

Minutes of Leader Decision Making Session held on 9 September 2010

Present: Councillor Alan Farnell (Decision maker)

Officers: Richard Bailey – Team Leader, Highways Design Services
Virginia Rennie – Group Accountant, Budget and Technical
Janet Purcell, Executive and Member Support Manager

1. General

(1) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

(2) Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2010

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September be agreed as a correct record.

2. New Access for guide Dogs for the Blind Breeding Centre at Bishops Tachbrook

Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, considered a report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy that sought approval to the addition of a project to the Capital Programme. The scheme related to access to the guide dog training/breeding centre, planning for extension of which had been granted in May 2009. The proposed works were fully funded by the developer, Guide Dogs UK.

Resolved

That the project relating to the access to the Guide Dog Breeding Centre, Bishops Tachbrook, be included in the 2010/2011 Capital Programme at a total estimated cost of £240,000, subject to a Section 278 Agreement being signed with Guide Dogs UK.

3. College House Development – Guild Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

Councillor Alan Farnell considered a report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy that sought approval to the addition of a project to the Capital Programme. The scheme related to highway engineering works for the linking and upgrading of the existing pedestrian crossings on the Bridge Street/Bridgefoot junction. It was noted that the work would be undertaken through the Local Transport Plan Contract and fully funded by the developer.

Resolved

That the project to link and upgrade the pedestrian crossings on the Bridge Street/Bridgefoot junction shown on Plan SIG/357/01B be included in the

2010/2011 Capital Programme at a total estimated cost of £330,000, subject to the Section 278 Agreement being signed with Whitbread Group Plc.

4. Consultation on Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Rises

Councillor Alan Farnell considered a report from the Strategic Director of Resources that set out a proposed response to the Government's consultation on local referendums to veto excessive council tax rises. The response did not support the proposal for local referendums for a number of reasons, including the practical difficulties of having referendums on the first Thursday in May (holding up the delivery of the Council's budget) and cost. The significant administrative burden involved in holding referendums will effectively deter local councils from setting a council tax level above the level set by the Secretary of State principles. If these principles are tightly drawn the effect would be to reintroduce universal capping.

Resolved

That the Leader approves the response to the consultation on behalf of Warwickshire County Council as appended to these minutes.

5. Any other items of business

None

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Leader

The meeting rose at 9.05 am