

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

Recommendations from the meeting held on 07 December 2015

Council Cabinet Agenda – 09 December 2015

Item 8 Approved Mental Health Practitioner Service (Out of Hours)

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care which seeks to approve the outsourcing of the statutory responsibility for an Approved Mental Health Practitioner (AMHP) service to a third party provider, subject to having undertaken a procurement compliant market testing exercise.

Members discussed the issues arising from difficulties recruiting qualified experienced staff and the withdrawal of out of hours enhancements. The Board was also concerned that there may have been inadequate planning for the replacement of staff close to the age of retirement. Officers informed the Board that a training programme for existing staff is in place to address this but that difficulties arise training existing staff to be AMHPs as this requires them to undergo a two year training course.

Recommendation 1 – The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet outlined in the report and to recommend to Council Cabinet that the Council continues to support the development of staff to ensure recruitment issues do not arise again in future.

Item 9 Use of Section 106 Money for Improvements to Leisure Facilities in Littleover and Blagreaves

Members resolved to defer the consideration of this item to a future meeting.

Item 10 Street Lighting LED Replacement Project

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Cohesion and Integration which seeks approval from Council Cabinet to invest £2.8 million to supply and fit the new LED lanterns.

Members were in support of the project but requested that officers present a more detailed report on the current situation across all areas of the city with regards to street lighting, the Street Lighting Strategy for Derby and the future street lighting proposals at a future meeting.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet outlined in the report.

Item 11 Adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member of the Cabinet Member for Cohesion and Integration which seeks approval in principle for the Council to adopt Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) both within the City and for SuDS outside of the City that may impact on drainage and flooding in the City.

Members were concerned about the level of technical detail provided and the need for in-house technical experts to consider the detail.

Recommendation 2 – The Board resolved to support the adoption of SuDS and the recommendations to Council Cabinet outlined in the report. However, the Board recommends to Council Cabinet that the Council ensures that any SuDS are appropriately funded, that technical expertise is available and the legal issues around maintenance and liability are fully considered prior to implementation of any schemes.

Item 12 Derbyshire Cycling Plan

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration which informs Members of the outcome of the public consultation on the Derbyshire Cycling Plan and to seek Cabinet endorsement of the final version of the Plan.

Members questioned the drivers behind hosting of a launch event and the value for money of hosting such an event. Officers informed members that this event was funded through the relevant Local Sustainable Transport Fund pot and would be attended by a large range of stakeholders and local business. Members questioned if the public were invited and were informed that although members of the public could attend they had not been specifically invited.

The Board resolved to commend the development of the Derbyshire Cycle Plan and support the recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Item 13 Strategic Property Transactions

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration which set out the current situation with regard to the progress that has been made on the regeneration of key sites within the city. The report seeks approval from Council Cabinet to commission a feasibility study to set out in more detail the potential options for the redevelopment of these sites through the appointment of Cushman and Wakefield as the Council's Strategic Property Advisors.

Members queried the level of work that would be completed by the appointed property advisors and were informed that this would likely comprise 2-3 studies on 2-3 key sites. Members were informed that these studies are likely to be completed by February 2016. Members also questioned whether Allestree Hall would be considered and were informed that this is currently being looked at by another firm of consultants.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet and requested that a report detailing the results of the consultant's studies be reported back to a future meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board.

Item 14 Draft Welfare Strategy for Derby

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy and the Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal on the detail of the Welfare Strategy for Derby. Members were informed that the strategy aims to bring together services which deal with a host of applications which are presented different parts of the Council into one co-ordinated approach and a singular package for individuals in line with the single needs assessment.

Members expressed a concern that applications to the Discretionary Housing Payment fund could adversely affect the package available to individuals but were reassured by members that the aim of the strategy was to maximise benefits for the most vulnerable but move them on to financial independence as quickly as possible.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet outlined in the report.

Item 15 Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report

A report of the Leader of the Council on items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules was summarised for the Board by the Director of Finance and Procurement.

Members heard that changes to the current programme include:

- changes to the current 2015/16 programme
- Local Growth Fund (LGF) rounds 1 & 3 grant funding bids
- approval to update approved Council policies in line with the organisational restructure and subsequent post changes.
- award of contract

Officers explained to members the slippage to schemes and programmes outlined in section 4 of the Council Cabinet report and the bids that Derby City Council has submitted to the Local Growth Fund which would could have a significant impact upon the Capital Programme. Members questioned the confidence of the success of the bids and were informed that whilst officers did not expect all bids to be successful, hoped that the bids would show our ambition for the city and attract a significant level of external funding in the future.

The Board resolved to support the recommendations to Council Cabinet outlined in the report.