

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 13th February, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.
in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Leader of the Council - Chairman);
Councillors Adams, Evans, Knowles, Mrs. Martin, Miller, Mrs Millward,
Mrs Shakespeare and Mrs Walker

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

Councillors Ali, Crumpton, G H Davies, Ms Foster, Ms Partridge, Mrs
Ridney and Sparks (Labour Group); Councillor Tyler (Liberal Democrat
Group)

OFFICERS:-

Chief Executive, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services,
Director of Finance, Director of Law and Property, Director of the Urban
Environment, Head of Personnel and Support Services, Assistant
Director of Children's Services (Partnership and Children's Trust) and
Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property)

90. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillor Fraser-Macnamara.

91. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ali declared a prejudicial interest, in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct, in paragraphs 32 and 57 of item 13 on the
Agenda (Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme
2008/09 to 2010/11). In view of his involvement with the Friends of
Buffery Park in providing support and advice in relation to their Heritage
Lottery Fund application.

92. **REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2008/09**

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was
submitted on the deployment of General Fund Revenue Resources, a
number of statutory calculations that had to be made by the Council
and, subject to the receipt of the Joint Authority Precepts, the Council
Tax to be levied for the period from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2008/09, and service allocations as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
- (2) That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending; income and use of reserves; budget requirement and; transfers to and from its collection fund as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown in Appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting, the Council be recommended, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, that the following levels of Council Tax for Dudley Council services for 2008/09 be approved:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
705.31	822.86	940.42	1057.97	1293.07	1528.18	1763.28	2115.94

plus the amounts to be notified for the Police and Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.

- (4) That Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report submitted to the meeting, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
- (5) That the Council reminds the Chief Executive and Directors to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2008/09 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that overspending in 2008/09 will have on the availability of general balances to support spending in 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- (6) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set out as Attachment B to the report submitted to the meeting be approved.

**DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
AND PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL**

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Finance was submitted with proposals:-

- (a) To set a rent increase for Council Homes;
- (b) To review rents for garages, garage plots and access agreements;
- (c) To set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2008/09 in the light of the latest government determinations for housing finance and the Council's latest spending and resource assumptions;
- (d) To set a capital expenditure budget for the improvement and programmed maintenance of the Council's Housing stock in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- (e) To review the medium term financial strategy for the HRA and Public Sector Housing Capital.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a rent increase for HRA dwellings, with an average increase of £3.34 and a maximum increase of £5.31 in line with government rent guidance, with effect from 14th April, 2008, be approved;
- (2) That an increase of 3.9% in other charges as outlined in paragraphs 8, 9 and 11 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved;
- (3) That the increase from £1.30 or £1.39 to £1.60 for laundry tokens, and the commission payable to the local shopkeeper in Brierley Hill as set out in paragraph 10 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.;
- (4) That the maintenance of garage rents at current levels and the dates proposed for future increases, set out in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved;
- (5) That the proposed increases for garage plot rent and access agreements, and the dates of future increases, set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved;
- (6) That the revised HRA budget for 2007/08 and the HRA

budget for 2008/09 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.;

- (7) That the revised budget for the North Priory regeneration project outlined in Appendix 2 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved;
- (8) That the Council be recommended that the public sector housing revised capital budget for 2007/8 and capital budget for 2008/09 to 2010/11 attached as Appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved;
- (9) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, be authorised to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 31 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (10) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to procure and enter into contracts for the delivery of the capital programme, as outlined in paragraph 32 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (11) That the medium-term financial strategy set out in Appendix 5 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.

94. **TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND SETTLEMENT, PROPOSED
TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ROAD SAFETY GRANTS
FOR 2008/09 TO 2010/11**

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Director of Finance was submitted on the allocation of monies to the Council for the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP2) settlement for the three year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11. The report also sought approval to the Transport Strategy for Dudley and the Transport Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2010/11 and the allocation of funding associated with the Road Safety Grant for 2008/09 to 2010/11.

In the discussion on this item, Councillor Sparks requested certain information in relation to Midland Metro, to which the Cabinet Member for Transportation agreed to respond in writing. Councillor Sparks referred also to the proposals in the West Midlands Local Transport Plan to the renovation of New Street Station, Birmingham and expressed the view that the scheme should include an improved link between the Moor Street and New Street Stations. On the issue of reducing rail traffic congestion at New Street, the Cabinet Member for Transportation referred to ongoing discussions with Network Rail that aimed to achieve the reopening of the the Stourbridge to Walsall freight line, an expedient which would reduce freight traffic flow through New Street.

Regarding local safety schemes, in response to a question asked by Councillor Ali on the reasons why a proposal for Bunns Lane, Dudley had not featured, given the recent fatal accident at that location, the Cabinet Member for Transportation indicated that the Coroner's report was awaited and that the Council would implement any action recommended by the Coroner.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Transport Capital Settlement for the three year period 2008/09 – 2010/11, be noted.
- (2) That the contents of the report submitted to the meeting be approved and that the Council be recommended to approve the allocation of Transport Capital Funding for 2008/09 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (3) That the Council be recommended that the 2009/10 and 2010/11 block allocations be included in the Capital Programme as set out in Table 1 in paragraph 25 of the report submitted to the meeting, and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to approve the distribution of block allocations to headings.
- (4) That the Council be recommended that the approval of schemes within the funding block headings for 2009/10 and 2010/11 be agreed by the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
- (5) That the Council be recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to agree budget virements as required between headings contained within block allocations for 2008/09 -2010/11.
- (6) That the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation be authorised to approve programmes associated with the Road Safety Grant 2008/09 -2010/11.
- (7) That the following be approved:
 - (a) The Transport Strategy for Dudley
 - (b) The schemes and programming identified in Appendix 2 of the report submitted to the meeting – Bridge Strengthening.

- (c) The schemes and programming identified in Appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting – Retaining Walls, and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to bring construction work forward as risk assessment dictates and funding permits.
- (d) The schemes identified in Appendix 4 of the report submitted to the meeting, – Railway Road Vehicle Incursion and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to bring forward construction as funding permits.
- (e) The schemes identified in Appendix 5 of the report submitted to the meeting – Upgrading of Parapets and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to bring forward construction as funding permits.
- (f) The schemes identified in appendix 6 of the report submitted to the meeting – Bus Showcase and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work as funding is made available.
- (g) The schemes and programming identified in appendix 7 of the report submitted to the meeting – Local Safety Schemes and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work from the reserve programme as funding permits.
- (h) The schemes and programming identified in appendix 8 of the report submitted to the meeting – Proposed Safer Routes To School Measures and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work from the reserve programme as funding permits.
- (i) The schemes and programming identified in appendix 9 of the report submitted to the meeting – Pedestrian Crossing Programme 2008/09 and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work from the reserve programme as funding permits.
- (j) That the Director of the Urban Environment continues to initiate studies into future minor improvement schemes identified in appendices 1 and 10 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (k) That the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation be authorised to identify, and where appropriate, implement any remedial works to local safety schemes of a minor nature, the introduction of antiskid material and provision of variable speed message signs and mobile speed camera sites to be funded from the Local Safety Scheme Heading.
- (l) That the Director of Law and Property in conjunction with the Director of the Urban Environment commences property acquisition by negotiation for schemes identified in appendices 1 and 6 of the report submitted to the meeting, as required.
- (m) That any scheme within the Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School or Pedestrian Crossing programmes of work, including reserve schemes, which can not be implemented within the relevant timescale or financial resources available for that particular programme of works be deferred and submitted for re-assessment for possible inclusion in a future programme of works.
- (n) That the Director of the Urban Environment continues to progress the highway improvement programme associated with outcomes from the Black Country Study and regeneration initiatives as set out in Appendices 1 and 10 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (o) That the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation be authorised to approve the programme of Street Lighting improvement and the programme of Highway Maintenance.
- (p) That the actions of the Director of the Urban Environment in the de-trunking of the A449 be approved.
- (q) That the Director of the Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation be authorised to negotiate the terms associated with the de-trunking of the A456 and the A4123.

- (r) That the Director of the Urban Environment seek approval to an application to the Highways Agency in the sum of £750,000 towards delivering safety improvements at the Grange roundabout on the A456, and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to accept the aforementioned grant.
 - (s) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to enter into a Section 8 agreement with Sandwell MBC regarding future maintenance responsibilities on the A4123.
 - (t) The re-profiling of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network grant expenditure as shown in paragraph 17 of the report submitted to the meeting.
-

95. UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted seeking consideration of the updated Capital Strategy, following its consideration by Select Committees.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended that the draft Capital Strategy attached to the report submitted to the meeting be approved

96. FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN DUDLEY AND WALSALL

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval for the Council to join a new National Health Service (NHS) Mental Health Partnership Trust for Dudley and Walsall

Reference was made in the discussion to a letter sent jointly by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services to the Chief Executive of Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust objecting to the proposed designation of the Foundation Trust being established for the Sandwell area to carry the name "Black Country" when, in fact, there were other providers in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That the Council join the new Dudley - Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust subject to:
- Approval by the Secretary of State.
 - Agreement by the Primary Care Trusts to the appointment of a Director at Board level with lead responsibility for social care and for ensuring that the Councils' statutory duties in Mental Health including the Approved Social Worker (ASW) service are discharged.
 - The appointment of an elected Member from the Council to the new Commissioning Body.
 - The new Trust remaining accountable to the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and to the Cabinet for the social care agenda and performance of social care services in Mental Health and that it be noted that arrangements must be in place to ensure that the new Trust can provide the data on Mental Health Services which the Council needs to report to the Commission for Social Care Inspection for the Annual Performance Assessment.
- (2) That it be noted that when the Secretary of State's decision is received, a Shadow Partnership Trust Board, with a Chairman and Chief Executive, will be established in advance of a new Trust being formed, this being expected to be in place on 1st July 2008.
- (3) That the assumptions made in the report submitted to the meeting regarding the transfer of staff, the drawing up of partnership agreements and the financial implications be accepted.
- (4) That the Council endorse the objection, as reported orally at the Cabinet meeting, with regard to the proposed designation 'Black Country Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust' to describe the new Foundation Trust for Sandwell Mental Health Services.

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval for this draft Strategy, which had been developed with physically and sensory disabled people, carers and agencies represented on the Physical and Sensory Disability Partnership Board, a body which included voluntary agencies, the Primary Care Trust and the Dudley Group of Hospitals as well as the Council.

RESOLVED

That the Strategy as drafted, be approved.

98. CRADLEY/WINDMILL HILL LOCAL CENTRE REGENERATION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking approval for the adoption of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Centre Regeneration Plan as a Development Control Guidance Note.

RESOLVED

That the Cradley/Windmill Hill Local Centre Regeneration Plan be adopted as a Development Control Guidance Note.

99. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

A joint report of the Director of Law and Property and the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted summarising the main provisions of this Act, in so far as they affected the Council, and which sought particular consideration and comment on the provisions for whole Council elections, single member wards and a community governance review.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (2) That the following views be expressed regarding the proposals in relation to elections:
 - (a) That no change to the current election arrangements of retirement of Members by thirds should be made.
 - (b) That the number of Members per ward of 3 should not be changed.

- (c) That ward name changes should be considered in due course, with priority being given to reviewing the name of the Cradley and Foxcote and Lye and Wollescote Wards.
- (d) That the current policy regarding community governance whereby the establishment of Parish Councils within the Borough is not supported, should be continued.

100. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME
2008/09 – 2010/11

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, the allocation of available capital resources for 2008/09 to 2010/11 and certain other amendments to the Capital Programme, and proposals relating to the “Prudential Indicators” as required to be determined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act, 2003.

RESOLVED

- (1) That current progress with the 2007/08 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of 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 of the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (3) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to submit a HLF Stage 1 application for Priory Park and Ruin, as set out in paragraph 32 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (4) That the Council be recommended:
 - (a) That each Supported Capital Expenditure be earmarked to the relevant service, but with a particular emphasis on demonstrating appropriate prioritisation within service programmes, and within spend headings, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (b) That Housing capital receipts be earmarked to be spent on Housing capital schemes as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (c) That the Private Sector Housing Investment Programme for 2008/09 – 2010/11 be approved, and amended in respect of the extra £128,000 for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2007/08 as set out in paragraphs 16-17 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (d) That the Children's Services capital resources and related schemes be included in the Capital Programme as appropriate, and that the grants identified as non-ring fenced be earmarked to the relevant initiatives, as set out in paragraphs 18-21 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (e) That the allocation of Adult Social Care capital resources be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 23 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (f) That the Waste Infrastructure grant allocation be allocated as set out in paragraph 24 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (g) That, subject to the relevant element of the Revenue Budget Strategy being agreed, the expenditure to be funded from prudential borrowing be approved, as set out in paragraphs 25-26 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (h) That the Capital Programme be amended in respect of any capitalisation directions received, as set out in paragraph 27 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (i) That the HIV/AIDS Grant 2007/08 be used for improvements at Summit House as set out in paragraph 30 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (j) That the additions to the Liveability project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, and the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to accept the relevant grants, as set out in paragraph 31 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (k) That the budget for improvements to Saltwells Nature Reserve be increased by £7,000, as set out in paragraph 33 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (l) That, subject to a satisfactory feasibility study, the relocation of the Home and Hospital Education service to the current Rosewood School site be approved, and the project to adapt the site be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 34 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (m) That the Council's Short Break Pathfinder status and funding allocation be noted, and the related Capital spend be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 35 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (n) That the Schools Flood Recovery grant be used to improve the drainage of the school field at the Crestwood School, as set out in paragraph 36 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (o) That the project to install a standby generator at Himley Hall be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 37 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (p) That the Urgent Amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 38-42 of the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (q) That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix C of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
- (r) That, subject to the anticipated legislative changes being enacted, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2008/09 be as set out in paragraph 50 of the report submitted to the meeting.

101.

AREA BASED GRANT

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted outlining the Government's new Area Based Grant and proposing arrangements for the future management of this funding stream.

RESOLVED

That the position in relation to Area Based Grant, as outlined in the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

102. NORTH PRIORY ESTATE REGENERATION PROJECT

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted indicating progress on the North Priory Regeneration Project and which sought approval for the disposal of the site to the preferred bidder, the Bromford Housing Group.

In consideration of the report, particular note was made of the key feature in the bid giving a commitment to training opportunities and employment for the local community.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report submitted to the meeting be noted and the proposal for the disposal of the site to Bromford Housing Group, upon terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property, be approved.

103. REVISION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking approval for the submission of the revised Local Development Scheme to the Government Office for the West Midlands, for incorporation into the Council's Local Development Framework.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Local Development Scheme for the period 2008 – 10, as the operational Local Development Scheme for the borough, be approved and that the document be submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004.
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to make minor changes to the Local Development Scheme for the production of documents specifically relating to the Joint Core Strategy and associated documents being produced by the Black Country Boroughs.
 - (3) That all significant alterations be submitted to Cabinet prior to forwarding to the Government Office.
-

104. PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking approval to the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan Preferred Options Document, a copy of which had been made available for inspection in the Members' Room and on the Committee Management Information System, as a basis for statutory public consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration reported orally that the consultation period would commence in March, rather than in February, to coincide with that of Wolverhampton City Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan Preferred Options document, as made available for inspection in the Members' Room and on the Committee Management Information System, be approved as a basis for public consultation.
- (2) That it be noted that the consultation period will commence in March, 2008, to coincide with that being undertaken by Wolverhampton City Council.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to make any further minor amendments to the document prior to its publication for consultation.

105. THE BLACK COUNTRY JOINT CORE STRATEGY – APPROVAL OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted which sought approval of the Preferred Options Document on the Black Country Joint Core Strategy for the purpose of consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration reported orally that the consultation period would commence in March, rather than in February, to coincide with that of Wolverhampton City Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Preferred Options Document, as made available for inspection in the Members' Room and the Committee Management Information Service, be approved as part of the consultation process to assist in the formulation of the Black Country Joint Core Strategy.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to make any further minor amendments to the document prior to its publication for consultation.

- (3) That it be noted that the consultation period will commence in March 2008, to coincide with that being undertaken by Wolverhampton City Council.

106. COMPLAINT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN –
HOUSING MATTER

A joint report of the Director of Law and Property, Director of Finance and Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the conclusions and findings of the Local Government Ombudsman on a complaint made in respect of a housing matter.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report of the Local Government Ombudsman on this matter, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the finding of maladministration be not accepted for the reasons set out in the report of the Director of Law and Property submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That, on a without prejudice basis, compensation be paid to the complainant as recommended by the Ombudsman.
- (4) That the level of compensation for the replacement cost of the vegetation be determined by an independent valuer to be appointed in consultation with the complainant and the contractor.
- (5) That the Council seek to recover the compensation payable from the contractor.
- (6) That the Director of Law and Property write to the Ombudsman to explain the decision of the Cabinet.

107. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) 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>Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Staffing Issues – Chief Executive's Directorate	1
Staffing Issues – Directorate of Children's Services	1
Establishment of Member/Officer Negotiating Panel	4

108. STAFFING ISSUES – CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted seeking consideration of requests for voluntary severance from two members of staff in that Directorate.

RESOLVED

That the requests for voluntary severance from the persons indicated in the report submitted to the meeting be approved on the terms and conditions set out in the report.

109. STAFFING ISSUE – DIRECTORATE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted seeking consideration of a request for voluntary redundancy from a member of staff in that Directorate.

RESOLVED

That the proposal in the report submitted to the meeting for the termination of the Contract of Employment of the member of staff indicated on the grounds of redundancy be approved on the terms and conditions set out in the report.

110. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMBER/OFFICER NEGOTIATING PANEL

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted seeking consideration of a proposal for the creation of a high level Negotiating Panel to undertake further negotiations and make recommendations relating to the Single Status Agreement.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the establishment of the Negotiating Panel proposed in the report submitted to the meeting, to undertake further negotiations and make recommendations relating to the Single Status Agreement be approved and that the membership of the Panel comprise the following:-

The Leader of the Council, The Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Personnel, Legal and Property and Finance, together with the Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance and the Urban Environment.

- (2) That the Negotiating Panel submit recommendations to the Cabinet for consideration in due course with a view to concluding a settlement around all aspects of the Single Status Agreement.

The Meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL