

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet

Thursday, 3rd July, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor D. Sparks - Leader of the Council (in the Chair)
Councillor P. Lowe - Deputy Leader (Vice Chair)
Councillors K. Ahmed, H. Bills, D. Branwood, T. Crumpton, J. Foster,
R. Harris, G. Partridge and S. Turner

Opposition Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Councillors P. Harley, R. James, I. Kettle, P. Miller, D. Vickers and M. Wood (Conservative Group); Councillors P. Brothwood and K. Turner (UKIP Group)

Officers:-

J. Polychronakis (Chief Executive), J. Millar (Director of the Urban Environment), V. Little (Director of Public Health), A. Pope-Smith (Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services), P. Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services), P. Tart (Director of Corporate Resources), I. Newman (Treasurer), T. Reilly (Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisation), R. Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer, Democratic Services) and other officers.

1.

Mr Bob Jones

The Leader referred to the death of the Police Commissioner, Bob Jones. Members and officers present stood in silent tribute to Mr Jones' memory.

2.

Changes in representation of Opposition Group Members

Councillor Kettle was serving in place of Councillor Simms for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

3.

Declarations of Interest

A pecuniary interest in agenda item no 17 (Corporate Senior Management Restructure) was made by the Chief Executive on behalf of the officers present.

4. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th March, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. **Revenue Outturn 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer indicating the provisional revenue outturn position for the year ended 31st March, 2014 and seeking consideration of the latest General Fund Revenue position for 2014/15 and a Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2017/18.

Equality Impact Assessments carried out in the subject areas indicated in paragraph 50 of the report had been circulated to all Members of the Cabinet and the Members of the Opposition Groups appointed to attend Cabinet meetings in advance of the meeting date.

A number of questions were asked by members of the Opposition Groups on the updated position on savings indicated in paragraph 24 of the report and on the details of savings proposed in Appendix 4, to which the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Members responsible for the particular issues referred to, responded. The Leader of the Conservative Group agreed to accept a written reply in respect of a question he asked on whether there were areas in the Borough where wheelie bins remained to be supplied.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account outturns for 2013/14, be noted.
- (2) That the effect of the General Fund Revenue Outturn on General Balances at 31st March 2014 be noted.
- (3) That the position on General Fund earmarked reserves at 31st March 2014, be noted.
- (4) That the savings proposals for future years set out in paragraph 25 and Appendix 4 of the report be noted and it be noted also that these will be brought back for further consideration by Cabinet on 29th October, 2014, together with any other savings proposals identified prior to that date.

- (5) That the proposal to use Public Health grant to support Sports Development and Park Rangers be noted and that it also be noted that these, together with other proposals for the use of Public Health grant, will be brought back to Cabinet on 29th October, 2014.
- (6) That the various issues and risks which may continue to affect the 2014/15 position and will need to be taken into account in finalising budget proposals for 2015/16, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.
- (7) That the Council be recommended to approve:
 - (a) That An “Expressions of Interest” process for voluntary redundancy to open from July through to early September 2014 with clear communication relating to priority given to areas of savings and that the process will be for a register to be held for future consideration including budget saving requirements and service restructures.
 - (b) That Directors through Human Resources may continue to offer the opportunity of volunteering for redundancy to any employee whose service is undergoing a restructure involving the saving of posts as it may be that some employees did not express an interest through the corporate process that might wish to consider this option if and when their service is reviewed.
 - (c) the continued delegation for approval of voluntary redundancies to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health and the Director of Corporate Resources, and of compulsory redundancies to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health and the Assistant Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- (8) That Council be recommended to amend the 2014/15 General Fund revenue budget to reflect the current year savings set out in paragraph 25 of the report.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council and the Cabinet named as Decision Takers)

6. **Capital Programme Monitoring**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, including the 2013/14 outturn position, and which proposed amendments to the Programme.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That the outturn position for 2013/14, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 and Appendix A of the report, be noted.
- (2) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix B of the report be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variance.
- (3) That the Disabled Facilities Grant funding allocations be noted, and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (4) That a budget of £192,000 for the refurbishment of Holloway Hall Chambers to provide new council homes be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (5) That the Community Capacity Grant allocation be noted and that the associated spend on relevant Adult Personal Social Services projects be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- (6) That subject to the grant application being successful, the Castle Hill Development Extension project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- (7) That the project to extend Dudley Cemetery be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- (8) That the funding allocation for the Cradley Forge Mushroom Green Embankment be noted, and that the project be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

- (9) That the capital expenditure of £100,000 funded by the pothole grant be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.
- (10) That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report, be noted.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council named as Decision Taker)

7. **Public Consultation on the Dudley Borough Development Strategy “Preferred Options” document**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of the Urban Environment seeking approval for the Preferred Options stage of the Dudley Borough Development Strategy document which was proposed to be used as a basis for public consultation commencing in July, 2014 for a period of nine weeks.

Resolved

That the Dudley Borough Development Strategy Preferred Options document be approved as a basis for public consultation commencing on Friday, 11th July, 2014 for a period of nine weeks.

(This was a Key Decision with the Cabinet named as Decision Taker)

8. **Adoption of the “Let’s Get Dudley Active” - Dudley Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2014-19**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of the Public Health and the Director of the Urban Environment seeking approval for the adoption of the “Let’s Get Dudley Active” - Physical Activity and Sports Strategy for Dudley

Resolved

- (1) That the Council adopts “Let’s Get Dudley Active”, the Dudley Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2014-2019.
- (2) That the Council signs the Dudley Charter for Physical Activity and Sport.
- (3) That the Council facilitates the Physical Activity and Sport Commission and that the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing represents the Council on the Commission.

(This was a Key Decision with the Cabinet named as Decision Taker)

9. **Corporate Quarterly Performance Management report**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive under cover of which the fourth Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report for 2013/14, relating to performance for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2014, was submitted.

Resolved

- (1) That the Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report be approved.
- (2) That the consideration of the report by the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee be noted.

10. **Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Revised Draft Charging Schedule and recommendation to Council for subsequent submission**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of the Urban Environment regarding the development of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and which sought approval for the revised Draft Charging Schedule and revised Draft Regulation 123 List to be published for a six week period for consultation and recommendation to the Council that the draft Charging Schedule subsequently be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Resolved

- (1) That the publication of the revised Draft CIL Charging Schedule for a six week period of public consultation between 11th July to 22nd August, 2014, be approved.
- (2) That the Council be recommended that following public consultation, the CIL Draft Charging Schedule be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in accordance with Regulation 19 of the CIL Regulations 2010.
- (3) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to agree any minor changes to the document prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council named as Decision Taker)

11. **Food Service Plan 2014/15**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of the Urban Environment seeking approval to the contents of the Food Service Plan for 2014/15.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended that the Food Service Plan for 2014/15 be approved.

(This was a Key Decision with the Council named as Decision Taker)

12. **Health Scrutiny Committee Review of Tobacco Control**

The Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Committee regarding their review of Tobacco Control.

Resolved

That the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Committee and corresponding Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed for referral to external agents and partner organisations.

13. **Appointment of Council Representatives to outside organisations**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on the appointment of Council representatives to outside organisations for the 2014/15 municipal year.

Resolved

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Opposition Group Leaders, as appropriate, be given delegated authority to determine the appointment of representatives to serve on the outside organisations.
 - (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make an appointment of a Member to serve on the Board of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.
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14. **Exclusion of the public and press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individuals as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

(With the exception of the Chief Executive, the officers at the meeting left the room at this juncture)

15. **Corporate Senior Management Restructure**

A report of the Chief Executive on this matter was submitted.

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet endorse the proposed new structure at Appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting for formal consultation in accordance with the Procedure and Timetable set out at Appendix 4, and authorise the Chief Executive to take all necessary steps with regard to the consultation
- (2) That the Equality Impact Assessment set out in Appendix 5 to the report submitted to the meeting be endorsed.
- (3) That the use of the JNC scheme for job evaluation for second, third and fourth tier posts, with the evaluations being independently undertaken by West Midlands Employers, be approved
- (4) That the arrangements for the recruitment and appointment of a new Chief Executive be noted.

The meeting ended at 7 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL