

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 2 October 2012

3.00pm to 3.45pm

Date of publication: 4 October 2012

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 12 October 2012
The record of decisions are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

Present:	Councillor Rodney Chambers, OBE	Leader
	Councillor Alan Jarrett	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance
	Councillor David Brake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services
	Councillor Jane Chitty	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth
	Councillor Howard Doe	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
	Councillor Phil Filmer	Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
	Councillor Tom Mason	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services
	Councillor Mike O'Brien	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact
	Councillor Les Wicks	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
	Councillor David Wildey	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care

In Attendance: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture
Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer
Richard Hicks, Assistant Director, Customer First, Leisure, Culture, Democracy
and Governance
Perry Holmes, Monitoring Officer
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Anthony Law, Democratic Services Officer
Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 4 September 2012 was agreed and signed by the Leader as correct.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2013 - 2016

Background:

This report set out the major financial issues facing the Council over the next three years. It also provided a framework for the more detailed preparation of the draft Revenue Budget for 2013/16.

The report included details of the Council's financial position, together with an overview of the Spending Review 2010, the Council's strategic priorities and core values and the need for the Medium Term Financial Plan to be able to respond to the changing policy context in which the Council and its partners operated.

An assessment of likely available resources and details of a number of key spending issues across the Council's directorates were set out. It was also noted that the Medium Term Financial Plan identified the resources available, which would determine the service priorities within the Council Plan. Diversity Impact Assessments would be undertaken and reported to Members as part of the budget and service planning process as the quantum of resources and hence the impact on Council services unfolded.

Members were advised that after allowing for a potential council tax increase and estimated savings from the transformational Better for Less programme, which sought to improve services and deliver efficiencies, there remained a potential deficit for 2013/14 of £5.9million.

In order to retain the strategic aim of achieving a sustainable budget without recourse to reserves, existing and emerging pressures would be challenged and weight given to the efficiency agenda and the search for more cost effective means of delivery.

The report also set out the timetable for the development of the draft budget setting proposals and it was noted that business and service planning would run concurrently, leading to the development of the Council Plan.

The Cabinet considered an addendum report that was tabled at the meeting. This set out details of the comments and recommendations from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which had considered the report on 25 September 2012.

Cabinet, 2 October 2012

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

- 163/2012** **The Cabinet endorsed the underlying aims of the Medium Term Financial Plan.**
- 164/2012** **The Cabinet endorsed the forecast level of overall funding outlined in Section 4 of the report.**
- 165/2012** **The Cabinet instructed Portfolio Holders and Directors to identify savings and efficiencies to achieve a balanced budget for 2013/2014.**
- 166/2012** **The Cabinet undertook to include provision for the on-going 'Stop the Estuary Airport' campaign into the Medium Term Financial Plan 2013-2016.**

Reasons:

This was a preparatory document to meet the budget process and timetable set out within the Constitution.

Growing Places Funding: Rochester Riverside

Background:

This report sought approval for the addition of £4.410m to the capital programme, to deliver the next phase of essential infrastructure for the Rochester Riverside Development, funded through an interest free loan, through CLG's Growing Places Funding.

The report examined three options for the delivery of the remaining land within Phase 1 of the development. In summary, this included releasing development opportunities to the market, with a requirement for developers to install site wide infrastructure for the remainder of Phase 1; further prudential borrowing; and, delivering site wide infrastructure for the remainder of Phase 1 through Growing Places Funding.

It was noted that Growing Places Funding was a programme of affordable loan finance, allocated by Local Economic Partnerships, to cash flow strategic investment in development opportunities. This is to enable the quicker delivery of developments, which might otherwise stall, enabling economic growth through creation of new jobs and homes.

The report noted that the bid for Rochester Riverside would enable the delivery of the next phase of infrastructure; providing fully serviced plots, sufficient for the next 7-8 years of anticipated development, reducing the risks and costs to developers and also the required percentage of developer profit, thus increasing the resulting obtainable land values from future market sales of development plots.

Cabinet, 2 October 2012

It was reported that the Rochester Riverside Project Board, comprising of Members from the Council and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), had considered and recommended this approach, subject to respective Council approval and approval by the HCA's Board on 31 October 2012.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

- 167/2012** **The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council to approve the proposed investment of £4,410,000 Growing Places Finance, to be repaid as per table 1.1 of the report, subject to the approval by the Homes and Communities Agency Board on 31 October 2012, confirming that any future capital receipts, (above and beyond the current priority repayment of £2.5m of prudential borrowing), be used to pay off GPF debt.**
- 168/2012** **The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Council enter into a loan agreement with Essex County Council, as accountable body for Growing Places Funding.**
- 169/2012** **The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Council enter into a variation of the Rochester Riverside Collaboration Agreement to ensure that the loan amount can be recouped from the proceeds of disposal, prior to the division of any surplus between the Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.**

Reasons:

To facilitate the delivery of the next phase of essential infrastructure for the Rochester Riverside Development.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

This report presented information on vacancies that officers had requested approval to commence recruitment for, following the process agreed by Cabinet on 7 January 2003 (decision number 9/2003).

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the posts.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

- 170/2012** **The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, to enable officers to commence the recruitment process:**

Business Support

- a) **Investigation Officer**
- b) **Head of Legal**

Children and Adults

- c) **SSA/Receptionist**

Regeneration, Community and Culture

- d) **Innovation Centre Manager**
- e) **Project Manager (Rochester Riverside).**

Reasons:

The posts presented to Cabinet will support the efficient running of the Council.

Gateway 3 Report: Homecare and Extra Care Services

Background:

This report sought permission to award a framework contract for Homecare and Extra Care Services. The Procurement Board had approved this report for submission to the Cabinet after review and discussion on 21 September 2012.

The Cabinet had given approval to the commencement of this procurement at Gateway 1 on 6 September 2011 and this report was based upon a recently undertaken procurement process.

It was noted that the management of this procurement was a pilot of the category management approach to procurement, where adult social care and the corporate team were working together to ensure that the recommissioned homecare services deliver better for less. The homecare services had been the subject of a strategic sourcing plan (SSP), which was developed in partnership with PwC. Subsequent to the Procurement Board's endorsement of the SSP, a commercial strategy was developed to deliver a better service for less expenditure so that there was an increase in value for money for all stakeholders.

Members were advised that the category management approach had also identified a better approach to the initial idea of homecare providers on the framework being the select list for the mini procurements of extra care. A review of the market identified that there were specialist providers of extra care that would not tender for homecare services. The creation of a select list/framework of extra care providers meant that the council could undertake mini-procurements with quality assured providers to meet the demand for services as schemes are opened.

The report set out details of two procurement contract award options: do not award any contract and cancel procurement process and award contract to the series of contractors.

Cabinet, 2 October 2012

An exempt appendix provided key information in respect of finance and whole-life costing; providers and detailed procurement process tender evaluation information.

A Diversity Impact Assessment screening form was attached to the report. This indicated that a full Diversity Impact Assessment was not required.

Decision number: **Decision:**

1711/2012 **The Cabinet approved the procurement contract award to the series of contractors as outlined below and as detailed within the exempt appendix:**

Homecare

1. Care UK Homecare Ltd
2. Scott Care Ltd
3. Here to Care
4. Avante Community Support
5. London Care
6. Kent Social Care Professionals
7. Everycare Ltd
8. Anchor Support Services Ltd
9. Meritum Independent Living
10. Independent Care & Support Ltd
11. Circle Support
12. Plan Care
13. The People Care Team
14. Community Care Line
15. Guardian Homecare
16. Care Watch Maidstone
17. Homecare Solutions Ltd
18. Boldglen
19. Presland Care
20. Medway Age UK

Extra care

1. Housing 21
2. Care UK Homecare Ltd
3. Guardian Homecare
4. Scott Care Ltd
5. Meritum Independent Living
6. Care at Home Services
7. London Care
8. Mears Care Ltd.

Cabinet, 2 October 2012

Reasons:

The decisions are made on the basis of: the improved redesign of home care services that focus on continuous improvement; the delivery of £1.4 million of savings, without disruption to services; and, a streamlined mini-procurement process for potential extra care providers for emerging extra care schemes in Medway.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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