

CABINET

Wednesday, 10th July, 2019
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Simon Tagg – Chair

Councillors M. Holland, P. Northcott and S. Sweeney

Officers David Adams - Executive Director Operational Services, Geoff Durham - Mayor Support Officer, Jan Willis - Interim Executive Director - Resources and Support, Hamilton - Chief Executive, Caroline Elwood - Interim Head of Legal / Monitoring, Harris- Marketing and Communications Officer and Phil Jones - Head of Communications

Apologies Councillor(s) T. Johnson and J Waring

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor's Trevor Johnson and Jill Waring.

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg informed the Cabinet that Councillor Johnson was recovering from an operation and sent best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June, 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

4. JUBILEE2 UPDATE

A report was submitted to Cabinet updating Members on the current position in respect of Jubilee2.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage- Councillor Mark Holland stated that the centre received between ten and twelve thousand visitors each week and the Council had a responsibility to the taxpayer to get the best possible value and services from the centre. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 3.4 of the report and were advised that they would receive further updates in due course.

Reference was made to the confidential appendix that would be considered in the closed session later in the meeting.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 of the report and were informed that a proposal had been made to enter into a three year contract with Strategi Solutions who would then be responsible for identifying opportunities for income generation, selling advertising space, collecting the revenue and drafting agreements.

Councillor Holland stated that it was important to market the leisure centre better in the future.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Stephen Sweeney stated that problems had occurred because people were not called back when defects were found.

Members endorsed the report.

The Leader thanked the Chief Executive, Martin Hamilton for the work that he had done on this.

Reference was made to the overspend, stating that the centre should at least be breaking even now. Alliance Leisure had been brought in to address some of the issues.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the information be received and the approach outlined in this report to address the budget deficit be endorsed.
 - (ii) That the information be received and the approach outlined in this report to have effective repairs undertaken in the most economically efficient manner be endorsed and a further report in relation to the building's latent defects be brought to a future Cabinet meeting.
 - (iii) That the Executive Director Operational Services be given the authority to enter into a contract to secure a partnership for marketing support with Alliance Leisure for a period of four years.
 - (iv) That the Executive Director Operational Services be given the authority to enter into a contract to secure a partnership for commercial advertising sales with Strategi Solutions for a period of three years.
 - (v) That funding for remedial works as set out in the recommendation in the Confidential Appendix, be approved.

5. 20 SIDMOUTH AVENUE, NEWCASTLE

A report was submitted to Cabinet to consider options for the future of this redundant property and options for its redevelopment.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, Councillor Paul Northcott advised Members that in September 2015, Council had resolved to dispose of the site as a single lot. In 2028, Members directed that the decision be revisited to consider alternative options for the site to enable the enhancing of the value of the site.

Tarpey Woodfine were engaged to provide alternative residential scheme layouts and Butters John Bee were engaged to provide valuation advice in respect of these

The Chief Executive and officers were thanked for their work on this.

Reference was made to the confidential appendix that would be considered in the closed session later in the meeting.

The Leader stated that Sidmouth Avenue was within a Conservation Area and that a lot of work had been carried out to protect the character of that area.

The existing building, with the removal of the 1950's extension would provide a nice family home and the land would allow for other houses to be built.

Members welcomed the report stating that it was an excellent development and a great way of managing our assets.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to:
 - (i.i) secure Planning Consent for:
 - (i.i.ii) Demolition of the post 1950's building extensions, making good external walls, on the existing building;
 - (i.i.iii) Change of use of the existing building to residential;
 - (i.i.iv) Three substantial 4-5 bedroomed detached houses, each having integral garages.
 - (i.ii) Dispose of the retained building for refurbishment as a single 4-5 bedroomed detached dwelling or 2 Apartments, in a manner that protects the future use of the property.
 - (i.iii) Restrict future use of the dwellings to single family accommodation by way of covenant;
 - (i.iv) Dispose of the 3 plots with the benefit of planning permission, in a manner that protects the future use of the properties. i.e. single family accommodation.(option 2.9B)
 - (ii) That the costs of demolishing the building extensions and making good external walls be added to the 2019-20 capital programme, to be replenished in 2020-21 from the net proceeds of disposal.

6. AIR QUALITY MINISTERIAL DIRECTION UPDATE

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg introduced this item on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling, Councillor Trevor Johnson.

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking support to update and advise of the progress following development of the Strategic Outline Case.

The Leader stated that this was the fourth Cabinet report on this since the Spring. Members' attention was drawn to paragraphs 2.5 and 3 of the report.

Three Authorities were involved in this project: Newcastle –under-Lyme Borough Council, Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council.

There was a need to work with public transport operators.

A response had been received from Therese Coffey MP which stated that it had been recognised that local authorities wanted to see a highways and transport solution to the problem and not Clean Air Zones.

The Leader proposed two additional recommendations, (ii) and (iii) which were agreed by Members.

Councillor Sweeney referred to the Taxi Policy for this Authority which had recently been considered which had agreed to bring the age of taxis in line with Stoke on Trent – keeping older vehicles on the road.

Councillor Holland said that it was important that we did what we could to improve air quality within the Borough.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That Paul Farrelly MP be asked to continue to raise issues related to a Clean Air Zone both inside and outside of Parliament.
 - (iii) That the Leader of the Council report back to the next meeting of the Cabinet, with the results of meetings held with the Leaders of Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council.

7. NEWCASTLE HOUSING ADVICE SERVICE CONTRACT

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg introduced this item on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Jill Waring.

A report was submitted to Cabinet setting out the options available for the provision of the Council's statutory homelessness, housing advice and housing register services for April 2020 onwards when the current extended contract expires.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) Service Contract for a 3 year contract be retendered with an option to extend for a further 3 years subject to satisfactory performance and funding.
 - (ii) That Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) and Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to finalise the specification/service outline, undertake the tendering process, if required to complete any post tender negotiations and award the contract to the successful contractor.
 - (iii) That the requirement of the successful contractor to work with the Council to develop the service delivery in future years of the contract be supported.

- (iv) That the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) and Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency be authorised to assess the procurement options linked to the delivery of a Choice Based Lettings IT software and associated Homeless Prevention module, and should this be required that they have the authority to finalise the specification/service outline, undertake the tendering process, if required to complete any post tender negotiations and award the contract to the successful IT contractor.

8. FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the items contained within the Forward Plan prior to its publication.

Resolved: That the Forward Plan, along with the tabled amendment, be received.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business.

10. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2, and 3 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

11. JUBILEE2 UPDATE - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

Consideration was given to the confidential appendix.

Resolved: That the recommendation, contained within the confidential appendix be agreed.

12. 20 SIDMOUTH AVENUE, NEWCASTLE - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES

Consideration was given to the confidential appendix.

Resolved: That the information, contained within the confidential appendix be received.

COUNCILLOR SIMON TAGG
Chair

Meeting concluded at 2.35 pm