

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet

Wednesday, 17th September, 2014 at 6 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 and S. Turner

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

Councillors R. James, I. Kettle, P. Miller, G. Simms, 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), R. Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer, Democratic Services) and other officers.

16. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Harley and Partridge.

17. **Changes in representation of Opposition Groups' Members**

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

18. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received in respect of matters to be considered at this meeting.

19. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd July, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

20. **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

- (1) That the result of the Post Completion Review of relevant capital projects, as set out in Appendix C of the report submitted to the meeting be noted
- (2) That the Abberley Street site is withdrawn from the sites being disposed of as part of the Transforming our Workplace project and replaced by the Church Street Education Centre site in Pensnett, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That the Council be recommended
 - That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
 - That the increase in budget for the Clayton Park Outdoor Gym be approved and the Capital Programme amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting
 - That the expenditure on the A459 pedestrian crossing improvements be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- That the expenditure on the replacement of franking machines be approved and included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

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

21. **Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive under cover of which the first Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report for 2014/15, relating to performance for the period 1st April, 2014 to 30th June, 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.

22. **Tenant Involvement Arrangements**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services seeking approval to revised tenant involvement arrangements. The draft Constitution of the proposed Dudley Housing Board was appended to the report.

In the discussion, the clause in the draft Constitution regarding an annual review of the effectiveness of the Board was noted and welcomed. A suggestion was also made that a tenant representative be co-opted to the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee and it was noted that, should a request to this effect be received from the Dudley Housing Board, it would receive due consideration.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) To approve the disestablishment of the Area Housing Panels.

- (2) To offer support to our tenants in the development of a structure that will assist them in achieving their priorities as listed in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (3) To approve a transfer of responsibility from the Area Housing Panels to the Tenants Board and to make recommendation(s) relating to expenditure of the Community Safety and Environment budget.
 - (4) That the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Tenants Board be approved as set out in the appendix to the report.
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23. **The Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter 2014**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources summarising the complaints against the Council received and dealt with by the Local Government Ombudsman's Office over the year ended 31st March, 2014. The Annual Review Letter from the Ombudsman was appended to the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted to the meeting and the appendix to the report be noted and that the Chief Executive be and Directors be requested to:
 - (a) Review their internal arrangements;
 - (b) Continue to ensure that requests for information on complaints received are dealt with by the date requested This will ensure that responses can be submitted to the Ombudsman's office within the timescale set and the Council's excellent performance on response times can be maintained.
- (2) That all Directorates continue to impose rigorous monitoring of complaint activity to ensure ongoing good practice and a continued reduction in complaints being received.
- (3) That the Annual Review Letter be posted on the Council's website.

24. **Valerie Little**

This being the last meeting of the Cabinet attended by Valerie Little before her retirement from the Council's service, the Leader thanked Ms Little on behalf the Council for her service as Director of Public Health and paid tribute particularly to the help given by Ms Little in integrating the public health function into the Council.

The meeting ended at 6.25 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL