

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**29<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

244. **Present:** Councillors Houghton (Chairman), Andrews, Tim Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb, Miller and Morgan (for Platts).

Councillors Karen Dyson, Franklin, Mitchell, Richardson, Margaret Sheard and Tom Sheard were also in attendance.

245. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

246. **Leader of the Council - Call-In of Cabinet Decisions**

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 had been called-in.

247. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 (Cab.29.1.2014/3)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

248. **Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.29.1.2014/4)**

It was reported that no decisions had been received.

249. **Petitions Received Under Standing Order 44 (Cab.29.1.2014/5)**

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

250. **Cabinet Support Member for Adults and Communities Spokesperson – Consultation Report – Proposed Temporary Re-location of Central Library to Wellington House (Cab.29.1.2014/6)**

The Adults and Communities Cabinet Support Member introduced a report on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed permanent cessation of library provision on Shambles Street, Barnsley, and proposed temporary re-location of the Central Library to Wellington House, Barnsley.

Before the presentation of the report, the Leader of the Council invited Jen Kiernan and David Brannan to make statements to Cabinet on the proposals.

Jen Kiernan set out her opposition to the proposed re-location of the Central Library to Wellington House and the demolition of the existing building. She noted the petition of 13,000 signatures opposing demolition and commented that the outcome of the formal consultation did not demonstrate support for the proposal. She noted

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that she was unaware of any public demand for the library to be re-located and she did not consider expenditure on the re-location of the library to be a priority for Council resources. In terms of the location of the new Sixth Form College, she noted that other sites had been considered and were available to make this provision and that that area of Shambles Street could be regenerated without the demolition of the Central Library building, perhaps by provision of additional car parking which would also generate income to the Council.

David Brannan commented that he had originally opposed the demolition of the Central Library, but without much consideration of the wider issues. He noted how the new College building on Church Street had improved the learning environment for Barnsley's young people, and considered that the new Sixth Form provision in the Town Centre could do the same. The proposal for Shambles Street presented an opportunity to make improved Sixth Form provision but also to respond to a wider agenda about the economic regeneration of the Town. He acknowledged that this would result in some disruption for library users in the interim period whilst the services were transferred to Wellington House, but he considered that an excellent library service would still be provided in those premises.

The Adults and Communities Cabinet Support Member presented the report, outlining the public consultation process that had been undertaken in respect of the proposed re-location of the Central Library. This highlighted the formal consultation, but also details of the petitions that had been received. The key issues raised in the consultation were about accessibility by public transport and car parking arrangements, as well as the range and level of service that would be provided at any new facility. The Cabinet Support Member went on to note that the report highlighted specific measures that would be taken to address issues of car parking and public transport and emphasised that the service offer from Wellington House would be practically the same as that currently offered at Shambles Street. Concerns about the interim period of up to 6 weeks whilst the Central Library was moved was acknowledged and the meeting noted that measures were under consideration to mitigate this, by greater use of the mobile library service and the possibility of using the library facilities at Barnsley College.

Members discussed the points raised by the report and the comments made by Jen Kiernan and David Brannan. Members noted that they would similarly oppose the proposals to demolish the Central Library at Shambles Street if it was not also proposed to re-locate the provision to Wellington House temporarily prior to the construction over the next 2-3 years of a new purpose built Central Library in the Town Centre. Comments made by service users in the consultation and in the petitions received, expressing their fear about the future of the library service, were not considered to be borne out by the Council's track record in protecting library services over the past 4 years, in the context of what had happened elsewhere in the country. Members also needed to take into account the wider economic factors associated with the opportunity to deal with the regeneration of the Shambles Street area, bearing in mind that attempts to market the site adjacent to the Library over the past 10 years had not met with any great success. The proposal to construct a new Sixth Form College on the site presented an opportunity to regenerate that area, which had the support of many businesses on Shambles Street.

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- (i) that the consultation findings on the proposed temporary relocation of the Central Library to Wellington House, as set out in the report now submitted, be received and noted;
- (ii) that the proposed mitigations from the key impacts identified in the consultations be noted;
- (iii) that the potential relocation of the Central Library, on the basis of the analysis of the issues arising from the consultation and the implications of any relocation referred to in section 3 of the report now submitted, including the impact if the core proposal is not supported, be noted; and
- (iv) that, in light of the findings from the formal consultation (and broader responses) Option 2 detailed in the report be progressed, which is to proceed with the relocation of Central Library, on a temporary basis to Wellington House, pending building a new purpose built Library in the Town Centre; which will also support the development of a Sixth Form College on Shambles Street and investment in the development of the Town Centre.

**251. Development, Environment and Culture Spokesperson – Barnsley Town Centre Regeneration – The Way Forward (Cab.29.1.2014/7)****RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL ON 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014:-**

- (i) that the proposal for the Council to work jointly with key stakeholders to advance the development proposal for the Town Centre, as detailed in the report now submitted, and incorporating the construction of a new Central Library, be endorsed and a further report be brought to Cabinet in July, 2014;
- (ii) that approval be given to the earmarking at this stage of £35m, within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for securing the enhancement and revitalisation of the Town Centre, and a further detailed report be brought to Cabinet on the use of these resources; and
- (iii) that the Interim Executive Director, Development, Environment and Culture and the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Governance serve notice to terminate the current contractual arrangement with 1249 Regeneration Partnership, as contained within the revised Development Agreement of 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

**252. Corporate Services Spokesperson – Proposed Extension to Wombwell Library (Cab.29.1.2014/8.1)****RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Head of Strategic Property and Procurement, in consultation with the Corporate Services Cabinet Spokesperson, be authorised to accept a tender

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from Sanderson Building Services Limited for the construction of an extension to Wombwell Library, as detailed in the report now submitted;

- (ii) that the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Governance be authorised to enter into all necessary agreements and contract documentation with the successful tenderer; and
- (iii) that the financial implications, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

253. **Corporate Services Spokesperson – Corporate Finance Summary – Month Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 (Cab.29.1.2014/8.2)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the update on the Authority's 2013/14 budget and Key Lines of Enquiry position for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013, as detailed in the Corporate Finance Summary now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that the budget virements as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the forecast outturn, including the latest position on the 2013/14 KLOE contained within the report, be reviewed within the context of the recently updated Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (iv) that approval be given to write off bad debts totalling £227,612 relating to uncollectable income, as detailed in paragraph 5.10 of the report;
- (v) that a further report be submitted to Cabinet detailing the implementation plan required to mitigate the cost pressures relating to Children in Care; and
- (vi) that Executive Directors report to Cabinet on any other adverse budgetary or performance issues.

254. **Corporate Services Spokesperson – Capital Programme Update 2013/14 – 2015/16 for the Quarter Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 (Cab.29.1.2014/8.3)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the position on the 2013/14 – 2015/16 Capital Programme, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that the variation in scheme costs requiring approval as shown in Table 1, of the report now submitted, amounting to an increase of £1.3m, be approved;
- (iii) that Executive Directors be required to report into Cabinet separately on major capital projects anticipated to exceed budgeted resources; and
- (iv) that the budget virement of £0.150m, as identified at paragraph 4.30 of the report, be approved.

**CABINET****29<sup>th</sup> January, 2014****255. Corporate Services Spokesperson – Treasury Management Activities and Investment Performance Report for the Quarter Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 (Cab.29.1.2014/8.4)****RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the Treasury Management activities undertaken for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that the debt management activity during the quarter be noted; and
- (iii) that the performance of the Authority's investments during the quarter be noted.

**256. Corporate Services Spokesperson – Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes – Former Secondary and Primary School Sites (Cab.29.1.2014/8.5)****RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that approval be given for the appropriation, for planning purposes pursuant to Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972, to facilitate the disposal of and subsequent development of land which was previously occupied by now demolished former secondary schools;
- (ii) that the Head of Strategic Property and Procurement be authorised to appropriate the sites from Children, Young People and Families Directorate, as they are no longer used for school sites to the Development Directorate for planning purposes, in accordance with the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (iii) that the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Governance be authorised to take all reasonable steps to secure the removal by agreement if possible of any existing rights which could prevent the sites from being developed in the future.

**257. Corporate Services Spokesperson – Industrial Portfolio Improvement Works (Cab.29.1.2014/8.6)****RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that approval be given for the Head of Strategic Property and Procurement to invite tenders for the proposed essential and improvement works to the Council's Industrial Units at Grange Lane (Units 1-28), Wharncliffe and Platts Common, as detailed in the report now submitted;
- (ii) that the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Governance be authorised to enter into all necessary agreements and contract documentation with the successful tenderer/s; and

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- (iii) that the financial implications, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

258. **Cabinet Support Member for Adults and Communities Spokesperson – Barnsley Local Welfare Assistance Policy and Food Ladder (Cab.29.1.2014/9)**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the revised Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) Policy, based on the review of the last six months operation, as detailed in Appendix B of the report now submitted, be approved;
- (ii) that the ongoing development of the ‘hub and spoke’ model of Foodbanks across the Borough, be supported;
- (iii) that the development of the ‘Food Ladder’ approach across Barnsley, including the development of the Community Shop, be supported; and
- (iv) that the responsibility for overseeing the operational development of the scheme be delegated to the Anti-Poverty Board.

259. **Children, Young People and Families Spokesperson – Barnsley Children and Young People’s Plan (2013-16) (Cab.29.1.2014/10)**

**RESOLVED** that approval be given for the publication of the Barnsley Children and Young People’s Plan (2013-16) via the Council’s website, and that the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families be authorised to make any appropriate adjustments to finalise the Plan.

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Chairman