

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

4TH MARCH 2015 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors M. A. Sherrey (Leader), M. A. Bullivant, R. L. Dent and M. J. A. Webb

Observers: Councillor R. A. Clarke

Officers: Mr K. Dicks, Ms A. De Warr, Ms S. Morgan, Mrs S. Sellers and Ms R. Cole

90/14 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. W. P. Booth and C. B. Taylor.

91/14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

92/14 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 21st January 2015 were submitted.

It was noted that the recommendations in respect of the car parking Short Sharp Review had previously been considered by the Cabinet at its 4th February 2015 meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 21st January 2015 be noted.

93/14 **BROMSGROVE TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE - GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Cabinet considered a report relating to two applications under the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Under the Grant Scheme previously agreed these two grants required Cabinet approval because they were over £150,000.

Members were reminded that the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) was a Grant Scheme of £1.6m funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the County Council for the restoration of historic buildings on the High Street, including

parts of Worcester Road and New Road. Members noted that this Council is responsible for project managing the Grant Scheme .

It was noted that both of the current applications were in respect of Listed Buildings :

- 67 High Street (Oswald Bailey) – grant of £195,500 (to be capped at this level)
- 1-3 New Road (The Tudor House) – grant of £198,024 (to be capped at this level)

It was further noted that arrangements were in place for claw back to the Heritage Lottery Fund should the properties be sold following the works as set out in section 3.9 - 3.12 of the report. It was requested that the final grant figures be confirmed to Members when available.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the offer of a THI Grant of £195,500 (capped) as set out in the report in respect of 67 High Street be approved;
- (b) that the offer of a THI Grant of £198,024 (capped) as set out in the report in respect of 1-3 New Road be approved.

94/14

FINANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3 2014/15

The Cabinet considered a report on the financial position for revenue and capital for the period April to December 2014.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the total predicted saving against budget of £301,000 and it was confirmed that the majority of this was in relation to savings on interest payable on borrowing to support the capital programme which had not yet been required.

Reference was also made to a shortfall in income within Environmental Services which had arisen from the review of a previous decision to sell the Trade Waste service. Officers were now working on alternative options for the service which would be brought back to Members for consideration.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the current financial position on revenue and capital be noted .

RECOMMENDED that the Capital Programme for 2015/16 be increased by £40,000 in respect of S106 monies (from land off Regent Road, the Oakalls), and this be utilised to improve the quality of parks and public open spaces in and around the Oakalls.

95/14 **DISCRETIONARY WRITE OFF OF DEBTS**

The Cabinet considered a report requesting authorisation for discretionary write off in respect of a number of debts.

It was reported that the total value of discretionary write off was £28,141.49 with the majority of this arising from one Non Domestic Rates case. Officers confirmed that all actions had been taken in an attempt to recover the debts but there was no likelihood of recovery.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the discretionary write off of debts totalling £28,141.49 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

Chairman