

CABINET
20/07/2015 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor McMahon (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Harrison, Hibbert, Shah and Stretton

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jabbar.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Items 11 and 14, Meridian Development Company - Construction and Sale of Property at Primrose Bank / Crossbank Street [Werneth], by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2015**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 22nd June 2015 be approved.

6 **2014/15 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Corporate and Commercial Services that advised the Cabinet of the recently approved 2014/15 Final Accounts and the External Audit (Grant Thornton) Audit Findings report.

The Council's 2014/15 Final Accounts were audited, approved and published on 19th May 2015 and Members were advised this was the quickest year end closedown that the Council had ever achieved.

The Audit Findings report was very positive with an unqualified opinion and an unqualified Value for Money (VFM) opinion. The VFM opinion concluded that the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. For the first time the Council had a full suite of "green" VFM indicators. There were no material errors for the 6th year in succession and the report commented on the high quality of the accounts despite the challenging timetable.

Options/Alternatives considered:

That Cabinet did not note the final accounts, the audit report and the items outlined in the report or refer them on to Council.

RESOLVED - That the Final accounts for 2014/15 and audit reports and items referred to in the report be noted.

RECOMMENDATION that the Final Accounts 2014/15, the audit reports and the items referred to in the report be commended to Council.

7

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2014/2015

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance, which advised the Cabinet of the requirement by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2014/15. This report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

The report demonstrated full compliance with the reporting requirements and, during 2014/15, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Director of Finance confirmed that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached. The financial year 2014/15 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

Options/Alternatives considered:

No options/alternatives were presented.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The actual 2014/15 prudential and treasury indicators in the report be approved.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2014/15 be approved.

RECOMMENDATION – That the report be commended to Council for consideration and approval

8

SELECTION OF A PREFERRED SPONSOR FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN OLDHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Economy and Skills which required an endorsement from the Cabinet of the preferred sponsor for a new 3-form entry primary school prior to the Council making representations to the Secretary of State.

It was reported that at its meeting on March 31st 2014, the Cabinet had resolved to allocate basic needs funding and the Council's capital allocation for the provision of a new 3 form entry school in central Oldham that was required to address the current and future shortage of school places.

As the new school must be an Academy, the Secretary of State would make the decision in relation to the sponsor of the school. Local Authorities were able to make representations regarding a preferred sponsor and, following a rigorous local competition process, a preferred sponsor had been identified. The views of residents and other interested parties had been taken into consideration.

It was reported that throughout the competition process, the Harmony Trust had demonstrated high levels of aspiration, ambition and enthusiasm for the Coldhurst Ward and its

community. The competition and selection process, together with the concurrent consultation, placed officers in a strong position to be able to make a secure decision on the preferred sponsor. The process had been rigorous and had involved elected members and senior officers which had afforded it the highest level of integrity.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: For Cabinet to endorse the decision to identify the preferred sponsor, which is The Harmony Trust.

Option 2: For Cabinet to recommend a different sponsor to the Secretary of State, choosing from those who put forward a bid during the competition process.

Option 3: For Cabinet to choose not make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED – That the decision to identify the preferred sponsor as The Harmony Trust based on the detail as set out in section 3.1 of the report be endorsed.

9

FOOD AND FEED SERVICE PLANS 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Cooperatives and Neighbourhoods, which sought Members' approval of the 2015/2016 Food and Feed Service Plans. The report set out the details of the proposed Food and Feed Service Plans 2015/2016 and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) sought Elected Member approval of these plans as an important part of the process, to ensure that national and local priorities/standards are addressed and delivered.

Options/Alternatives considered:

That Cabinet did not approve the Plans.

RESOLVED – That Food and Feed Service Plans 2015/16 be approved.

10

REQUEST APPROVAL TO EXTEND A CONTRACT WITH KEYRING LIVING SUPPORT NETWORKS FOR A FURTHER YEAR

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Health and Wellbeing that requested approval to extend the contract with KeyRing Living Support Networks Ltd for a further year.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 - Allow the contract to expire on 31st August 2015.

Option 2: Tender the service.

Option 3: To extend the Councils contract with KeyRing Living Support Networks Ltd for a further year from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 and reduce the block contract value by 5% (£13,000) from 1st September 2015.

Option 4: To extend the Councils contract with KeyRing Living Support Networks Ltd for a further year from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 at the current contract value.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Councils contract with KeyRing Living Support Networks Ltd be extended for a further year from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016.

2. The block element of the contract by reduced by 5% (£13,000) and this would be effective from 1st September 2015.

11

MERIDIAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - CONSTRUCTION AND SALE OF PROPERTY AT PRIMROSE BANK / CROSSBANK STREET [WERNETH]

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Items 11 and 14, Meridian Development Company - Construction and Sale of Property at Primrose Bank / Crossbank Street [Werneth], by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Development updating members in respect to the status of a Council joint venture company and proposals to enter into an agreement with First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) for the construction of an industrial property on company land.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Do Nothing.

Option 2: Participate in an agreement with FCHO

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 14 of the agenda before reaching a decision.

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ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE FORMER WESTHULME HOSPITAL, CHADDERTON WAY, OLDHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Development seeking approval for the Council to acquire the former Westhulme Hospital site from the NHS Trust and simultaneously complete a sale to a third party to facilitate the development of the site.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 : Do nothing

Option 2: Support the NHS Trust

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 15 of the agenda before reaching a decision.

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EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

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Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Development updating members in respect to the status of a Council joint venture company and to seek approval to use company money to enter into an agreement with First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) for the construction of an industrial property on company land.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Do Nothing.

Option2: Participate in an agreement with FCHO.

RESOLVED – The

1. The position and future objectives of the company be noted;
2. The Council seeks to enter into an agreement with FCHO (in respect to the land shown edged red on the attached plan) on the basis of the proposed heads of terms outlined in Appendix Two of the report.
3. Authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Economy and Skills to negotiate the final heads of terms for the construction and sale of property at Primrose Bank/Crossbank Street.

15

ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE FORMER WESTHULME HOSPITAL, CHADDERTON WAY, OLDHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Development seeking approval for the Council to acquire the former Westhulme Hospital site from the NHS Trust and simultaneously complete a sale to a third party to facilitate the development of the site.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Do nothing

Option 2: Support the NHS Trust

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Council would proceed to enter into an agreement with the NHS Trust to acquire their land at Chadderton Way and simultaneously enter into an agreement to dispose of the site to a third party to redevelop the site.
2. The agreements were to be completed in accordance with the heads of terms outlined in Appendix Two of the report, which include a direct disposal
3. Authority be delegated to the Director, Economic Development, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder, to negotiate any minor amendments to the final terms of the agreement that may be required prior to completion.
4. The Director of Legal Services or his nominated Representative be authorised to sign and/or affix the

Common Seal of the Council to all documents and associated or ancillary documentation referred to in this Report or required to give effect to the recommendations in this Report.



The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.15 pm