

**Committee and Date**

Cabinet

5 October 2020

CABINET**Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020****1.00 pm – 2.00 pm****Responsible Officer:** Amanda Holyoak

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

Present

Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Lezley Picton and Ed Potter

125 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Lee Chapman and Steve Davenport.

126 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

127 Minutes**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 6 July 2020 and 20 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

128 Public Question Time

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services read out questions submitted by Mr Charles Green regarding the consultations for the Statement of Community Involvement and Local Plan. The full questions and responses provided by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services are attached to the signed minutes and to the web page for the meeting.

129 Member Question Time

The following Members were invited to ask their questions by the Leader. The full questions and responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and are attached to the web page for the meeting.

Councillor David Turner asked a question regarding agenda item 7, River Severn Partnership Flood Prevention, and the focus of proposed water management including flood risk management measures. By way of a supplementary question he requested that a copy of the full assessment of needs be made available to him when available.

Councillor David Vasmer asked a number of questions also in relation to agenda item 7, regarding:

- Water management measures to reduce flooding in conjunction with the North West Relief Road
- Whether any consideration had been given to a third option to promote flood alleviation
- Whether benefits of flood alleviation measures in the report would be quantified and whether barriers would be considered for Smithfield Road, Shrewsbury
- The business case and planning application for the North West Relief Road
- Overall environmental impact of flood alleviation proposals and amelioration of any negative impacts
- Creation of new wetlands

Councillor Roger Evans asked a question about council officers working from home.

130 **Scrutiny Items**

There were no scrutiny items.

131 **River Severn Partnership Shropshire Flood Prevention**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning introduced the report of the Director of Place. He proposed a number of amendments to the recommendations with the insertion of the wording 'to explore in principle' to the first two of the recommendations, the addition of 'to explore the opportunity' to the start of the third recommendation, and 'this is to have a particular focus on engaging those directly affected by any proposals' at the end of the fourth recommendation.

During discussion Cabinet Members welcomed the changes to the recommendations, asked that it be made clear that all possible solutions would be looked at; and reiterated the need to ensure all those affected by any possible scheme be contacted as soon as possible. It was suggested that this was a potential area for a Scrutiny Committee's consideration. The Leader reported that he was keen to talk to the Welsh Assembly to look at potential measures on the Welsh side of the border.

RESOLVED: To

- (i) Explore in principle the potential development of water management measures north of Shrewsbury that would reduce future risk of river flooding for all communities within Shropshire along the River Severn south of Shrewsbury.
- (ii) Explore the principle of a holistic approach to development of the North West Relief Road in conjunction with (i) above.
- (iii) Explore the opportunity, in conjunction with (i) above, to explore the potential to develop a water based, leisure resource that includes enhanced natural wildlife and habitat, visitor economy facilities that would include enhanced highway, cycling and walking infrastructure.

- (iv) Support the work of the River Severn Partnership and Environment Agency in a joint approach to a programme of community consultation and engagement that will explore and develop potential options for future flood risk management outlined in the report. This is to have particular focus on engaging those directly affected by any proposals.

132 Statement of Community Involvement

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which explained the need to bring the Statement of Community Involvement up to date and in line with changes in the law.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Statement of Community Involvement be agreed for public consultation and a further report to Cabinet will follow this with any recommended amendments for Cabinet to consider prior to adopting the revised SCI.

133 Transfer of Apprenticeship Levy Funds 2020 - 2021

The Leader of the Council introduced the report of the Director of Workforce and Transformation explaining. This would enable any unused funding to be spent within Shropshire to enable the creation of new opportunities for employers and communities in key employment sectors and for vulnerable and priority groups within the county.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (i) Cabinet agrees to transfer up to 25% of annual Apprenticeship Levy Funds, in line with the ESFA Funding Rules, to local businesses including voluntary aided schools, voluntary and community sector organisations and small to medium sized enterprises via a transparent and robust application process (Appendix 1).
- (ii) Cabinet agrees to support the following priority sectors within the process of Apprenticeship Levy Transfers;
 - Health and Social Care
 - Engineering and Manufacturing
 - Digital and Creative
 - Construction
 - Visitor Economy
 - Education and Childcare
- (iii) Cabinet agrees to support the following priority groups:
 - People in Protected Characteristic groups and people at risk of social exclusion (i.e. Care Leavers, NEETs) outlined on the Shropshire Council webpages for Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion.

People who are currently unemployed or have been affected by COVID-19 (i.e. redundancy)

16-18-year olds who cannot access training via other funding opportunities.

134 Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and the impact of Covid-19 on Quarter 1 performance was discussed.

RESOLVED:

To consider the emerging issues in this report

To review the performance portal and identify any performance areas that they would like to consider in greater detail or refer to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee.

135 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report and explained that the projected revenue outturn position was an overspend of £1.925m. The Leader said he was looking for a balanced budget, the savings required could be made and this would be delivered.

RESOLVED

To note that at the end of Quarter 1 (30 June 2020), the full year revenue forecast is a potential overspend of £1.925m;

To consider the impact of this on the Council's General Fund balance.

136 Annual Treasury Report 2019 - 2020

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report which reflected the extremely low interest rates over the year. The Treasury Team had nevertheless outperformed the investment benchmark by 0.42%.

RESOLVED:

to accept the position as set out in the report.

137 Treasury Management Report Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support set out the Treasury Management Quarter 1 position. He expressed his appreciation to the internal treasury team which had achieved a return of 0.83% on the Council's cash balances, outperforming the benchmark by 0.87%

RESOLVED:

To accept the position as set out in the report.

138 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provision 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 during consideration of the following item

139 Alveley Industrial Estate

RESOLVED:

That the two recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: