

# CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Tuesday 6 September 2016



The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **Tuesday 6 September 2016** :-

## 2. SILVERSTONE HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

### (a) Decision(s)

- (1) That Council be recommended to authorise the Director with responsibility for finance, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Compliance to review and make an assessment of the due diligence being undertaken by South Northamptonshire District Council.
- (2) That subject to the above assessment proving satisfactory and subject to suitable terms and conditions being agreed by the supporting councils and the necessary commitment to the scheme being given by each of them, Council be recommended to:-
  - Approve the inclusion of £2m within the Capital Programme as a provision to make a loan facility available to Silverstone Heritage Limited: and
  - Earmark £2m of unallocated New Homes Bonus for the above purpose.

**NOTE:** A copy of the organisation's business plan was appended to the Confidential part of the Cabinet agenda.

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

Silverstone represents a significant hub for leisure, tourism, employment and high tech industry. Its draw and impact in the region extends well beyond the administrative boundaries of the councils in whose areas the circuit is situated, with an economic radius of approximately 50 miles. An estimated 36,000 jobs are dependent on Silverstone as the centre for UK motor sports and the home of Formula One.

The leisure, recreation and employment businesses that depend on the venue generate significant amounts of business rates for the councils in the area, and the changes to the retention of business rates mean that the councils now benefit directly from the success of Silverstone.

The support recommended for the Silverstone Heritage Scheme is recognition of the strategic importance of the venue to Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire and the need to promote the venue and enhance its attraction in order to ensure the long term future of Formula One motor sports.

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

Not to make a loan facility available, but this was discounted for the reasons given above.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. However as this matter will be considered by Council, it is not subject to call in.

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

None.

**3. GAWCOTT SOLAR FIELD COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That no action be taken in relation to the invitation to the Council to participate in this Bond offer.

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

Although appreciating the potential benefits to the community, Cabinet felt that its commitment to the scheme might be viewed as an endorsement of the Bond as an investment to the wider community. Without making any judgement on the quality of the Bond offer as an investment, Cabinet felt that it was inappropriate for it to be in a position of effectively recommending investments through its actions.

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

To participate in this Bond offer.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services.

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

None.

**4. AYLESBURY VALE COMMUNITY CHEST**

**(a) Decision(s)**

(1) That the Cabinet report be noted.

(2) That Charities, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and Parish Councils in the Vale with eligible projects be encouraged by Members to contact the Grants Officer as soon as possible so they do not miss out on the remaining opportunities to apply for funding.

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

The report sets out the progress of the scheme and its contribution to the delivery of community assets and provides an opportunity for all Members of the Council to raise awareness of the scheme.

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

None as such.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services.

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

None.

**5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FOUR YEAR GRANT SETTLEMENT OFFER**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That Council be recommended to accept the Government's 4 year funding offer and to submit a link to the appendices attached to the Cabinet report as its Efficiency Plan and supporting evidence in order to satisfy the conditions of acceptance of the 4 year funding settlement for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

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

Acceptance of the Government's offer will create certainty over a significant part of the Council's future resources and allow the Council to create Medium Term Financial Planning Targets with greater certainty over the amount required to balance the budget.

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

Not to take up the Government's offer. If this were the case RSG funding would be subject to the existing yearly process for determining local government finance, with all the uncertainties this entails.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. However as this matter will be considered by full Council, it is not subject to call-in.

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

None.

**6. AYLESBURY VALE BROADBAND BUSINESS PLAN**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That the draft business plan prepared by Aylesbury Vale Broadband Ltd be approved. (A full copy of the Plan was appended to the confidential part of the

Cabinet agenda).

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

To enable the Company to progress the expansion of superfast broadband across the District in accordance with previous Council decisions.

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

Not to continue investing in the further expansion of superfast broadband. But this would be contrary to the Council's previously agreed strategy in this field.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Economy and Business Development. That Committee will be receiving a similar report at its next meeting.

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

None.

**7. WATERSIDE NORTH - FUTURE PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That Council be recommended to approve a budget of up to £250,000, to be met from the General Revenue Fund to enable the preparatory work for the next stages of the redevelopment of Aylesbury town to progress in support of the Council's economic and commercial AVDC strategies.

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

To enable a mixed scheme for the next phases of redevelopment of Aylesbury Town Centre.

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

AVDC could choose to do nothing and wait for a developer to come forward and suggest a scheme for the next phases of redevelopment. However, this would be highly unlikely to happen and a high risk strategy, given the competition from other centres seeking to attract development partners for similar sized schemes. Leaving it the market would also mean that the Council's ability to shape and influence what happens next would be very much reduced.

There is a risk that unless AVDC continues to take the lead, momentum in the town centre could stall, putting at risk the already considerable investment that has taken place.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. However as this matter will be considered by full Council, it is not subject call-in.

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

None.

## **8. AYLESBURY VALE ESTATES (AVE) BUSINESS PLAN**

### **(a) Decision(s)**

That based upon AVE's responses to queries raised previously by Cabinet, the draft business plan for 2016/17, be approved.

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

The draft business plan contains a number of important actions which were listed in the confidential part of the Cabinet agenda and to proceed, it was necessary for approval to be given to the business plan.

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

None as such.

### **(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Economy and Business Development. That Committee has previously had the opportunity to consider the business plan and many of Cabinet's earlier queries mirrored those of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **(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 15 September 2016. 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