

## **MATTERS FOR NOTING**

### **CABINET – 21 JUNE 2012**

#### **4 LEASE OF LAND AT THE OVAL LEISURE CENTRE**

Councillor A. McLachlan, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest (Minute No. 2 refers) left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

A report by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management referred to an objection received to the proposed disposal of land at The Oval to Wirral Metropolitan College to grant a 99 year lease to Wirral Metropolitan College of the land for the development of classroom accommodation for Sports Studies courses; and sought approval to the proposed way forward.

The report further sought approval to the Call In period being waived to enable site works to commence immediately to facilitate the opening of the new College accommodation at the start of the first 2013 term. The Acting Chief Executive agreed to this request.

The Chair raised concerns that it had taken some time for a response to be given to the objector.

#### **RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Council notes the objection and proceeds with the disposal of the land on the terms previously reported; and**
- (2) that call-in be waived in respect of the above to allow works to commence immediately and Council be informed accordingly.**

#### **24 PORTAS PILOTS ROUND 2**

Councillor P. Hackett, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest (Minute No. 2 refers) left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

A report by the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning informed the Cabinet that on the 30 March 2012 the Government announced a further round of Portas Pilot Town Team bidding – Round 2. The second round followed a first round, announced by Government on 4 February 2012 and for which the bidding closed on 30 March 2012. Some 360 plus applications had been submitted to the Government; including five from Wirral (reported to the Cabinet on 15 March 2012, Minute No. 346 refers).

Members were asked to note that the Government had stated that any bids which were unsuccessful in Round one would be considered automatically in Round 2.

As per the first round, the bids must be submitted in a partnership approach between retailers, landlords, local community, Local Authority and other partners. The Local

Authority must agree to be the accountable body for the fund and also submit a statement securing value for money for the tax payer.

The Council had received two draft bids from local groups. A summary of which was outlined in section 2 of the report.

Members were asked to agree that the Local Authority would be the Accountable Body for any funding which maybe granted, if any of the bids were successful, for up to £100,000 per bid.

Members were also asked that as per Round 1 of the Portas Pilots, to agree that due to the very tight timescale for the bids; that the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning in consultation with the leader of the Portfolio Holder, agree the final bids for submission to the Government on 30 June 2012. This was to allow more detailed work to be undertaken by the groups on their final bids including a video, within the framework of their draft bids outlined below, before submission to Government.

The Acting Chief Executive fully supported the proposal to waive call in on this decision having regard to the very short timescale for submission of the bids and the public interest. Members were asked to agree that call in for this report is waived.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the submission of the 2 'Portas Pilot' bids to the Department of Communities and Local Government to Government on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be approved;**
- (2) the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning in consultation with the Portfolio holder have delegated authority to agree the submission of the final bids to Government, within the framework of the draft bids summarised within section 2 of the report.**
- (3) the Local Authority be Accountable Body for the funding of up to £100,000 for each bid, if successful and the money be allocated in line with the Council's accounting policies;**
- (4) the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning in consultation with the portfolio holder be requested to prepare a statement for submission to CLG stating that the Council will secure value for money for the tax payer in the use of the grant; and**
- (5) should any bids be submitted to the Council prior to 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline, the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning in consultation with the portfolio holder/leader has the delegated authority to allow the bids to be submitted provided the bid is will secure value for money for the tax payer in the use of the grant;**
- (6) the request to waive call-in respect of 1-5 above, be approved.**

**39 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR - DEVELOPMENT OF A LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEAL**

The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning circulated his report which highlighted that, over the last three months, Liverpool City Region partners had been working together with Government officials to prepare a Liverpool City Region 'Deal' with Government departments. The principal function of these Deals was to allow city areas to innovate and come up with solutions that attempted to remove barriers to economic growth. As part of the Deals process, Liverpool City Region partners had been expected to offer robust and tangible contributions in return for specific asks of Government.

The report provided an update on the development of the Liverpool City Region Deal and the likely timescale for its negotiation and agreement. Members were asked to note the content of the latest version of the City Region Deal and authorise officers to continue to negotiate aspects relevant to Wirral as part of the next stage of the process.

The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning responded to Members; questions in relation to the International Festival of Business and transport, employment and the electrification of the Bidston line.

Members noted the urgency and the need for a decision to be made immediately. The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning asked if the Cabinet was agreeable to waive Call-In. The Acting Chief Executive informed that he was in agreement to call-in being waived.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the progress made to date on the City Region Deal be noted, and the significant opportunities that would arise subject to successful negotiation with Government be supported;**
- (2) the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning be authorised to continue to negotiate the City Region Deal Process and work up the detailed aspects of the process as appropriate;**
- (3) the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning be authorised to contribute up to £15,000 to be met from approved investment strategy resources and work with other key LCR partners to the development of a business plan for the proposed international of business;**
- (4) call in be waived in respect of (2) and (3) above to allow officers to meet the specified deadline dates.**