

The Cabinet

16th September, 2015 at 3.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Cooper (Chair);
Councillors Crompton, Y Davies, Eling, Hackett
and Khatun.

Apologies: Councillor Moore;
Councillors Ahmed, L Horton, P Hughes, S Jones
and Underhill.

Observer: Councillor Sandars.

155/15 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th
August, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

Strategic Items

156/15 **Revised Playing Pitch Strategy (Key Decision Ref. No. LVS002)**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and the Voluntary Sector sought approval to the revised Playing Pitch Strategy. The plan operated on a ten year cycle and provided details of sports provision in the borough, including:-

- identifying where community use of school sports pitches was most needed;
- providing better information to residents and other users of sports pitches;
- promoting sports development and identifying where the lack of facilities could be suppressing the formation of teams.

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It was now proposed that the following aims within the strategy be adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the strategy: -

- Aim 1 - to protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it was needed for meeting current or future needs;
- Aim 2 - to enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites;
- Aim 3 - to provide new outdoor sports facilities where there was current or future demand to do so.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the strategy would help to secure external funding for improving sports provision in the borough.

An equality impact assessment was not required for this proposal.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and the Voluntary Sector recommended the proposal for approval.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the revised Playing Pitch Strategy for Sandwell be approved and adopted as the policy document that informs future sports provision for the borough;
- (2) that subject to resolution (1) above, the Playing Pitch Strategy for Sandwell is used to secure future external funding for improvements to sports provision in the borough.

157/15

Review of the Pension Policy Statement (Key Decision Ref. No. FR015)

The Local Government Pension Scheme 2014, which came into effect on 1st April 2014, required all scheme employers to review their existing discretionary pension policy statements. The key changes to the discretions available under the Local Government Pension Scheme related to the following:-

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- Augmentation of membership;
- The 85 year rule;
- Early payment of retirement benefits
- Awarding additional pension

It was recommended that the Council would not exercise its discretion to introduce either Shared Cost Additional Pension Contributions or Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contributions Schemes.

Following a question from the Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board which sought clarification on the trades unions' involvement within the consultation process, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources reported that only one trade union had commented on the proposal and had stated that that the proposals were satisfactory and complied with changes being issued from government. The policy would be reviewed annually and any changes would be published in a statement within one month.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources recommended the proposal for approval.

Resolved that the following revisions to the Pensions Policy Statement be approved.

Current Policy Statement (April 2009)

Revised Policy Statement

Augmentation of membership

Augmentation of membership would be considered on the merits of each case.

Provision to augment pension was removed from the scheme.

85 year rule

Automatic entitlement for employees aged 55 to 60 years who met the qualifications of the 85 year rule to receive unreduced pension.

Automatic entitlement was removed, but discretion to switch the rule back on with either reduced or unreduced pension.

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Early payment of retirement

benefits. From age 55, members who had left local government employment may choose to receive early payment of their retirement benefits - subject to the agreement of the Council.

From age 55, scheme members could retire and receive pension without the Council's permission. Benefits would be reduced to allow for early payment, but the Council had discretion to waive actuarial reductions.

Awarding additional pension.

The Council may award a member additional pension of not more than £5,000 per year.

The Council may award a member additional pension of not more than £6,500 per year. There would be index-linked increases to this figure each year.

158/15

Contract Award for Print Production Hardware Procurement (Key Decision Ref. No. FR016)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources reported that, on 24th June 2015, the Cabinet gave approval to enter into a contract with Xerox (UK) Limited for the supply of print room equipment to replace the ageing technology currently in use (see Minute No. 109/15).

Whilst the original report had indicated that the Council could consider early termination of the contract with Xerox should circumstances change, further negotiations had since highlighted that the Council would be subject to a financial penalty for early termination, without cause, during the five year period and would need to make a settlement based on the sum that would have been due had the contract continued.

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The current annual expenditure on the primary print production equipment was £256,000 and the proposed contract would reduce this cost to £105,000 per annum, producing a saving of £755,000 over the five-year term, whilst significantly increasing reliability and productivity. Having considered the risk to the Council, it was deemed to be at a minimal level and the savings that would materialise as a result of the new contract would give a robust business case to continue with the contract.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources recommended the proposal for approval.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the revised details of the terms and conditions of the contract with Xerox (UK) Limited in relation to the supply of printing equipment and related services be received;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) above, the Director - Governance enter into a five year fixed term contract with Xerox (UK) Limited for the supply of printing equipment and related services pursuant to Crown Commercial Service framework agreement RM1599.

159/15

Contract Award for an End User Computing Infrastructure (Key Decision Ref. No. FR017)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources sought approval to award a contract for an end user computing infrastructure to support a number of deliverables within the Corporate Information Communication Strategy.

On 24th September 2014, the Cabinet gave approval to the Corporate Information Communication Technology Strategy (see Minute No. 48/14). A new end user computing infrastructure contract would enable and support items within the Corporate Information Communication Strategy.

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The end user computing infrastructure was established from guidance and support from external consultants Agilisys, which advised enabling computing to work flexibly and break away from a one person, one device policy. Consultations with external company Esteem had detailed that a version of virtual computing software Citrix would use existing resources and provide a cost effective approach to deliver key corporate information communication technology objectives.

The purchase of the Citrix based infrastructure was approved by the Corporate Information Communication Technology Strategy Steering group in April 2015 and the procurement process had been established with the Framework RM1054 to shortlist vendors who could provide the infrastructure needed.

In accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, it was proposed to award the contract to Maindec Computer Solutions Ltd T/A CSA Waverley, at a cost of £1,368,630, including a three year software assurance package for the support and maintenance of the infrastructure, which was deemed value for money and quality assured. The final cost calculated by the preferred bidder fell within the capital allocations awarded in September 2014.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources now reported that expenses associated with the contract(s) could be incurred, however, this would not exceed £80,000.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Assistant Chief Executive award the contract for the provision of a Citrix based end user computing infrastructure to Maindec Computer Solutions Ltd T/A CSA Waverley, for a sum of £1,368,630, for a three-year period;
- (2) that subject to resolution (1) above, any expenses associated with the Citrix based end user computing infrastructure contract will not exceed £80,000 and in the event that expenses do exceed £80,000, the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to approve these expenses;

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- (3) that subject to resolution (1) above, the Director - Governance enters into an appropriate contract with Maindec Computer Solutions Ltd T/A CSA Waverley for the provision of a Citrix based end user computing infrastructure.

Business Matter

160/15

Decision Taken by the Leader of the Council

The decisions taken by the Leader of the Council on 25th August, 2015 under the Town and Neighbourhood Services portfolio, were received.

No questions were asked of the Leader of the Council.

(Meeting ended at 3:15pm)

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