

THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 10am.

PRESENT

Cllr J Osman (in the Chair)

Cllr D Fothergill
Cllr D Hall
Cllr Le Hardy

Cllr F Nicholson
Cllr H Siggs

Other Members present: Cllrs Coles, A Dimmick, T Lock, M Rigby, A Wedderkopp

Apologies for absence: Cllr A Groskop, Cllr W Wallace

676 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – agenda item 2

Members of the Cabinet declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a District, City/Town or Parish Council:

Cllr J Osman	Mendip District Council Wells City Council
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Cllr H Siggs	Mendip District Council Wells City Council
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677 **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017** - agenda item 3

The Chairman asked for one further bullet point to be added to minute item 672 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 15 March 2017 to say ‘the Scrutiny Chairman was referred to specific cabinet papers which addressed the issues raised.’

The Cabinet agreed this and the Chairman signed these as a correct record of the proceedings.

678 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (PQT)** – agenda item 4

There were no public questions.

679 **GROWTH DEAL 3** - agenda item 6

The Chairman asked the Cabinet if this item could be brought forward in the agenda and this was agreed. He then handed over to Cllr Hall, the Cabinet Member for Business Inward Investment and Policy, to introduce this item. The meeting was informed that this was a timely update on the Growth Deal 3 funding to the Heart of the South West LEP following a recent update to Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place. The outcome had been positive for Somerset and the importance of proper planning was emphasized.

The Director of Commissioning & Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure Paula Hewitt then gave a brief presentation to Cabinet Members.

Points highlighted in the presentation included:

- There had been significant Growth Deal funding secured from Government by Heart of the South West LEP since 2014
- In total £222.89m had been awarded with Somerset receiving £76.33m
- Somerset had benefitted from LEP wide Growth Deal funded projects covering projects such as 4G and broadband
- Growth Deal 3 in Somerset would support schemes such as phase 3 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre, iAero (South) Centre, as well as infrastructure schemes such as Taunton Toneway improvements and Huntspill Energy Park.

Further points raised in the debate included:

- A lot of work had been put into these projects and officers were thanked for their efforts
- Concern was raised regarding Yeovil College's and Hospital bid which had been unsuccessful. It was hoped that this would be successful in the future. Advice offered to organisers of the Yeovil College and Hospital bid was to keep their project developed and to ask for support which would be offered if needed
- Bids needed to be strong and part of the LEP strategic plan
- The pipeline of projects was always much larger than the amount of funding available
- There had been some recent changes in the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Council is working with the LEP on its governance.
- It was unclear whether there would be further growth deals from the Government and this information was awaited

The Chairman thanked the team and the Cabinet Member for all the growth deal work and highlighted the huge benefits this had given to Somerset. This had a positive impact on the lives of residents.

The Cabinet RESOLVED to note the presentation.

680 **DECISION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE YEOVIL WESTERN CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**– agenda item 5

The Chairman reminded members that although the main report was not confidential, the supporting appendix contained exempt information and if members wished to discuss information within this then Cabinet would be asked to agree resolution to exclude the press and public.

He then invited the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to introduce the report. He reminded members that this was a very large scheme which had been developed over a number of years to

accommodate the planned growth in the surrounding area of Yeovil. He thanked the former Cabinet Member for Highways for his help with this and he was pleased that the Council was now at the point of awarding the contract.

Strategic Commissioning Manager for Highways and Transport Mike O' Dowd-Jones gave a presentation explaining the background to the scheme and its development and progress. Benefits included development of 1547 homes, increased capacity of the road to carry traffic and reduce delays to traffic, and reduce forecast levels of congestion. The estimated completion for the scheme was November 2018.

Further points raised in the debate included:

- Changes were much needed in the Yeovil area as traffic was bad.
- Concern that projected funding and costs had escalated from earlier figures given in 2014.
- Members were informed that there was more than £16m of potential funding for the scheme but this was not the actual cost as this included costs for compulsory purchases which it was hoped would not be needed.
- The Cabinet Member for Highways reminded members that questions on agenda items could be raised in advance of meetings so that responses could be given more speedily.
- It was hoped that consultation on this scheme would be better than the recent consultation undertaken by developers on a scheme in the eastern area of the town. Members were assured there would be better consultation.
- Clarity about the type of contract being used and the associated risks was sought. This was a different type of contract to previous ones but helped by ensuring that the contractor was responsible for managing the majority of the risks.

The Chairman thanked the procurement team and officers involved in this scheme. He acknowledged that there were risks in relation to any contract. He was confident that what was being proposed was best for the council financially and best for Yeovil and supported the recommendations.

Following consideration of the officer report, presentation and discussion, the Cabinet RESOLVED to agree:

1. To award a contract for highway junction improvements and associated works at Yeovil Western Corridor to the supplier identified in Appendix A, following a competitive process.
2. The case for exempt information for Appendix A to be treated in confidence, as public disclosure of the commercially sensitive data contained within would prejudice the Council's position in ensuring competitiveness of future tender processes.
3. To exclude the press and public from the meeting where there was

any discussion at the meeting regarding exempt or confidential information (Appendix A).

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Passed a resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

681 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 7

The Chairman suggested that as this was the last meeting of the Cabinet in this quadrennium that delegated responsibility be given to him to sign the minutes of this meeting when they were available. The Cabinet agreed to delegate this to the Leader of the Council.

He also took the opportunity to thank all the members of the Senior Leadership Team for their help support and service during the last four years. He thanked Cabinet members for their work and for taking some necessary tough decisions along with recognising their dedication to their roles. He paid a special tribute to Cllr Harvey Siggs who was the joint current longest serving Cabinet member for his assistance with Human Resources, Highways and Finance matters as he was standing down as a County Councillor. He wished good luck to all members who were standing in the county council elections on May 4.

(The meeting ended at 11.05 am)

CHAIRMAN