

CABINET - 5TH MARCH 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL & SPECIAL URGENCY REPORT

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INTEGRATED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 1)

The Cabinet has considered a report on the Council's performance and financial position as at 30th June 2008. In doing so it noted that the £100,000 underspend mentioned in the strategic planning finance report did, in fact, relate to an underspend in relation to the Local Development Framework - Examination in Public, and that the funding for the Framework could be released back to balances as there was sufficient budget available to fund the project.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

that the Council approve a reduction in revenue budget and corresponding return to revenue balances of £100,000 in relation to the funding requirement for the Local Development Framework - Examination in Public.

2. REVIEW OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Cabinet has given consideration to a report which provided an update on the review of the Capital Programme, to ensure the funds were utilised to deliver projects as approved during the Medium Term Financial Plan.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Council approve the carry forward requests from 2007/08, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (b) that the Council approve a reduction to the Capital Programme 2008/09 of £3.935m, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, to reflect both the savings achieved through procurement efficiencies and the projects which due to the factors detailed in the report would not be delivered during 2008/09.

3. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - SELF ASSESSMENT

The Cabinet has considered the latest version of the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Self Assessment.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the work in progress draft Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Self Assessment be noted;
- (b) that it be noted that an updated draft would go forward to the next meeting of the Council for consideration;

- (c) that it be noted that the deadline for submission to the Audit Commission of the final Self Assessment was 26th September 2008; and
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any necessary changes to the final document prior to its submission to the Audit Commission.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OPERATION REVIEW

The Cabinet has given consideration to a report which sought approval to change the type of refuse collection vehicle fleet to a standard type of refuse collection vehicle.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that a migration away from the current side arm refuse collection fleet to a standard type of refuse collection vehicle similar to those operated by all other Local Authorities in this country be commenced;
- (b) that this be done on a phased basis commencing with 2 vehicles that will be part funded by the vehicle manufacturer in compensation for losses of bins that have occurred since commencement of the existing operation;
- (c) that it be noted that the negotiations for compensation have progressed and that agreement has now been reached;
- (d) that there be a virement of £63,500 from the capital budget relating to containers which will no longer be required for this purpose, which will be utilised in conjunction with the compensation arrangements to enable the Council to acquire two new vehicles; and
- (e) that approval be given to the wider vehicle replacement programme in accordance with the funding provision agreed within the capital programme, with a further report to be provided on how the capital programme is to be funded.

5. COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2012 PART 1

The Cabinet has considered a report on the Council Plan 2009-2012 Part 1 which asked Members to re-confirm the Council's Vision and Council Objectives and reduce the number of priorities from five to four.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Council's Vision and Council Objectives, as detailed at points 6.1 and 6.3 of Appendix 1 to the report, be reconfirmed;
- (b) that the analysis of the Council's national, regional and local context, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (c) that based on the context referred to at Recommendation (b) above, the definitions of the Council Objectives detailed at Addendum A to Appendix 1 of the report be agreed; and
- (d) that based on the context referred to at Recommendation (b) above, a reduction in the number of priorities, as detailed at point 3.5 of the report, be approved.

6. WORCESTERSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2008-2013

The Cabinet has given consideration to the refreshed Worcestershire Community Strategy 2008-2013.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the progress to refresh the Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy be noted;
- (b) that formal approval be given to the refreshed Worcestershire Sustainable Strategy;
- (c) that it be noted that Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet formally endorsed the Bromsgrove Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy at its meeting on 17th July 2008;
- (d) that the action being taken by the District Council to ensure both the District Local Strategic Partnership and Council strategies are aligned to the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement be noted; and
- (e) that it be noted that this alignment is crucial to the Council achieving a good rating under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) inspection framework which starts in April 2009.

II. RECOMMENDATION & SPECIAL URGENCY REPORT

7. FREE SWIMMING SCHEME/GRANT - 2009/10 AND 2010/11

Urgent consideration was given to a report which outlined the Government's Free Swimming Scheme proposals for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and the Council's proposed response to this offer. The various funding implications of the proposals were noted and it was agreed that Members would review the position based on the Council's priorities after 2011.

(The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency as a recommendation on this was required prior to the next meeting of the Council. It was further noted that the recommendations of the Cabinet would be forwarded to the Department of Culture, Media & Sport by the required deadline of 15th September 2008, and that these would be subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 17th September 2008.)

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that officers be requested to implement the Government's Free Swimming Scheme including coaching/instruction sessions for over 60's for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- (b) that the availability of free swimming places for over 60's be restricted to Bromsgrove District Council residents only;

- (c) that agreement be given to limit the availability of free swimming places and based on the definition contained within 3.11 of the report;
- (d) that officers be requested to decline the offer of free swimming for under 16's for the reasons contained within the report and not express an interest to the Government;
- (e) that officers be requested to not put forward a bid for capital funding due to the limited life expectancy of its swimming pool stock; and
- (f) that the implementation and management of the scheme be delegated to the Head of Service for Finance and the Deputy Head of Street Scene & Community to ensure that the scheme is established in order to minimise risk and the Medium Term Financial Plan.