

Time began 6.00pm
Time ended 6.45pm

COUNCIL CABINET

17 May 2005

Present: Councillor Burgess – Chair
Councillors Allen, E Berry, Care, Carr, Hickson, Samra
and West

Also present: Councillor Williamson

This record of decisions was published on 19 May 2005. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a decision is called-in.

398/04 Apologies

There were no apologies.

399/04 Late items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

Councillor E Berry reported on the outcome of a recent Ofsted inspection of Youth Services. She confirmed that the service had been assessed as good with the strengths outweighing the weaknesses and providing good value for money. The Council Cabinet asked that their congratulations and thanks be sent to all those who work in the service.

400/04 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-In will not Apply

There were no urgent items.

401/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

402/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Part 1 minutes of the meetings held on 26 April 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Referred to Council Cabinet

403/04 Response of Council Cabinet to the Planning and Environment Commission's Revenue Budget Recommendations

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Planning and Environment Commission which stated that the Commission members were very pleased with the way in which the Council Cabinet had responded to the recommendations made by the Commission on the Council's draft Revenue Budget for 2005/06.

Decision

To note the thanks of the Planning and Environment Commission.

404/04 Response to the Planning and Environment Commission's Review of the Council's Tree Management Policy

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Planning and Environment Commission regarding the response to the Planning and Environment Commission's review of the Council's Tree Management Policy. Councillor Ahern, as Chair of the Commission, attended the meeting to highlight their concern that they had not received a response to their recommendations within the agreed timescales. Councillor Hickson identified the reasons for the delay and confirmed that a report would be considered at the next meeting of Council Cabinet.

Decision

To note the concerns of the Commission and confirm that a response would be considered by the Council Cabinet at their next scheduled meeting.

Key Decisions

405/04 Private Finance Initiative – Street Lighting

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Directors of Development and Cultural Services and Finance regarding progress made on the development of the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative – PFI. The report set out details of the proposed short list of bidders and set out proposals to progress to the financial close stage of the project.

It was confirmed that PFI credits for the scheme had been awarded for Highway lighting only, and any improvements to the lighting levels in areas such as Parks and Derby Homes managed areas would have to be funded outside the PFI.

It was anticipated that the scheme would be operational by July 2006.

Options Considered

None in addition to the analysis of options contained within the Outline Business Case.

Decision

1. To approve proceeding with the next stages of the procuring the project following the selection of the short list of Bidders for the scheme.
2. To authorise the Director of Finance to release resources required to progress the project to financial close stage, up to the limit of £525,000.
3. To receive a report at a future meeting seeking approval for the selection of Bidders to go forward to the next stage.

Reasons

To enable the project to progress in accordance with the agreed programme.

406/04 Targeted Capital Funding Bid 2006-08

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education regarding the Targeted Capital Funding Bid 2006-08. Targeted Capital Funding –TCF- provided funding for projects which were not covered by other funding streams. The Department for Education and Skills –DfES- would assess bids on the basis of how well they supported the Government's current priorities. In this round of TCF funding, the DfES guidance outlined the following key assessment criteria:

- Standards and Curriculum improvements
- Standards-focused re-organisations
- Improved provision for children with Special Educational Needs
- Extended schools / community use.

The report set out details of projects in Derby which may be successful in securing funding from this source.

Options Considered

1. Targeted Capital Funding was the only opportunity to secure major capital funding for projects on this scale. It was essential to seek to maximise the funding available to improve school buildings in Derby.
2. Other schemes were considered, but the two proposed community school bids were the most urgent within the funding range and bid criteria. Major secondary school projects must await the government

decision on the timing of Derby's involvement in the Building Schools for the Future programme. Other special schools were in better condition and had more suitable premises than Ivy House.

3. A range of other primary school projects were considered in line with Asset Management priorities. These projects were judged to provide the best balance of development focused on the government's requirements for improvements in standards and curriculum, standards focused reorganisation and linkage with the extended schools and community use agenda. If the bid was successful, other primary school projects would be prioritised for funding from formula capital and possible capital receipts.
4. The Catholic and Church of England Diocese had considered TCF guidance for a voluntary aided project. A TCF bid was proposed for St Benedict Catholic and Performing Arts College.

Decision

1. To approve the submission of a Targeted Capital Funding bid to the DfES for a replacement building on a new site for Ivy House Special School and a new primary school to replace Normanton Village Infant School, Sunnyhill Infant School and Normanton Junior School.
2. To approve the submission of a Voluntary Aided Targeted Capital Funding bid for a new Science and Arts block at St Benedict Catholic and Performing Arts College.

Reasons

1. There were major condition and suitability issues with the current accommodation at Ivy House School. The building was in urgent need of replacement to make sure that the school could provide adequately for the complex needs of special needs pupils. The site was not suitable for the purpose, and a move was proposed in principle within the Council's expression of interest for the Building Schools for the Future programme.
2. Normanton Village Infant, Sunnyhill Infant and Normanton Junior Schools all had serious condition and suitability problems, particularly the junior school. A new replacement primary school in the Austin / Sunnyhill area would have exciting potential as a new learning environment for the pupils in that area. It would be able to deliver higher standards and continuity for pupils. The current junior school takes pupils from two separate infant schools, and, although standards in the core subjects had improved over the last two years, the Key Stage 1 to 2 transition process was a factor affecting pupil progress. Accelerated progress after transfer would bring better value added through Key Stage 2. Local secondary schools demonstrated

improving value added scores, and so the overall impact on Key Stage 4 attainment was significant.

3. There were excellent opportunities to use Normanton Village Infant School building to support the community education agenda in this area, and it was envisaged that the new school would become part of a coherent and integrated network of children's services and adult learning.
4. The bid for a new Science and Arts Block at St Benedict Catholic and Performing Arts College was an exciting project to improve the learning environment and address longstanding suitability problems. This was also an opportunity to re-organise existing classrooms.

407/04 Football Foundation Bid – Derby Moor and Lees Brook Community Sports Colleges

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Education setting out details of a Football Foundation Bid for Derby Moor and Lees Brook Community Sports Colleges.

The Derbyshire Local Football Partnership had identified a deficit of one full size artificial turf pitch in the city. The Sport England guidance indicated that there should be at least one artificial turf pitch per 60,000 of population. The proposed project at Derby Moor Community Sports College was for a seven a side Artificial Turf Pitch with new changing rooms, a teaching room and reception area. The facility was expected to serve the west of Derby and South Derbyshire. The estimated cost of this project was £817,850. The Football Foundation was likely to only fund 60 per cent with the school required to fund the balance of £327,140.

The proposed project for Lees Brook Community Sports College was for an 11 a side Artificial Turf Pitch with new stand-alone changing rooms. The facility was expected to serve the east of the city and parts of Erewash. The estimated total cost of the project was £1,144,600. Again, the Football Foundation was likely to only fund 60 per cent and the school would be required to fund the balance of £457,840.

Options Considered

1. It was only possible to submit bids for Derby Moor and Lees Brook Sports Colleges as identified by the Derbyshire Local Football Partnership. This was an opportunity to bid for funding to significantly improve much needed sports facilities on school sites and maximise investment through joined up funding.
2. There was no clear indication from the DfES when Derby City would be included in the Building Schools for the Future – BSF - initiative to replace secondary schools over the next fifteen years. The proposed schemes

for Derby Moor and Lees Brook had been carefully considered in that context and the possible replacement of these schools. The facilities at Lees Brook would be stand alone and positioned so that they did not restrict the option to build a new school in future years. BSF had also been considered for the Derby Moor project. The new changing rooms would be linked to the sports hall block to form an effective sports area.

Decision

To approve the submission of a bid to the Football Foundation for Artificial Turf Pitches and changing rooms at Derby Moor Community Sports College and Lees Brook Community Sports College.

Reasons

1. There was a shortfall in Artificial Turf Pitch facilities in Derby as identified by the Derbyshire Local Football Partnership.
2. Provisions at Moorways Leisure Centre, Derby College and Woodlands Community School were unable to support the demand of local sports clubs requiring provision for training, coaching and local competitions.

408/04 Twinning Grant – Derby City Football League

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services setting out proposals to award Derby City Football League twinning grant funding. Derby City Football League intended to take a group of sixteen young people and six adult helpers to play against their counterparts, Blau Weiss Schinkel, and to take part in a local football tournament in Osnabrück.

The Council's Scheme of Assistance for eligible youth groups taking part in twinning arrangements, provided for an allowance towards travel costs of £35 per person, subject to a maximum of £1,100 and towards out of pocket expenses an allowance of £2.50 a day for each person, subject to a maximum of £750. To be eligible, groups have to be made up of at least 75% of people living in Derby and the purpose of the visit has to be sporting, educational, cultural or recreational.

Options Considered

None

Decision

To approve a twinning grant of £1,100 to Derby City Football League.

Reasons

The visit was eligible for assistance under the Council's Scheme.

Budget and Policy Framework

409/04 Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance setting out the proposed content and layout for the Best Value Performance Plan 2005-08. The Local Government Act 1999, Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement set out the requirement for Councils to produce Best Value Performance Plans. The last update to the act was an addendum to Circular 03/2003 published in February 2004. This latest guidance reduced the required content of Council's BVPPs, particularly for councils categorised as good or excellent. The guidance also removed requirements on councils to include information in the BVPP which could be found in other sources. Councils were required under the Local Government Act 1999 to publish Best Value Performance Plans by 30 June each year.

Decision

1. To agree the proposed contents and layout for the Best Value Performance Plan, BVPP, to be published by 30 June 2005.
2. To refer the proposed approach and an updated draft plan to Scrutiny Management Commission for comment.
3. To note the arrangements for updating and approving the contents of the BVPP.

410/04 Local Development Scheme – Resolution to Bring LDS into effect

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services regarding the resolution to bring the Local Development Scheme – LDS - into effect. At its meeting on 9 November 2004, Council Cabinet approved a draft LDS for submission to the Secretary of State through Government Office. It also authorised the Director of Development and Cultural Services, in conjunction with the appropriate Cabinet Member, to make minor amendments to the draft Scheme to take on board further advice from Government. The LDS sets out the programme of planning documents that the City Council intended to prepare over a three year period.

Decision

To approve that the Council's Local Development Scheme takes effect from 17 May 2005.

411/04 Internal Audit Plan 2005/6

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance setting out the Internal Audit Plan for 2005/6. Under the Council's Constitution, the Council Cabinet was responsible for monitoring performance. Internal audit was an activity reviewing the performance of systems and governance arrangements, and it was therefore appropriate for reports summarising the results of internal audit's review work to be brought before Council Cabinet, on a periodic basis. This was provided for within Financial Procedure Rules and continued the practice established in 2003/4.

Decision

1. To note the Internal Audit Plan for 2005/6.
2. To refer the report to the relevant Scrutiny Commission for information.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

412/04 Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

The Council Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Finance regarding Contract and Financial Procedure Matters.

Decision

1. To approve the payment of Disabled Facilities Grants above £25,000 subject to a charge on the property for the amount of grant above this sum.
2. To approve a special arrangement with Walbrook Housing Association for the resolution of 49 Disabled Facilities Grants through a single payment.
3. To endorse the proposal from Derby Homes to let a gas servicing and safety contract on behalf of the Council, commencing 1 June 2005 for five years.
4. To approve the release of £171k of the 2004/05 Development and Cultural Services frozen revenue reserves as proposed at section 2.3 of the report.
5. To approve the addition of closed landfill management to the 2005/2006 capital programme and the £4k budget virement to Treasury Management from Development & Cultural Services revenue budget to fund the unsupported borrowing.

413/04 Licensed Deficits

The Council Cabinet considered a joint report from the Directors of Education and Finance setting out requests from two schools to set deficit budgets. Firs Estate Primary School had applied for a licensed deficit of £20,156 and St Martins School had applied for a licensed deficit of £12,621.

Decision

To approve licensed deficits for Firs Estate Primary School and St Martin's School.

MINUTES END