

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 18th September, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillor Lowe (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K Ahmed, Branwood, Crumpton, Foster, S Turner, Waltho
and Wood

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

Conservative Group - Councillors Harley, Miller, Mrs Simms, K Turner
and Wright

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Adult, Community and Housing
Services, Director of Children's Services, Director of Corporate
Resources, Director of the Urban Environment, Director of Public
Health, Treasurer, Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Human
Resources and Organisational Development) and the Democratic
Services Manager, together with other officers

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors James, Partridge and Vickers.

20 CHANGE IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Miller was serving in place of Councillor
Vickers for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct.

22

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th June, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

23

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and proposing certain amendments to the Programme.

The Cabinet Member for Finance responded to a question concerning the allocation of Adult Social Care funding. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded to issues concerning rapid charging points for electric vehicles and stated that the matter was referenced in the Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document (see Minute No. 28 below).

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Leader of the Opposition Group placed on record their thanks to all involved in the bid for resources from the Demographic Growth Capital Fund in relation to Pens Meadow Special School.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B to the report now submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) That current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted be noted.
 - (b) That the expenditure on the modernisation of Tiled House Lane Residential Care Home be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted.
 - (c) That the additional expenditure at the Oak Lane Traveller Site be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report now submitted.

- (d) That in respect of Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to accept the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant funding; the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to sign the necessary funding agreements with HLF; and the capital element of the project be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.
- (e) That in respect of Rapid Charging Points for Electric Vehicles, the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to accept the funding; the project be included in the Capital Programme; and the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to agree the locations for the charging points and procure and install the equipment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted.
- (f) That the Outdoor Gym project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
- (g) That the funding allocation in respect of the post-16 provision at Pens Meadow Special School be noted, and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report now submitted.

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

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on corporate performance for the period 1st April to 30th June, 2013. The Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 5th September, 2013.

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.
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LOCALISM ACT 2011 – THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a proposed policy regarding the requirement to respond to the Community Right to Challenge provisions contained in the Localism Act 2011. The policy was set in a wider context of community involvement in accordance with the principles of establishing Dudley as a Community Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the policy to deal with the Community Right to Challenge be approved and the wider context be noted.
- (2) That the proposed level and stages of decision making, as set out in the report now submitted and the associated policy and guidance documents, be approved.

(This was a Key Decision with the Cabinet named as Decision Taker).

ADOPTION OF THE HALESOWEN AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Halesowen Area Action Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Halesowen Area Action Plan be approved and recommended to the Council for adoption.

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

ADOPTION OF THE STOURBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Stourbridge Area Action Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Stourbridge Area Action Plan be approved and recommended to the Council for adoption.

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

APPROVAL FOR ADOPTION OF THE PLANNING FOR HEALTH
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document.

Members commented on the need for effective partnership working with strategic health partners in order to practically implement the provisions of the document to meet shared objectives.

RESOLVED

That the Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document be approved and adopted.

(This was a Key Decision with the Cabinet being named as Decision Taker).

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted presenting recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel on a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

In connection with this item, the Leader of the Opposition Group commented that consideration should be given to reducing the number of Councillors to two per ward to achieve further financial savings alongside a more fundamental review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Chief Executive was requested to consider this issue taking account of the relevant legislative requirements and other considerations.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations set out in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be referred to the Council for approval.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL REVIEW
LETTER 2012/13

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Annual Review Letter for 2012/13 from the Local Government Ombudsman and information in respect of complaints received against the Council and dealt with by the Ombudsman's office over the year ending 31st March, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report and the Appendix be noted and that the Chief Executive and Directors be requested to:-
 - (a) Review their internal arrangements, as appropriate; and
 - (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.

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ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No issues were reported under this item.

32

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for 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 indicated 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.

Description of Item

Relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A

Staffing Issue – Directorate of Corporate Resources

1

STAFFING ISSUE – DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a proposal to terminate the contract of an employee (HW) on the grounds of redundancy in accordance with the Council's redeployment and retraining policy.

RESOLVED

That the termination of the contract of employment of the employee referred to in the report now submitted (HW) be approved, on the grounds of redundancy, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 6.45pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL