

COUNCIL

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

1. Steve Eccleston, the Independent Chair of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership, attended the Cabinet meeting and presented the annual report for 2020/21.

2. The safeguarding partnership replaced the Board in 2019 following a change to legislation. The three member Partners, Worcestershire Children First, West Mercia Police and Health have equal responsibility for safeguarding. The Executive Group is made up of a representative from each of the Partners and the Chair of each of the four subgroups which are:

1. Get Safe Partnership Group
2. Quality Assurance Practice and Procedures Group (QAPP)
3. Child safeguarding Practice Review Group, and
4. Head Teachers Education Safeguarding Steering Group

3. Areas discussed included the breadth of the projects being provided and supported by partners, development of the GET SAFE initiative and the potential impact of changes to the health system. From a safeguarding perspective, Cabinet was reassured that the experienced safeguarding leads working in Health were still working within the new system.

3. The efforts of all involved in developing and demonstrating good practice was acknowledged at the meeting.

Malvern Hills Art College

4. Cabinet has allocated £0.4 million from the Open for Business reserve as a grant to a third party, Malvern Hills Arts & Community College Limited, to enable it to purchase the Malvern Hills Community College site, on condition that the limited company provides an arts skills programme from the site to meet the need of the community. Malvern Hills District Council and an external funder are also supporting the Company in this endeavour.

5. Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) has carried out an independent review of the Business plan, which concluded the plans put forward warrant support.

6. As a matter of general policy, provision of this sort is delivered by the market. The Council has a duty to ensure sufficiency of provision, but it is not considered that the Council has a specific 'duty' to ensure that the College remains in operation. However, the Council has powers under the General Power of Competence in the Localism Act

2011 to provide support. The local community has demonstrated support for the proposals to enable a continuing arts and creative educational presence in the town.

Shrub Hill Quarter

7. In November 2020, Cabinet agreed the purchase of interests in Gamechanger 2 Sites within the Parameters as set out in the report (topographical, legal, value and financial). These purchases were to be funded through the increase in the Capital Programme approved by Council on 12 November 2020.

8. The Council (WCC) purchased 3.93 hectares of land in two parcels, known as the Shrub Hill Industrial Estate (SHIE), on 30 November 2020 in accordance with the mandate provided by Cabinet.

9. Cabinet has now considered a report updating it on progress with the regeneration of this area. The County Council is working with Worcester City Council and other partners in developing a shared development vision for the Shrub Hill area as a whole and has also secured £985,000 Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) grant for the release of land for housing. This can be applied to brownfield land in the ownership of the Council.

10. Cabinet has authorised the Strategic Director for Economy Infrastructure and Skills to let contracts to undertake works on Unit 16 of the SHIE in accordance with the BLRF grant and following due process of vacation of the site. It has also agreed that consultant/s are engaged to advise on the services that are required, funded from the Strategic Infrastructure reserve and that a market engagement exercise is carried out to understand the options for the packaging and phasing of works to optimise the conditions attached to any grants and to maximise any income. Cabinet will receive a further report, following the undertaking of the market testing, on the proposals for development of SHIE.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on and 21 July:
[Browse meetings - Cabinet - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)