

# CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Tuesday 10 November 2015



The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **Tuesday 10 November 2015** :-

## 2. QUANTON CONSERVATION AREA

### (a) Decision(s)

- (1) That the responses to the consultations contained in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report be noted.
- (2) That the Conservation Area boundary (Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report) and the Management Plan be adopted.

### (b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The recommendations reflect the outcome of the review and the consultations undertaken in connection with the review. The review accords with the Council's responsibilities under Section 69(2) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 and is an effective means of helping the Council to protect the District's cultural heritage. The Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy read out a letter from the Parish Council supporting the proposed revised Conservation Area and thanking the Council as a whole and the relevant officers in particular for the work undertaken.

### (c) Alternative Option(s) Considered

Not to approve any revision to the Conservation Area. However the review identified the need to make a number alterations to the existing Conservation Area boundary in the interests of protecting the cultural and architectural heritage of the village.

### (d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Environment and Living.

### (e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)

None.

## 3. VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE, AYLESBURY

**(a) Decision(s)**

- (1) That the Aylesbury Visitor Information Centre (VIC) be closed from late March, 2016, and that the current budget be re-invested in more effective visitor economy support, (to be considered as part of the wider budget report later in the year).
- (2) That the Senior Communications and Marketing Officer, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Communities and Civic Amenities be authorised to progress all necessary works to implement the closure.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

- The VIC is no longer meeting its primary purpose of serving visitors to the town and area.
- Visitors and residents are gaining information through other mediums, predominantly on-line, resulting in an on-going decrease in footfall. The new "Visit Aylesbury" web site has just been launched and provides 24/7 information for visitors to the town centre.
- Relocating to a shared location would require additional short term investment and additional on-going staff resource, but the cost saving projections cannot be guaranteed.
- Improvements to information at "gateway points" (car parks, stations etc.), and signage would meet the needs of the majority of visitors to the town.
- The majority of services offered at the VIC are also provided by other outlets in the town.
- Transferring the VIC to another organisation, such as the Aylesbury Town Council, would not solve the issues and concerns listed in the Cabinet report.
- The current contract with Tourism South East ends on 31 March, 2016, with notice being required three months in advance, hence the need for a decision at this juncture by Cabinet.

**(c) Alternative Option(s) Considered**

- To increase investment.
- Business as usual.
- Decrease investment.
- Cease investment.

The Cabinet report (posted on the Council's web site) provides a commentary on each of the options.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**  
Economy and Business Development.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)**

None.

#### **4. WATERSIDE NORTH PHASE 1 - APPOINTMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT PARTNER**

**(a) Decision(s)**

- (1) That Council be recommended to appoint developer A referred to in the confidential part of the Cabinet agenda, as the Council's preferred development partner.
- (2) That Council be recommended to approve the inclusion of £4.02m in the Capital Programme in order to acquire the commercial element of the development.
- (3) That Council be recommended to approve the inclusion of £3.3m in the Capital Programme for the public realm element of the scheme on the basis that this money was expected to be reimbursed by the South Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

To facilitate the next phase of the regeneration of Aylesbury Town Centre, namely Waterside North (Phase 1). The report recommended the appointment of a development partner in order to progress the scheme.

**(c) Alternative Option(s) Considered**

The strategic business case for AVDC's commitment to the delivery of Phase 1 of Waterside North was reported to Cabinet in September, 2014 and the Minutes are posted on the Council's website.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee will be receiving a similar report at its meeting on 16 November, 2015. Any comments will be fed into the report to Council on 2 December. As this matter will be considered by Council in December, Cabinet's recommendations are not subject to call-in.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)**

None.

#### **5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for 2016/17 onwards, as set out in Appendix A of the Cabinet report (which incorporates the Provisions referred to above in relation to Waterside North – Phase 1).

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

The Council is required to set a capital budget for the coming financial year, and prudent financial management requires taking a longer term view of capital activity. Regular review and updating of capital resource availability and capital investment plans is essential, especially when a number of capital projects are running in parallel.

**(c) Alternative Option(s) Considered**

None as such. The proposed capital Programme represents the allocation of anticipated resources in accordance with corporate priorities.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee will be receiving a similar report at its meeting on 16 November, 2015. Any comments will be fed into the report to Council on 2 December. As this matter will be considered by Council in December, Cabinet's recommendations are not subject to call-in.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)**

None.

**6. BUDGET PLANNING 2016/17**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That the approach outlined in the Cabinet report for the development of the budget for 2016/17 and for the Medium Term Financial Plan be endorsed.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

The Council is required to set a budget annually. This process requires consideration of a number of factors and the Cabinet report sets the scene for budget planning. The Cabinet report merely at this stage outlines the proposed process.

**(c) Alternative Option(s) Considered**

None as such. There are no options to consider at this stage of the process.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee will be receiving a similar report at its meeting on 16 November, 2015.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)**

None.

**7. TOWARDS AN ENTERPRISE COUNCIL**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That Council be recommended to:

(1) Approve the business case as set out in the body of the Cabinet report and the creation and incorporation of a wholly owned Local Authority Trading Company as set out in option 1 of the Cabinet report.

(2) Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation, to decide on the

final company name and the date and details of incorporation of the trading company.

- (3) Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation, to determine the number and appointment of directors to the trading company.
- (4) Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation, to agree and sign a shareholder agreement, Articles of Association and a service level agreement between the Council and the company.
- (5) Approve a loan of up to £50k on commercial terms as working capital for the company from General Working Balances and to give authority to the Director with responsibility for finance to agree the loan payment stages and repayment terms.
- (6) Agree to indemnify the company directors against personal liability while acting for the company through appropriate Directors Liability Insurance.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

To provide the Council with another route to generate a significant income stream to protect Council services in the future, given the likely reductions in Government Core Grant.

**(c) Alternative Option(s) Considered**

- Company limited by shares.
- Company limited by guarantee.
- A "Teckal" company.
- Registered society.

The Cabinet report (posted on the Council's website) contains a commentary on each of these options.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest/Dispensation(s)**

None.

## **CALL-IN TIMESCALES**

Any requests for call-in must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 5pm on Thursday 19 November 2015. The request must be made by the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee or any 3 Members of that Scrutiny Committee.

**Contact Officer:** Bill Ashton (01296) 585040