

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 17th March, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs. Millward (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)
Councillor Jones (Deputy Leader)
Councillors Adams, D. Blood, Evans, Mrs. Faulkner, Simms, Stanley,
A. Turner and Mrs. Walker

together with the following Minority Group Members appointed to
attend meetings of the Cabinet

Councillors Ali, Ms. Foster, Islam and Mrs. Ridney (Labour Group)

OFFICERS:-

Chief Executive, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services,
Director of Children's Services, Director of Corporate Resources,
Director of the Urban Environment, Interim Director of Finance, the
Democratic Services Manager and other officers.

113

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Lowe, Ms. Partridge and Sparks.

114

CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

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

115

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared a Personal or Prejudicial Interest, in accordance
with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be
considered at this meeting.

116

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10th February, 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed.

117

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2009

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Interim Director of Finance was submitted on the Annual Audit Letter from the external auditors, the Audit Commission.

The Cabinet received a brief presentation from Simon Turner representing the Audit Commission giving an overview of the Annual Audit Letter and highlighting key challenges associated with future financial settlements and the implementation of international financial reporting standards.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Audit Letter, together with the views expressed by the Auditor, be noted.

118

DUDLEY BOROUGH ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2010/11

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking approval of the Dudley Borough Economic Strategy, which had been revised for 2010/11.

RESOLVED

That the revised Dudley Borough Economic Strategy for 2010/11 be approved.

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

119

PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT STRATEGY:
REVISION 2010 – DRAFT

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval of the revised draft Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy 2010.

RESOLVED

That the revised draft of the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy 2010, be approved and implemented.

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

120

CARERS' STRATEGY: REVISION 2010 - DRAFT

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval of the revised draft Carers' Strategy 2010.

RESOLVED

That the revised draft of the Carers' Strategy 2010, be approved and implemented.

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

121

AGEING WELL – A STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE: 2010 – 2013 – DRAFT

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval of the revised draft Strategy for Older People 2010 - 2013.

RESOLVED

That the revised draft of the Strategy for Older People 2010 - 2013, be approved and implemented.

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

122

JOINT MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the progress of the Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy and to seek its approval.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the progress made in developing a Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy, be noted.

- (2) That, subject to the approval of the Primary Care Trust Board, the Strategy be approved.

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

123

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PARTNERSHIP JOINT
WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2010 – 2015

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted seeking approval for the Dudley Health and Well-Being Partnership Joint Workforce Strategy 2010 - 2015.

RESOLVED

That the Dudley Health and Well-Being Partnership Joint Workforce Strategy 2010 – 2015, be approved and implemented.

124

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Interim Director of Finance was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and which proposed certain amendments to the Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That current progress with the 2009/10 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (3) That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to submit a bid to British Gas for up to £1.9m of funding under the Community Energy Saving Programme, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting.
- (4) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) That £250,000 be added to the Social Care Minor Works capital budget for projects that benefit social care and community services, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (b) That subject to the bid for funding being successful, expenditure relating to the Community Energy Saving Programme be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (c) That grant allocations to successfully redesignated Specialist Schools be noted, and that the related expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (d) That expenditure on School Expansion projects funded from Section 106 funding be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (e) That expenditure on capital projects funded by Local Area Agreement Reward Grant be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in Paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.

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

125 LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL TRANSFER BUDGET 2010/11 –
16-19 LEARNING GRANT AND SPECIAL GRANT

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the transfer of responsibility for funding most 16-19 learning to Local Authorities on 1st April 2010. From mid April, 2010, Local Authorities would need to start paying providers of 16-19 learning and manage providers' financial performance against the funding. The report also informed the Cabinet of the Learning Skills Transfer budget allocated to the Council for 2010/11.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

126 REVIEW OF THE GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the revised Gender Equality Scheme for the Council.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Personnel, Legal and Property, to approve the final version of the scheme.

127 SCALE OF FEES AND EXPENSES FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer was submitted seeking approval of the Scale of Fees and Expenses for the Borough Council Election to fall in line with the Parliamentary Election fees.

RESOLVED

That should the Parliamentary Election take place before the Borough Election in May 2010, the Scale of Fees be increased to be equal to the fees paid for Parliamentary election duties.

128 PENSNETT SECONDARY SCHOOL

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the discontinuance of Pensnett High School from 31st August, 2010 in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated Regulations.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the proposals to discontinue Pensnett High School on 31st August, 2010, taking account of the outcome of the first stage of consultation, the formal representation period and the reasons set out in the report submitted to the meeting, in accordance with Section 15 (1) and Schedule 2 (paragraphs 8 and 19) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

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

129 ISSUES ARISING FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

No issues were reported on this item.

130 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as specified below and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is out-weighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
Staffing Issue - Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement	1
Staffing Issue – Directorate of the Urban Environment	1
Staffing Issues – Directorate of Children’s Services	1

131	<u>STAFFING ISSUE - DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE, ICT AND PROCUREMENT</u>
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This item was deferred.

132	<u>STAFFING ISSUE - DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT</u>
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This item was deferred.

133	<u>STAFFING ISSUE - DIRECTORATE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</u>
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This item was deferred.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL