

Report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet

Meeting held on 27 September 2017

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main items of business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27 September 2017.

Cabinet – 27 September 2017

1. Knowle Green and Centres cleaning contract – Key Decision

- 1.1 We considered a report on the Knowle Green and Centres cleaning contract
- 1.2 We agreed to:
 - 1. Authorise the Group Head Regeneration and Growth to determine the cleaning contractor to be appointed (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development and the Chief Finance Officer) and
 - 2. Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into the legal documentation in order to appoint the new cleaning contractor.

2. Housing Allocation Policy- Key Decision

- 2.1 We considered a report on the Spelthorne Housing Allocation Policy.
- 2.2 We agreed:
 - 1. To approve the updated Spelthorne Housing Allocation Policy;
 - 2. That the Portfolio Holder in conjunction with the joint Group Heads for Community Wellbeing be given authority to approve amendments to the policy due to the forthcoming changes in legislation/case law and the changing needs of the community; and
 - 3. To approve the Equality Analysis for the Policy.

3. Grounds maintenance vehicles

- 3.1 We considered a report on the purchase of grounds maintenance machinery and vehicles.
- 3.2 We agreed to authorise the Group Head (Neighbourhood Services) to make a direct award to Supplier A outside of the framework tender.

4. Disabled Facilities Grant Policy

- 4.1 We considered a report seeking approval for the adoption of a Disabled Facilities Grant Policy.
- 4.2 We agreed the new Disabled Facilities Grant Policy.

5. Benwell House Construction Budget Approval – Key Decision

- 5.1 We considered an exempt report on the approval of the construction budget for Benwell House.
- 5.2 We agreed to:
 - 1. Approve the construction and refurbishment budget for the creation of a target of 69 new flats at Benwell House;
 - 2. Authorise the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth to oversee the implementation of the budget;
 - 3. Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to decide (i) the most financially advantageous funding arrangements for the capital expenditure, (ii) the most tax efficient method of holding the completed asset and overall to ensure the acquisition is prudentially affordable;
 - 4. Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to implement the refurbishment and construction project; and
 - 5. Agree to exempt Contract Standing Orders in respect of advisors where appropriate.

6. Acquisition of assets for investment

- 6.1 We considered two exempt reports on opportunities to acquire assets which due to their location would each be of strategic value to the Council in the short/medium term.
- 6.2 We approved the acquisition of the assets and gave authority to:
 - 1. the Chief Executive to undertake any necessary subsequent negotiations (including further bids if required) and complete the acquisition of the asset (in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance);
 - 2. the Chief Finance Officer to decide (i) the most financially advantageous funding arrangements for the purchases, (ii) the most tax efficient methods of holding the assets, and overall to ensure the acquisitions are prudentially affordable; and
 - 3. the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire the assets.

Councillor Ian Harvey

Leader of the Council

19 October 2017