

Dudley Metropolitan Borough

Minutes of the proceedings of the Council **at the meeting held on Monday, 23rd February 2015** **at 6.00 pm at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor M Aston (Mayor)

Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, M Attwood, N Barlow, C Baugh, C Billingham, H Bills, D Blood, R Body, P Bradley, D Branwood, P Brothwood, K Casey, D Caunt, I Cooper, B Cotterill, J Cowell, T Crumpton, W Duckworth, C Elcock, B Etheridge, M Evans, A Finch, K Finch, J Foster, A Goddard, N Gregory, C Hale, M Hanif, P Harley, R Harris, D Hemingsley, S Henley, T Herbert, Z Islam, R James, L Jones, K Jordan, I Kettle, P Lowe, I Marrey, J Martin, P Martin, P Miller, N Neale, G Partridge, C Perks, D Perks, M Roberts, H Rogers, R Scott-Dow, K Shakespeare, G Simms, A Taylor, E Taylor, H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, D Tyler, D Vickers, M Wood and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

62 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S Arshad, S Etheridge, M Mottram, D Russell, D Sparks, S Waltho and M Wilson.

63 Declarations of Interests

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor M Hanif – Minute No. 32 of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Russells Hall Hospital – Parking and Transport Issues) – Non-pecuniary interest as he was a Centro Member appointed by the Council.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 25 of the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee (Financial Implications of the Care Act) – Non-pecuniary interest as Director and Chairman of Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Councillor A Finch – Minute No.20 of the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of his son's employment with the Council in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

Councillor M Attwood – Minute No. 20 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Management Committee for short stay schools within the Dudley Borough.

Councillor C Perks – Minute No. 20 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest as Governor of North Road Primary School.

Councillor I Marrey – Minute No. 29 of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11.8) – Non-pecuniary interest as a parent of a child who was in receipt of direct payments and as a Parent/Governor of Pens Meadow Primary School.

Councillor K Turner – Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee – Non-pecuniary interest in respect of any reference made to older people as the Chairman and Director for Age Concern.

Councillor E Taylor – Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee – Non-pecuniary interest in respect of any reference made to Russells Hall Hospital in view of the fact that her daughter worked at the hospital as a staff nurse.

Councillor K Casey – Minute No. 54 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P14/1581 (Seven Stars, Gospel End Road, Dudley)) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of him being employed by the Constituency Member of Parliament that had written to confirm objections to the application, as referred to in the pre-committee notes.

Cllr K Casey – Minute No. 62 of the Development Control Committee (Tree Preservation Order TPO/0110/SED (Northway/Eversley Grove)) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of him being employed by the Constituency Member of Parliament who had written to object to the Order on behalf of residents.

Councillor N Neale – Minute 37 of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board (Health and Social Care System Resilience Group – Terms of Reference) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her employment with NHS 111.

Councillor T Crumpton – All matters affecting schools – Non-pecuniary interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston – All matters relating to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor S Turner – Any references to matters concerning Dudley College – Pecuniary interest in view of his employment as a Lecturer.

Councillor G Simms – Issues relating to Looked After Children – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her employment with an independent fostering agency.

Councillor Q Zada – Issues relating to Children, Young People and Families – Non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Black Country Partnership NHS Trust.

Councillors M Evans and D Hemingsley – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring) reference to Castle Hill Development – Non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of Dudley Zoo.

Councillor D Tyler – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring) reference to Castle Hill Development – Non-pecuniary interest as a Co-opted Member in relation to Dudley Zoo.

Directors and Chief Officers – Minute No. 50 of the Cabinet (Update on Senior Management and Corporate Restructure Implementation) and Minutes of the Appointments Committee relating to the specific posts referred to in those minutes – Pecuniary interests in view of employment with Dudley MBC.

64 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st December, and the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 19th December, 2014 be approved as correct records and signed.

65 **Presentation by Chief Fire Officer**

This item was deferred at the request of the Chief Fire Officer.

66 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) Councillor Margaret Wilson

The Mayor referred to the absence of Councillor M Wilson.

Resolved

That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council approve the reason for Councillor M Wilson's non-attendance at meetings, on health grounds, and that this approval remain in effect until such time as Councillor M Wilson is able to resume her duties.

- (b) Deaths of Michelle Mottram, Harry Nottingham, Philip Bradbourn, Mark Wyatt, Margaret Wilson and Marjorie Blackburn

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the recent deaths of Michelle Mottram (Mayoress of the Borough in 2012/13), Harry Nottingham (former Councillor for the Wordsley ward), Philip Bradbourn (MEP for the West Midlands Region), Mark Wyatt (former Director of Children's Services), Margaret Wilson (widow of the late J T Wilson) and Marjorie Blackburn (widow of the late John Blackburn). The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to their memory. Members of the Council then paid individual tributes.

- (c) YMCA Black Country Group – Charity Event

The Mayor thanked Councillors P Lowe and R Body, who had slept rough on Christmas Eve 2014 to raise money for the YMCA Black Country Group. It was noted that the event raised around £2,500 for Charity as well as promoting issues for homeless people.

- (d) Mayors Ball

The Mayor's Ball would be held on 27th March, 2015 at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

67 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor P Lowe, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
- (2) That the grant funding for a toucan crossing in Colley Gate, Halesowen be noted and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (3) That the Wordsley Park Garage project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (4) That the CCTV project at Blowers Green and Lister Road depots be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- (5) That the Highways Maintenance Block allocations 2015/16 to 2017/18 be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

- (6) That the funding to install a new kitchen at Netherton Church of England Primary School be noted and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
 - (7) That the initial Energy Efficiency projects be approved and included in the Capital Programme, and that the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) be authorised to include further projects subject to establishing value for money and the availability of funding, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
 - (8) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report, be noted.
 - (9) 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 to the report, be agreed.
 - (10) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2014/15 be approved as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
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68 **Deployment of Resources – Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor G Partridge, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014/15 and the HRA budget for 2015/16 outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the public sector housing revised capital budget for 2014/15 and the capital budget for 2015/16 to 2019/20 attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) and the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) be authorised to bid for and enter into funding arrangements for additional resources to supplement investment in the public sector housing stock as outlined in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report and that expenditure funded from such resources be added to the Capital Programme.
- (4) That the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, be authorised to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 26 of the report.

- (5) That the Council confirm that all capital receipts arising from the sale of HRA assets (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing) continue to be used for the improvement of council homes.
 - (6) That the HRA medium term financial strategy and thirty year business plan, attached as Appendix 4 to the report, be endorsed.
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69 **Treasury Management**

A report of the Audit and Standards Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor J Cowell, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That the treasury activities in 2014/15, as outlined in the report, be noted.
 - (2) That the Treasury Strategy 2015/16, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
 - (3) That the Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services) be authorised to effect such borrowings, repayments and investments as are appropriate and consistent with the approved Treasury Strategy and relevant guidance.
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70 **Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11**

During questions asked under Council Procedure Rule 11, there were no decisions that the Leader, Cabinet Members or Chairs agreed to have reconsidered.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

MAYOR