

MEETING OF THE CABINET – 12th SEPTEMBER, 2007

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 12th September, 2007, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Minutes	That the minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet held on 13 th June and 23 rd July, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.
Providing a Modern Library Service in Dudley MBC – Modernisation Programme	<p>(1) That the plans for modernising the Dudley Library Service, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and that the implementation of the plans be supported.</p> <p>(2) That the Council be recommended:</p> <p>(a) That the disposal of the Council's assets identified in paragraph 20 of the report submitted to the meeting be approved, and that the capital receipts from such disposals be used to contribute towards financing the library modernisation programme; and</p> <p>(b) That the additional expenditure for the library modernisation programme be approved, and the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report submitted to the meeting.</p>
Extra Care Housing – Partnership Agreement	<p>(1) That the progress so far, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting and the presentation given, be acknowledged and that the partnering arrangements be supported.</p> <p>(2) That the envisaged capital receipt be earmarked to assist with future extra care housing developments.</p>
Update of the Council's Capital Strategy	That the draft Capital Strategy, as attached to the report submitted to the meeting, be approved as a basis of consultation with Select Committees.

The Dudley Play Strategy and Children's Play Initiative	<p>(1) That the successful Big Lottery Fund award be noted and that additional reports be submitted to future meetings of the Cabinet throughout the lifetime of the programme for this project.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Children's Services, working with the Director of the Urban Environment, be responsible for implementing the programme.</p>
Dudley Archives and Local History Service Relocation	<p>(1) That the relocation of the archives service to a site in or near to the Black Country Living Museum be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the commissioning of an updated feasibility study be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the Director Adult Community and Housing Services be authorised to develop partnership proposals with Sandwell MBC and the Black Country Living Museum, subject to agreement by the Cabinet of Sandwell MBC and the Board of the Black Country Museum Trust Limited.</p> <p>(4) That the Director of Law and Property be authorised to undertake legal agreements pertinent to securing an appropriate site for the location of the archives.</p>
Local Area Agreement	That the contents of the report, as submitted to the meeting, be noted.
Food Service Plan 2007/08	That the Council be recommended that the Food Service Plan for 2007/08 be approved.
Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report	<p>(1) That the quarterly corporate performance management report for the period from 1st April to 30th June, 2007 be received and its content approved.</p> <p>(2) That the information contained within the quarterly corporate performance management report be referred to Select Committees to consider specific issues within their respective terms of reference.</p>

Review of Polling Districts,
Polling Places and Access
Arrangements

- (1) That the statutory duty to undertake the review of polling districts, polling places and access arrangements be noted and the process and timescales outlined in the Appendices to the report submitted to the meeting be endorsed.
- (2) That the Council be recommended to authorise the Cabinet to take any necessary action in connection with the review and that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet at it's meeting to be held on 31st October, 2007.

Spending Projections
2007/08

That the Council be recommended:-

- (1) That the projected net overspending, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the allocations from General Balances to fund the projected overspending on Children's Services of £3m and the Chief Executive's Directorate of £300,000 be approved.
- (3) That the allocation of £483,000 from general reserves to support training for employment, and that this be recouped as a first call on any Performance Reward Grant in 2009/10, be approved as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (4) That the projected underspending in the Directorates of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Finance, ICT and Procurement be noted and transferred to General Balances.
- (5) That the need to exercise stringent budgetary control for the remainder of the current financial year, in accordance with the Council's approved financial management regime be reiterated to all Cabinet Members, Directors and Budget Holders.
- (6) That the effects on the Council's medium term financial plan be noted.
- (7) That action be taken to replenish general balances when the opportunity arises.

Review of Housing Finance (1) That the Council be recommended:

- (2) That the closure programme, as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 10 of the report submitted to the meeting to fund the initiatives referred to in the report to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th February, 2007 and to enable the introduction of a gardening initiative for voids, the elderly and people with disabilities, be approved.

Capital Programme Monitoring

- (1) That current progress with the 2007/08 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (2) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B to the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (3) That in respect of Brierley Hill Regeneration the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to submit outline and full applications to Advantage West Midlands for funding, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (4) That the recommendation of the Brierley Hill Area Committee that the capital receipt resulting from the disposal of land to Stourbridge College be earmarked for the regeneration of Brierley Hill, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted but no action be taken.

- (5) That in respect of the Extra Care Housing programme, the sites at Russells Hall and Whitehouse Street, Coseley be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Law and Property be authorised to negotiate the disposal of the sites on terms and conditions to be agreed with the strategic partner, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (6) That the Council be recommended:
 - (a) That the Public Sector Housing Capital Programme be amended, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (b) That an extra £2m be made available for expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants over the next two years, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (c) That the expenditure on Stair Lifts be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (d) That the extra resources for Social Care Minor Works, be noted and the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (e) That the enhancements to the Liveability programme be approved, and the Capital Programme be amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (f) That the improvements at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen Leisure Centres be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (g) That in respect of Brierley Hill Regeneration, subject to funding applications being successful:
- the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to accept any grant funding arising;
 - the Director of Law and Property be authorised to sign the necessary legal agreements with Advantage West Midlands;
 - any relevant capital expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (h) That the grant allocation for Mobile ICT to support Children's Social Workers be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (i) That the budget for the Big Lottery Children's Play projects be increased to include the extra Section 106 and Fair Share resources, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (j) That the specialist status funding totalling £120,000 be used for a Vocational Centre at the Rosewood School, and that £50,000 of Standards Grant funding be used for kitchen improvements, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (k) That the School Travel Plan Grant allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (l) That the allocation of Diploma Gateway funding be noted, and associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (m) That the expenditure on computer server replacement be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (n) That the capital element of the Local Area Agreement Pump Priming Grant expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 20 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (o) That the Safer Stronger Communities Fund grant allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 21 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (p) That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 22 of the report submitted to the meeting be noted.

Annual Letter 2006/07 from the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of Complaints Made Against the Council

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted to the meeting, and its Appendices, be noted and that the Chief Executive and Directors be requested to review their internal arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure that the requests for information on complaints received are dealt with by the date requested so that responses can be submitted to the Ombudsman's office within the timescales set.
- (2) That the Annual Letter be posted on the Council's Website.

Proposal for the Declaration of a Whole Borough Air Quality Management Area for Dudley MBC

That the two existing air quality orders for Brierley Hill and Sedgley be revoked and that a Borough – Wide Air Quality Management Area, incorporating the two former air quality management areas at Brierley Hill and Sedgley, be declared.

Exclusion of the Public

That the public be excluded from the meeting from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as specified below and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
	Request for early retirement.	1
Request for Early Retirement	That the request for early retirement on behalf of the officer referred to in the report submitted to the meeting be approved, on the terms and conditions referred to in the report.	

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th September, 2007. Copies of the public reports are available from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Law and Property (contact Richard Sanders, 01384 815236 or e-mail richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Council's Website www.dudley.gov.uk and follow the links Council Decisions/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to full Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 12th September, 2007 unless a Select Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

J POLYCHRONAKIS
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

The Council House
Priory Road
Dudley
West Midlands

Dated: 14th September, 2007