

CABINET**Tuesday, 7th October, 2014**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank	McManus
	Gilby	Russell
	King	Serjeant
	Ludlow	
Non Voting Members	Brown	Huckle
	Hill	Martin Stone
	Hollingworth	

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

92 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor King declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 98 as a representative of the Innovation Centres Management Board.

Councillor Hollingworth wished it to be noted in respect of Minute 99 that, while not having an interest to declare, had formerly line managed one of the applicants briefly.

93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chief Executive.

94 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 23 September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

95 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period November 2014 – February 2015 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

96 BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to seek approval in principle to the Council joining a Derbyshire based Business Rates Pool in 2015/16.

A range of the benefits of pooling were outlined and a summary of the finance model proposed for a Derbyshire pool was appended to the report.

A draft submission document which set out proposals for the governance arrangements, was also appended to the report. The final agreement to the submission document was still subject to the approval of other Councils in the proposed pool. Approval was therefore sought for the delegation of authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive, to approve the final details of the scheme.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That it be recommended to Full Council that the Council joins a Business Rates Pool for Derbyshire in 2015/16.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive, to approve the final details of the scheme.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To take advantage of a low risk opportunity to increase the Council's share of Business Rate income in 2015/16.

97 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**RESOLVED –**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as they contained information relating to individuals and financial and business affairs.

98 INNOVATION CENTRES DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY AND UPGRADE WORKS

The Development and Growth Manager submitted a report recommending the approval of a proposal to deliver next generation digital connectivity and infrastructure to support the current and future business needs of the Council operated Innovation Centres.

The proposal included a combined high-speed broadband and telephony service for Chesterfield Innovation Centres (CIC) located at Tapton Park Innovation Centre (TPIC) and Dunston Innovation Centre (DIC). Technical aspects of the proposal were details in the report.

The alternative options of no upgrade or a more limited upgrade, were considered, however they were rejected as they would not facilitate the use of the innovation centres as they should be used, encouraging innovative and creative businesses and could have lead to a decrease in occupancy.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That it be recommended to Full Council that £203,790 be allocated from the Service Improvement Reserve to be repaid by the Innovation Centres over the next six years, to allow the Innovation Centres to undertake the programme of improvement works as proposed in this report.
- (2) That the Development and Growth Manager, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, be delegated authority to enter into new agreements to provide digital connectivity to the Innovation Centres.

- (3) That authority be delegated to the Development and Growth Manager to commence detailed negotiations, and to the Contracts Solicitor to prepare agreements, relating to the works and charges for the infrastructure works.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To support the current and future business needs of the Council's Innovation Centres and to support the attraction and development of innovative and knowledge based organisations to contribute to the growth of Chesterfield's economy.

99 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report to inform members about the recruitment process for Independent Persons, who are consulted during the councillor complaints process, and to seek approval for these appointments.

The applicants were interviewed by the Monitoring Officer and the Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee and both were recommended for appointment as Independent Persons. The Standards and Audit Committee considered this report on 26 September 2014 and the recommendations were approved (Minute 15 (2014/15)).

Alternative options considered included only appointing one Independent Person or the recruitment of additional Independent Persons. It was agreed that appointing more than one Independent Person would help prevent potential conflicts arising. Further recruitment would be considered again in the future if necessary.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that those applicants recommended by the Chair of Standards and Audit Committee and Monitoring Officer be appointed as Independent Persons for the purpose of being consulted and giving their views on complaints about councillors.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable the Council to operate the ethical standards system effectively and as required by the law.