



Committee and Date

Cabinet

3 July 2019

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019

In the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

11.00 am - 12.35 pm

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Dean Carroll, Steve Davenport, Robert Macey, Lezley Picton and Ed Potter

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Gwilym Butler, Lee Chapman and David Minnery

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

3 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader

4 Scrutiny Items

There were no scrutiny items.

5 Member Question Time

There were no Member questions.

6 Public Question Time

The Reverend Michael Plunkett read out a question in relation to bus services on behalf of Enterprise South West Shropshire.

Questions were also received in relation to Climate Change from Isobel Lewis, Jonathan Bruton, Adam Shipp, Dougald Purce and Charles Green, CPRE. A full copy of the questions and responses provided by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Climate change is attached to the signed minutes and available on the Council's website with the papers for Cabinet meetings.

7 Shropshire Council Supported Bus Services - Budget 2019/20

In introducing the report of the Director of Place, the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Car Parking thanked the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport for his hard work on bus transport issues and emphasised the need to start thinking differently in the future.

The Deputy Portfolio Holder reported that there had been 956 responses to the six week consultation on the proposals to reduce the Council's expenditure on the local bus services it subsidised and the Shrewsbury Park and Ride Service. The responses had highlighted the reliance on bus services for people in Shropshire in undertaking their daily lives, particularly the elderly, those with a disability, young people and families on low incomes.

The report before Council had taken account of the consultation responses and it was now proposed not to reduce or remove services, but to focus on where genuine efficiencies or cost pressures could be focused on. This meant the full savings reduction of £405,000 would not be achieved and would be reduced to £180,000.

A number of Members of the Council addressed the Cabinet and welcomed the news that services would not be reduced or removed. They highlighted issues raised in their electoral divisions in relation to social isolation, access to education and employment and the economy. Members also raised issues around recording of bus pass usage, and equitable access to bus passes that covered 7 day a week travel. Members also highlighted the need for a sustainable transport system and use of environmentally friendly vehicles.

Members also spoke in relation to the Shrewsbury Park and Ride, the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, the funding made available to community transport groups.

Responding to comments, the Portfolio Holder and Leader reiterated the desire to be more efficient rather than implement cuts and highlighted the opportunities presented by the developing Rural and Community Strategy and in the area of climate change and carbon reduction which would help shape and influence future transport policy.

An amendment was proposed and agreed so that the Park and Ride proposals to remove the concessionary discount be referred to a Task and finish Group for further consideration, along with consideration of a family discount offer.

RESOLVED:

Local Bus Services

- i. To not implement the reduction or removal of services as consulted, but where the consultation feedback has highlighted genuine efficiencies or cost pressures those will be focussed upon.
- ii. To amend the Council's 2019/20 budget and reduce the planned reduction in the public transport budget from £405,000 to £180,000.

2.2 Shrewsbury Park & Ride

- i. To approve the proposal as consulted upon on Shrewsbury Park & Ride fare increase from £1.60 to £2.00 return.
- ii. To remove the Shrewsbury Park & Ride group ticket option, which currently allows up to 5 passengers to travel for the price of £2.50 (return).
- iii. To refer the matter of the removal of the discretionary discount for concessionary fares on Shrewsbury Park and Ride to Scrutiny for consideration, along with consideration of a Family Ticket offer.
- iv. To agree the proposed changes to Park & Ride become effective from 1 September 2019

2.3 Future Public Transport Services

- i. To commence a review of the current operation and future opportunities for, improved public transport services across Shropshire, including reviewing concessionary travel and the opportunities for bus franchising.

8 Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24 and Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Terms of Reference

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications introduced the report of the Director of Place on the Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024 and Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Terms of Reference. She emphasised that she and the Council took the need to work closely with the Partnership seriously and recognised its responsibility in supporting the huge environmental, economic and wellbeing benefits it brought to the people of Shropshire.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve the Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24, and the revised Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership.

9 Shropshire Local Plan Review: Consultation on Preferred Strategic Development Sites

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning presented a report of the Director of Place, seeking approval for a consultation document identifying preferred strategic sites in Shropshire and providing a summary analysis of the feedback received during the previous round of consultation on Preferred Sites.

A number of members addressed Cabinet reporting significant local concern about the land north of Junction 3 of the M54 which lay within the West Midlands Green Belt and asked about timescales in identifying the future of this site. The Local Member for Much Wenlock emphasised the need to be mindful of the impact of the Ironbridge Power Station development on local settlements and on the very small Parish it was located within,

emphasising the need to ensure phasing took into account community cohesion and integration.

Cabinet members heard that it was expected that the outcomes of the consultation would be presented to Cabinet in March 2020 as part of the draft Local Plan Review for consultation. The Leader referred to national policy which would require Shropshire Council to present an 'exceptional circumstances' argument to justify the release of Green Belt land near junction 3 of the M54.

The Portfolio Holder said the Ironbridge Development would be delivered through a carefully phased master planning approach and reported that Telford and Wrekin Council supported this.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the draft document for consultation (attached) which identifies preferred strategic sites at the former Ironbridge Power Station, Clive Barracks at Tern Hill and RAF Cosford for consultation subject to minor amendments and editing. The document also seeks views on (but at this stage does not identify as a preferred allocation) outline proposals for a strategic employment site and related community services and housing north of Junction 3 of the M54;

That authority is delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning to confirm the final version of the documents and to publish these for public consultation;

That Cabinet approves a revised Local Plan timetable as set out in the updated 'Local Development Scheme' attached to this report.

10 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (3) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items.

11 London Road Shrewsbury Self Build

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration presented an Exempt report of the Director of Place relating to disposal of a site for the provision of self-build plots.

RESOLVED:

To approve the recommendations set out in the report.

12 Lease of Property at Tilstock, Whitchurch for Temporary Accommodation Purposes

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning presented an Exempt report of the Director of Adult Services, Housing and Public Health, relating to lease of a property in Tilstock for the provision of temporary accommodation.

RESOLVED

To approve the recommendations set out in the report

Signed (Chairman)

Date: