

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**CABINET****Meeting held 14th September, 2011**

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore, (Chair), Leigh Bramall, Jackie Drayton, Harry Harpham, Mary Lea, Bryan Lodge, Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and Mick Rooney.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th August 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**4.1 City Centre Pride**

4.1.1 Mr Martin Brighton referred to a meeting of the Area South Panel, attended by the late Jan Wilson, on 28 March 2000, and later at Cabinet, on 8 April 2002, when this citizen raised the blight of chewing gum on our city-centre pavements. Since then there have been sporadic efforts to contain or eradicate the problem.

He stated that, today, 14 September 2011, the problem has returned with a vengeance. Money may be tight, and the requirement to remove the chewing gum will fall to the PFI contract next April, but money must be found for this before then. The problem is here, now, and is a source of civic shame.

What can be done now to rid our city-centre of chewing gum ?

4.1.2 Councillor Leigh Bramall, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, responded that the dropping of chewing gum on pavements was a perennial problem for Cities nationally. He understood that the Peace Gardens had been cleaned recently but that money, for this purpose was tight. However, he would seek to clarify when further cleaning was due and let Mr Brighton know the outcome.

4.2 Openness, Transparency and Accountability

- 4.2.1 Mr Martin Brighton suggested that it was very disappointing to learn that Council - held Section B meetings, or otherwise called sub-groups, were inappropriately being used to exclude the public on the grounds of: political pragmatism, convenience or administrative expediency, reputation management, or information flow control.

Subjects that are valid for inclusion in closed meetings include: commercial interests, criminal investigations, discussion of named individuals not reasonably expected to be publicly named, (i.e. compliant with Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act. He alleged that the culture of secrecy must change and needed to be driven by political leadership.

- 4.2.2 Mr Brighton asked what could this Council do to ensure its policy of openness, transparency and accountability is applied throughout all Council functions and Departments?
- 4.2.3 Councillor Julie Dore, Leader, responded that she had not had time to look into the matters raised by Mr Brighton in paragraph 4.2.1 above, but had noted that openness, honesty and transparency were consistent themes in his questions to the Cabinet. She re-iterated that the aim of the Council was to have a culture which was open, honest and transparent, where the Council was accountable to all stakeholders. However, she stated that if Mr Brighton was aware of any particular case, he should bring it to her attention, whereupon it would be dealt with accordingly.

4.3 Agenda Item 8 – Sheffield Community Network

- 4.3.1 Mr Martin Brighton referred to item 8 on the agenda in relation to the Sheffield Community Network and to the fact that Community Assembly management and chairs were mentioned. He asked Cabinet to identify which community groups, even if only in principle, it was proposed to assist the delivery of this programme.
- 4.3.2 Mr Brighton also asked whether there were any associations with the proposed project, whether through personnel or any involved organisations, with the alleged charity Common Purpose?
- 4.3.3 Councillor Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, responded that, in relation to the Sheffield Community Network Programme, the programme had been developed by the City Council in partnership with other organisations, including those in the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector. Those partners were listed in the report to item 8 on today's Cabinet agenda under paragraph 3 –“Benefits”, bullet point six.

She added that she could not predict who would be successful in securing a grant, but as far as she knew, there was no association between the Project and Common Purpose.

5. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY/REFERRED TO CABINET/COUNCIL

5.1 The Deputy Chief Executive reported that there had been no items of business called in for scrutiny arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th August 2011.

5.2 The Cabinet noted the information reported.

6. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

6.1 The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

6.2 RESOLVED: That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by members of staff as follows :-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Communities</u>		
Jenny Baxter	Support Manager	28
June Deakin	Home Support Worker	31
Susan Toulson	Business Support Officer	24
Alison Wylie	Social Worker	26
<u>Place</u>		
Peter Oram	Scarab Minor Driver, Street Force	37
Colin Pemberton	525 Applied Machine Driver, Street Force	20

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.

7. EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet.

7.1 **AGENDA ITEM 8: SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY NETWORK PROGRAMME**

7.1.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families submitted a report referring to the outcome of a successful bid to Yorkshire Forward, following a detailed Business Planning and Appraisal process for £2.3m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding, submitted under Priority 3 – “*Sustainable Communities - to promote active participation in the knowledge economy*” through a Sheffield Community Network Programme..

Sheffield Community Network Programme will contribute directly to the Council's continued determination to support local people through the opportunity to improve their life and employment chances by helping to reduce the number of young people aged 16-18 currently Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET), improving the skills levels and attainments of young people and promoting a culture of lifelong learning in the City and supporting young people and adults to move into sustainable employment.

7.1.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet, noting the contents of the report and the attached Equality Impact Assessment, agrees that the implementation of the proposals contained in the report are likely to promote and improve digital inclusion and consequently the economic and social well-being of Sheffield and, therefore, :--

- (a) approves that Sheffield City Council acts as the lead accountable body in relation to the management of ERDF monies for the delivery of the Sheffield Community Network Programme;
- (b) delegates authority to the Director, Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms of the appropriate contractual agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (Yorkshire Forward liabilities being transferred to the DCLG from 1st July 2011) and to enter into appropriate legal agreements with the named partner organisations detailed in the report, on terms satisfactory to him, to further deliver the project and protect the Council's position as the lead accountable body;
- (c) delegates authority to the Director, Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities to (i) approve the application criteria for a £500,000 block grant programme (with maximum grant values of up to £40,000) and contract with bidders who have been successful through a Grants Panel appraisal process to be agreed by him, which will include Sheffield City Council, Voluntary, Community and Faith sector, elected member and DCLG representation and (ii) generally to take such steps to further the project and protect the Council's interests as he considers appropriate, including entering into such further agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, as he considers appropriate; and
- (d) thanks the officers concerned for their hard work in preparing and securing the Bid.

7.1.3 REASONS FOR DECISION

The following recommendations will allow the City to secure £2.3m additional funding from the ERDF to deliver the benefits highlighted in the report. It will help young people, adults and families to meet the challenges of the recession and to prepare for opportunities presented by Digital Region investment and the economic upturn in accordance with Sheffield's Economic Master Plan.

7.1.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The following alternative options were considered and rejected:-

Project continuation without external funding – it would not be possible at this stage to deliver the Sheffield Community Network Programme without external funding.

Sheffield City Council only to deliver the programme – if the programme was to be delivered solely by Sheffield City Council, valuable partnership activity would not be supported leading to loss of synergy particularly with the non-statutory sectors. This would include loss of engagement with social enterprise and community sectors, loss of market intelligence, specialist knowledge and existing community networks. This option was rejected in favour of a joint partnership approach that allowed for the best use of match funding already secured by Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities.

7.1.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.1.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.1.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families.

7.2 AGENDA ITEM 9: POPULATION GROWTH AND PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

7.2.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families submitted a report providing an update on the outcomes of the recent consultation on options for providing additional primary school places from 2012/13. The report outlined the responses from the consultation in four areas of the City where it is expected to see the greatest pressure on school places in 2012/13. The report also sought a final decision in the case of two temporary proposals and approval to publish statutory notices in the case of two permanent proposals.

7.2.2 DECISION TAKEN:

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the proposals to offer 75 places at Tinsley Nursery and Infant School on a temporary basis for three years starting in Reception in 2012 and to offer 60 places at Acres Hill Primary School on a temporary basis for one year in Reception in 2012;
- (b) approves the publication of statutory notices with regard to the proposed increase in places at Hinde House Primary Phase and Hillsborough Primary School for September 2012 on the understanding that the Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in December 2011; and
- (c) authorises the preparation of detailed design plans for all four sites included in the proposal.

7.2.3 REASONS FOR DECISION

Providing sufficient primary school places is essential to the City's priority to raise attainment and aspirations, and is a statutory duty of the Council. These proposals mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2012 and beyond will continue to have access to a local primary school place.

7.2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Stakeholders were asked during the consultation about alternative options, such as doing nothing or providing additional places at other local schools. Parents in all areas were in agreement that extra school places were required. In the Hillsborough area, some responses from the Marcliffe school community favoured additional places at Marcliffe Primary School. The preferred option for consultation was stated as Hillsborough Primary School. The main reasons given in favour of Marcliffe concerned a desire for investment, the school's relative popularity, and the current operation of mixed-age classes. These factors apply equally to Hillsborough Primary School and it remains the preferred option as it is considered that this offers the most sustainable and equitable distribution of places across the area in the long-term. In the other consultation areas there was broad support for the stated preferred option.

7.2.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.2.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None.

7.2.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families.

7.3 AGENDA ITEM 10: REVIEW OF BIRLEY COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

7.3.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families submitted a report containing proposals for the future of Birley Community Nursery School and seeking permission to consult with stakeholders during the autumn term about proposals to amalgamate Birley Community Nursery School with Birley Community Primary School. The proposal would require making a prescribed alteration to lower the admission age of the Primary School to take children from 3 years old to establish a nursery class.

7.3.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the outcomes of the review of Birley Community Nursery School;
- (b) approves a process of consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Birley Community Nursery School with Birley Community Primary School, by changing the age range of Birley Community Primary School to create a nursery class to provide 52 full-time equivalent places for free early learning, and closing Birley Community Nursery School
- (c) agrees to receive a further report in December 2011, which will record the findings of the Birley consultation, with a view, subject to the outcome of the consultation, to proposing the publication of statutory notices to effect the reorganisation, in January 2012; and
- (d) agrees to receive further reports on the outcomes of the review of Broomhall and Grace Owen Nursery Schools as proposals are formulated.

7.3.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- The aim of the Review is to identify a workable and financially sustainable model. In the case of Birley Community Nursery School the review has included an appraisal of a range of options, in discussion with the head-teacher and governing body.
- The proposal provides a sustainable future model on which to build, while responding to the specific needs and priorities of the nursery school and the community that it serves.

7.3.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The starting point for the review was a common view of the main options as follows:-

Do Nothing - This option was rejected as it would result in a year on year deficit situation, which would result in the Nursery School being financially unsustainable.

Close - This option was rejected due to the evidence of ongoing demand for the early years provision delivered by Birley. There is a 'presumption against closure' built into government policy on nursery schools, reflecting the unique contribution Birley Community Nursery School makes and its popularity with parents.

Close and Tender out to the Private / Voluntary / Independent (PVI) sector - Evidence suggests that some parents choose to use the Nursery School even where there is sufficient PVI provision to satisfy demand.

A number of options have been considered, including amalgamation (by creating a nursery class at a local Primary School to replace the Nursery School); federation with a local Primary School with shared management and governance; and continuing as a stand-alone nursery school. The stand-alone option was rejected as a sustainable model could not be identified.

Although federation would bring closer working relationships between the Nursery and the Primary school, it was felt that amalgamation would provide a stronger, structural change to fully integrate the nursery into the whole school. This option would also secure the nursery's financial sustainability by removing the management costs associated with a stand – alone school.

7.3.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.3.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.3.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families.

7.4 AGENDA ITEM 11 : REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MOMITORING 2011/12

7.4.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted the Month 3 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2011/12.

7.4.2 **DECISION TAKEN:** That Cabinet :-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions detailed in this report on the 2011/12 budget position;
- (b) in relation to the capital programme, (i) approves the proposed inclusions referred to in paragraphs 83 to 87, variations in paragraphs 88 to 90 and 165 to 168 and Appendices 1 and 2;

(ii) approves proposed procurement strategies for each project and delegates authority to the Senior Construction Category Manager, to award the contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group in respect of the projects referred to in paragraphs 84 to 90, 92 to 105, 114 to 125 and 135 to 164;

(iii) notes (A) the Emergency Approvals in paragraphs 158 to 164 and Appendix 1 (B) the proposed slippage requests in Appendix 1 (iii) the Director Variations in Appendix 2 and (iv) the latest position on the Capital Programme; and
- (c) thanks relevant staff in the Resources Portfolio and other Portfolios for their hard work in seeking to balance the Council's budget in difficult circumstances.

7.4.3. REASONS FOR DECISION

To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

7.4.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme

7.4.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.4.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.4.7 **RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Resources

NOTE: The next meeting of Cabinet will be held on Wednesday, 28 September, 2011 at 2.00 p.m. in the Town Hall.