

**WITHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE – 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008****Extract of Cabinet Minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008****9 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Councillor Lager, Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources, referred to the current situation with spiralling costs affecting the construction industry, that had resulted with tenders for two projects being in excess of their budget provision. The report presented details of tenders for the Silver Street pavilion, Silver End, and the car park and entrance roadway at Spring Lodge, Witham.

At the Chairman's discretion Item 8(c) Rickstones Pavilion, Witham (Extract from Witham Local Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008) was moved forward on the agenda, as the scheme was included in the Capital Programme report. Councillor Foster, Chairman of Witham Local Committee, explained that a fire inspection had identified the Pavilion as unsafe and that urgent remedial work was required. Users of the Pavilion, including Little Elms Pre-School, had been relocated to Spring Lodge, Witham and a deposition of mothers and Pre-School teachers had lobbied the Committee for a return to the Pavilion, as Spring Lodge was unsuitable for them. Both Councillor Foster and the Cabinet Member, Councillor Mrs Schmitt was delighted that £40,000 had been allocated for the scheme and a potential return in the autumn for the Pre-School.

Councillor Abbott referred to the main Capital Programme report and expressed concern that he had not been involved in the tendering process for the Silver Street Pavilion, as the Ward Member. Details of the specification had also not been made available to him and involvement by local Members in such schemes was questioned. The Leader advised that specification of the Silver Street Pavilion is to be considered at Witham Local Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008, where all Local Members will have input. Other Members agreed that local Ward Members should be involved in tendering for works to public buildings in their area, prior and during the process.

The Leader advised that specifications for schemes on public buildings will be received at the Local Committee for comment.

**DECISION:** That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-**

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| (1) | For the requests of additional funding for the Silver Street Pavilion, Silver End; and the car parking and roadway improvements at Spring Lodge, Witham to be approved. Funding of the required budgets from the unused balance of capital resources (£91,000) and a revenue contribution (£157,410). |
| (2) | That the additional allocation of capital grant of £193,200, as notified by GO East be approved, and is added to the budget for Grants to Private Sector Housing.   |

*ACTION POINT: That the Chief Executive ascertains why the Ward Member was not kept informed of the tendering process at Silver Street Pavilion, Silver End.*