

**PUBLIC  
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ITEM No. 10**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**4 June 2014**

**REPORT FROM CABINET**

**Purpose of the Report**

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet at meetings held on 15 April and 6 May 2014 and to enable Members to ask related questions.

Members may submit questions on the report to the Director of Legal Services by 12 noon on 3 June 2014.

**Information and Analysis**

**15 April 2014**

**1. NEW HEANOR LIBRARY (Health and Communities)**

Cabinet considered a joint report of the Strategic Director – Health and Communities and the Director of Property on the planned closure of Heanor Library, the options available to provide a new public library in Heanor and the nature of the alternative library provision to be provided during the period of the closure.

**Decision**

Cabinet approved (1) the demolition of the existing Heanor Library at Ilkeston Road, Heanor; (2) the provision of a new library and car park on part of the existing library site at Ilkeston Road, Heanor; (3) the expenditure of £100,000 (2013/2014 Matlock Library Capital Programme budget), £525,000 (unspent Capital Contingency allocations from 2010/2011 and 2011/2012), £267,500 (2004/2005 Belper Library Capital Programme allocation) to fund the demolition of the existing Library and the erection and fit out of a new library; (4) a temporary library being established in a vacant shop unit to be leased in Heanor town centre under terms and conditions to be approved by the Cabinet Member - Council Services; (5) the part of the site not required for provision of the replacement library being declared surplus to the Council's requirements; and (6) the use of the surplus land be reviewed by the Director of Property.

## 2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ABUSE STAFF SURVEY (Improvement and Scrutiny)

The Chair of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places presented the findings of a survey of County Council staff on domestic violence/abuse and requested that Cabinet accept its recommendations.

### **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the outcomes of the staff survey on domestic violence/abuse undertaken by the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places; (2) supported the recommendations of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places in providing services for its employees; and (3) endorsed the outcomes of the survey being shared with partners and other organisations, such as the local District and Borough Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## 3. “EVERY CHILD A TALKER” (Children and Young People)

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults informed Cabinet of the Every Child a Talker Programme (ECaT) currently funded through the County Council to 31 December 2014 and of the ECaT Sustainability Strategy adopted by the Derbyshire Children’s Trust on 14 November 2013. Approval was also sought to commission, on behalf of the Derbyshire Schools Forum, ECaT speech and language therapy services for a maximum of four years and at an annual cost not exceeding £37,000.

### **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the impact of the ECaT and Talkboost programmes to date; and (2) approved the commissioning of a speech and language therapy service on behalf of the Schools’ Forum for a maximum of four years at an annual cost not exceeding £37,000. The contract would be renewable on an annual basis informed by the Schools’ Forum, committing on an annual basis to the funding of the ECaT Sustainability Strategy.

## 4. CREATION OF EARMARKED RESERVES (Children and Younger Adults)

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults sought approval to (1) transfer unused allocated grant intended for the implementation of Support and Aspiration to an earmarked reserve for use for this purpose in 2014/15; (2) set aside resources to cover the cost of the demolition of the former Tibshelf School; and (3) transfer the balance of the 2013/14 allocation for schools causing concern to an earmarked reserve for use in 2014/15.

## **Decision**

Cabinet approved the creation of the three earmarked reserves as detailed in the report.

### **6 May 2014**

#### **5. EXTRA CARE (Adult Social Care)**

The Acting Strategic Director – Adult Care advised Cabinet of decision made by the Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care for the early termination of the Housing 21 extra care contract for future Phase 2 extra care sites and to agree the actions to be taken to review the appropriate balance of accommodation and support to meet the needs of older people in Derbyshire. Cabinet agreed to the consideration of the report as an urgent item as a result of the timing of the decision made by the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care on 28 April 2014 which addressed the consequences of Housing 21's decision to withdraw from the extra care contract.

## **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the decision taken by the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care to agree to the early termination of the contract with Housing 21 for Phase 2 extra care sites; (2) agreed that public engagement be carried out to get the views of local people across Derbyshire on what they would like to see in their areas; and (3) noted that there would be a further report to Cabinet following the public engagement.

#### **6. CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES (Children and Younger Adults)**

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults sought Cabinet approval for a review of Children's Centre services, which could potentially result in the closure of some Centres and agreement to the methodology and timetable for the review. In particular, was sought to consult on (a) options for reducing the Children's Centre budget; and (b) criteria that would be applied to identify Children's Centres for more in-depth impact assessment work. The review would inform further work to develop a long-term model for the delivery of Children's Centre services in Derbyshire, in order to maximise their impact and effectiveness. Any future proposal to close one or more Children's Centres would require full consultation in accordance with the specific legal requirements set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and associated guidance.

## **Decision**

Cabinet approved (1) that a review of Children's Centres services be undertaken which could potentially result in the closure of some Centres; and (2) the proposed methodology and timetable for the review including a period of initial consultation on (a) the options for reducing the Children's Centre budget; and (b) the criteria that would be applied to identify Children's Centres for more in-depth impact assessment work.

### **7. REDUCING SMOKING IN PREGNANCY: RESULTS OF A PILOT STUDY (Health and Communities)**

The Director of Public Health requested Cabinet to consider the results of a research study in Chesterfield that tested the impact of a financial incentive scheme to help pregnant women who smoke to quit.

## **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the results of a Chesterfield based Public Health research study which had local, national and international significance that tested the impact of a financial incentive scheme to help pregnant women who smoke to quit; and (2) agreed the future development of the service as detailed in the report.

### **8. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL TRUST JOINT WORKING AT ELVASTON CASTLE AND COUNTRY PARK (Council Services)**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Property seeking approval to implement the recommendations of the Elvaston Castle and Country Park Working Party regarding a proposed extension to the joint working between the Council and the National Trust, and to update Cabinet on the consultation process on the associated draft ten year "Vision and Plan"

## **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the range and depth of consultation to date on the draft 10 year Vision and Plan and the themes that had emerged; (2) noted the proposal to bring the finalised Vision and Plan to Cabinet for approval in June 2014 following consideration of the consultation feedback; (3) approved the allocation of £80,000 from General Reserves for 2014/15 to fund an extension to the joint working with the National Trust; and (4) agreed to waive Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts to enable the joint working arrangements with the National Trust to be extended to February 2015.

9. URGENT REPAIRS TO ROADS AND FOOTWAYS (Jobs, Economy and Transport)

The Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment sought approval to extend the hire of the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher specialist machinery to repair potholes.

**Decision**

Cabinet (1) approved the expenditure to be incurred for the continued hire of the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher specialist highway repairs machinery to a value of £500,000; (2) approved the waiving of Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts to enable the Jetpatcher/Velocity Patcher machinery to be hired from specialist suppliers for a further ten weeks; (3) noted that the cost of the hire of the machines would be funded from the £2,946,577 allocation under the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme; and (4) agreed that Call-in be waived in respect the above decisions.

10. GULLY CLEANSING CONTRACTS – AMBER VALLEY, BOLSOVER AND EREWASH DISTRICTS (Jobs, Economy and Transport)

The Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment sought approval to carry out a procurement exercise for the provision of cyclic gully cleansing operations in Amber Valley, Bolsover and Erewash districts.

**Decision**

Cabinet approved the procurement exercise to be carried out for the gully cleansing service in Amber valley, Bolsover and Erewash districts for a further two years on an annual basis.

11. DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN DERBYSHIRE (Health and Communities)

The Director of Public Health updated Cabinet on Local Authority responsibilities for dental public health and made recommendations for on-going funding, contracting and commissioning arrangements.

**Decision**

Cabinet agreed (1) the proposed arrangement that Derbyshire County Council undertake to commission oral health promotion services for both Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council; (2) to continue the current contractual and funding arrangements within the Salaried Dental Service Contract held by the Area Team, and establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team to commission this service on behalf of Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council until 2017; (3) to remove oral health promotion from the PDS contract and Derbyshire County to directly commission this service across Derby City and County when the current Salaried Primary Dental Service

contract comes up for tender in 2017; (4) to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team to continue to commission and fund the Field Epidemiology service on behalf of Derbyshire County Council; (5) to continue current funding arrangements for the cost of the Regional Dental Epidemiology Co-ordinator and Trainer and establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team to commission this service on behalf of Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council; and (6) to approve funding arrangements for Derbyshire's water fluoridation revenue costs.

## **12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF STAIR LIFTS AND OTHER PROPERTY ADAPTATIONS (Adult Social Care)**

The Acting Strategic Director – Adult Care requested approval to renew the Council's membership of the Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) to permit the Council to use the NHC Framework Agreement for the provision of stair lifts and other property adaptations.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved the renewing of the membership of NHC for a period of four years from 1 July 2014 to allow Adult Care to use the Framework for the provision of stair lifts and other property adaptations.

## **13. CAPITAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS (Children and Young People)**

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults sought approval to the upgrading of one school kitchen and the purchase of required heavy and light equipment to the 2014/15 Capital Programme, to meet the extra demands on the service which would result from the introduction of the Universal Free School Meal for all Key Stage 1 pupils from September 2014.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved the capital expenditure on kitchen equipment and the upgrade of Heath School kitchen at a cost of £1,081,052 utilised from the Capital Grant Funding and that this be added to the 2014/15 Capital Programme.

## **14. CHANGES TO POLICY FOR HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN OF SIXTH FORM AND PRE-SCHOOL AGE AND YOUNG ADULTS SUBJECT TO A LEARNING DIFFICULTY ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION (Children and Young People)**

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults sought approval for changes to Derbyshire County Council's provision of home to school transport for children of sixth form and young adults who were subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment and also for the current provision of home to

school transport for pre-school age children with special educational needs (SEN) to remain unchanged.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved that (1) travel assistance be provided in exceptional circumstances for SEN pre-school age children and that no contribution be charged for this; (2) the proposals to charge sixth form age learners with SEN a contribution towards transport assistance and that this amount should be the same as other learners of this age (currently £349 per year) and students who were on a low income should pay a contribution of £233; a reduction of a third; (3) from September 2014, only students aged 19-24 where the Council had arranged a learning difficulty assessment would be considered for transport assistance, and free transport assistance to facilitate college attendance would be given only where, in the view of the Council, it was necessary; and (4) that the Independent Travel Training Scheme be considered for each student as part of the learning difficulties assessment.

### **15. SCHOOL FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT (Children and Young People)**

The Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults informed Cabinet of the details of the recent announcement in respect of schools' funding for 2015-16 and to seek approval to consult schools and the Schools Forum on options to distribute the additional resources.

### **Decision**

Cabinet (1) noted the proposed increase in DSG funding for 2015/16; (2) agreed to consult schools and the Schools Forum on the allocation of the increased funding as set out in the report; and (3) agreed to receive a further report in the summer on the outcome of the consultation.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - equality of opportunity; environmental, health; financial, human resources; legal and human rights; prevention of crime & disorder, property and transport considerations.

### **Background Papers**

Cabinet papers – 15 April and 6 May 2014.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be noted.

**Councillor A Western  
Leader of the Council**