

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Tuesday, 9th January, 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, Fraser-Macnamara, Knowles, Mrs. Millward, Mrs Shakespeare and Mrs. Walker together with the following
Minority Group Members appointed to attend meetings of the Cabinet:
Councillors Ali, G H Davies, Ms Foster, Lowe, Ms Partridge, Mrs
Ridney and Sparks (Labour Group) and Councillor Tyler (Liberal
Democrat Group).

OFFICERS:-

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

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Crumpton and Miller.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sparks declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct, in relation to item no 5 on the agenda
(Revenue Budget Strategy 2008/09) in so far as it related to Dudley
Zoo in view of his chairmanship of the Board of that body.

Councillors Evans and Tyler also declared a Personal Interest in item 5
in so far as the item related to Dudley Zoo in view of trusteeship of that
body.

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REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2008/09

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was
submitted seeking consideration of the Revenue Budget Strategy
proposed for 2008/09 and later years and presenting proposals for
spending and funding options for consultation with Select Committees
and representatives of business rate payers.

Questions were asked on the report, with particular reference to certain areas of service that could no longer be funded, including resources made available hitherto for the Ethnic Minority Advisory Service, and to provision for the implications of Single Status, to which the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Finance responded.

Councillor Sparks wished to place on record his disagreement with the Grant “damping” mechanism applied by government to protect losers and limit gainers, like Dudley, when the grant formula was changed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the preliminary strategy outlined in the report now submitted be approved as a basis for further consultation.
- (2) That the various issues of risks which will need to be taken into account in finalising budget proposals for 2008/09, and the longer term financial strategy, be noted.

The meeting ended at 6. 45 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL