

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

Recommendations from the meeting held on 12 July 2016

Council Cabinet Agenda – 13 July 2016

Item 8 Service Delivery Model for the Council's Care Homes and Day Centres

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care and Strategic Director for People to consider the feedback obtained during a consultation exercise to consider the future delivery model for the Council's in house Adults' residential care services and day centres. The report also sought to agree the commencement of a soft market testing exercise in relation to the care homes to determine the subsequent strategy in relation to securing an alternative owner and/ or service provider to operate the affected services.

Members were generally in support of the purpose of the report but raised concerns over the transparency of detail provided to service providers. The Board was reassured that this would be provided during the soft market testing exercise. Members were also keen to ensure that any service delivery contracts or agreements include a clause or conditions around the continued provision of care at occupied sites. The Board was informed that these issues would likely arise at the next stage of reporting and that there would be an opportunity for members to undertake further scrutiny and input their views at this stage.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 9 Compulsory acquisition of empty homes

This item was dealt with under part of the Council Cabinet papers.

Item 10 A52 Wyvern Transport Improvement Scheme – revised scheme costs and funding

This item was dealt with under part of the Council Cabinet papers.

Item 11 Consulting on changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy and Chief Executive to approve the specified elements of the CTS Scheme to be consulted on as set out in the report.

Members were keen to ensure that residents would not be given opportunity to either benefit on multiple levels or be repeatedly penalised as a result of any agreed changes to elements of the scheme.

It was resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- **mechanisms are put in place to ensure that changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme do not have consequential effects which lead individuals and families to fall in hardship or below poverty lines;**
- **officers are requested to look at schemes delivered by other local authorities and how changes have been implemented; and**
- **those affected in supported accommodation should be specifically referenced and targeted as part of the consultation.**

Item 12 Redevelopment of the former Britannia Court site

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal and Strategic Director of Communities and Place to agree that the Scheme be submitted for planning approval by the Council subject to planning approval build and that consultancy contracts as required are tendered and let to deliver the Scheme.

Members were in support of the proposals, however were keen to maximise the income opportunities from the venture where possible.

It was resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that the options for maximising income through the possibilities of renting units at full market value, varying the costs of rental of more desirable units and allowing contributions to the general fund are fully explored.

Item 13 Energy Framework Renewal / Procurement

Members considered a report of Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration and Strategic Director of Communities and Place to approve the renewal of Derby City Council's electricity and gas contracts through a framework agreement to take advantage of current low prices in the energy market.

Members queried the alternative frameworks that are available but were reassured by officers that extensive evaluation had been undertaken and that this had identified the names suppliers as the best option.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 14 Property Improvement Capital Works Programme 2016/17 and 2017/18 – Additional Schemes not Previously Approved

Members considered a report of Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration and Strategic Director of Communities and Place to individual schemes below for inclusion in the Property Improvement Work Programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18. This report was in response to points raised by the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board earlier in the year.

Members queried the reason for the funds required to resolve IT issues in the report, however were satisfied that these funds were necessary to resolve the ongoing IT issues. Members also queried issues previously surrounding the provision of a cycle track, but were reassured that such issues had since been resolved.

No further recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 15 Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) top up funding

Members considered a report of Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Strategic Director for People to agree to roll out the top up funding pilot providing an alternative to the EHC needs assessment process to a city wide approach from September 2016.

Members had a lengthy discussion about the benefits of the scheme and concluded that the Board was in full support of the scheme.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 16 Revenue Outturn 2015/16

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive outlining the actual out-turn, subject to audit, compared with the Revenue Budget for the 2015/16 financial year, and the subsequent effect on the Council's level of reserves.

Members had a lengthy discussion about methodology and prioritisation of budget pressures accepted for "carry forward requests". The Board felt that there was a lack of transparency around the way in which these were selected and the justifications for these.

The Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that future information on underspend should be more transparent (the term "carry forward" was misleading) and that further detail on why selected elements of the budget require top-ups and how these are prioritised should be included in reports, as well as the inclusion of requests that were put forward but did not receive additional funds.

Item 17 Capital Outturn 2015/16

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy and Chief Executive capital programme matters that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 18 Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on how the Council conducted its borrowing and investments during 2015/16 and reports on the prudential indicator activity for 2015/16 which the Council is required to report under the Local Government Act 2003.

Members queried the increased value of deposits included in the table at paragraph 5.4 of the report and were informed that these figures are "snapshot" figures which fluctuate daily and should not be seen as money available for additional spending.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Item 19 Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules. The Board also considered an Addendum report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration and Strategic Director for Communities and Place on the D2N2 and Department for Transport Large Local Major Transport grant funding application.

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

Items 20 Performance Monitoring 2015/16 – Year End Results & Council Scorecard & 21 2016/17

The Board considered two performance reports of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on key performance outcomes and highlights from key performance measures and actions included in the Council Plan 2015/16.

Members discussed a number of issues including homelessness acceptances and the impacts of budget cuts and welfare reforms. Members were informed that changes to the tenancy policy were likely to happen before the end of the calendar year, however the Council was still awaiting details from Government on what we will be required to do.

The Board also had a discussion on the collection of garden waste and recyclables and new homes targets, as well as the poor performance around Educational Health Care Plans, which would be looked at in further detail by the Inspiring Young People's Board at their meeting in September.

The Board also discussed the shortfall of job creation against the target figure and requested that a performance surgery or specific session is held for the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board to look at this in further detail.

Members were informed that the Council's Key Performance Indicators for the scorecard would be refreshed for the financial year 2016-2017, but that these would be revised at the end of quarter one to ensure that targets were realistic and/or challenging. Members requested that where targets are amended at this stage that is noted on the scorecard for transparency.

It was recommended to Council Cabinet that any changes to targets in the Council's Scorecard at the end of Quarter 1 are recorded for transparency.

