

Special Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 15 January 2014 at 5.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Transport
Councillor I. Shires	Community engagement and voluntary sector
Councillor Arif	Environment
Councillor Harris	Leisure and culture
Councillor Ali	Public health and protection
Councillor Towe	Resources
Councillor McCracken	Social care

3074 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor R. Andrew.

3075 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3076 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

3077 Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Jamie Morris, referred to recommendation 2.1 and informed Cabinet that the Heritage Lottery Fund had now given consent for the transfer of funding. The recommendation therefore should now read:

- “(1) That Cabinet approves the granting of a contract to Wilmott Dixon under the terms of the SCAPE national framework for the construction of a Visitor Centre together with associated embankment works at a cost of £3,115,072 and that the Executive Director Neighbourhood Services be delegated authority to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to such works.”

Mr. Morris also referred to paragraph 3.4 of the report and said that he had now been advised that planning permission for the embankment works was now required. He confirmed that this would not jeopardise the contract, however, the planning permission would need to be secured before work on the embankment commenced.

Cabinet discussed the report and the additional advice during which time Mr. Morris confirmed that the planning application would be progressed as a matter of urgency and that in the meantime, work to the trees and undergrowth would be undertaken in order to avoid any further delay to the building due to the “nesting season”.

Cabinet noted that the report had been discussed by the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel the previous evening and had supported the proposal.

The recommendations as amended were **moved** by Councillor Harris, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the granting of a contract to Wilmott Dixon under the terms of the SCAPE national framework for the construction of a Visitor Centre together with associated embankment works at a cost of £3,115,072 and that the Executive Director Neighbourhood Services be delegated authority to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to such works.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the intention to undertake the Illuminated Park scheme as a variation to the contract at a cost of £270,000.
- (3) That Cabinet approves design consultant fees, project management, development costs, and statutory fees at a cost of £180,470.
- (4) That the cost of the ancillary embankment works be funded through the use of a capital contingency in the sum of £ 981,000.
- (5) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Chief Finance Officer to agree minor changes to the costs associated with the Arboretum Visitor Centre project cost (including the embankment and Illuminated Park works).

The meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.

Leader:

Date: