in total. There did not appear to be a preference for withdrawing the transport in either 2013 or 2014 and most respondents strongly disagreed with both of these. Sections 4.1 to 4.4 of the report pointed to some of the general points that were coming through the consultation. She summarised the proposals that September 2013 would clearly achieve the required efficiencies within the 2013/14 financial year but the timescales from now until September were very tight. In relation to September 2014, this would delay the achievement of efficiencies for one year but would allow the changes to be introduced in a way which might address some of the issues that parents and schools had raised.

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

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the outcomes of the consultation on the proposal to cease to provide discretionary transport in September 2013 or 2014 be noted, and
- (ii) given the issues described in 6.1-6.3 of the report, approval be given for the discretionary transport to continue for a further year from September 2013 and cease in September 2014.

Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/2013 and First Revenue Review 2013/2014

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide details of the Provisional Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/2013 and First Revenue Review 2013/2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding reported that in respect of the Revenue Outturn, the year end position was very positive reflecting the work carried out over the last year by Portfolio Holders and Directorates to ensure that the financial challenges that the Council faced both now and in the medium term were dealt with successfully.

Councillor Speding in referring to the outturn position drew attention to the delegated budgets and reported during the year increasing demand in residential and nursing care and independent home care had continued to place very significant pressure on the Health Housing and Adult Services budget. He added that these pressures had therefore had to be contained within the overall corporate outturn position. All other Portfolio budgets were within delegated budgets at outturn which was an excellent outcome given the significant £25.9m budget savings targets for the year which Portfolios had had to achieve.

Councillor Speding then drew attention to the finalisation of the call on contingencies and non delegated budgets such as debt charges and interest savings, together with the agreed approach to capturing salaries savings corporately and robust budget management measures, which had led to an overall under spending of £6.03 million at year end which had been earmarked to support transitional costs.

Cabinet Members were informed that following advice received, it was also now anticipated that the Newcastle International Airport Limited transaction would be classified as a non-capital item funded through internal resources.

Finally drawing attention to the 2013/14 position at first review, Councillor Speding highlighted a number of challenges in implementing the required £37m of reductions in 2013/2014. He reported that while in overall terms progress remained positive, the position in the report reflected the fact that it was getting much more difficult as the Council moved into the third year of the spending review. He added that whilst it was early days, robust monitoring processes were in place to ensure that the budget would be delivered and where delays in implementation of savings targets were identified Portfolio Holders and Directors were progressing alternative actions to address the position.

Cabinet Members having commended the work of the Portfolio Holders and officers in maintaining the budgets, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) in relation to 2012/2013:
 - (a) the contingency and reserve transfers proposed at Appendix A and, budget transfers and virements at Appendix B be approved;
 - (b) the final account decisions as set out in this report be approved and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary, be authorised to finalise any outstanding revenue financing issues or Final Accounts decisions,
- (ii) in relation to 2013/2014:
 - (a) the contingency transfers at Appendix E and budget transfers be approved.

Capital Programme Outturn 2012/2013 and First Capital Review 2013/2014 (including Treasury Management)

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to detail:-

- the Provisional Capital Programme Outturn for 2012/2013;
- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2013/2014 taking account of the Provisional Capital Programme Outturn 2012/2013;
- changes made to the Capital Programme 2013/2014 since its approval and progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2013/2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding highlighted the outturn position for 2012/2013 and reported that progress during the year had been positive with expenditure of £53.8m which reflected the Council's positive approach to investment in the city over the last year which included:

- A £2.3m investment in new schools at St Joseph's and Maplewood, with both schemes completed and schools opened during 2012;
- Investment in schools across the City of £6.3m including window and boiler replacements, roofing works and fire detections systems;
- Strategic land and property acquisitions of £2.8m including the Pulman Lodge and Endurance House at the Port;
- Disabled Facilities Grants of £2.4m to help support disabled people to remain in their own properties for as long as possible;
- Investment of £2.5m on various transport schemes including cycle routes, bus route improvements, road safety improvements, traffic calming and signal refurbishments;
- Highways Maintenance Works of £2.3m;
- £1.6m invested in St Mary's Boulevard and Magistrates Square development to regenerate the former Vaux site and city centre;
- £1.2m spent on preparatory works for the new Wear Crossing;
- £1.1m spent on the new Software Centre providing a world class telecommunications, infrastructure and business premises in the heart of the city.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to the variations in the 2012/2013 programme totalling £15.4m primarily due to reprofiling expenditure into 2013/2014 and future years. Councillor Speding explained that this had been necessary largely due to delays in statutory processes, finalising discussions with property owners and contractors, and reviewing scheme requirements to minimise costs to the Council.

Turning to the 2013/2014 programme, Councillor Speding advised that the report identified an increase to the programme of £14.5m which reflected the following:-

- expenditure reprofiled from 2012/2013 of £13.8m for which resources were secured;
- £3.1m of expenditure reprofiled from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 primarily as a result of a review of school asset management programme requirements;
- an increase of £3.8m to the 2013/2014 Capital Programme to reflect further investment required for the Crowtree Redevelopment and additional investment in the Seafront Strategy following the award of the BIG Coastal Communities Fund grant.

In conclusion Councillor Speding reported that there were no areas for concern or any issues which might require to be reviewed in relation to the Treasury Management aspects of the report.

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

10. RESOLVED that:-

(i) in relation to the Capital Programme:-

(a) in respect of outturn for 2012/2013:-

- the inclusion of additional expenditure for 2012/2013 as included at Appendix A be approved, and where necessary recommended to Council, and
- the overall Provisional Capital outturn position for 2012/2013 be noted and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services be authorised to finalise any outstanding capital financing issues in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary,

(b) in respect of the first capital review for 2013/2014:-

- amendments in resourcing the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council in March 2013 be approved,
- the inclusion of additional expenditure for 2013/2014 detailed at appendix B be approved and where necessary recommended to Council, and
- a contract variation in excess of £250,000 for the Customer Service Network Platform be approved,

(ii) in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, the positive progress in implementing the 2013/2014 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be noted.

Proposals for an Alternative Service Delivery Model for ICT

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the strategic proposal to deliver a collaborative ICT service to Sunderland City Council and Durham County Council from a single joint organisation in conjunction with an external commercial partner and to seek approval to develop an outline business case for the proposal

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman in highlighting the report, advised that although this work was at a very early developmental stage, the approach outlined to a potential new service delivery model for ICT based on the shared service approach had the potential to deliver a number of benefits which included:-

- The ability to act more commercially to exploit the Council's ICT infrastructure including the Cloud platform to provide ICT services to a wider customer base in both public and private sectors.
- The delivery of efficiency savings to both Sunderland and Durham Councils.
- Provision of a common platform to support new models of public service delivery and future shared services.

The Chairman reported that preliminary discussions with Durham County Council had indicated that there was a good synergy between the two Councils and a number of areas where more collaborative working could bring service and financial benefits. He informed Cabinet Members that the development of an outline business case would identify the level of efficiency savings that could be achieved by the development of a Shared Service approach and the Governance arrangements that would be needed to support such organisational change. He added that the development of a business case would also include an evaluation of the options for the commercial/strategic partnership as outlined within the report.

Cabinet Members having been advised that following completion of the business case a further report would be brought back to Cabinet in due course, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the principle of collaboration between Sunderland City Council and Durham County Council in respect of the development and the establishment by the councils of an ICT Shared Service in conjunction with the procurement of a strategic/commercial partner ("the Proposals") be supported;
- (ii) the direction on the collaboration work undertaken so far be supported and approval be given to commit to the principle of closer integration, including the establishment of joint project governance arrangements;
- (iii) the two ICT Services be authorised to jointly develop an outline business case in respect of the Proposals and to bring a further report to the Cabinet meetings of the respective councils on 9 October;
- (iv) the submission of an outline application for funding from the Transformation Challenge Award in respect of the project costs be approved;
- (v) the appointment of professional advisors in order to assist on the development of the outline business case for the Proposals be authorised.

Washington Leisure Centre – tender, construction and contract award

The Executive Director of Health Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview of the procurement process which had been undertaken in respect of the Design and Build (“D&B”) contract for the new replacement Washington Leisure Centre (“the Project”), a description of the successful bid including information on costs and details of the preferred bidder’s design for the Project and to secure approval to appoint Pellikaan as preferred bidder for the D&B Contract and to authorise the subsequent award of the D&B Contract.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly reminded Cabinet Members that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 10 October 2012, considered a report setting out the reasons why a significant upgrade and/or replacement to Washington Leisure Centre was required. He reported that Cabinet had approved the commencement of an appropriate procurement process subsequently three selected bidders were issued with an Invitation to Participate in Dialogue document (ITPD) with the Council.

Councillor Kelly informed that during this process 2 of the 3 bidders withdrew and dialogue continued with the remaining bidder, Pellikaan Construction Limited. He advised that Pellikaan’s bid was received prior to the deadline on 3rd May 2013 and was evaluated against a range of criteria as set out in the Cabinet report.

Cabinet Members were advised that Pellikaan’s design located the new facility towards the southern edge of the site boundary with the benefit of offering no disruption to the current facility during the build programme. The site configuration had allowed the new centre to be located close to both the Wheeled Sports Park and the Village green within Princess Anne Park. In addition contained within the external provision there would be six 3G outdoor floodlit 5-a-side football pitches, approximately 100 car parking spaces, appropriate access for services and the inclusion for appropriate DDA car parking.

Councillor Kelly drew attention to a key aspect of Pellikann’s design, which was an ambition to remove the existing North, South and East West high level walkways. He reported that this would have the effect of opening up the site enabling clear visibility from The Galleries and through to Princess Anne Park. He advised that should the above proposal be technically unachievable, the contractor would be requested to revert back to the original client requirement that was to re-instate the gap within the existing high level footpath left as a result of demolishing the wellness centre which was an integral part of the structure.

Councillor Kelly then detailed that the facilities provided would include:

- 6 lane 25m Pool and Learner Pool including leisure features and two hydro slides
- 4 court Sports Hall
- Additional multi purpose hall designed to accommodate Trampoline Training to international standard
- 2 glass backed Squash Courts
- Sauna and Steam Rooms with an additional relaxation area

- Wellness Centre with 100 station gym, separate spinning facility, exercise studio and 2 consultation rooms
- Soft play provision with connection from the ground to first floor
- Provision of space and appropriate services to accommodate catering/retail activity
- 6 external 3G small sided football pitches

Cabinet Members having commended the progress made to provide these leisure facilities to the residents of Washington, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the outcome of the procurement process be noted and the appointment of Pellikaan as preferred bidder for the D&B Contract be approved on the terms set out in Section 5 of the report;
- (ii) the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services be authorised to award the D&B Contract for the Project to Pellikaan on the terms set out in Section 6 of the report following satisfaction of the terms of the preferred bidder appointment; and
- (iii) the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to the matters set out in this report.

Future Library Services

The Executive Director of Health Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the results from the recent consultation programme and propose a new service model to deliver a new vision for library services extending the reach deeper into communities. The proposal takes account of the consultation programme results, and releases significant efficiencies. In addition the report proposed the approach to the final stage of consultation on the future service model and implementation milestones.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In highlighting the report, Councillor Kelly drew attention to the timetable of key milestones in implementing the new service model to deliver a new vision for library services which included:-

- Recommend to Cabinet new service proposals – June 2013
- Further consultation on proposals – June 2013 to July 2013
- Cabinet Report on final proposals and implementation – September 2013
- New Service introduced – October 2013

Councillor Smith reported that although she was not happy that some of the libraries had to be closed, she commended the work of the Portfolio Holder and officers in bringing forward a solution to modernise the service. She advised that her local library had been identified as one for closure which served an elderly population. She added that some residents, whilst they appreciated that this had been a result of the Government funding restraints, could not understand why such a new building would have to be closed.

Councillor Miller concurred with Councillor Smith and highlighted that the proposals would ensure a modernised service going forward and fair access for all. He reminded Cabinet Members that further consultation would be taking place as the service model was rolled out.

Comments of the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the proposals were also submitted. The Scrutiny Committee noted that library provision continued to be an important service for communities, however the economic situation the Council found itself in means that there was no choice but to look at different ways of delivering services to residents. Having scrutinised the proposals the Scrutiny Committee was in support of the development of a new service which made the best use of available resources to target those who would benefit most from them. The Committee was also pleased to note that with regard to the retained static provision all residents would have access within a 2 mile radius of their home and that the proposed future arrangements accounted for almost 88% of the overall visits to library buildings last year.

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

13. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the information about the current service, the financial context, and the recent consultation programme be noted,
- (ii) the proposed future service model, including expansion of outreach to take the service into community venues that are currently well used by local residents, the development of Library Service hubs and community Libraries and the capital investment required for e-services and refurbishment of the City Library and Arts Centre be approved,
- (iii) the comments of the Scrutiny Committee be noted, and
- (iv) a further programme of consultation be approved to seek the views of and engage with the following audiences to support the comprehensive and efficient delivery of the future service model:-
 - (a) Current users of the buildings proposed for closure in the new service model,
 - (b) Current users of provision proposed to be designated as community libraries,
 - (c) Non-users, staff and partners impacted by the proposed future service model,
 - (d) Potential outreach partners in the voluntary, community, private and public sectors, and
 - (e) Non-users and in particular children, young people and families

Procurement of Housing Related Support Services 2014 - 2016

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to procure Housing Related Support Services for 2014 onwards as the value of the procurement would exceed the threshold of £250,000 as the annual programme would be over £2 million.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller reported that by undertaking a procurement exercise, the Council would enable fair access to all interested providers to tender for a range of housing related support services, ensure the award of the procurement to organisations that had undergone appropriate and necessary checks and ensure value for money was achieved. He explained that the procurement would involve a number of lots for different housing related support services, covering the following four key groups:

- Young People
- People at risk of Homelessness
- Families at risk of Homelessness
- People experiencing domestic violence

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

14. RESOLVED that the procurement of Housing Related Services from April 2014 be approved.

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

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

15. 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 an individual or the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The public interest in maintaining this exemption 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.

