

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2018 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - WILTSHIRE COUNCIL OFFICES, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE (Chairman), Cllr John Thomson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead and Cllr Jerry Wickham

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Deborah Halik, Cllr Darren Henry, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Brian Mathew, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill

283 Apologies

There were no apologies received as all members of the Cabinet were present.

284 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018, were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018.

285 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

286 Leader's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader.

287 Public participation and Questions from Councillors

The Leader reminded those present of the process for public participation at meetings.

1. Colin Gale asked a number of questions and made a number of comments regarding the Everleigh Household Recycling Centre on behalf of Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Pewsey Parish Council (PPC). Responses had been previously circulated.

Mr Gale then asked a number of supplementary questions on the same matter. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste responded to a number of these questions in the meeting and agreed to have a full set of responses sent to Mr Gale.

2. Charmian Spickernell, local resident of the Pewsey area, made a number of comments about the Everleigh Household Recycling Centre.

288 **Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption**

Councillor Laura Mayes presented the report seeking endorsement from Cabinet for the proposed exemption of Wiltshire Care Leavers from Council Tax.

Councillor Mayes reported that following the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Council's duties and responsibilities to care leavers had been extended. Included in the Act was a requirement to publish a Local Offer for care leavers, providing information about services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living. Following broad consultation and analysis of local need a draft Local Offer has been prepared, and the Council planned to publish this ahead of National Care Leaver Week beginning on 22nd October 2018. Of the 215 care leavers, 40 would be liable to pay council tax.

The Cabinet noted that The Local Offer had been scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Panel, a Rapid Scrutiny Working Group and Children's Select Committee, who have endorsed the core elements included in the Offer.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Ruth Hopkinson, about the number of care leavers housed outside of Wiltshire and whether they would also be included in the arrangements, Councillor Mayes confirmed that they would be included in the Offer.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Philip Whitehead, reported that the total cost of the scheme would be in the region of £60,000 and shared by the Council, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire and Dorset Fire and Rescue Authority. He confirmed that the Council's share would be absorbed within the Collection Fund, and the other two major precepting authorities detailed above had accepted their share of the cost.

Recommended to Full Council:

That Wiltshire Council Care Leavers are exempted from Council Tax, to include care leavers whom live within and outside the Wiltshire Council boundary, as set out in appendix B to the report.

Reason for Decision:

This proposal will assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living and thus support us in delivering our statutory duties.

289 **Consultation on the future of Everleigh Household Recycling Centre**

Councillor Bridget Wayman presented the report which provided an update to Cabinet on the results of the public consultation into the future of Everleigh Household Recycling Centre (HRC) in light of the proposal to close the site to avoid capital investment and save the operating costs of keeping this facility open.

Councillor Wayman reported that Everleigh HRC is one of a network of eleven HRC's across Wiltshire operated under contracts with the council. The council, including the waste service, has challenging financial savings targets to achieve for 2018-19 and beyond and site survey results show that Everleigh HRC required capital investment in order to continue to remain open. The HRC has fewer users than the other sites and collects less waste and recycling as a consequence.

The Cabinet noted that a public consultation was undertaken between June and September 2018, where residents were invited to comment on a proposal to close the site and identify the implications this might have. A good response was received with a large majority in favour of retaining the HRC at Everleigh. Many of the responses referred to loss of convenience if the site was closed and expressed concern about the risk of an increase in fly tipping.

Councillor Wayman explained that the impacts of closing Everleigh HRC were not sufficient to justify the capital investment required and the loss of the opportunity for revenue savings which the service and council needed to find. Reference was made to the guidance from the Waste Resources Action Programme about the number of HRC's that should be provided for a given number of residents and the location of these centres in relation to residential developments. It was noted that, if Everleigh HRC was closed, residents would be able to access sites at Marlborough, Devizes or Amesbury within the timescales stated in the guidelines, subject to any traffic delays.

The Leader welcomed the following residents and thanked them for their comments and questions:

- Colin Gale, local resident representing Pewsey Community Area Partnership, Campaign to Protect Rural England and Pewsey Parish Council.

- Curly Haskell, local resident and Chair of Pewsey Parish Council
- Charmian Spickernell, local resident and Campaign to Protect Rural England
- John Forder, local resident

The Leader referred to the comments in a letter received from Tidworth Town Council expressing concern about the proposed closure of the Everleigh HRC.

Councillors Jerry Kunckler, Stuart Wheeler, local members, commented on: the outstanding work undertaken and meetings attended over many months by Colin Gale on behalf of local residents and organisations in the Pewsey area; historical background of the HRC; outcomes of the consultation; the location of the site and convenience to residents; the ability of residents to travel to other sites further afield; potential for the Ministry of Defence using the site; including commercial waste in the sites waste streams; potential for mothballing the site; the impact on other council services if the site remained open; the preservation of services within financial constraints; increasing the opening times of other local sites; and recent increase in usage of the site. In addition, the contents of a letter from Councillor Paul Oatway QPM were read out at the meeting.

In response to a series of questions and comments from Councillors Jerry Kunckler, Stuart Wheeler, as detailed above, and Councillors Ian Blair-Pilling Brian Mathew, Alan Hill, Ruth Hopkinson, Toby Sturgis, Jerry Wickham and Philip Whitehead, Councillor Wayman stated: all options to retain the centre at Everleigh and undertake necessary repairs had been considered; that robust measures were being taken by the Council in tackling fly-tipping, and referred to a recent prosecution of a persistent fly-tipper who received a prison sentence for their fly-tipping activities; repairs to the HRC in Salisbury; as a consequence of demographics and the geographical positioning of towns and villages in Wiltshire, a large number of residents living in rural areas travelled longer distances to their local HRC's; financial savings within the revenue budget; the recent increase in number of recyclable materials collected from households, therefore, potentially reducing the demand for journeys to HRC's; and, the comments received as a result of the consultation feedback, along with the preferences of the local community.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, who: offered to include a review of the way the Council undertakes consultations and assesses the results to assist policy development in the Management Committee Forward Work Plan; and read out a letter from Councillor Sven Hocking, Chairman of the Waste Contracts Task Group.

Resolved:

- i) **To note the results of the public consultation undertaken on the proposal to close Everleigh HRC**
- ii) **Approves the closure of Everleigh HRC as proposed.**

Reason for Decision:

1. *The proposed option generates the combination of the greatest annual revenue saving coupled with avoidance of additional in-year capital spend.*
2. *Although the consultation responses show high local opposition to the proposal, the risks of not taking the proposed action are greater than those associated with closing Everleigh HRC.*

290 **Microsoft Contract and Digital Update**

Councillor Philip Whitehead presented the report which provided an update to Cabinet on the Cloud Navigator Programme proposal and decision made to enter into the contract with both Microsoft and Thoughtonomy.

Councillor Whitehead highlighted that The Microsoft Cloud Navigator programme would deliver a suite of interdependent digital initiatives that would be developed and enhanced to achieve both short and long term outcomes of the Councils digital strategy and the over-arching business plan. Details of how the programme would enable the Council to achieve these outcomes were detailed in the report.

Resolved: To note that:

- i) The Council entered into the G-Cloud 9 Call-Off Contract with the supplier Microsoft Limited (MCS – Public Sector) on 29 June 2018.**
- ii) The Council entered into the G-Cloud 9 Call-Off Contract with the supplier Thoughtonomy Limited on 29 June 2018.**
- iii) The decision to enter into the contracts was made by the Corporate Director for Communities, Resources and Digital after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement, ICT and Operational Assets, Corporate Director for Growth, Investment and Place, Corporate Director for Children and Education and the Director of Finance and Procurement.**
- iv) The progress of the Microsoft Navigator programme.**

Reason for Decision:

The provide an update on the Cloud Navigator Programme proposal and decision made to enter into the contract with both Microsoft and Thoughtonomy

291 **Housing Revenue Account Additional Borrowing Programme**

Councillor Richard Clewer presented the report seeking Cabinet endorsement of the bid submitted to Homes England for HRA Borrowing approval and for Homes England grant funding. A successful bid would enable the delivery of 49 new affordable rented council homes and increase the HRA debt cap by £7.5m.

Councillor Clewer reported that the bid for HRA borrowing approval had to balance the competitiveness of the request for borrowing, the amount of HE social housing grant required and deliverability of the proposed developments. A fund of £200m was being made available to local Authorities outside London, that could demonstrate affordability pressures where average private sector rents are £50 a week more than average affordable rents. The bids would be assessed against the three criteria of: value for money, deliverability and affordability. The outcome of the bid was expected in Autumn 2018 and following this revised indebtedness determinations would be made for April 2019.

The Cabinet noted that the bid proposed the delivery of 49 units of accommodation across 16 sites, 14 of which were held in the HRA and two that were held in the Council's general fund. The bid would increase the HRA debt cap from £127m to £134.5m, with a total scheme costs estimated to be £9.48m. This would be funded from £7.51m borrowing approval, £1.36m RTB receipts and £0.61m Homes England grant funding. All the schemes would pay back within 30 years and peak additional borrowing would be in 2020/21.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Stuart Wheeler about the Council's ability to borrow funds against housing stocks, Councillor Clewer confirmed that the Council was considering potential opportunities in relation to this.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Ruth Hopkinson about the need for additional affordable housing in the north of the county, Councillor Clewer explained that, apart from the Salisbury area, the Council's housing stock had been transferred to Housing Association's and they also had the ability to bid for grant funding and develop the land in their ownership. Councillor Clewer further explained that once the outcome of the bid was known, Councillors would be able to suggest potential sites for development.

Resolved:

- i) To endorse the bid to Homes England for £7.51 million additional borrowing approval and £0.61m Homes England grant funding.**
- ii) To endorse the use of £1.36 million Right to buy capital receipts to part fund the overall development, subject to the success of the funding bid.**
- iii) To endorse a programme to develop 49 new affordable homes across 16 sites as set out in appendix A to the report, subject to the success of the bid and planning permission.**

Reason for Decision:

The bid for funding if successful will deliver additional funding and borrowing approval to deliver 49 affordable homes across the County for people in housing need.

292 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

293 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Number 9 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Reason for taking item in private:

Paragraph 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

294 **Housing Revenue Account Additional Borrowing Programme**

The meeting considered information about the proposed schemes contained in the exempt report when making their decision as detailed in minute 291 above.

(Duration of meeting: 9.30 - 11.30 am)

These decisions were published, earlier, on the 11th October 2018 and will come into force on 19th October 2018

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Stuart Figini of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718221, e-mail stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct lines (01225) 713114/713115