

REFERRALS TO COUNCIL

CABINET – 2 FEBRUARY 2012

MINUTE 274 - DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2012/2013

A report by the Chief Executive presented the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2012 – 13 at Appendix 1 (previously agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 8 December 2011 and considered by the Council on 12 December 2011).

The report further set out the steps that had been taken to deliver the resolutions agreed by Council on 12 December 2011 (Minute Nos. 77 and 78 refer) in respect of the draft Corporate Plan, which requested the views of all relevant partners and the referral of the draft Corporate Plan to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Council furthermore requested that any comments received were transparently evaluated by the Cabinet and more robust plan containing SMART objectives be resubmitted to a future Council meeting.

Finally, the report requested that the Cabinet make recommendations to refer an appropriate amended draft Corporate Plan to the Council for consideration at its meeting on 13 February 2012.

RESOLVED: That

Cabinet welcomes the comments of Partners and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft Corporate Plan and thanks everyone who responded.

Cabinet further welcomes the fact that the vision set out in the plan has widespread approval and many of the comments are concerned with the details of achieving that Vision, and with the targets necessary to monitor progress against the Vision.

Cabinet also recognises that the detailed targets now set out in Appendix 5 to the report were not available at the time of consultation and that some proposals put forward have cost implications which have not yet been assessed.

Cabinet believes that proper consideration should be given to the comments made and amendments made as necessary.

Cabinet therefore further resolves that:

- (1) subject to any amendments made pursuant to paragraph (2) below, the draft Corporate Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report be recommended to Council for approval at its meeting on 13 February 2012;**

- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make amendments to the draft Corporate Plan as are considered appropriate and necessary; and**
- (3) the Leader will submit a draft final version of the plan in good time to the other Party Leaders for comment with a view to gaining all Party support at the Council meeting on the 13 February 2012.**

MINUTE 281 - PROCUREMENT EFFICIENCIES

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance detailed procurement activity undertaken in 2011-12. The aim was to deliver £2m procurement efficiency savings per annum. A further policy option had been agreed in the 2011-12 budget; to achieve £0.5m through a review of the top-50 contracts, progress which was reported elsewhere on the agenda (Minute No. 280 refers). The report identified progress against the combined target of £2.5m and identified possible procurement savings for 2012-13.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the procurement activity undertaken in 2011-12 be noted;**
- (2) a procurement saving of £140,000 in Regeneration, Housing and Planning delivered in 2011-12 be replaced by the release of reserves and provisions;**
- (3) estimated procurement savings of £1.2m for 2012-13 be agreed; and**
- (4) estimated savings of £1.6m from the alternative commissioning of services in Adult Social Services be agreed.**

MINUTE 283 - ENTERPRISE ZONE - BUSINESS RATES DISCOUNTS

A report by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance set out the details of issues that had arisen from the Localism Act 2011 which gave local authorities the power to award discounts, including Enterprise Zone discounts, from 1 April 2012.

Members were informed that discounts awarded under the new powers would be funded by the Council awarding them. However for discounts awarded in Enterprise Zones the Government had agreed to fund up to 100% of the discounts awarded during the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015. They would be funded for five years from the date they were granted. Therefore, a business that entered the zone in a designated area on 31 March 2015 would be entitled to the discount until 31 March 2020, funded by the Government.

These discounts were covered by the European Union De Minimis Aid rules on state aid funding and were currently subject to 200,000 Euros limit over a three year period. This had the effect of limiting the award to £55,000 per annum to an

individual business. The maximum discount amount over a five year period could be £275,000. The maximum discounted Rateable Value would be £122,000.

RESOLVED:

That a Business Rate discount of 100% be granted for properties designated within specified areas of the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone (Wirral site) to be awarded from 1 April 2012.

MINUTE 284 - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – WORK PROGRAMME AND EVIDENCE BASE

A report by the Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning informed the Cabinet of the future programme for the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework; the findings of the latest study of the Borough's housing land supply; and reports on progress on the remaining technical evidence base studies. The report recommended that the Local Development Scheme appended to the report was approved for formal adoption by Council and that the findings of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Update be made available for consultation before being included in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy.

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning indicated that figures had now been provided by Peel for Wirral Waters and stated that up to 1,100 dwellings could be delivered in the first five years (2011-2016), 2,800 in years 6 to 10 (2016-2021) and 2,700 in years 11 to 15 (2021-2026). This meant that a five year supply could be demonstrated under the RSS requirement, when taking into account Wirral Waters and an even longer term supply when based upon the DCLG Household Projection figures. This would also help the supply over the 10 and 15 year periods to 2026.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be recommended to Council that the Local Development Scheme appended to the report be approved and that Council resolves to bring the Scheme into legal effect on the Monday following the date the resolution of Council is passed;**
- (2) findings of the SHLAA Update be published for consultation, prior to their inclusion in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document and their approval as a material consideration for use by Planning Committee in the determination of planning applications; and**
- (3) the 2008-based household projections be used as the basis for calculating the Borough's five-year housing land supply in the period between the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the adoption of the Core Strategy.**

MINUTE 285 - OUTCOME OF WIRRAL'S HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL TRANSITIONAL FUNDING BID INCLUDING PROPOSED EXIT PLAN AND SUGGESTED AMENDED HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

A report by the Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning provide an update for Members on the outcome of the Housing Market Renewal Initiative Transitional Funding bid and outlined amendments to the Council's Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 to incorporate the Housing Market Renewal Transitional Funding.

The report also advised Members on proposals to prepare the exit plan for Wirral's Housing Market Renewal Programme.

The Cabinet noted that it had been announced in November 2011 that the HMRI Transitional bid had been successful and that Wirral would receive £2.7m additional capital funding. Although slightly less than anticipated, this funding, when combined with match funding, would enable the completion of most of the existing clearance commitments throughout the former HMRI area. It may be possible to make up the shortfall with New Homes Bonus to complete the programme. This would be subject to a separate report to the Cabinet in due course.

The table at Appendix 1 to the report provided the detail of Wirral's revised HMR Transitional Funding bid and showed how the resources would be used. It should be noted that since the bid had been submitted in July, work had been continuing on committed acquisitions, using some of the match funding resources. As such, a proportion of the units identified in Appendix 1 had already been acquired. It should also be noted that there was no compulsion to utilise all of the Transitional Funding in the current financial year. This would allow both negotiations with property owners to continue and support any future CPO action, should this be necessary to acquire the remaining interests.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of this report be noted; and**
- (2) the proposed changes to the Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 be reported to Cabinet.**

MINUTE 287 - APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A report by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management recommended that, following the retirement of John Malone, then Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Gillian Vicary be appointed to the position of 'Chief Inspector of Weights' and Measures' concomitant with her designated post of Trading Standards Operations Manager. The Cabinet noted that the appointment of this position was required under the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act 1985.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet recommends to Council that the Trading Standards Operations Manager, Gillian Vicary, be appointed to the position of Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

MINUTE 289 - LOCAL TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT - ADDITIONAL FUNDING: INTEGRATED TRANSPORT 2011/2012

A report by the Director of Technical Services directed the Cabinet's attention to a recent letter, dated 14 December 2011, announcing an extra £50 million allocated nationally to the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) of the Local Transport Settlement 2011/12, resulting in an additional £1.915 million being allocated to Merseyside. At its meeting on 9 January 2012, the Merseytravel 'Local Transport Plan Delivery, Bus & Merseytram Committee' had recommended approval for an allocation for Wirral of £193,000 for this financial year.

The additional funding had presented an opportunity to enhance the 2011/12 Transport Capital Programme that was approved by the Cabinet on 17 March 2011 (Minute No. 352 refers).

A copy of the letter received by Merseytravel from the Department for Transport (DfT) was attached to the report as Appendix 'A'.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the provision of the additional funding from Merseytravel be accepted and the proposed projects and schemes identified within the report be approved, subject to final approval by the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (MITA) at its meeting on 9 February 2012; and**
- (2) authority be delegated to the Director of Technical Services in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services and Group Spokespersons, to make necessary adjustments to the priorities identified within the proposed projects should the need arise.**

MINUTE 290 - JOINT RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A report by the Director of Technical Services provided the Cabinet with information relating to the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JRWMS), formerly the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) and associated complementary Wirral District Council Action Plan (DCAP). The Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership, with the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority MRWA being the lead authority, had developed the Strategy. The MRWA Board Members had ratified the Strategy on 18 November 2011 and were now seeking ratification from the Merseyside Councils. This report represented part of the Council's formal process for the ratification of the Strategy.

The JRWMS and Wirral Council's DCAP would become the Council's strategic documents to support the delivery of the corporate goal "Minimising Waste by Encouraging Waste Reduction and Recycling".

Members of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been kept up to date with the progress of the Strategy and the supporting public consultation exercise and had recently endorsed that the Strategy be referred to the Cabinet.

The report detailed the resolutions of the 26h September 2011 Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also provided Members with information relating to the context of the Strategy review, updating on national policy as well as the outcomes that resulted in the Strategy's key commitments, which would be delivered through Wirral Council's District Action Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the process that has been undertaken to develop the new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be endorsed;**
- (2) subject to any comments they wish to submit on its contents, the Strategy and associated District Council Action Plan (DCAP) as it currently stands be approved and referred to Council for ratification;**
- (3) the current work being carried out on the Environmental Streetscene Services Contract Review described in section 10.0 of the report be noted;**
- (4) the further work that will be undertaken to update the DCAP in preparation for the European Waste Framework Directive requirement for Member States to produce a Waste Prevention Programme by 2013 be noted; and**
- (5) it be requested that, following the ratification of the JRWMS, the Merseyside Waste Levy Payment Mechanism review be undertaken as soon as possible and the progress of this work be reported to an appropriate Cabinet meeting.**