

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd December, 2014

137. **Present:** Councillors Houghton (Chairman), Andrews, Bruff, Dures (for Tim Cheetham), Gardiner, Howard, Miller and Platts.
- Councillors Franklin, Mitchell, Morgan, M. Sheard and T. Sheard were also in attendance.
138. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
- There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interests.
139. **Leader of the Council - Call-In of Cabinet Decisions**
- The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 19th November, 2014 had been called-in.
140. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November, 2014 (Cab.3.12.2014/3)**
- The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November, 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
141. **Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.3.12.2014/4)**
- The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 28th November, 2014 were noted.
142. **Petitions Received Under Standing Order 44 (Cab.3.12.2014/5)**
- It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.
143. **Corporate Services Spokesperson – Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Report 2013/14 (Cab.3.12.2014/6.1)**
- RESOLVED** that the Authority's Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience performance for 2013/14, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted and that continuous efforts be made to improve upon performance in this area.
144. **Corporate Services Spokesperson – Strategic Reserves – Strategy for Use 2015-18 (Cab.3.12.2014/6.2)**
- The Corporate Services Spokesperson introduced a report setting out the reserves available over the forthcoming planning period 2015-18 and to consider the appropriate use of these to provide adequate and prudent mitigation against future risks/unquantified pressures and support delivery of key priority investment.

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To assist Members in taking a decision on the proposed Strategy and subsequent investments, and in accordance with the requirements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Director of Finance, Property and Information Services provided advice on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and details of the adequacy of the reserves the budget will provide.

In addition, as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code, advice was provided on the affordability and prudence of capital investment, given its impact on the revenue budget.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that having reviewed the potential calls on reserves over the planning period and mitigations required at this stage, it be noted that the Director of Finance, Property and Information Services considers that the level of reserves of £26.1m to be earmarked for these to be adequate;
- (ii) that it be noted that the Director of Finance, Property and Information Services, considers that the resources currently available of £6.1m and additional prudentially borrowing of £15m already built into the budget forecast for the planning period, may be considered by Members to support priority investment requirements;
- (iii) that it be noted that the use of prudential borrowing in 2017/18 may however need to be reconsidered as part of the Service and Financial Planning process to bridge the estimated £12m gap forecast for that year;
- (iv) that approval be given to the above Strategy, whilst being mindful of the shortfall of capital resources in 2017/18 of £3.4m and note that the Director of Finance, Property and Information Services considers this to be a prudent approach, subject to a review of the delivery of capital receipts/NHB in 2015/16 and 2016/17; and
- (v) that, it be noted that the Director of Finance, Property and Information Services' assurance had been provided on the basis that the additional investment requested for both the Jobs and Business Growth Plan and the Town Centre are agreed to be earmarked from strategic reserves/prudential borrowing, but on the basis that only additional 2015/16 expenditure be released at this stage. The release of further funding would be subject to appropriate detailed reports on the schemes and an annual review of Strategic Reserves.

145. **Place Spokesperson – Jobs and Business Growth Plan – Additional Funding Requirements (Cab.3.12.2014/7.1)**

The Place Spokesperson presented a report seeking approval for additional financial resources to deliver projects and schemes included within the Jobs and Business Growth Plan now submitted.

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It was noted that the report contained proposals that fall outside the policy and budget framework and would, under normal circumstances require Council approval. However, there was a need to commit to the expenditure outlined in the report before the next Council meeting in February, otherwise this would result in significant delays to the implementation of the Plans. It was therefore proposed that Cabinet use its urgent action powers under paragraph B6(iii) of the Council's executive arrangements to approve the report and expedite the implementation of the proposals.

In accordance with the procedures set down in the Council's Constitution, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been consulted and had agreed for Cabinet to exercise its urgent action powers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in the delivery of the Jobs and Business Plan and associated economic strategy budget original allocation, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that agreement be given for the virement between the original scheme budgets as identified at Appendix A of the report;
- (iii) that approval be given for the earmarking of the additional resources of £7.8m from strategic resources/prudential borrowing, as identified in Appendix C to the report now submitted, and agree to include these schemes in the capital programme, as appropriate, and release the additional costs in 2014/15 and 2015/16 of £3.253m at this stage, subject to a further report on the Property Investment Fund outlining specific proposals on schemes for investment;
- (iv) that release of the remaining resources be subject to further reports on the overall position on reserves during 2015/16; and
- (v) that in the exercise of the powers delegated to Cabinet under paragraph B6(iii) of the functions of the Executive contained in the Council's Constitution to vary the approved Policy and Budget Framework of the Authority, the proposed virements and earmarkings be approved and the approved capital programme be amended to reflect the revised spending plans and funding identified at Appendix A of the report.

146. Place Spokesperson – Town Centre Regeneration (Cab.3.12.2014/7.2)

The Place Spokesperson presented a report seeking approval of the Better Barnsley Town Centre Prospectus and to the earmarking of strategic reserves to deliver the Scheme.

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It was noted that the report contained proposals that fall outside the policy and budget framework and would, under normal circumstances require Council approval. However, there was a need to commit to the expenditure outlined in the report before the next Council meeting in February, otherwise this would result in significant delays to the implementation of the Plans. It was therefore proposed that Cabinet use its urgent action powers under paragraph B6(iii) of the Council's executive arrangements to approve the report and expedite the implementation of the proposals.

In accordance with the procedures set down in the Council's Constitution, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been consulted and had agreed for Cabinet to exercise its urgent action powers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Better Barnsley Town Centre Prospectus, attached to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (ii) that, subject to agreeing appropriate terms, the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to complete all necessary legal documentation for the proposed demolition of properties acquisitions, wayleaves, notices, rights of way etc subject to planning consents being obtained;
- (iii) that the procurement of a construction partner be approved and that further reports be submitted as appropriate in respect of the appointment of the construction partner and the implementation of specific contract packages under the construction partnering contract in relation to discrete elements of the scheme;
- (iv) that agreement be given to the earmarking of a further £15m of strategic reserves at this stage to deliver the scheme, the release of which will be subject to further reports to Cabinet; and
- (v) that in the exercise of the powers delegated to Cabinet under paragraph B6(iii) of the functions of the Executive contained in the Council's Constitution to vary the approved Policy and Budget Framework of the Authority, the proposed earmarking be approved and the approved capital programme be amended to reflect the revised spending plans and funding as outlined within Appendix A of the report.

147. **Communities Spokesperson – Establishment of the Independent Living at Home Service Limited (Cab.3.12.2014/8)**

This report was withdrawn.

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148. **People (Safeguarding) Spokesperson – Review of Policy and Scheme for the Payment of Fostering Allowances (Cab.3.12.2014/9)**

The People (Safeguarding) Spokesperson presented a report setting out of the outcomes of the review of current fees and allowances for foster carers in Barnsley. She referred to the addendum to the report now circulated setting out details of the outcome of the consultation with foster carers.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the outcome of the consultation with foster carers, as detailed in the addendum to the report now submitted, be noted; and
- (ii) that approval be given to the implementation of the amended policy and scheme of fees and allowances for the Payment of Fostering Allowances, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report now submitted.

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Chairman