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CABINET
14/12/2015 at 6.00 pm

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McMahon.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th
November 2015 be approved as a correct record.

6 **SHAW MARKET - APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR PLANNING
PERMISSION TO HOLD THE MARKET ON MARKET
STREET**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Enterprise and Skills which sought approval for officers to submit a planning application to enable Shaw Market to be held on Market Street and for the original Market Ground to be used as a car park.

It was noted that Shaw market had been declining for a number of years with a steadily reducing number of market traders and reducing customer base. Following a public consultation in Autumn 2014, the Council decided to run a trial market for 10 weeks on Market Street between Farrow Street East and Beal Lane.

The rationale for selecting this location for the trial was to try and move the market closer to the area of highest footfall, attract new customers to visit the market and to draw that footfall towards the local shops and businesses in the heart of the District Centre.

It was reported that at the beginning of the trial, there were 9 existing market traders. During the trial, 2 of the regular traders decided not to continue, but these were replaced and additional traders attracted, giving a total of 11 traders operating during the trial. As a result of the trial, additional Market Street shops and businesses had agreed to the placing of a stall in front of their premises and the market was in a position to expand to 20 stalls with 17 pitches already filled.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do nothing and leave the market on street. The on street market would operate without planning consent on Market Street. In addition, no consent for the original market ground would exist, the stalls would not be demolished, would fall into disrepair or would become an expensive liability and the site would not be available for additional free car parking.

Option 2 - Do not apply for planning permission and move the market back to the original market ground. The market traders trading on street on Shaw Market had already stated that they did not want to move the market back to the original market ground.

Option 3 – Do not apply for planning permission, move the market back to the original market ground, invest in the demolition of the existing fixed stalls and use demountable gazebo type stalls. This option involved the same amount of expenditure as Option 4 and did not move the market closer to the supermarkets where there was heavier footfall.

Option 4 - Apply for planning permission to hold the market on Market Street. If granted, the market would operate with full planning permission and the original market ground could be used for additional free car parking for Shaw Centre and additional space for events.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The submission of a planning application for Shaw Market to be held on Market Street between Farrow Street East and Beal Lane and on a section of Newtown Street as shown in the plan at Appendix 3 of the report be approved.
2. The change of use of the market ground at Westway to a car park be approved.

7

TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REVIEW 2015/16

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided Members with detail of the performance of the Treasury Management Function of the Council for the first half of 2015/16 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2015/16.

It was reported that the Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Revised code of Practice.

The report set out:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2015/16;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2015/16;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2015/16;
- Why there has been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2015/16;

- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2015/16.

Options/Alternatives considered

In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Council has no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report. Therefore no options/alternatives have been presented.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2015/16 and the projected outturn position be approved.
2. Amendments to both Authorised and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
3. Changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings would no longer be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties be approved.
4. The report was recommended to Council for approval.

8

ERDF ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economy and Skills which sought approval for the Council to provide co- financing in conjunction with Council's in Greater Manchester, for the 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund programme.

It was reported that the European Regional Development Fund was the main lever for delivering business and enterprise support. The Department Communities and Local Government had released seven calls (five targeted at Manchester and two across the North West). The report sought approval of £275k of resources to provide match-funding to ensure a robust programme could operate in Oldham to achieve the objectives set out in the 2015 Local Economic Assessment.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - This would remove business facing support for the next 3 years which would have a negative impact on the delivery of the Enterprise Trust, Get Oldham Working and the local economy.

Option 2 – Second Staff onto the programme. Following discussions with Manchester Growth Company it is clear that Oldham Council doesn't have the staff resources available to meet these criteria. The Oldham Business Leadership Group (OBLG) secretariat function is being explored but this is ostensibly to secure OBLG funding.

RESOLVED – That the request for £275k of Council resources to underpin the three year European Regional Development Fund programme be approved.

PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES UPDATE TO MARCH 2014 APPROVALS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Economy and Skills which sought approval to re profile the funds previously available as budgets for the provision of 3 primary school projects to allow the completion of the proposed programme of primary school expansion works.

It was reported that the Cabinet in March 2014 approved a programme to deliver sufficient capacity in the Borough's schools for anticipated demand up to and including 2017 with a budget provision of £13.5m and the provision of 170 places. Cabinet were provided with an update on the programme of works.

- Works at Christ Church, Denshaw, Holy Trinity, Dobcross and Phase 1 of Oasis Limeside had been completed.
- Design, tender and planning works had been completed for the new 3 Form Entry Primary on the site of the former Grange School, demolition and construction works commenced on site in July 2015. Currently the budget on this project was approved at £7.62m.
- Detailed design works had taken place with Oasis Academy and the proposal rationalised to be an extension of Oasis Limeside Primary to create a 2 form entry primary school on the Limeside site.
- This project would be executed in 2 phases with the first phase having been completed in August 2015 and the second phase commencing May 2016, all works were expected to be completed by September 2016.
- Currently the work at Oasis Limeside Primary Phase 2 was being designed and tendered.
- Further to the identification of Greenfield Primary as the most suitable candidate to expand in Saddleworth district, a feasibility study of design options had been carried out as detailed in section 3 of this report.
- Greenfield Primary was an old stone built school with parts dating back to circa 1900 and several extensions and temporary buildings currently accommodating a 1 form entry (1FE) primary school in compromised and less than ideal facilities with a playing field remote to the main school site.
- The proposed method of delivery of Greenfield Primary School project was subject of a further Cabinet report.
- Based upon design and tender work to date costs for projects require reconciliation post tender to meet with latest proposals.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do nothing. This was not an option as the Basic Need programme was essential to meeting the growing demand for primary school places.

Option 2 – To reconcile the available funds and to construct the expanded space at Greenfield Primary by means of a Key Stage 2 (juniors) block on the playing field.

Option 3 – Demolish existing school and construct a new 2FE through primary school. This option would require funds to be

reconciled and additional funds made available from the 2018 Basic Needs budget as outlined in Section 6 of this report.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 12 of the agenda before making a decision.

10

PROJECT DELIVERY FOR GREENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy and Skills, which sought approval to the change of scope of works at a Greenfield Primary school from being an expansion, by means of building a junior school block, to a rebuilding of a new 2 form entry (60 pupils per year) primary school.

It was reported that Greenfield primary school had been identified as the most suitable school to be expanded in the Saddleworth District.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do nothing. This was not an option as the Basic Need programme was essential to meeting the growing demand for primary school places.

Option 1A – Existing school remodelled to form a 2 form entry infant block whilst a new single storey 2 form entry junior block was built on the playing fields

This option would give the expansion capacity required utilising the existing resources, whilst minimizing costs.

Option 1B – Existing school remodelled to form a 2 form entry infant block whilst a new two storey 2 form entry junior block was built on the playing fields

This option would give the expansion capacity required using the existing resources but also building in future expansion capacity for the junior block to be easily expanded to form a 2 form entry through primary school should funds be made available in future to replace the existing school building.

Whilst funds for the rebuild of the old building were not immediately available it is thought that the minimal cost premium over Option 1A was a cost effective future proofing option at this time. It should be noted that if a split site proposal was adopted the present head teacher had expressed a preference for option 1A as it retains all accommodation at ground floor level.

Adopting either Option 1A or 1B was within the current approved budget for the programme of works.

Option 2 – Demolish existing school and construct a new 2 form entry through primary school on the school playing fields and converting the existing school site into playing fields.

This option would give the expansion capacity required, in purpose built new accommodation utilising the existing sites but at a significant premium, the cost of this option would be subject to a design and tender exercise to reach a final detailed cost.

This option will require consultation with the Secretary of State for Education for the repurposing and provision of playing fields. This was the proposal submitted as part of the PSBP2 bid to the Education Funding Agency.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 13 of the agenda before making a decision.

11 **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 paragraphs 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.

12 **PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES UPDATE TO MARCH 2014 APPROVALS**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 –Provision of Primary School Places Update to March 2014 approvals.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed change to the scope of works for Greenfield Primary School be agreed.
2. The works completed to date and ongoing works at the site of the former Grange School and Oasis Academy Limeside be noted.
3. The proposed re-profiling of funds for these projects be approved.
4. The proposed increase of overall budgets be approved.

13 **PROJECT DELIVERY FOR GREENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 – Project Delivery for Greenfield Primary School Expansion.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed change to the scope of works for Greenfield Primary School be agreed.
2. The proposed increase of overall budgets be approved.
3. Authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education in consultation with Executive Director Economy & Skills, Director of Legal Services and Director of Finance to enter into a contract for the works at Greenfield Primary School if tenders were within the accepted budget.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.20pm