

EXECUTIVE (SPECIAL MEETING)

MONDAY 30 APRIL 2012 AT 1.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mitchelson (Leader's Portfolio)
Councillor J Mallinson (Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Bloxham (Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Ellis (Performance and Development Portfolio Holder)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Bowman (Economic Development Portfolio Holder) and Councillor Mrs Geddes (Community Engagement Portfolio Holder)

PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Leader reported that Report CD.33/12 concerning the Tour of Britain had been submitted in private (Item B.1) because the information contained therein was embargoed at the time of publication of the Agenda and papers for this meeting. The matter could however now be dealt with in public and considered as Agenda item A.3.

RESOLVED – That Agenda item B.1 be considered in public session as item A.3.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

EX.055/12 FAMILIES ACCOMMODATION REPLACEMENT (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Community Engagement

Subject Matter

The Director of Resources submitted report RD.09/12 updating Members on the Families Accommodation Replacement Capital Scheme (also known as the Female and Family Accommodation).

The Director of Resources outlined the background to the matter, reminding Members that the capital scheme and associated funding (£1,730,000) had been approved as part of the 2012/13 budget process by Council on 23 February 2012, subject to progress reports being submitted to the Executive for consideration.

Architects, Day Cummins Ltd of Cockermouth, had been commissioned (following a competitive tender process) to develop the complete design commission of the Women and Family Accommodation scheme at Water Street. Plans had been submitted to and approved by the Development Control Committee on 16 December 2011, subject to discussion on that element of land outside the wall boundary and no objections being received from the Environment Agency. The Director of Economic Development was authorised to undertake discussions with regard to the area of land in question, which discussions were resolved with approval on 20 January 2012.

He added that tenders to contractors had gone onto the CHEST (electronic procurement system). Five returns had been received from local companies on 5 March 2012, all of which were over budget. The Resource Planning Team, external design team and lowest contractor had therefore progressed substantial and difficult value engineering negotiations to produce the significant savings required in order that the scheme may proceed on budget.

Referring to the next steps, the Director of Resources informed Members that:

- it was envisaged that Officers would be in a position to award the contract to build on 1 May 2012;
- the contractor would require a mobilisation period, of say four weeks, before actual start on site;
- the actual start on site, for commencement of foundations, would be 28 May 2012; and
- the contract completion date would be by 27 May 2013, assuming no unforeseen site problems or substantially inclement weather were experienced.

In conclusion, the Director of Resources asked Members to receive and comment upon the report, noting that the contract to build the Women's and Families' Accommodation would be awarded on 1 May 2012.

The Director of Community Engagement stated that he supported submission of the report and was pleased with progress made.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that the report represented the culmination of a great deal of work. The Women's and Families' Accommodation Scheme was a real positive for the people of Carlisle, particularly those who were vulnerable. He welcomed development of the scheme and looked forward to the time when the accommodation could receive those in need of help and support. Accordingly, the Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive received update Report RD.09/12 detailing progress to date on the Families Accommodation Replacement Capital Scheme and the proposed completion programme timetable; and noted that the contract to build the Women's and Families' Accommodation would be awarded on 1 May 2012.

Reasons for Decision

To update the Executive on current progress on replacing the Women's and Families' Accommodation

EX.056/12 SECTION 106 AGREEMENT, FORMER HIGHWAYS DEPOT, STATION ROAD, BRAMPTON
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Economic Development / Community Engagement

Subject Matter

The Director of Economic Development submitted joint report with the Director of Community Engagement (ED.21/12) outlining proposals for the development and enhancement of public open space in Brampton.

The Director of Economic Development explained that Story Construction Ltd had submitted a planning application (10/0346) seeking permission for the erection of 42 no. dwellings and associated infrastructure on the former Highways Depot, Station Road, Brampton. The application was subject to a Section 106 Agreement, which Agreement was signed on 1 October 2010. Development had commenced on site and, as at the end of September 2011, there had been twelve completions, two of which were affordable units.

The Agreement covered three areas (provision of affordable housing, on-site open space and off-site open space) and made provision for three separate sums of money in relation to off-site open space, namely:

(1) King George V Playing Field Contribution - £9,025 - to be paid to the Council and used towards enhancements to the King George V Playing Field in the vicinity of the development

(2) Off site Open Space Contribution - £61,181 - to be paid to the Council and used towards the provision of public open space facilities in the Parish of Brampton

(3) King George V Playing Field Maintenance Sum - £4,230 - to be paid to the Council and used towards the cost of maintaining the King George V Playing Field for a period of ten years from the date of payment.

The Director of Economic Development informed Members that it was proposed that the unallocated off-site open space contribution of £61,181 should be used to fund the following three schemes in Brampton, the locations of which were as detailed on the plan attached at Appendix A to the report:

Murray Park - it was proposed to enhance the play area in the park by providing extra play equipment for children under 9 years old. That play area was the closest play area to the new development on Station Road which was subject to the Section 106 Agreement.

Skate Park / BMX Track - Brampton Parish Council had, on 19 October, written to the City Council requesting that the first two sums of money be put towards the creation of a Skate Park / BMX Track on the King George V Playing Field. Pupils from William Howard School had approached the Parish Council as part of their citizenship work with regard to provision of the facility. The Parish Council had plans drawn up and held a public consultation event on 11 August.

However, during discussions between the City Council, Parish Council and William Howard School, it was discovered that other similar activities and projects were being looked at in the area which could complement the project. It was therefore agreed in partnership to carry out a wider consultation event to ensure that there was continued support for the project and that any proposals maximised available resources.

The Director of Economic Development commented that the project would have a positive impact upon crime and disorder in the area. She added that it constituted an example of excellent partnership working, would meet the identified needs of the local community and positively address a local crime and disorder issue.

In conclusion, the Director of Economic Development recommended that Members approve the release of the off-site Open Space Contribution obtained via the Section 106 Agreement, dated 1 October 2010 between the Council and Story Construction Limited, such contribution being specified in paragraph 2.2(ii) of her report, to be used towards the provision of the proposed Skate Park and BMX Track at William Howard School and play facilities at Murray Park.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder indicated that, although he welcomed the fact that money was available as part of the Section 106 Agreement, he was slightly disappointed that the proposals were designed to enhance facilities exclusively for young people, as opposed to benefitting the community in general.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the proposed Skate Park / BMX Track and questioned whether part of the intended site was presently being used as a car park. He was concerned to ensure that the proposals were not developed at the expense of parking in that area.

The Leader also welcomed the proposals which would be developed in partnership with the Parish Council and William Howard School, and see money being invested in opportunities for young people. The proposed Skate Park / BMX Track site would be more closely monitored, have open access, and would link into the community bike club developed by the School. The project would have a positive impact on crime and disorder in the area as one of the outstanding issues around youth and anti-social behaviour in Brampton was the misuse of bikes and skate boards on the streets and in the town centre. The enhancement of play equipment was also very much needed and would constitute an asset for the area.

Turning to the issue of parking, the Leader said that some residents had expressed concern regarding the availability of parking around William Howard School. It was important to ensure that there was no reduction in parking provision as a result of the scheme and he proposed that a condition be imposed to that effect.

In response, the Director of Economic Development explained that the proposals would be subject to planning permission.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive approved the release of the off-site Open Space Contribution obtained via the Section 106 Agreement dated 1 October 2010 between the Council and Story Construction Limited, such contribution being specified in paragraph 2.2(ii) of Report ED.21/12, to be used towards the provision of the proposed Skate Park and BMX Track at William Howard School (subject to there being no reduction in car parking as a result of the scheme) and play facilities at Murray Park, Brampton.

Reasons for Decision

To release the money from the Section 106 Agreement for Station Road, Brampton and ensure that the momentum of the project is maintained

EX.057/12 TOUR OF BRITAIN (Key Decision)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item was included on the Agenda as a Key Decision, although not in the Forward Plan)

Portfolio Community Engagement

Subject Matter

The Director of Community Engagement submitted report CD.33/12 outlining the key issues associated with Carlisle's hosting of the start of Stage Four of the Tour of Britain on 12 September 2012.

The Director of Community Engagement identified for Members a number of key aspects, including financial commitment and risk; economic development opportunity; resource and staffing capacity; and skills and timescales. He explained that, whilst seeking to achieve at least a break even position, it would be prudent to identify a budget of £70,000 to satisfy Tour of Britain requirements and other operation cost estimates. Pending any income generation, the budget allocation earmarked for promoting healthy lifestyles and sports development, and for community development and wellbeing would initially be utilised and vired towards the costs associated with the event.

He added that hosting Stage Four of this national event would be extremely positive for Carlisle. There was a significant opportunity for 'Carlisle-specific' sponsorship and, through that, to directly / indirectly promote the 'Carlisle Brand'.

In conclusion, the Director of Community Engagement recommended that Members note the report and grant approval to meet all the City Council commitments within the contract with Tour of Britain Limited, and authorise Officers to complete the said contract on behalf of the Council, subject to approval of the terms and conditions thereof by the Leader and Directors of Community Engagement and Governance; and approve a virement of up to £70,000 from Community Housing and Health and Communities for Health budgets, pending receipt of sponsorship money to support the event.

The Leader stated that hosting of the start of Stage Four of the Tour of Britain constituted a great opportunity to showcase Carlisle around the country and abroad. It would be beneficial for the economy, accommodation providers, shops and restaurants. A great deal of work had gone into the staging of sports, arts and cultural events, including the Olympic Torch Relay, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and Carlisle Music City events, meaning that Carlisle was now recognised as a City which could showcase major events.

The Tour of Britain last visited Carlisle in 2005 and, although the Council needed to make financial provisions, he welcomed its return.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that this was an ideal opportunity to showcase the City which should not be missed. He therefore moved the recommendations set out in the report.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive noted Report CD.33/12 and granted approval to:

1. Meet all the City Council commitments within the contract with Tour of Britain Limited and authorised Officers to complete the said contract on behalf of the Council, subject to approval of the terms and conditions thereof by the Leader and Directors of Community Engagement and Governance.
2. Approved a virement of up to £70,000 from Community Housing and Health and Communities for Health budgets, pending receipt of sponsorship money to support the event.

Reasons for Decision

To allow the Contract with Tour of Britain to be signed and allow sufficient funds to be made available to deliver the City Council's commitments therein

(The meeting ended at 1.17 pm)