

## CABINET - 21 May 2015

### MINUTES

Present: Councillors: R Sleigh (Leader), I Courts, R Hulland, K Meeson, T Richards OBE, Tildesley, J Windmill, J Burn, K Grinsell, R Hall and T Diccico

Officers: Nick Page, Deborah Merry, Anne Brereton, Paul Johnson, Sally Hodges, Ian James, Philip Mayhew, Dr Munday, Mike Swallow, Andrew Kinsey, Dr Wardle, Rachel Egan and Jane Game

#### 1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In relation to item 6 Cllr Grinsell advised Members that she worked for an MEP, and Cllr Courts advised Members he sat on ESIF Committee.

#### 3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

No questions or deputations were received.

#### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015 were submitted for information only, including those in private.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015 be noted for information only, including those in private.

#### 5. SOLIHULL TOWN CENTRE - TOUCHWOOD EXTENSION

The Cabinet was provided with an update on the progress of the Touchwood Extension and asked to delegate approval the submission by Lend Lease of the planning Application for development. The Cabinet was also asked to give in principle authority to promote a compulsory purchase order to facilitate the delivery of the Touchwood Development ("the Development").

The Director of Resources reminded Members of the previous reports the Cabinet had received on this project and the progress made to date including public consultation events held and the involvement of the Town Centre Advisory Group (TCAG).

Members were advised that the submission of the Planning Application for the Touchwood Extension was a key milestone in the delivery of the Project. The Delivery Agreement (DA) committed the Council and Lend Lease to the delivery of the Touchwood Extension subject to the satisfaction of the conditions precedent contained in the DA.

## CABINET - 21 May 2015

Approval of the submission of the Planning Application was the first step in satisfying the planning condition in the DA. The proposed Planning Application accorded with the requirements of the master plan and complimented the Council's proposals for the Council House refurbishment. The Planning Application following its submission to the Local Planning Authority would be processed and determined in accordance with normal processes.

It was anticipated that it would not be possible to acquire all of the interests in the Land by agreement. In accordance with normal practice, and to assist in that process, it was prudent to seek the Council's in principle decision that the Council would be prepared to promote a CPO, as this would allow preliminary processes required for the making of a CPO to be carried out at the same time as negotiations with landowners were on-going both saving time and supporting the negotiating process.

Members welcomed the report acknowledging the proposals were consistent with the Council's Local Plan. Members also noted the work that had been done by the Town Centres Advisory Group in monitoring and developing the proposals, and the fact that further reports would come back to Cabinet seeking approval to progress any CPO's.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Managed Growth to approve the submission by Lend Lease of the planning application in accordance with the provisions of the Development Agreement;
- (ii) That authorisation be given as a matter of principle that the Council is prepared to use its compulsory purchase powers under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to facilitate the Touchwood Extension Development on the land hatched in black on the plan at Appendix 1 ("the Land") on the basis that the development, redevelopment and improvement of the Land would contribute to the achievement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area;
- (iii) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Resources, to the extent required, to carry out a land referencing exercise to identify all those with land and interests in the Land, including:
  - a) entering on to the Land or other land for the purposes of carrying out surveys pursuant to section 15 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;
  - b) issuing notices requisitioning information from persons in relation to the Land or other land pursuant to section 16 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and
  - c) instructing a land referencing company to undertake investigations.

## **6. UPDATE ON EUROPEAN FUNDING, 2014 TO 2020 AND OUTLINE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

The Cabinet was provided with an update on the progress of the European Union (EU) funding programme for 2014 to 2020 and invited to agree in principle approval to

## CABINET - 21 May 2015

continue to develop funding bids for Technical Assistance, Enterprise and European Social Fund projects.

The Cabinet Member for Managed Growth introduced the report and took Members through the background which was detailed in the report along with the specific sums of money available the processes involved for submitting applications and who would lead and be the accountable body. Specifically the Council was looking:

- to apply to the new EU programme for funds in the areas of technical assistance, enterprise support, skills and social inclusion;
- act as lead applicant and accountable body for bids for funds to support technical assistance, enterprise support projects and activities funded through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF); and
- act as a delivery partner within a project funded through the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and European Social Fund, with Birmingham City Council acting as the accountable body.

The report provided more detail on each of the above applications as well as the financial implications. Cabinet were also advised that further reports would be brought forward for consideration on the individual projects.

Members fully supported the report and noted that the recommendations fitted in with the Council's objectives and priorities.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the progress of the European Union (EU) funding programme for 2014 to 2020 be noted;
- (ii) That in principle it be agreed for the Council to apply to the new EU programme for funds in the areas of technical assistance, enterprise support, skills and social inclusion;
- (iii) That it be agreed in principle for the Council to act as lead applicant and accountable body for bids for funds to support technical assistance, enterprise support projects and activities funded through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF); and
- (iv) That it be agreed, in principle, that the Council act as a delivery partner within a project funded through the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and European Social Fund, with Birmingham City Council acting as the accountable body.