

EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 11 August 2015

Present:

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Leadbetter, Morris, Owen and Sutton

Apologies:

Councillors Denham, Hannaford and Pearson

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Director City Development, Assistant Director Environment, Housing Development Manager, Technical Accounting Manager and Democratic Services Manager (Committees)

84

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

85

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING FOR MARSH BARTON RAILWAY STATION

The report of the Assistant Director was submitted which responded to a Devon County Council request for £1.3m Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) match funding towards the delivery of a new railway station at Marsh Barton. The new railway station would form an important part of the transport infrastructure package needed to accommodate development growth in and around Exeter.

The Assistant Director City Development clarified that in February 2015 the Council had set out a framework for the prioritisation of CIL and that the funding would only become available once the £8 million of CIL had been collected to contribute towards the city centre investment. It was estimated that sufficient money would have been collected by 2020 and there would be a 'claw-back' provision whereby the Council would be an equal-proportion recipient of any savings on the cost of the project.

Members discussed the prioritisation of CIL funding and the need for the City and County Councils to work together to take opportunities to secure public sector funding for transport projects across the city.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve £1.3m Community Infrastructure Levy be available for investment in the new railway station at Marsh Barton on the following basis:-

- (1) that no funds to be made available until adequate Community Infrastructure Levy had been collected and funding for city centre major infrastructure investments has been secured in line with the resolution of Executive on 10 February 2015;

- (2) of the £1.3 million funding:
 - that £660,000 to be committed specifically for Marsh Barton Station; and
 - the other £640,000 to be available for Devon County Council to deliver infrastructure needed to serve development at South West Exeter, which could include Marsh Barton Station;
- (3) City Council CIL funding for the railway station to be conditional on 'claw-back' provisions whereby the Council would be an equal-proportion recipient of any project cost savings, and
- (4) the Assistant Director City Development be given delegated authority to finalise an agreement with Devon County Council that accords with these recommendations.

86 **LEISURE COMPLEX PROGRAMME BOARD MINUTES - 9 JULY 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Complex Programme Board Minutes held on 9 July 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure Complex Programme Board Minutes held on 9 July 2015 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

87 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

88 **WASTE OPERATIONS: MARKET SUPPLEMENT TO DRIVERS' SALARIES**

The report of the Assistant Director Environment was submitted to advise Members of the current difficulty in recruiting suitably qualified and skilled drivers to operate refuse collection vehicles, and the risk of losing existing drivers to neighbouring authorities and the private sector due to a national driver shortage.

The Job Evaluation Process (JE) was currently being carried out which would take into account the requirements for Waste Operations drivers to hold a Certificate of Professional Competence and the additional duties now associated with the in-cab technology.

Members discussed the JE process with regards to these positions and requested that the matter should be taken to the Joint Consultative Negotiation Committee (JCNC).

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approves that a mechanism to introduce a market supplement at short notice if required to retain existing refuse collection vehicle (RCV) drivers and/or successfully recruit to RCV driver vacancies, in order to prevent service disruption to refuse collections;

- (2) approves that this market supplement may be up to £1,500 per annum and paid pro rata on a monthly basis to Waste Operations drivers whose job description requires them to operate a large goods vehicle (LGV), and whose job role it is to operate a refuse collection vehicle in excess of 7.5 tonnes;
- (3) this mechanism to be invoked by the Assistant Director Environment in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance, and agreement of Portfolio Holder for Health and Place if required due to the likelihood of service disruption;
- (4) approves a supplementary budget provision of £16,500 to be ear-marked from the General Fund working balance for the part-year of 2015/16 (sufficient to pay the maximum market supplement from 1 September if necessary); and
- (5) approves a provision of £32,895 to be earmarked from the General Fund for the full year of 2016-17 (sufficient to continue the market supplement at the maximum level, if necessary).

89

PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENT OF THE LEISURE COMPLEX AND SWIMMING POOL

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted to consider the Business Case for enhancing facilities for the development of the new leisure complex and swimming pool. Members were also circulated the comments of Scrutiny Committee – Resources.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised Members of the revised figures for the additional offering.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Bull, Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Resources addressed Executive to advise of the discussion that had taken place at its meeting on 29 July 2015. He thanked the Leader for attending and explaining how the leisure complex and swimming pool would be funded. A robust debate had taken place and Members had focused on the business case. The majority of Members supported the recommendation for the compelling business case to invest the additional £6m to provide an enhanced leisure complex and swimming pool; one Member had abstained from voting.

Members discussed the proposals whilst the majority of Members supported the compelling business case for the enhanced leisure complex and swimming pool, one Member raised concerns regarding the proposals.

The Leader commented that a new leisure complex with enhanced facilities would be seen as a great achievement for the city and at no extra cost to council tax payers.

RECOMMENDED to Council to acknowledge and approve:-

- (1) that there was a compelling business case to invest an additional £6m to provide an enhanced leisure complex and swimming pool; and also
- (2) following the statement from the Leader of the Council, it was further recommended that the funding for the £26m should not result in an increase in the Council's underlying debt, noting that £8m has already been set aside from New Homes Bonus and that a further £10m will be set aside from New Homes Bonus over the next five years, The additional £8m coming from Community Infrastructure Levy and capital receipts.

(In accordance with Standing Order no.43, Councillor Leadbetter requested that his voting against this recommendation be recorded)

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.15 pm)

Chair

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 12 August 2015.