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Coventry City Council

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET ON 17TH MARCH 2015

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Council – 17th March 2015

**Agenda Item 12
Recommendation from Cabinet
17th March 2015**

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 11.00 am on Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor Townshend (Chair)
Councillor Abbott
Councillor Gannon
Councillor Gingell
Councillor Kershaw
Councillor A. Khan
Councillor Maton
Councillor Ruane

Deputy Cabinet Members: Councillor Brown
Councillor Caan
Councillor Chater

Non-voting Opposition Members: Councillor Blundell

Other Members: Councillor Hetherington
Councillor Skipper
Councillor Thomas

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: F Collingham, J Moore

Place: D Cockroft

People: B Walsh (Executive Director), M Godfrey

Resources: C West (Executive Director), E Dewar, C Forde,
M Salmon

Apologies: Councillors Andrews, Lancaster, Mrs Lucas
and McNicholas and from the Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION

134. **Better Care Coventry**

The Cabinet considered a joint report which set out arrangements for entering into a Partnership Agreement with Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group in order to implement the Better Care Fund proposals.

In June 2013, the Government announced the £3.9billion Better Care fund as part of its drive to integrate health and social care. Plans were required to be submitted identifying a minimum of £3.8billion of pooled resources with an expectation larger sums would be pooled. The value of the fund was now now £5.3billion based on the plans submitted nationally. The Better Care Fund was described as “a single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and Local Authorities”.

To ensure integration is delivered was delivered, the Better Care Fund required a pooling of resources delivered through a Section 75 agreement. The report indicated that a Section 75 agreement was a partnership agreement whereby NHS organisations and local authorities contributed an agreed level of resource into a single pot (the pooled budget), which is then used to drive the integration and improvement of existing services.

Coventry’s Better Care Visio was “through integrated working, people would receive personalised support that enabled them to be as independent as possible for as long as possible”. Health and Wellbeing Board approved Coventry’s original Better Care Plan and this was submitted in April 2014. Subsequently, new requirements were announced and plans had to demonstrate how they would reduce emergency admissions to hospital, with a target set of 3.5%. Coventry’s revised plan was resubmitted in September 2014 and was fully approved by NHS England on 22nd December 2014.

Coventry’s Better Care Fund Programme, known as Better Care Coventry, totalled £52m for 2015/16 and had four key areas of work, urgent care; short term support to maximise independence; long term care; and dementia, as well as other shared priorities such as support for the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and protecting adult social care services.

As NHS England required the Better Care Fund to be transferred into one or more pooled funds to enable the plan to be implemented, Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group and the City Council were required to enter into an agreement by 1st April 2015. A ‘Partnership Agreement’ template appended to the report had been developed by Bevan Britain and provided by NHS England and the Local Government Association to support the local development and this was being used to develop the agreement for Coventry.

The report submitted provided detail on the key elements of the Partnership Agreement, including the governance arrangements; hosting the pooled budget; scheme specification and risk sharing.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that the Council:

- 1. Approve entering into a Partnership Agreement with Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group for Better Care Coventry.**
- 2. Approve that the City Council is the host for the pooled budget.**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Executive Directors, People and Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services and Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources to finalise the agreement with Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group.**
- 4. Approve the proposed governance arrangements for the monitoring of the agreement and the pooled budget.**

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RECOMMENDATION

136. **Coventry Investment Fund**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Executive Director for Resources and the Executive Director for Place, which sought approval of changes to the levels of delegation in respect of the Coventry Investment Fund (CIF).

The CIF had been put in place to invest in real growth opportunities right from the way through from manufacturing businesses to retail businesses, leisure services and road improvements and included the development of the Council's commercial property portfolio, with a view to getting the best return possible from its assets.

The report highlighted the need to balance the speed of decision making which private sector partners require with robust governance. It was noted that an investment board was in place in the form of the Coventry Investment Fund Cabinet Committee, which reviewed business cases and made decisions on projects in which to invest.

The Council were currently in negotiations with a number of potential investors that had the potential to generate jobs and boost the local economy. As a result of these negotiations, a number of new deals may emerge which align with CIF objectives.

The possible investment decisions would be highly sensitive and commercial and confidence and certainty of tight decision making timelines had to be given to investors early in the process. Through the CIF Committee, the Council was able to show its commitment to these investments. However, there was a risk that the Council was currently unable to move swiftly enough to engage in negotiations with these investors, who often work to very demanding timescales. Decision making processes within the Council move at a pace which was not in line with the market and Coventry may continue to lose out on significant investment opportunities.

To address this emerging issue, and to ensure that the Council's CIF remained an effective tool in growing the local economy with game changing investment, the Council was recommended to respond to the market and temporarily increase the delegated authority for the CIF Committee and Cabinet to make investment decisions.

Having considered the report submitted, the Cabinet requested that officers investigate the establishment of a small fund aimed to support small to medium business enterprises for a grant funding process, similar to that operated by the Princes Trust.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that the Council:-

- 1. Approve an increase to the delegated authority for the Coventry Investment Fund Cabinet Committee allowing individual grant and loan awards up to a maximum of £5 million.**

- 2. Where the recommendation to the CIF Cabinet Committee is to determine an individual grant in excess of £2 million and up to a maximum of £5 million, then require an additional two Cabinet Members to be determined by the Leader of the City Council become members of the CIF Cabinet Committee (making five in total).**
- 3. Approve that Cabinet are delegated to determine an individual grant or loan in excess of £5 million up to a maximum of £10 million.**
- 4. Approve that recommendations (1) to (3) will remain in place for a period of 12 months after which the previous and original financial approval thresholds for the CIF Committee will be restored to £1 million for grants and £2 million for loans.**

(NOTE: This matter was considered as urgent business, the reason for urgency being to facilitate proposals and negotiations that take place at short notice due to market requirements that could have a significant impact on the City and thereby protecting the Council's and City's interests.)

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