

Cabinet

Thursday 12 October 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Peter Butlin
Councillor Andy Crump
Councillor Yousef Dahmash
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Sue Markham
Councillor Jan Matecki
Councillor Heather Timms
Councillor Martin Watson

Others Present

Councillor Sarah Boad
Councillor John Holland
Councillor Tim Sinclair

1. General

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

(4) Public Speaking

None.

2. Housing with Care Framework

Councillor Margaret Bell, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health explained that Housing with Care was an alternative term for schemes like Extra Care Housing, where residents were offered a housing option with relevant on-site care support. She noted that commissioning activity for care delivered in Housing with Care schemes used the Supported Living Working Age Adult framework but, as arrangements for care for those customers in Housing with Care schemes needed to include elements that were not covered in the Working Age Adults contracts, use of the Supported Living framework would not be an option going forward.

Councillor Bell stated that a Housing with Care framework of care providers to commission care for customers in Extra Care Housing and Specialised Supported Housing would provide a more consistent, efficient, and transparent way of engaging and contracting with the market for care delivery in those settings. It was proposed that the term of the framework should be five years plus the option to extend for a further five years. Whilst there was an existing approval for the award of spot care contracts in some cases, use of spot purchasing needed to be minimised as far as possible in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and the establishment of the proposed framework would, therefore, reduce the requirement for spot purchasing.

Councillor Bell advised that the current annual commissioned spend by the Council on the care delivered in Housing with Care Schemes was £8.3 million per annum across 23 schemes and there were 14 pipeline schemes expected to be delivered by the market in the next three to five years. These would add an estimated £5.3m per annum to the total spend on care in schemes. Within the current Medium Term Financial Strategy, Adult Social Care had a £500,000 a year cost avoidance efficiency for Housing with Care as an alternative to traditional provision, as the Housing with Care model could, for some customers, lead to cost efficiencies. Services available through a framework would provide additional opportunities to place more customers in Housing with Care schemes, maintaining their independence, whilst supporting commitments to cost efficiency programmes within Social Care.

In response to a question from Councillor Sarah Boad regarding the feasibility of delivering more schemes over the next three to five years, Councillor Bell stated that she did believe it was feasible to do so as they could be provided on Council land/premises or delivered by the private sector and supported by the Council.

Resolved:

That Cabinet authorises:

The Executive Director for People, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, to commence a procurement process in partnership with NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board for the provision of a framework for care services in Housing with Care schemes.

The Executive Director for People to enter into all relevant contracts for the provision of a framework for care services in Housing with Care schemes on Terms and conditions acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources.

The continuation of direct award arrangements for care contracts in new schemes that will open before the new framework is in place and which become necessary during the lifetime of the framework for the reasons set out in this report.

3. A426/A4071 Avon Mill/Hunters Lane Improvements, Rugby – Compulsory Purchase Order

Councillor Jan Matecki, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning noted that Cabinet were aware of this proposed scheme and explained that the report outlined the process for land acquisition for the scheme and sought authorisation for Compulsory Purchase Order powers to run in parallel with negotiations with landowners to acquire land by voluntary agreement. The proposed scheme sought to achieve a number of objectives including promoting active travel opportunities, supporting local climate emergencies and net-zero targets, improving bus journey times and reliability, supporting housing delivery, economy growth and rebalancing, improving network resilience and improving road safety.

Councillor Matecki noted that since the report had been written, notification had been received that the Department for Transport may provide 100% of the capital funding required to deliver the scheme subject to approval of the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case. Whilst this was not a confirmed position, it may mean that the Council's contribution of £4m in capital funds would no longer be required.

Councillor Peter Butlin supported the scheme and associated proposals which would address congestion in this area of the town. He was delighted to hear the update regarding funding. Councillor Dahmash echoed support for the proposals and asked that the bottleneck at Mill Road be considered when any schemes were being considered.

Councillor Matecki reminded Cabinet that the scheme was subject to funding approval, approval of the Outline and Full Business Cases by the Department for Transport and securing planning permission. Therefore, the scheme could not move forward until those elements were in place.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet authorises the Executive Director for Resources to acquire the land or rights in respect to the land shown on Drawing No. 9.2-333--010-6309 (Appendix A to the report), whether by agreement or by means of a Compulsory Purchase Order (the Order), as is required to enable the construction of the A426/A4071 Avon Mill/Hunters Lane Improvements, Rugby, subject to acquisition taking place only after:
 - (i) planning permission has been granted; and
 - (ii) authorisation by Cabinet and Full Council via separate reports to be brought forward in 2023/24 to add the proposed £4 million Capital Investment Funding (CIF) local contribution to the scheme Capital Programme; and
 - (iii) approval of the external Full Business Case (FBC) by the Department for Transport (DfT) and subsequent funding award, or funding for the purchase of the land is otherwise secured to the satisfaction of the Executive Director for Resources, subject to final authorisation by Cabinet;
2. That Cabinet authorises the Executive Director for Resources to take any steps incidental, conducive or consequential thereto including the making of the order, the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry;

3. That Cabinet authorises the Executive Director for Resources to approve agreements with landowners setting out the terms for the withdrawal of any objections to the Order, including where appropriate seeking exclusion of land or new rights from the Order; and
4. That the Executive Director for Communities and the Executive Director for Resources be authorised to make such amendments to the drawing referred to in Resolution 1 as they consider to be minor and necessary modifications after consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning.

4. Reports Containing Exempt or Confidential Information

Resolved:

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Exempt Minutes of the 14 September 2023 meeting of Cabinet

The exempt minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

6. Supported Accommodation

Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety, presented this exempt report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

7. CIF Funding for Supported Accommodation

Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, presented this exempt report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

8. Warwickshire Property & Development Group (WPDG) - Site Specific Business Case 4

This exempt report was presented by Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property.

Resolved:

That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

9. Warwickshire Property & Development Group (WPDG) - Site Specific Business Case 6

Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, presented this exempt report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

The meeting rose at 2.14pm

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Chair