

## **MEETING OF THE CABINET – 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2014**

### **NOTICE OF DECISIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Medium Term Financial Strategy	<p>(1) That the Cabinet note the forecast favourable variances in relation to Treasury in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting; the forecast unfavourable variances in relation to Children's Services and the implications for future years set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report; and the overall risk to General Fund balances set out in paragraph 10 of the report.</p> <p>(2) That all senior managers be reminded of the need for strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in any one year will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.</p> <p>(3) That the preliminary strategy outlined above as a basis for consultation, including the proposed allocation of Public Health funding for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix C of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.</p> <p>(4) That the various issues and risks which will need to be taken into account in finalising Budget proposals for 2015/16, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.</p> <p>(5) That the Council be recommended:</p> <p>(a) That, in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR), the transitional arrangement be terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and that the full 20% cut be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, and that full protection should be given to pensioners, disabled adults, disabled children, war pensioners and lone parents with a child under 5, as set out in paragraph 21 of the report submitted to the meeting.</p> <p>(b) That delegated powers be given to the Director of Corporate Resources for making</p>

other changes to the documented CTR 2015/16 scheme in line with any government prescribed regulations, upratings and other minor miscellaneous amendments; the resulting 2015/16 scheme documentation to be published on the council's website before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

- (c) That the 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 be confirmed up to an initial maximum of £5.0m for direct redundancy costs and the capitalised cost of pension strain, in respect of redundancies required to achieve the proposed savings set out in the report submitted to the meeting.

#### Capital Programme Monitoring

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
- (2) That £600,000 of funding be reallocated from the Housing Assistance Grants budget in order to address pressures on waiting lists for Disabled Facilities Grants, in 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That the allocation of funding for the North Priory Community Centre be noted, and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (4) That the Clean Vehicle Technology funding allocation be noted and the expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (5) That the revised funding for the third phase of

the Dudley Grid for Learning project be approved, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (6) That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

#### Review of Housing Finance

- (1) That the Council be recommended that the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014-15 as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 13 of the report submitted to the meeting and as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the Council be recommended that the revised Public Sector Housing capital programme for 2014-15 to 2018-19 as set out in paragraphs 14 to 16 and appendix 2 to the report submitted to the meeting, including the increase in HRA borrowing in 2015-16 and 2016-17 to fund new building under the Local Growth Fund be approved
- (3) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to buy back former right to buy properties and to buy other properties, either via mortgage rescue or on the open market, subject to a robust assessment that the property will be purchased at a discounted price that offers good value for money and will be sustainable in terms of lettings, maintenance and major works, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report submitted to the meeting, and that the Council be recommended to approve that these be added to the capital programme as they are purchased.
- (4) That the redevelopment of the site of 14 to 24 Beech Road, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the report submitted to the meeting, and the following be authorised in this connection:
  - (a) the acquisition of the leasehold interest of flat 22a Beech Road
  - (b) the termination of the lease of shop 20 Beech Road and the payment of statutory compensation equal to twice rateable value

- (c) the rehousing of remaining existing tenants and the payment of homeless and disturbance payments
- (d) approval to acquire or divert vehicular access rights to the rear of 24 Pine Close if necessary
- (e) approval of any other agreement necessary to facilitate the redevelopment of the site
- (f) approval to use Compulsory Purchase Order powers for the acquisitions, should negotiation fail.

(5) That the introduction of a charge of £50 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 for the provision of solicitors' information packs for leaseholders, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.

(6) That the HRA 30 Year Business Plan, as set out in paragraph 20 and appendix 3 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.

#### Dudley Town Centre Regeneration

- (1) That the regeneration activity in and around Dudley Town Centre, as referred to in the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the Council, be recommended that the proposed improvements to Coronation Gardens, as referred to in the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

#### Business Improvement District

That the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and Regeneration, be authorised to work with businesses in Halesowen and Stourbridge on the feasibility of Business Improvement Districts in those Town Centres, and, where appropriate, the preparation of fully costed Business Plans, prior to consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet

#### Annual Review of the Constitution

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to make any urgent, necessary or consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the ongoing review of the Council's Senior Management and Organisational Structure.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider revisions to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and associated scrutiny arrangements in advance of the 2015/16 municipal year with a view to recommendations being submitted to the annual meeting of the Council in May, 2015.
- (3) That the creation of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee in the form set out in the report submitted to the meeting and at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (4) That a Member be appointed as this Council's representative on the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee.
- (5) That West Midlands Joint Committee be given delegated powers to determine the remaining places on the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee on the principles set out in the report submitted to the meeting and Appendix 1 to the report in order to establish political proportionality.
- (6) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to agree and enter into such documents that are necessary to give effect to the above decisions concerning the ITA Overview and Scrutiny Joint Committee.
- (7) That the proposals set out in the report submitted to the meeting to comply with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 be approved, including the amendment of Council Procedure Rule 24.6 as referred to in paragraph 28 of the report.
- (8) That the amendment of the Employee Code of Conduct, as set out in paragraph 33 of the report submitted to the meeting, be endorsed.

- (9) That appropriate references to the Anti – Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the specific provisions referred to in paragraph 36 of the report submitted to the meeting be included in Part 3 of the Constitution under the portfolios of the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers
- (10 ) That the proposed amendments to the powers relating to dangerous trees and the functions of the Development Control Committee relating to trees be approved, subject to the revised wording of the Development Control Committee terms of reference being agreed by the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Development Control Committee.

Annual Review of Equality                      That the Annual Review of Equality 2014 be approved.

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet. Copies of the public reports may be obtained from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Corporate Resources (contact 01384 815236 or e-mail [richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) and follow the links to Council Decisions/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to the Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, unless a Scrutiny Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

PHILIP TART  
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

The Council House  
Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2014  
(Display until 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014)