

REFERRALS TO COUNCIL – 16 APRIL 2012

D. Cabinet – 12 April 2012

394 Armed Forces Community Covenant

A report by the Chief Executive outlined how Wirral Council recognised the enormous contribution which the Armed Forces had made and continue to make to the safety and security of the Nation. The purpose of the report was to further demonstrate that recognition by seeking the Cabinet's approval to 'sign up' to a Wirral Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The report also sought the Cabinet's approval for the nominations of Armed Forces Champions at both Member and Officer levels.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;**
- (2) the intention to sign up to the Draft Armed Forces Community Covenant on Armed Forces Day, 30 June 2012 be endorsed**
- (3) subject to the Council's approval, each Mayor elected be also nominated as Elected Members' Armed Forces Champion;**
- (4) the recommendation that the Health, Safety and Resilience Manager continue as the Armed Forces Champion be endorsed and he be thanked for his hard work;**
- (5) the Armed Forces Champion be requested to establish a Wirral Armed Forces and Veterans Forum; and**
- (6) agreement be given to progress being reported, via an annual report by the Chief Executive and the Brigade Commander.**

409 Parks and Countryside Services Modernisation Project - Plant and Equipment Capital Investment Programme

A report by the Director of Technical Services sought approval for the proposed plant and equipment capital investment programme to modernise the Parks and Countryside Service.

The Parks and Countryside Service Modernisation Project was a complex multi-disciplinary project with the purpose of establishing a modern, cost effective and efficient service comparable to that offered by the private sector by Spring 2013.

An Outline Delivery Plan was endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting on 24 November 2011 (Minute No. 205 refers) and has been set out under four key workstreams all reporting to a Project Board:

- Policy, Processes and Performance
- Human Resources
- Assets
- Communication and Engagement

A progress report on the modernisation of the service and achievement of the Delivery Plan has also been considered at this Cabinet meeting. (Minute No. 404 refers)

At the Cabinet meeting on 12 January 2012 approval was given to use £500,000 of the existing Capital Programme allocation for Cultural Services assets to purchase plant and equipment necessary to deliver the Highways Grounds Maintenance aspect of the Parks and Countryside Service from 1 February 2012 (Minute No. 261 refers).

This report now sought approval for a comprehensive programme of investment in plant and equipment to enable the modernisation and continuous improvement of the Parks and Countryside Service.

RESOLVED: That

(1) subject to the agreement of the Council:

(a) the proposed Plant and Equipment Capital Investment Programme outlined in the report be approved;

(b) the corresponding amendment of the Council's Capital Programme be approved;

(2) the report be referred to Council for ratification;

(3) officers be thanked for their hard work on this project; and

(4) the Deputy Director of Technical Services be instructed to prepare a note on the project costs for Councillor J Green.

411 Libraries Champion

A report by the Director of Finance sought the approval of Members to appoint a Libraries Champion in response to the proposal made in the 2012/13 Budget.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to appoint Councillor D McCubbin as Libraries Champion.

416 Environmental Streetscene Services Contract Financial Review

A report by the Director of Technical Services referred to recent amendments to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to include a requirement that all financial variations (of over £50K for the life of the contract) be reported to the Cabinet. The report summarised all relevant financial variations to the Environmental Streetscene Services Contract that had been authorised by the Cabinet, from the inception of the contract in August 2006. The Contract had been awarded to Biffa on 8 May 2006 (Minute No. 598 refers).

The report also highlighted an adjustment required to the 2011 – 2012 waste collection and disposal budget in order to fully fund the waste disposal and treatment costs of all waste collected from Council run premises. The Cabinet approved an initial estimate of £70,000 on 22 February 2010. The additional growth of £53,000, now required in the Technical Services Waste budget, would be offset by a corresponding reduced waste levy requirement.

The Cabinet was requested to approve the Property Count Uplift applicable from 2011/2012.

RESOLVED: That subject to the agreement of the Council:

- (1) the budget growth for 2012/13 onwards totalling £14,100 associated with the Property Count Uplift adjustment as described in section 3.2 of this report be approved;**
- (2) the budget growth for 2012/13 of £53,000 to fully fund the disposal and treatment costs of the Council's own waste arisings as detailed in section 4 of the report be approved; and**
- (3) all financial variations to the Environmental Streetscene Contract over the value of £50,000, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules 16A.2 and 16A.3, as detailed in section 6 of the report, be noted.**

425 Committee Calendar for 2012/2013

A report by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management recommended dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2012/2013. The draft Calendar of Meetings was attached as Appendix A to the report. The report also described various issues that had been taken into account in compiling this draft Calendar of Meetings.

Members considered that neither Council nor Committee meetings should be held in April, during purdah (the pre election period), when election campaigns were underway. Council elections were held in three out of every four years. Although, there were no Council elections in May 2013 it was considered that Council and Cabinet meetings should not be scheduled in April so that this new discipline could be brought into force and so that the Calendar of meetings could

then be rolled forward each year and follow a similar pattern to that of the previous year.

Members also noted that there were very few meetings scheduled between June and September and considered that this was too big of a gap.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to:

- (1) consider the comments made by the Cabinet; and**
- (2) ask Officers, in the light of the Cabinet's comments, to amend the draft Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2012/2013 accordingly, for consideration and adoption at its Annual Meeting.**

E. Employment Appointments Committee – 22 March 2012

78 Proposed Change to Senior Management Arrangements

Further to minutes 33 and 36 (29 September 2011), the Acting Chief Executive reported upon proposed changes to the Council's senior management arrangements in relation to the roles of Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer that were considered necessary and prudent in view of the absence of the Chief Executive due to ill health.

Under the Council's current senior management arrangements, where the Chief Executive was absent or otherwise unavailable for work, the Council's Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer assumed the role of 'Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service'. However, recent absences at a senior level had highlighted the need for the Council to increase its senior management capacity in relation to the roles of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer. It was therefore proposed that, subject to the approval of the Council, the Acting Director of Children's Services be appointed the Acting Deputy Chief Executive/Head of Paid Services to act in the absence or unavailability of the Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service or where the Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service was unable to act due to a conflict of interest.

It was also proposed that the Head of Legal and Member Services be appointed Deputy Monitoring Officer in the absence or unavailability of the Monitoring Officer. However, the Head of Legal and Member Services was currently the Council's Scrutiny Officer, which was a statutory role and a Council Officer could not be both Deputy Monitoring Officer and Scrutiny Officer simultaneously. Accordingly the Head of Legal and Member Services would formally relinquish the role of Scrutiny Officer and it was therefore proposed, subject also to the approval of the Council, that the Democratic Services Manager be appointed to the role of Scrutiny Officer.

Resolved – That Committee recommends to the Council –

- (1) That the Acting Director of Children’s Services be appointed the Acting Deputy Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service to act in the absence or unavailability of the Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service or where the Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service is unable to act due to a conflict of interest.**
- (2) That the proposed appointment of the Deputy Monitoring Officer be noted.**
- (3) That the Democratic Services Manager be appointed as the Council’s Scrutiny Officer.**