

## **CABINET REFERRALS TO COUNCIL**

### **Minute 68 (22/7/210) AREA BASED GRANTS**

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services presented a report setting out (1) the current position on area based grant across the Council, (2) recommendations where the recently announced Government reductions in area based grant for 2010/11 should be made and the implications of these (3) seeking Members views on the allocation of the remaining area based grant for 2010/11 and (4) advising on the approach to be considered for future funding allocations.

#### **Resolved: That:**

**(1) Cabinet agrees the ABG reductions in 2010/11 of £3,927,000 as set out below:**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Uncommitted ABG with no or low impact to services (not frontline)</b>	<b>£1,837,000</b>
<b>Uncommitted ABG with medium impact to services (not frontline)</b>	<b>£1,073,000</b>
<b>Working Neighbourhood Fund</b>	<b>£1,017,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,927,000</b>

**(2) A review of all future ABG funding is undertaken as set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.**

### **Minute 77 (22/7/2010) LEASOWE LEISURE CENTRE**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported upon the progress of discussions with Arena Housing Group Ltd for the transfer of Leasowe Recreation Centre, and sought instructions on the future arrangements for the centre.

#### **Resolved: That:**

- (1) the position in respect of discussions with Arena Housing Group Ltd, be noted;**
- (2) budgetary provision be reinstated for the continued operation of Leasowe Recreation Centre within the Council's core leisure offer; and**
- (3) the Director of Technical Services be instructed to undertake an initial review of arrangements for future provision of swimming and indoor leisure.**

### **60 Minute 82 (22/7/2010) SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Director of Children's Services presented a report providing a summary of the capital funding available to his department from local and national initiatives and

programmes, and setting out a draft programme of works in 2010/11 for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

**Resolved: That**

- (1) the draft 2010/11 departmental Capital Programme be approved;**
- (2) the various grant and local capital funding sources be noted;**
- (3) individual schemes be the subject of further option reports and scheme and estimate reports, where applicable; and**
- (4) a further report on capital investment be brought to Cabinet when the outcome of the 2011-15 Comprehensive Spending Review and the national review of capital investment in schools is known, in Autumn 2010.**

**Minute 85 (22/7/2010) WIRRAL'S REVISED HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services presented a report seeking approval to Wirral's Revised Housing Investment Programme 2010/11, subject to confirmation of anticipated funding reductions to the HMRI Programme.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That Cabinet agree the revised Housing Investment Programme for 2010/11, summarised in the table below and detailed in Appendix II, subject to confirmation of anticipated funding reductions to the HMRI Programme,**

<b><u>Funding to be allocated</u></b>	<b><u>£,000</u></b>
<b>Birkenhead Clearance</b>	<b>4,357</b>
<b>Rock Ferry Clearance</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>Tranmere Clearance</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Wallasey Clearance</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>Private Sector Home Improvements</b>	<b>4,431</b>
<b>Environmental Improvements</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Living Through Change</b>	<b>583</b>
<b>Staffing and Resources</b>	<b>1,727</b>
<b>Homemovers Service</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Relocation Loans</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>Shared Equity Schemes</b>	<b>600</b>

- (2) That a further report on HMRI funding be brought to the next meeting of the Cabinet.**

## **Minute 89 (22/7/2010) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - CORE STRATEGY - PREFERRED OPTIONS**

Further to minute 200 (26/11/09) the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services presented a report seeking approval to the policy direction contained within the draft Preferred Options Report, including the principle of establishing a new city neighbourhood at the heart of the older urban areas in Birkenhead, as the basis for the preparation of a final Preferred Options Report and the accompanying documents listed under paragraph 6.9 of the report, with a view to undertaking public consultation on the Preferred Options in the Autumn. It recommended that the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Panel should be involved in the preparation of the statutory Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options; that the remaining evidence base studies for housing land; housing needs; affordable housing; and renewable energy are reported to Cabinet before being formally included within the final Preferred Options Report; and that the remaining evidence base studies including the Wirral Open Space Assessment are published for public consultation alongside the Preferred Options Report.

### **Resolved: That**

- (1) the draft Preferred Options Report attached to this report be approved as the basis for preparing a final Preferred Options Report for public consultation, in further consultation with Council Departments;**
- (2) the principle of establishing a new city neighbourhood at the heart of the older urban areas in Birkenhead be supported;**
- (3) the final Preferred Options Report and its accompanying documents be reported to Cabinet before being submitted to Council for approval for public consultation;**
- (4) the Sustainability Appraisal Panel be involved in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal to accompany the Preferred Options Report;**
- (5) the findings of the evidence base studies still to be completed be reported to Cabinet before inclusion in the final Preferred Options Report;**
- (6) the Interim Planning Policy for New Housing Development be retained; and**
- (7) an annual average housing requirement figure of 250 net additional dwellings be applied in the period until the Core Strategy is adopted.**

**Minute 93 (22/7/2010) REDUCTION IN LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN GRANT 2010/11**

Further to minute 52 (24/6/10) the Director of Technical Services presented a report setting out a revised Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for Wirral based on the announced savings to the Integrated Transport Block and the funding for bridge strengthening on the Primary Route Network. He reported that the effect of these savings on the programme had been mitigated through the value engineering of schemes and the competitive rates via the Highway and Engineering Services contract with Colas.

**Resolved: That**

- (1) the revised LTP Capital Programme be approved; and**
- (2) the Director of Technical Services be authorized to select suitable alternative schemes within each of the LTP blocks from the relevant reserve list of schemes, in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Spokespersons, if in the event that it should prove impractical to proceed with an approved scheme or unallocated finance becomes available.**

**Minute 121 (2/9/2010) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL - STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT**

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services informed Members of the findings of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) produced by Roger Tym and Partners (RTP) on behalf of the Council as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework for Wirral to meet the requirements of national policy.

Members were informed that the SHLAA was a technical background document required to consider all available sites in the Borough that may be suitable to deliver new housing development. It would be used to inform the Council's future development strategy and the future allocation of housing land. The inclusion of a site in the SHLAA was not a Council endorsement of its future development and did not prejudice decisions to be taken by the Council in relation to preferred directions of growth in the Core Strategy, site identification in site-specific Development Plan Documents or the determination of individual planning applications.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the findings of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment attached to this report be used to inform the content of the emerging Core Strategy Development Plan Document;**
- (2) the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report and Appendices attached to the report be published for public consultation alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report; and**

- (3) Cabinet recommends to Council that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment be approved as a material consideration for use by Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications.**

**Minute 143 (23/9/2010) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL - CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PREFERRED OPTIONS**

A report by the Interim Director of Corporate Services advised that the Council was preparing a Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The Core Strategy was a statutory document that would set the local policy context for the determination of planning applications and for major regeneration schemes such as Housing Market Renewal and Wirral Waters and for setting policies for housing, employment, open space and other matters. The Core Strategy would replace parts of the Unitary Development Plan adopted in February 2000, which no longer fully reflected the Council's more recent aspirations.

The Cabinet had approved the preparation of a Preferred Options Report for public consultation in July 2010 (Cabinet, 22 July 2010, Minute 89 refers). The report recommended the Cabinet to recommend to Council that the draft Preferred Options Report appended to the report and its associated accompanying documents be now published for public consultation.

**RESOLVED:**

**Council be recommended to approve for public consultation the draft Preferred Options Report attached to the report and the accompanying documents in the on-line library.**