

## The Cabinet

**27<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at 3.30 pm**  
**at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Eling (Chair);  
Councillors Carmichael, Gill, Hackett, D Hosell,  
Khatun, Moore and Trow.

**Apologies:** Councillors Marshall and Shackleton;  
Councillors Ahmed and Y Davies.

**In attendance:** Councillors Crompton, Hevican, P Hughes,  
S Jones and Underhill.

115/16 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> May  
and 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **Strategic Items**

116/16 **A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 Improvement**  
**(Key Decision Ref. No. REI1029)**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment reported that on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015, the Cabinet approved proposals for the improvement of Birchley Island, Oldbury traffic junction (see Minute No. 38/15).

Approval was now sought to submit a Major Scheme Business Case to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and to the Combined Authority devolved transport fund following the issue of guidance on assessing bids and Strategic Finance undertaking a full appraisal.

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In order to proceed with the preferred scheme, land currently not within Council ownership would be acquired through a Compulsory Purchase Order. A Side Roads Order would also be required. A further report to approve the necessary Orders would be submitted to Cabinet in due course, subject to financial approval through the Local Growth Fund.

As the effect of these Orders would include land adjacent to sections of Highway for which Highways England was Highway Authority, it was necessary for Highways England to enter into a legal agreement with the Council under section 6 of the Highways Act 1980 to delegate to the Council all or any of its functions in respect of transferring the appropriate powers from Highways England to the Council for the purposes of developing and implementing this scheme.

The Compulsory Purchase Order or Side Roads Order would not be made and no land acquisition would commence until a commitment to funding was secured from the West Midlands Combined Authority or other body as appropriate.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 Improvement, Oldbury as shown on Drawing No. P47070399/SK/20 be approved;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet detailing a full strategic risk assessment and identifying a funding source for the Major Scheme Business Case in respect of the A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 Improvement, Oldbury to enable the scheme to be submitted to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (or other body as appropriate);
- (3) that the land coloured red on Drawing Nos. SO9888SW/A, SO9888SE/G and SO9888NE/H be approved as land comprised within the sites of highways which it is proposed should be constructed, improved or altered for the purposes of Schedule 13, paragraph 15 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

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- (4) that the Director - Governance enter into an Agreement with Highways England under Section 6 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 for the purposes of developing and implementing the A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 Improvement, Oldbury.

117/16

### **External funding bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for West Smethwick Park (Round 2) (Key Decision Ref. No. LR08)**

The Leader of the Council sought approval, in principle, for match funding for the West Smethwick Park improvement project, subject to a full appraisal of the project when the final business case was complete.

The Cabinet had approved the submission of a first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund of a Parks for People Grant for £0.385m on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (see Minute No. 39/15). The funding was being used to carry out development work required to support a further application to Heritage Lottery Fund to complete the restoration of the infrastructure in West Smethwick Park.

The total cost of Round 2 of the project was £5.172m with funding required as follows:-

- Heritage Lottery Fund (£4.494m)
- Sandwell Council Parks & Green Spaces (£0.100m)
- Sandwell Council Capital contribution (£0.550m)
- Volunteer contributions (£0.028m)

The Council's capital contribution to Round 2 of £0.550m would be funded by Prudential borrowing at a cost of £0.039m per year. It was anticipated that there would be additional income from events and concessions to offset some of the costs of prudential borrowing.

The Council's revenue contribution to Round 2 was estimated to be £0.020m for a minimum of five years for management and maintenance costs of the park with an option to request revenue support from Heritage Lottery Fund to protect the capital investment for five years.

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Subject to round 2 approvals from Heritage Lottery Fund, the project was expected to commence in August 2017, with a completion date of March 2022. A project board had been established as part of the round one development stage.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he would continue to provide viable and sustainable funding through capital resources to support regeneration and improvements projects across Sandwell. Sandwell's parks all had Green Flag park status and significant investments had also been made to the new leisure centres in Tipton and Wednesbury. Heritage Lottery funding had also been used to refurbish a number of historic sites across the borough including Oak House barns, West Bromwich and Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that Strategic Finance appraise the round 2 application for the restoration of West Smethwick Park to reduce any risk to the Council, in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
- (2) that, subject to resolution (1) above, approval be given for £0.550m match funding for the second round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of West Smethwick Park.

118/16

### **Household Garden Waste Collections – Revision of Service (Key Decision Ref. No. HE047)**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment sought approval to implement a policy to change the current all year round household garden waste collection service to a seasonal collection service in order to provide a value for money service at the peak times of demand when the most garden waste tonnages were generated and to achieve efficiency savings to the service of £103,000 per annum, with minimal disruption to service users.

With the exception of two weeks over the festive period, the current service that operated all year round would change to a service that operated during the spring, summer and autumn months each year, specifically operating from March to November each year.

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An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to questions from the Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment confirmed that every household would be informed of the change in green waste collections by either a sticker on their garden waste bin or their residual bin. Emails would also be sent to all residents with a “My Sandwell” portal account and communication would appear in local media outlets and via social networking sites. In the event that residents, particularly elderly and vulnerable, were unable to dispose of garden waste at Shidas Lane, the Council would endeavour to remove it for them.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director – Neighbourhoods amend the household garden waste collection service to a seasonal service between March to November each year with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into a formal notice under Schedule 21 of the Project Agreement between Sandwell MBC and Serco Limited to implement the revisions to service provision and to enter into an appropriate form of agreement(s) as may be necessary and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Director - Neighbourhoods.

119/16

### **Bear Junction Pedestrian Safety and Capacity Upgrade, Smethwick (Key Decision Ref. No. LR12)**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment sought approval to the third phase of a staged project to secure a comprehensive and integrated series of improvements along the Cape Hill/Bearwood Road corridor in Smethwick, for which funding of £2,000,000 was earmarked from the Council’s 2013/14 revenue surplus.

The first phase of works was implemented in 2015-16, to repair and renew highway infrastructure along the 2km length of Bearwood Road corridor, at a cost of £210,760. A second phase of works was undertaken at Cape Hill, with a capital programme contribution of £651,000.

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The third phase of work would require redesigning the Bear junction to improve pedestrian safety, expand vehicle capacity and operational efficiency and secure environmental benefits. It would also secure the upgrading of a zebra crossing outside Bearwood school to a signal-controlled puffin crossing.

Further phases would secure the creation of landscaped public open spaces with seating and events areas, additional street tree planting, the establishment of a high-quality Bearwood gateway around the Kings Head clock and improved interchange facilities at Bearwood bus station and linkages to Lightwoods Park.

The cost to undertake this third phase of works was £691,515 with £591,515 of this being sought from capital sources and £100,000 to be supplemented from the Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Grant. Work would begin in August 2016 and would be completed within the 2016-2017 financial year, leaving just contractor retention sums, amounting to £10,000, carried forward into 2017-18.

Some aspects of the scheme were subject to Traffic Regulation Orders and, following statutory consultations with local residents, emergency services and other stakeholders, any objections would be reported to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment for consideration.

Following an appraisal of the project by Strategic Finance a number of action points had been recommended to mitigate any risk to the Council.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the third phase of Streetscape and safety improvements along Bearwood Road, Smethwick be implemented at a total cost of £591,515;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Chief Finance Officer allocate a total sum of £591,515 from earmarked balances to the Capital Programme;

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(3) that in connection with resolutions (1) and (2) above, the following action points identified within the appraisal report be implemented to reduce any risk to the Council:-

- review Risk Register to ensure all risks are identified and adequately mitigated;
- continue discussions with National Express in regard to the use of low-emission buses dedicated to routes through Bear Junction;
- identify suitable resources to ensure that adequate post project evaluation can be undertaken.

120/16

### **Sandwell Residential Education Service Plan 2016-2020 and Review of Fees and Charges 2017 - 2018 (Key Decision Ref. No. CS069)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented the Sandwell Residential Education Service Business Plan 2016-2020 and provided details of the review of fees and charges for the service for 2017-2018.

The Service comprised of four centres providing outdoor, creative arts, residential and day visit learning in support of Sandwell priorities. To subsidise Sandwell school and pupil attendance, the centres generated additional income by providing programmes and events to non-Sandwell schools and customers.

As part of the Facing the Future Programme, from April 2017, the service would be operating with a zero revenue budget. This was a reduction of £175,000 from 2016/17, equivalent to 10% of turnover. All revenue expenditure would need to be balanced by income. The service planned to address this without having to make large charge increases.

The Business Plan identified a number of strategic considerations and how they would be addressed, including a commitment to keep the centres as accessible as possible to Sandwell schools and children, by retaining lower charges.

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The plan specifically made the following proposals to enable the centres to operate more effectively in a competitive market and reduce financial risk to the Council:

- centres to have use of Council procurement cards to enable greater local spending power and control;
- approval to continue and increase the use of specialist quality-assured agency staff in addition to core staff to meet market demand;
- each centre to have up to £5,000 annually devolved from the Property Maintenance Fund to carry out local repairs and preventative work at sites;
- recruit on a fixed-term contract a Business Development Manager to maximise commercial opportunities across the service as an Invest to Save project;
- establish a “Friends of” or similar arms-length charity at each centre to assist with external funding and promotional work.

It was now proposed that a £5 (approximately 2%) increase per pupil for all Sandwell authority and academy schools on four night residential courses and an 8% increase for non-Sandwell schools be introduced. Prices for longer and shorter courses would be adjusted pro-rata.

The revenue budget for 2016/17 was £175,000, however, in 2017/18, this would be reduced to zero. The projected baseline cost of the service in 2017/18 was projected to be £1,867,000, fully covered by income generation.

Residential and off-site education was not a statutory provision for the Council or schools. Charges were set to cover the revenue cost of running the service and commercial/additional income would provide a total of £195,000 subsidy to Sandwell authority and academy school term-time courses. Charges were not set with the intention of making a trading surplus.

The service had successfully applied for external funding for projects. Active and purposeful use of the centres would ensure upkeep and maintenance of Sandwell Council assets.



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It was now reported that:-

- Sandwell authority schools would benefit from a per pupil discount of approximately £67-£75 per Monday-Friday course; Sandwell academy schools would receive a discount of between £37-£45, compared with non-Sandwell charges;
- Sandwell Looked After Children visiting with their schools would be free of charge;
- the proposed 2% increase in the level of the charge to Sandwell schools was specifically to encourage the use of the service.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Children's Service and Education Scrutiny Board relating to the employment of a Business Development Manager, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services clarified that whilst it was proposed to review the successful candidate's contract on a regular basis, a decision on whether their pay would relate to performance had not yet been determined. The primary focus for this role would be diversifying funding to continue the service.

### **Resolved:-**

(1) that the Sandwell Residential Education Service Business Plan for 2016–17, be approved and implemented as follows:-

- centres to have use of Council procurement cards to enable greater local spending power and control;
- approval to continue and increase the use of specialist quality-assured agency staff in addition to core staff to meet market demand;
- each centre to have access to up to £5,000 annually from the Property Maintenance Grant to carry out local repairs and preventative work at sites;
- establish a "Friends of" or similar arms-length charity each centre to assist with external funding and promotional work;

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- recruitment, on a fixed-term contract, of a Business Development Manager to maximise commercial opportunities across the service as an Invest to Save project;
- (2) that the fees and charges for Sandwell Residential Education Service be approved and implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

121/16

### Extension of Framework Agreement – Improvement Programme (Phase 3) (Key Decision Ref. No. HG16)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to extend the framework agreement to improve the remainder of the Council's stock of low rise houses and flats and internally to high-rise flats up to the Sandwell standard.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the former Cabinet Member for Town and Neighbourhood Services awarded the original framework to Vinci Construction UK Limited, Wates Construction Limited and Lovell Partnerships Limited, who had submitted the most economically advantageous tenders, for a period of three years (January 2014 to December 2016) with the option to extend for a further twelve months (see Decision No. 3/14).

Works Orders had, to date, been issued to Vinci Construction UK Limited, Wates Construction Limited and Lovell Partnerships Limited in the region of £69,500,000, with a further £3.5m programmed to be issued during 2016/17. This would see the completion of the remaining estates within the programme yet to receive improvement works.

A review of the Council Owned Housing Asset Management Strategy was currently in progress. It was anticipated that member workshops would be held in September 2016 to develop the strategy for investment in the housing stock over future years. In the interim, pending the outcome of the Strategy review, there was an opportunity to continue with the Framework Agreement to deliver the improvements to Council owned housing by extending the current framework by a period of twelve months.

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An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member for Housing confirmed that all three contractors had, to date, met their target, although time performance had been looked at closely. The extension of the contract did not require the Council to issue work orders to all of the contractors and was subject to budget availability and performance which would enable any failing to be identified and addressed.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the current framework agreement with Vinci Construction UK Limited, Wates Construction Limited and Lovell Partnerships Limited be extended for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 for the Improvement Programme (Phase 3) to Council owned properties;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, and on terms to be agreed by the Director – Neighbourhoods, the Council enter into appropriate contract extensions with Vinci Construction UK Limited, Wates Construction Limited and Lovell Partnerships Limited and any appropriate call-off legal agreements for works orders to facilitate the operations under the framework agreement for the Improvement Programme (Phase 3).

122/16

### **Public Consultation for an updated Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy (Key Decision Ref. No. HE029)**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment sought approval to revise the Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy to take account of the changes introduced by the statutory guidance to local authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions March 2015. This included restrictions on the use of CCTV for enforcement activities and the introduction of a ten minute grace period for time periods on parking spaces. The update also provided for the CCTV enforcement of traffic contraventions in Bus Lanes in compliance with guidance.

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The Policy had now been further updated to respond to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (“2016 Regulations”). The 2016 Regulations included the ability to make use of a relaxation in the appropriate use of red route restrictions. This would assist with the enforcement of school gate parking and also assist with mitigating congestion around key transport interchanges. Policy statements had now been included into the policy concerning pavement parking and parking across dropped crossings. Key performance indicators had also been adjusted following comments from the adjudicator at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.

A six week public consultation would be undertaken on the revised policy. Any unresolved objections arising from the public consultation would be reported back to the Cabinet with policy revisions and/or further recommendations.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment confirmed that public consultation would be undertaken on the proposed changes with schools, local residents and parents.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the dangerous parking practices of parents outside of school gates as a national problem. It was hoped that the revised policy would be seen as an opportunity to educate parents to the dangers of parking outside of schools.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director – Regeneration and Economy undertake public consultation for a period of six weeks on the revised Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, in the event of no unresolved objections being received, the revised Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy be approved and implemented;
- (3) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Director - Regeneration and Economy submit a further report to Cabinet on any unresolved objections arising from the consultation.

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123/16

### Sandwell Local Development Scheme 2016 – 2019 (Key Decision Ref. No REI1027)

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment sought approval to revise the Sandwell Local Development Scheme. The scheme was a three year programme setting out the various town planning documents to be produced by the Council.

The revised scheme now identified the need for the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to be reviewed due to the adoption of Community Infrastructure Levy, the introduction of the government's policy on Starter Homes, and a Supplementary Planning Document for the Dudley Port area where the principles of the Garden City could be applied. The scheme also set out more detail for the Black Country Core Strategy review timetable.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment confirmed that he was happy to support any neighbourhood forums that wanted to produce a neighbourhood plan for their area.

#### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the revisions to the Sandwell Local Development Scheme be approved;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Director – Regeneration and Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment, make any minor changes to the Sandwell Local Development Scheme that may be required prior to making it available to the public.

124/16

### Framework Agreement for the Provision of Self-Drive Vehicle Hire (Key Decision Ref. No. HE049)

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment sought approval to enter into a vehicle framework agreement in order to

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ensure that the Council's transport and associated infrastructure kept pace with both the demands of frontline service clients and continued to offer a fit for purpose, effective and economic service.

In accordance with published criteria and following detailed financial and qualitative analysis of returned tenders, it was proposed to establish a framework agreement with the following suppliers: -

- Access Hire Nationwide Ltd
- Arnold Clarke Finance Ltd (car and van rental)
- Bickford Truck Hire Ltd
- C.P. Davidson and Sons Ltd
- Car Hire (Day of Swansea) Ltd T/A days rental
- CMS Hire Ltd
- Dawson rentals Bus and Coach Ltd
- Dawsonrentals MHE Ltd
- Go Plant Ltd
- Gulliver's Truck Hire Ltd
- London TruckHire Ltd
- M6 Vehicle Hire Ltd
- ND Brown Ltd
- Nexus Vehicle Ltd
- Northgate Vehicle Hire Ltd
- PFB Hire Ltd
- Riverside Truck Rental Ltd
- SHB Hire Ltd
- T.O.M. Vehicle Rental Ltd

This framework agreement had been let as a Black Country Purchasing Consortium arrangement and would enable the Council to work in collaboration with neighbouring authorities on procurement activity. The period of the framework agreement was 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, subject to continued satisfactory performance and price competitiveness.

The total value of the Framework Agreement was estimated as follows: -

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Value</b>
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	£ 250,000
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£1,400,000

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Wolverhampton City Council	£1,250,000
Total Value	£2,900,000

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director - Neighbourhoods enter into a vehicle framework agreement, in the sum of £250,000, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, subject to continued satisfactory performance and price competitiveness;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into any form of agreement necessary to give effect to resolution (1) above.

125/16

### **Provision of Personal Protective Equipment, Safety Footwear and Uniforms (Key Decision Ref. No HG11)**

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the provision of personal protective equipment, safety footwear and uniforms for Council employees for a contract period of three years, from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The current contracts would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

This contract had been broken down into three lots as follows:-

Lot 1 Personal Protective Equipment

Lot 2 Safety Footwear

Lot 3 Uniform

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Future Garments Ltd submitted the best value tenders, based on Quality, Price and Sample analysis for Lots 1 and 3 and Lyreco UK Ltd submitted the best value tenders, based on Quality, Price and Sample analysis for Lot 2.

The anticipated value of the contract was £360,000 (£120,000 per annum) for a period of three years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

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### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director – Neighbourhoods award the contract for the provision of Personal Protective Equipment, Safety Footwear and Uniforms, in the sum of £360,000 (£120,000 per annum) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, to Future Garments Ltd for Lots 1 and 3 and Lyreco UK Ltd for Lot 2;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into an appropriate contract with Future Garments Ltd and Lyreco UK Ltd for the provision of personal protective equipment, safety footwear and uniforms for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

126/16

### **Provision of Hand Tools, Power Tools and Access Equipment (Key Decision Ref. No. HG10)**

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the provision of hand tools, power tools and access equipment for a contract period of three years, from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. The current contracts expired on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

These contracts were required to provide equipment to enable Council employees to undertake repair and maintenance responsibilities to the Council's housing properties.

This contract had been broken down into three lots as follows:-  
Lot 1 Hand Tools  
Lot 2 Power Tools  
Lot 3 Access Equipment (Ladders and Steps)

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Monks and Crane Industrial Group Ltd submitted the best value tenders, based on Quality and Price for Lot 1 and Corroy Products Ltd submitted the best value tenders, based on Quality and Price, for Lots 2 and 3.

The anticipated value of the contract was £315,000 (£105,000 per annum) for a period of three years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

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### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director - Neighbourhoods award contracts for the provision of hand tools, power tools, access equipment in the sum of £315,000 (£105,000 per annum) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to Monks and Crane Industrial Group Ltd for Lot 1 and Corroy Products Ltd for Lots 2 and 3;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into an appropriate contract with Monks and Crane Industrial Group Ltd and Corroy Products Ltd for the provision of hand tools, power tools and access equipment.

127/16

### **Appraisal of Application – Loan Funding Application to Salix for replacement boiler at Perryfields Primary School, Oldbury (Key Decision Ref. No. LR09)**

The Leader of the Council sought approval to submit, on behalf of Perryfields Primary School, Oldbury, an application for an interest free loan to Salix Finance Ltd for £0.030m to support the boiler replacement programme at the school.

Salix was a 'not for profit organisation' funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Department for Education and Higher Education Funding Council for England. The organisation operated an energy efficiency loans scheme programme, providing public sector bodies with interest free loans to finance up to 100% of the costs of energy saving projects.

The loan funding would support the installation of a new gas supply and replace the existing oil fired boiler with a new gas fired system at the school. Due to the age of the existing boiler, there was an increased risk of failure of the heating system.

The total cost of the project was £0.254m. Perryfields Primary School would part fund this through the interest free loan from Salix of £0.030m, along with funding of £0.224m from the Council's School Repairs Account.

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Subject to approval, the project would commence in July 2016 with a completion date of October 2016. If the loan application was successful, a loan agreement would be entered into between Perryfields Primary School and Salix.

Following an appraisal of the project by Strategic Finance, a number of action points had been recommended to mitigate those risks identified.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the application to Salix for the provision of an interest free loan of £30,000 to part fund the replacement of the boiler at Perryfields Primary School, Oldbury be supported;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the following action points identified within the appraisal report be implemented to reduce any risk to the Council:-
  - review cost estimates in relation to the removal of asbestos to ensure that the total project cost can be managed within the available funding;
  - request a detailed works programme from the contractor to be used as an effective monitoring tool;
  - ensure an adequate reporting structure is in place to effectively monitor progress of the project;
  - ensure that the Headteacher is aware of the financial implications for the school should the energy savings not be as expected and instances where the required level of savings may not be achieved;
  - review the risk register to ensure that all risks to the project are identified and can be mitigated sufficiently;
  - the Finance Teams (Schools) ensure the correct accounting treatment of the loan within the Council's Balance Sheet.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

128/16

**Tender for Repairs to Terracotta Blocks and Associated Works to the Building Fabric at Smethwick Council House (Key Decision Ref. No. CCS10)**

The Cabinet Member for Core Council Services sought approval to appoint a single contractor to undertake repairs to the building fabric at Smethwick Council House. A significant proportion of the works would be specialist terracotta block repairs to the facade of the building which had been damaged by water penetration. The repairs had become necessary in order to restore the building to its former standing as the most prominent Grade 2 listed building in Smethwick. The restored Council House would be a flagship for the scorecard priority of the regeneration of Smethwick.

The anticipated cost of the works was £500,000.00.

Three completed tender responses were submitted by the tender deadline and were evaluated in accordance with the award criteria specified within the tender documentation.

Stone Edge Ltd submitted the most competitively priced tender with a total cost of £536,291.81.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, four tenders must be obtained for a contract above the value of £60,000. As only three tender responses were obtained, an exemption to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules was required.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Assistant Chief Executive award the contract for repairs to the Terracotta Blocks and Associated Works to the Building Fabric at Smethwick Council House to Stone Edge Ltd in the sum of £536,291.81;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into an appropriate contract with Stone Edge Ltd for repairs to the terracotta blocks and associated works to the building fabric at Smethwick Council House;

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- (3) that any necessary exemption be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action set out in resolution (1) above to proceed.

### **Business Matter**

129/16

#### **Decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016**

The decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 were received.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board relating to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the transport infrastructure was critically important in order to deliver economic plans, however, there continued to be a number of redundant transport lines including Stourbridge to Dudley and Wednesbury to Walsall which had been out of use for 20 years.

Whilst there had not been any progress to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro lines as it was still in the early stages of feasibility and planning, the Council was seeking to ensure that schemes across the Combined Authority were delivered and with economic benefits derived for Sandwell. It was hoped that the Government would honour their commitments and the Council would put pressure on the Combined Authority to improve infrastructure and transport links.

130/16

#### **Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved** that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the proceedings to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Strategic Items**

131/16

**Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19 Second Phase –  
Wednesbury North (Key Decision Ref. No. LR09)**

The Leader of the Council reported that on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, the Cabinet approved the Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19, subject to the recommendation which referred to ‘One form of entry in Wednesbury North Ward’ being deferred pending further detailed information on the project being submitted to Cabinet (see Minute No. 114/16).

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014, as part of the Schools Capital Programme 2014/15-2016/17, a provisional budget of £2,550,000 was approved by the former Cabinet Member for Strategic Resources to deliver one form of entry in the Wednesbury North Ward (see Decision No. 61/14).

Following consultation, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services decided not to proceed with support for the proposed expansion of Old Park Primary School as the provision for Wednesbury children would be achieved far more successfully at Albert Pritchard Infant and Wood Green Junior Schools.

However, to demonstrate commitment to place planning with Wednesbury Learning Community Trust, the Cabinet Member asked officers to look to deliver a better, more permanent solution for the children who had been admitted to the school’s Reception cohort in September 2014.

The original option appraisal for the provision of an additional form of entry in the Wednesbury North area had also covered Albert Pritchard Infant, Holyhead Primary, St Mary’s Catholic Primary and Wood Green Junior Schools. Holyhead Primary was considered to be too close to the Borough boundary for expansion and in a lesser populated area, and new school places were required much closer to Old Park Primary School. The site of St Mary’s Catholic Primary School was restrictive for potential development, leaving the two separate school sites of Albert Pritchard Infant and Wood Green Junior as the only alternative solutions for expansion to provide new places.

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Both sites were restrictive in size, however, due to the lack of alternative schools in Wednesbury North, schemes had been developed and commenced on site to provide the required number of new school places.

Completion of the three individual school projects would provide a total of 240 school places in Wednesbury North.

Approval was now sought to allocate a sum of £800,000 identified as additional funding required to complete the scheme, 'One form of entry in Wednesbury North Ward'. The approval would ensure construction was completed at Albert Pritchard Infant, Old Park Primary and Wood Green Junior Schools.

The estimated project cost would be met from the resources made available through the Department for Education Basic Need capital allowance to deliver new school places.

Following an appraisal of the project by Strategic Finance, a number of action points had been recommended to mitigate those risks identified.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal. However, it has revealed that as the Council had a statutory duty to provide a sufficient number of school places for all children in Sandwell, all groups were potentially affected by the policy of expansion. This proposal demonstrated that this was uniformly applied in response to where pupil demand was expected although size and type of expansion was restrictive as it was dependent on the availability of government capital funding.

In response to a questions raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board, the Leader of the Council confirmed that there had been delays at Old Park Primary School due to difficult ground condition, however, this had now been rectified and the project was due to finish in January 2017.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that in connection with the Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19, approval now be given to:-
  - a) the scheme for 'One form of entry in Wednesbury North Ward', to include:

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- Albert Pritchard Infant School, Coleman Road, Wednesbury (one form entry expansion);
  - Old Park Primary School, Old Park Road, Wednesbury (one classroom extension); and
  - Wood Green Junior School, Hobs Road, Wednesbury (one form entry expansion), at a cost of £800,000;
- b) subject to resolution (1)(a) above, the Council enter into any legal agreements on terms agreed by the Director of Children’s Services, as required, to allow building works to be completed on all proposed sites;
- c) in connection with resolution (1)(a) above, the following action points identified within the appraisal report be implemented to reduce any risk to the Council:-
- regular financial monitoring updates on individual projects should be provided to the Leader of the Council, highlighting variations of spend against original estimated costs. Remaining funds should be returned to the unallocated Schools Capital Programme;
  - review Risk Registers for each project to ensure all risks are identified and can be mitigated adequately;
  - the Council enters into such form of legal agreements as required to allow extension works on all proposed sites; and
  - post project evaluation should include specific outcomes, along with benchmarking of final costs to ensure value for money is achieved.

**Locality Based Universal and Universal Plus Early Help Service  
(Key Decision Ref. No. CS057)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services sought approval to review how the range of commissioned and grant funded services which formed part of the Early Help strategy at both the universal and universal plus levels, should be delivered from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

It was now proposed that in future, all universal and universal plus family support services commissioned by the authority should be delivered through a new Family Offer on a six town basis. The services available through the centres would cater for children 0-19 years (0-25 for young people with a special educational need or disability) with the service:-

- physically based within existing core children's centres;
- having a key role in liaising with other universal services in the specific town to help further develop services and maximise existing services for families;
- having some limited universal services provided either directly or indirectly at the centres.

It was also proposed to develop the concept of co-location of some Health Visitors on a town basis at local core children's centres building on the model at Friar Park Children's Centre.

The Council would go out to tender for agencies to run the new 'Family Offer' in each of the towns. The process would encourage bids involving different partnerships and organisations.

In order to further reduce management and administration costs there would be three tender lots with towns being paired as noted below:

- Oldbury and Smethwick;
- Rowley and Tipton;
- Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

It was further proposed that the existing children's centres were used as the base for the delivery of the service in the borough.



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There were currently seven clusters of centres which were organised on a town basis and it was now proposed to reduce that number to six clusters by combining the two existing West Bromwich clusters.

Flying Start Nursery at Temple Meadow School site was the only childcare nursery that formed part of the existing children's centre contract arrangement. It was proposed to now tender separately for a provider to take over the operation of the nursery on that school site.

Sandwell Adventure Play Association was funded via the Voluntary Sector Support Budget. It was now proposed to explore the most effective way of delivering the current service provided by the Association.

Consideration would also be given to the potential for future joint integrated work between this new service, libraries and community centres. This would build on the existing, good practice highlighted in the long-standing joint arrangements at Glebefields library and Tipton Children's centre.

Community Hubs could bring together these different services in a co-ordinated manner at a town level across the borough. It was proposed that initial consultation be held with interested parties about how the community hubs could work in practice and that feedback from this consultation be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration in the autumn 2016.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that following the appropriate procurement processes in line with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Council agree and enter into new contracts and any associated documentation for the provision of family support services for a period of two years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 (with the option to extend for two further one year periods) on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services;

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- (2) that following the appropriate procurement processes and in line with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Council agree and enter into service contract(s) and any associated documentation including lease(s) with the successful tender agency for the provision of the childcare nursery at Temple Meadow School, Rowley Regis site;
- (3) that following the appropriate procurement processes referred to in resolution (1) and (2) above the Council enter into or execute under seal if necessary, leases on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director - Regeneration and Economy;
- (4) that the Council enter into or execute, under seal if necessary, any related documentation in connection with the land and property referred to in resolution (1) and (2) above on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director - Regeneration and Economy;
- (5) that the Director of Children's Services undertake consultation on how community hubs could operate and that a further report on this matter be submitted to the Cabinet in October 2016.

(Meeting ended at 4.25 pm)

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