

The Cabinet

11th January, 2017 at 3.30 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

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

In attendance: Councillors Crompton, Y Davies,
P Hughes, S Jones and Underhill.

Apologies: Councillor Hackett;
Councillor Ahmed.

1/17

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th
December, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

Strategic Items

2/17

Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19 (Phase 2)
(Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1610)

The Leader of the Council sought approval to the next phase of the Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19 to fund new school places in light of the funding levels and priorities identified by the present Government to create new school places.

The Programme now sought to provide sufficient secondary school places across the Borough, as those children born in 2007/08 started to enter year 7. An announcement was currently awaited from the Department for Education/Education Funding Agency with regard to the Council's next Basic Need capital allowance for 2019/20.

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It was currently projected that an additional 26 forms of entry (3,845 places) would be required in secondary schools by September 2025. The Council's in-house Architectural Team had been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study to identify possible build solutions to meet the projected demand for new places and a further report would be submitted to Cabinet on the funding requirements for secondary school expansions once the Basic Need allocation had been announced.

Whilst waiting for this announcement, it was proposed to progress the following primary school based projects to ensure the continued supply of sufficient school places:

Primary School Name	Project	No. of New Places
Crocketts Community Primary	Bulge class (new extension)	30
Lyng Primary	Bulge class (refurbishment)	30
Reddal Hill Primary	1 form of entry expansion (refurbishment of ancillary spaces)	0
St Gregory's Catholic Primary	Bulge class (new extension)	30
St Matthew's CE Primary	1 form of entry expansion (new build)	210
Proposed Shireland High Tech Primary	Temporary Mobile Accommodation	420
Summerhill Primary	2 form of entry expansion (refurbishment / part demolition)	0

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Whilst the unprecedented growth in the birth rate experienced over recent years had started to ease, the Borough continued to receive a high demand for school places, primarily due to increased migration and retention rates. In particular, Smethwick remained the area where this demand remained high. A number of primary schools in Smethwick had already been expanded to meet demand and the new Shireland High Tech Primary free school had been approved for opening in September 2017, which would provide an additional two forms of entry (420 places).

The programme aligned to service needs so that the Council was able to meet its statutory responsibility of ensuring every child in Sandwell had access to a good school place by seeking to build on its commitment to expand successful and popular schools.

Approval was now sought to the allocation of capital funding to enable the proposed expansions to be included within the Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-2018/19.

A full appraisal has been undertaken by Strategic Finance and a number of risks had been identified as a result of the appraisal with action points recommended to mitigate those risks.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

The Chair of the Children's Service and Education Scrutiny Board thanked officers for the work being done on finding solutions to the pressure on providing new school places. However, in response to concerns relating to keeping newly created places for those Sandwell schools on the borders of Sandwell for Sandwell students only, the Leader of the Council clarified that all children must be selected using each school's published criteria for admissions which must be in line with the national code for school admissions regardless of whether they lived inside or outside of the Borough. The Council was looking to expand schools or create new schools and had put in place bulge classes in some schools in order to meet the demand.

Resolved:-

- (1) that funding for the following proposed projects be approved as part of the Schools Capital Programme 2016/17-18/19:-

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- Crocketts Community Primary School, Coopers Lane, Smethwick B67 7DW (bulge class - extension);
 - Lyng Primary School, Horton Street, West Bromwich B70 7SQ (bulge class - refurbishment);
 - Reddal Hill Primary School, Trinity Street, Cradley Heath B64 6HT (1 form entry expansion – refurbishment);
 - St Gregory’s Catholic Primary School, Park Road, Smethwick B67 5HX (bulge class - extension);
 - St Matthew’s CE Primary School, Windmill Lane, Smethwick B66 3LX (one form expansion – new build);
 - proposed Shireland High Tech Primary Free School (temporary mobile accommodation); and
 - Summerhill Primary School, Upper Church Lane, Tipton DY4 9PF (2 form entry expansion – refurbishment/part demolition);
- (2) that, in connection with resolution (1) above, the remaining £7,791,665 funding be retained until feasibility has been undertaken on proposed schemes for 2017-2020, which will be subject to a further report submitted to Cabinet;
- (3) that, subject to resolution (1), (2) and (5), the Director - Education be authorised to award a contract:-
- i) through either the New Project Development procedure as established under the Strategic Partnering Agreement with Sandwell Futures Limited; or
 - ii) or following a compliant procurement exercise, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer and Interim Director – Resources, and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services;
 - iii) and in the event that the outcome of the procurement exercise identifies that the value of the contract is more than that specified in Minute No. 2/17, or the Council has not received the minimum number of tenders required, then a further report be submitted to Cabinet to award the contract;

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- (4) that in connection with (3) above, the Council enter into any legal agreements on terms agreed by the Director - Education, as required, to allow building works to be completed on all proposed sites;
- (5) that in connection with resolution (1) and (3) above, the following action points identified within the appraisal report be implemented to reduce any risk to the Council:-
- prepare detailed costs plans for the projects where additional works are planned at Reddal Hill and Summerhill Primary Schools, to ensure the projects continue to demonstrate value for money and have a sound basis for financial monitoring and evaluation;
 - 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;
 - that the Council enters into such form of legal agreements as required to allow extension works on all proposed sites;
 - ensure that the work at St Matthew's CE Primary School is carried out in consultation with the Council's Tax Accountant to manage potential unrecoverable VAT risk;
 - prepare project plans for all projects within the programme to ensure meaningful monitoring can be carried out and project timescales are managed; and
 - post project evaluation should include specific outcomes, along with benchmarking of final costs to ensure value for money is achieved.

3/17

Bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for the conservation of Bromwich Hall (the Manor House) Stone Cross, West Bromwich (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1653)

The Leader of the Council sought approval to submit an application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the restoration and development of the Manor House, Stone Cross.

If successful, the project would enable visitors to explore all of the Manor House, to see the buildings at their very best, correcting patched and temporary repairs, tidying up the grounds, enabling a sustainable future for the Manor House, both with regards to its physical condition as well as enabling the Council to reduce significantly the level of revenue support currently required.

The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was for a stage-one pass for development funding of £142,000 as part of an overall capital project with a total value of £2,500,00 with £1,999,400 (80%) of support from Heritage Lottery Fund and £500,000 (20%) from the Council. The development phase was approximately £142,000 with a Council contribution of £28,400 (20%).

Heritage Lottery Fund applications at this level were a two stage process with initial support for a 'development' phase which would work up proposals to the architectural Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA Stage 3. This was the stage immediately prior to the writing of detailed bills of quantities and final detailed specification for all works.

The submission of an application to Heritage Lottery Fund did not commit or contract the Council to carrying out any works.

It was envisaged that the project would reduce a £1.8m pressure on the Property Maintenance Account over the next 10-25 years by between £70,000-£180,000 per annum, and provide a total revenue saving to the Museums and Arts budget of £500,000-£750,000 over the same period.

An equality impact assessment had been carried out for this proposal which demonstrated a positive impact upon all identified disadvantaged or alienated groups.

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An appraisal of Round 1 of the application had been undertaken by Strategic Finance and a number of risks had been identified as a result of the appraisal and action points recommended to mitigate those risks.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £200,000 towards a total project valued £2,500,000, including £142,000 towards the development stage (stage 1) costs in order to provide a sustainable future for the Manor House, West Bromwich with regards to its physical condition as well as enabling the Council to reduce significantly the level of revenue support currently required;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services awards £28,400 to support the development stage and submit a further report to Cabinet prior to submission of the phase two bid to Heritage Lottery Fund;
- (3) 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:-
 - ensure that the application is consistent with the advice provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Development Officer and that all additional supporting evidence, e.g. survey results, cost breakdown etc. is submitted with the application form;
 - secure match funding for Round 2 prior to acceptance of a funding offer from Heritage Lottery Fund for Round 1;
 - clarify who will be responsible for monitoring the project finances/grant claims;
 - review the Risk Register to ensure that all risks are identified, with sufficient mitigating actions to reduce any risk to the Council;

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- ensure that all procurement is in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules for contracts;
- obtain detailed cost estimates to ensure that the development stage costs can be managed within the available resources;
- notify the Council's Tax Accountant of the planned expenditure profile to ensure that the Council's partial exemption limit for VAT is not exceeded;
- determine the detailed project management arrangements, with the identification of roles and responsibilities of individual officers.

4/17

Sandwell Homes Limited – Dissolution of Company (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1652)

The Leader of the Council reported that on 8th August 2012, the Cabinet gave approval to end the management agreement between the Council and Sandwell Homes Limited with effect from 1st January 2013 (see Minute No. 61/12).

However, despite the responsibility for the management of the Council's housing stock being returned to the Council and the company being wound down, the company was still registered at Companies House and therefore annual returns and accounts were still required to be filed each year.

An application had now been made by the remaining director of the company for the company to be struck off the register on the basis of a voluntary dissolution. As the sole member of the company, the Council had been served a copy of this notice. The company held no assets or liabilities.

Approval was now sought to support this application.

Resolved That the application for the voluntary dissolution of Sandwell Homes Ltd be supported and that it be struck off as a company on the register held with Companies House.

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5/17

Procurement of Housing Related Support Services for Pregnant Teenagers/Teenage Parents (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1655)

The Cabinet Member for Social Care sought approval to procure housing related support services for pregnant teenagers/teenage parents in Sandwell.

At present, these support services were provided through contracts with Sandwell Homeless and Resettlement Project Ltd (SHARP) and Bromford Group.

SHARP provided 24 hours, seven days a week housing related support service to 30 pregnant teenagers/teenage parents in Council owned accommodation. The supported housing scheme consisted of 30 self-contained units within a low rise building.

Bromford Group provided nine units of accommodation and housing related support from 9am to 5pm to nine pregnant teenagers/teenage parents.

The existing contracts relating to these services were due to expire on 31st July 2017. The proposed new contract(s) would be for two years commencing on 1st August 2017.

The future service(s) would be procured through two distinct contract(s) known as Lot 1 and 2 as follows:-

Lot 1 would provide intensive housing related support for teenage parents/pregnant teenagers by providing a twenty-four hour, 7 days a week service to 30 young families in Council accommodation. The successful tenderer would enter into a Management Agreement on behalf of the Council to provide housing management functions;

Lot 2 would provide housing related support for pregnant teenagers/teenage parents by providing a 9 to 5 service to nine young families in supported accommodation owned by the incumbent Registered Provider.

A grant from the Council was currently provided to SHARP and may be made available to the successful tenderer for Lot 1 providing they met the Council's grant criteria.

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Whilst there was no statutory requirement to consult as there would be no significant adverse effect on the provision of housing related support services to service users, consultation had been undertaken with existing providers, service users, landlords and representatives from the Council's Children Services, Housing, Public Health and Adult Social Care and their views had contributed to shaping the recommendations.

The commissioning of housing related support services would provide support to vulnerable young people, including those with the protected characteristics. It was anticipated that the provision of housing related support services would have a positive impact on protected groups given that the Council would maintain service continuity to vulnerable young people.

In response to a number of questions raised by the Chair of the Children's Service and Education Scrutiny Board relating to whether the provision available (30 places in Lot 1 and 9 in Lot 2) was adequate for the demand, whether there was a waiting list for young families awaiting a placement and what was the average time a young family needed to live in the supported environment, the Cabinet Member for Social Care confirmed that:-

- the level of provision was at 39 units of accommodation. Currently demand was greater than the available provision however, in order to mitigate any risk to pregnant/teenage parents, aged 16-18, alternative forms of accommodation and support (including advice and information) were provided by the Council to meet its statutory duties;
- there was a waiting list for young families awaiting a placement. If a young person was in care, this would continue to be provided by social services until accommodation became available. The average waiting time would be six weeks for Lot 1 and currently, due to fewer available places within Lot 2, there was minimal turnover so waiting times could be indefinite. If accommodation was not available, alternative forms of support including advice, information and temporary accommodation were offered by the Council;
- the average time a young family would live in the supported environment would be between twelve months and two years (dependant on age and support requirements).

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director - Resources award the contracts for the provision of housing related support services for a period between 1st August 2017 to 31st July 2019, on terms to be agreed with the Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing;
- (2) that, subject to resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal, the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to execute the identified contracts;
- (3) that in connection with resolution (1) and (2) above, the Interim Director - Resources enters into a lease with the successful tenderer, on terms to be agreed by the Director - Regeneration and Economy;
- (4) that in connection with resolution (1), (2) and (3) above, the Interim Director - Neighbourhood Services issue grant aid to the successful tenderer of £70,930 per annum should they meet the Council's Conditions of Funding and Grant Aid.

6/17

Commissioning of Integrated Sexual Health Service Provision for Sandwell (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1656)

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection reported that currently, Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust was the main provider for Genito-Urinary Medicine and Contraceptive and Sexual Health services, both in terms of activity and budget. In addition to this, other sexual health services were currently delivered in the borough. The services were contracted under the co-operative working arrangements with the Council. These services were open access services whereby Sandwell residents could choose to attend services in any part of the country and the cost must be met by the Council's Public Health budget. The majority of Sandwell residents chose to receive these services from Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust.

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Approximately £3.3 million per annum was currently spent on all sexual health services in Sandwell. This included both preventative and treatment elements. The contracts of these services would come to an end on 31st March 2018.

Currently, most of the activities both complex and non-complex were seen at specialist Genito-Urinary Medicine and Contraceptive and Sexual Health service centres, for which the tariff costs were very high. There was therefore a need to skill-mix and utilise generic staff from generic settings and through self-help options to provide the vast majority of the non-complex interventions (level 1 & 2) at a significantly reduced cost. A new sexual health strategy had therefore been devised to form a service model that focused on promotion and prevention through self-help options.

The new service model would have four key elements. The specialist provision, an integrated hub and specialist spokes, would largely focus on providing specialist functions related to complex sexual health needs (level 3 services). This would now be the smallest provision. The services provided through generic settings would be the largest provision in the new model. This included the provision of sexual health service delivered from 'natural settings' such as primary care settings including GPs, pharmacies, community outreach settings and voluntary sectors.

One of the key aims of the new model was to reduce the number of people repeatedly accessing highly specialised and costly Genito-Urinary Medicine services for low level activities. The new model would promote more "self-help" activities such as undertaking home testing, visiting pharmacies and their GP practices for most of their common sexual health need. The integrated model would have a website giving individuals concerned many options to address their sexual health needs, which included the supply of home testing kits.

It was anticipated that the new service model would cost £3 million per annum, a reduction of £300,000 achieved by efficiencies from integration of services. Subsequently, a further 10% reduction would be made year on year in the first three years of the contract. It was proposed that a prime provider would be commissioned to deliver the service model. One lead provider must ensure all four aspects of the services described were delivered.

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The lead provider should have the means to sub contract various aspects of the service modalities (such as GPs, pharmacies and voluntary sector) as appropriate and necessary and develop effective pathways.

If the service elements were separated and commissioned separately, it would not provide an incentive system which was the fundamental aspect of the new model to reduce the capacity of specialist end and increase the “self-help” provision.

It was therefore proposed that the Council enter into a co-operative working arrangement with Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust to deliver the integrated sexual health model where they would be the prime provider.

Negotiations would be undertaken with Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust to determine the contract to ensure value for money was achieved. A negotiation deadline would be set to ensure that alternative options were available to the Council in the event either party was unable to proceed.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board relating to whether the Council could be assured that the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust would offer the same varied access to the service, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection confirmed that the Sexual Health Service was an open access service that could be accessed by a Sandwell resident anywhere in the country with the cost being reimbursed by Sandwell Council. The new contract would ensure that there were a variety of access points and give Sandwell residents more choice. The new model would give individuals options to access services through generic settings such as pharmacies and voluntary sectors which would be impartial and confidential in nature. All access points would be made clear through a dedicated local online website for sexual health.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director - Public Health agree contractual arrangements with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust for the provision of Integrated Sexual Health Service from 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2019, with an option to extend for up to a further two years pursuant to the existing contractual arrangements for co-operative working;
- (2) that, subject to resolution (1) above, the Council executes any documentation necessary to include the service for the provision of Integrated Sexual Health Service within the contract for co-operative working with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust on terms agreed with the Director - Public Health for the period specified;
- (3) that in connection with resolution (1) above, any necessary exemptions be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the proposed actions to proceed.

7/17

Delivery of Building Materials to Multiple Locations (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1631)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the delivery of building materials to multiple locations including Roway Lane Supplies Section, for a contract period of two years, from 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2019.

The specification of the contract was to supply building materials, e.g. slabs, bricks, sand and cement etc. This would enable the repairs and maintenance teams to undertake routine repairs to the Council's 28,300 housing stock.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Darlaston Builders Merchants Ltd submitted the best value tender, based on price and quality.

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The anticipated value of the contract was £800,000 (£400,000 per annum) for a period of two years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board relating to the social value benefits of awarding this contract, the Cabinet Member for Housing confirmed that Darlaston Builders were a local builders merchant employing local people as well as offering young people work placements. The company also sponsored local football teams and local charities.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services award the contract for the delivery of building materials to multiple locations to Darlaston Builders Merchants Ltd for a total sum of £800,000 (£400,000 per annum) for the period 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2019;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to enter into an appropriate contract with Darlaston Builders Merchants Ltd.

8/17

Direct Payment Support Services (Key Decision Ref. No. SC13)

The Cabinet Member for Social Care reported that people with identified social care needs could choose to receive a direct payment to pay for the cost of their support as an alternative to the Council arranging that support. When people received a direct payment, they often employed their own care staff.

The Council currently funded three services that supported people who, through a direct payment, employed their own care staff.

The contracts associated with these services were due to expire on 5th April 2017.

The service provision was subsequently split into three lots;

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- Payroll and pension auto enrolment;
- Managed account provision;
- Employer support training.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and following a procurement exercise, Ideal for All Limited was identified as the successful future supplier for all three lots of provision.

Approval was therefore sought to award the contract to Ideal for All Limited from 6th April 2017 until 5th April 2020, with an option to extend the contract for one year from 6th April 2020 until 5th April 2021.

The current annual budget for the three services was £111,700. It was anticipated that the cost of the three services would be £86,000 per annum (£258,000 for three years and, if extended to four years, £344,000). This was a potential annual saving on the current budget of approximately £25,000 per annum. However, as services were demand led, should demand for Direct Payment Support Services increase over the current levels, costs incurred would also increase.

An equality impact assessment had been undertaken for this proposal.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing award a contract to Ideal for All Limited, for the annual sum of £86,000 for a period of three years, with an option to extend for one year, commencing from 6th April 2017 until 5th April 2020, for the following services:
 - Payroll and Pension Auto-Enrolment Service;
 - Managed Accounts Service;
 - Employer Support Service;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to execute the contract;

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- (3) that in connection with resolution (1) above, in the event that demand for Direct Payment Support Services increase over the current levels, a further report be submitted to Cabinet.

9/17

Provision of Emergency Drainage Clearance and Associated Underground Drainage Repairs (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1632)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the provision of emergency drainage clearance, for a contract period of three years, from 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2020.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Draintech Services (Midlands) Ltd submitted the best value tender, based on price and quality. The value of the contract was £615,000 (£205,000 per annum) for a period of three years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services award the provision of emergency drainage clearance to Draintech Services (Midlands) Ltd for the total sum of £615,000 (£205,000 per annum) for the period 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2020;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enters into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to enter into an appropriate contract with Draintech Services (Midlands) Ltd.

10/17

Provision of Roofing Repairs to SMBC Properties (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1634)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the provision of roofing repairs for a contract period of two years, from 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2019.

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The tender had been divided into the following lots:

Lot 1 Pitched Roofing

Lot 2 Built up Felt Roofing

Lot 3 Asphalt Roofing

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Burrows Home Comfort Ltd, Woodhull Roofing Ltd, IJS Roofing and Building Ltd and Avonside Roofing Ltd submitted the best value tenders.

The anticipated value of the contract was £1,828,000 (£914,000 per annum) for a period of two years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services award the provision of roofing repairs to Council properties to Burrows Home Comfort Ltd, Woodhull Roofing Ltd, IJS Roofing and Building Ltd and Avonside Roofing Ltd for a total sum of £1,828,000 (£914,000 per annum) for the period 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2019;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to enter into appropriate contracts with Burrows Home Comfort Ltd, Woodhull Roofing Ltd, IJS Roofing and Building Ltd and Avonside Roofing Ltd.

11/17

Supply and Fit Composite Door Sets to Council Properties (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1633)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the supply and fitting of composite door sets to Council properties for a contract period of three years, from 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2020.

The Council was responsible for the management, upkeep and repair of Sandwell's 28,300 housing stock.

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This was currently achieved utilising a mix of in-house resources and external contractors. This contract was required to enable the repairs and maintenance section of Neighbourhoods Services to install composite front, rear and fire doors to tenanted Council properties.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, I G Doors Ltd provided the best value tender.

The anticipated value of the contract was £2,400,000 (£800,000 per annum) for a period of three years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board relating to the social value benefits of awarding this contract, the Cabinet Member for Housing confirmed that I G Doors had adopted a local awareness stance where they were looking to employ local employees and sourced from local suppliers where possible. They also aimed to contribute to the local community by supporting charity events and fetes.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services award the supply and fit composite door sets to Council properties to I G Doors Ltd for the total sum of £2,400,000 (£800,000 per annum) for the period 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2020.
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to enter into an appropriate contract with I G Doors Ltd.

12/17

Provision of Wallpaper, Paints, Brushes and Sundries (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1629)

The Cabinet Member for Housing sought approval to award a contract for the provision of wallpaper, paints, brushes and sundries to Roway Lane Supplies Section, for a contract period of three years, from 10th February 2017 to 9th February 2020.

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The current contract would expire on 9th February 2017.

This tender had been divided into the following lots:

Lot 1 Wallpaper and Paint

Lot 2 Brushes

Lot 3 Sundries

PPG Architectural Coatings UK Ltd, Crown Paints Ltd and Decoron Wallpapers Ltd, submitted the best value tenders, based on price and quality.

The anticipated value of the contract was £312,000 (£104,000 per annum) for a period of three years.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services award the contract for the provision of wallpaper, paints, brushes and sundries to PPG Architectural Coatings UK Ltd, Crown Paints Ltd and Decoron Wallpapers Ltd for the total sum of £312,000 (£104,000 per annum) for the period 10th February 2017 to 9th February 2020;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Council enter into and sign and seal the necessary agreements and associated documents required in order to enter into an appropriate contracts with PPG Architectural Coatings UK Ltd, Crown Paints Ltd and Decoron Wallpapers Ltd.

13/17

Parklife Football Hubs Expression of Interest (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1654)

The Cabinet Member for Leisure sought approval to submit an expression of interest bid for a new sport initiative called the Parklife Football Hubs Programme.

The development of this initiative demonstrated the recognition from these organisations that funding for the provision of grassroots football was reducing due to ongoing reductions in local authority budgets.

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The principles of the Parklife Football Hubs Programme were as follows:

- the development of at least two football hubs in a local authority area comprising as a minimum of two artificial grass pitches and changing facilities;
- that these hubs were overseen by a Special Purpose Vehicle that was set up by the Council to take the lead on the development of grassroots football in the defined area;
- that the provision of these hubs provided improved access to artificial grass pitches in the area thereby mitigating grass pitches being overplayed and falling into a poor condition and, the revenue generated by these facilities, once mature, would fund the provision of all grass roots football in the Council area, including the maintenance and running costs of grass pitches and associated changing provision;
- that the programme was delivered in line with the twelve key principles as outlined in Parklife Football Hub National Programme – Prospectus.

The Council would be able to bid for a maximum of £3 million per hub and would have to provide a minimum of 40% match funding. The injection of this capital contribution would have a positive long-term impact on the revenue required to provide grassroots football in Sandwell.

Whilst the actual sites for the location of these proposed hubs had not yet been decided upon, should the expression of interest be successful, it would be the intention of the Council to deliver at least one hub in the north of the borough and one hub in the south.

The Parklife Football Hub Programme had a three stage funding process as follows:

- Stage One – Expression of Interest – this signed the Council up to the scheme in principle – it did not commit the Council to continue with the bidding process;
- Stage Two – Submission of Local Plan for Football – develop a plan for football with partners in the borough (funding for project development costs available);
- Stage Three – Submission of Individual Hub Applications – the development of the actual hub sites prior to potential grant award.

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The Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board thanked the Cabinet Member for seizing this opportunity to put Sandwell forward to take advantage of this major funding programme and lobbied members to look at Wednesbury as the base for one of the hubs.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure thanked officers for their hard work in identifying funding opportunities to take forward this initiative.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhood Services submit an expression of interest in line with Stage One of the Parklife Football Hubs Programme;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, should the Council's submission at Stage One of the Parklife Football Hubs Programme be successful, a further report be presented to Cabinet to agree Stage Two – Submission of Local Plan for Football.

Business Items

14/17

Revised Unauthorised Encampments joint protocols document between Sandwell MBC and West Midlands Police

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment sought approval to the revised Unauthorised Encampments joint protocols document between the Council and the West Midlands Police following a six week public consultation process. The revisions now included protection for the Council against third party claims, better information to enable members to inform constituents of the options the Council had and the legal process in seeking to regain possession of its land.

The Council was required by law to satisfy the Courts that the welfare needs of the transgressors had been investigated and that proper procedures had been followed to secure possession of the land that was the subject to unauthorised occupation.

The proposed document would allow the Council to demonstrate to partner agencies, our settled community and the travelling community that officers were acting in line with procedure.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

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This should address calls for action to remove mobile groups as soon as they formed on Council owned land within the Borough until the Council has discharged its duties.

Similarly, by following the proposed processes, issues that could arise from such mobile groups such as noise, fly tipping or damage to the site could, subject to police support, be resolved more efficiently to the benefit of residents.

The main additions to the protocols document were to allow the use of bailiffs using common law powers and for the use of injunctions, where appropriate.

A further report would be submitted to Cabinet seeking approval to the revised Unauthorised Encampments Corporate Policy.

In response to comments made by the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board regarding getting the message across to residents and local businesses on what recourse they had in the event of traveller incursion, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment confirmed that leaflets were available for the public offering advice and guidance. Information was also available on the Council's website and via social media. Due to the notable growth in the number of unauthorised encampments in Sandwell which was costing the Council £400,000 per year, the Council would be writing to MPs, lobbying the Local Government Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government and had recently raised the issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner who would be holding a summit to address the issue.

The Leader of the Council also emphasised the seriousness of the problem and the demand upon scarce resources to repair the damage caused to sites following an unauthorised encampment. The Council would use all available lawful powers to address the problem and would continue to work collaboratively with the West Midlands Police.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the revised Unauthorised Encampments joint protocols document with the West Midlands Police be approved;

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- (2) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment, be authorised to make any minor amendments deemed necessary to the revised Unauthorised Encampments joint protocols document with the West Midlands Police;
- (3) that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet and Council seeking approval to the revised Unauthorised Encampments Corporate Policy.

15/17

Determined Admission Arrangements for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2018/19

The Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, sought approval to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Sandwell. The Admissions Code, published in December 2014, required the local authority (as the admissions authority), to formally agree admission arrangements for those schools every year, even if the arrangements had not changed from previous years.

The Council had last consulted all stakeholders on its admission arrangements in October/November 2015 with Cabinet agreeing to publish these arrangements for the 2017/18 academic year at its meeting on 24th February 2016 (see Minute No. 29/16). It was not proposed to change the arrangements for the 2018/19 academic year.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

Resolved That, having taken the requirements of the Admission Code into account, the local authority's Admission Arrangements for places in oversubscribed community and voluntary controlled primary schools and Perryfields High School Specialist Maths and Computing College for 2018/2019, as now submitted, be agreed.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

16/17

Action Taken on Matter of Urgency – Release of Urban Living Charge – Brindley II

The Cabinet Member for Core Council Services presented details of an urgent action taken by the Interim Director – Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Core Council Services, in relation to the release of Urban Living Charge on Brindley II site in accordance to conditions of the grant.

The Urban Living, Birmingham/Sandwell Pathfinder was one of nine Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in the country with Sandwell being the accountable body for the project. The Pathfinders were established by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as part of the Government’s “Sustainable Communities Plan”.

On 23rd December 2008, Urban Living granted funding to PxP West Midlands Limited Partnership for the purchase of land/property to enable residential development.

On 30th January 2009, a Housing Gap Funding Agreement was entered into between PxP West Midlands Limited Partnership and the Homes and Community Agency.

The conditions of the Urban Living Grant included that a Legal Charge be registered against the land/property acquired with Urban Living Funds. These Charges were registered in the Council’s name as “Urban Living” (effectively part of the Council) but was not a legal entity.

The conditions stated that Urban Living shall immediately release the Legal Charge when the land was sold to the sub-developer (the developer who was to build out the residential development). This sale was imminent and approval for release of the Charge was therefore required.

Resolved That details of the urgent action taken by the Interim Director - Resources in relation to the release of Urban Living Charge on Brindley II site in accordance to conditions of the grant be received.

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17/17 **Decisions of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment on 24th November 2016**

The decisions of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment taken on 24th November 2016 were received.

18/17 **Minutes of the Cabinet Petitions Committee taken on 30th November 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Petitions Committee held on 30th November 2016 were received.

(Meeting ended at 4.16 pm following adjournments between 3.36 pm and 3.39 pm and 3.45 pm and 3.48 pm)

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