

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 6.00 pm  
at the Town Hall, St James's Road, Dudley**

### **Present:**

#### **Cabinet Members**

Councillor P Harley (Leader - Chair)  
Councillor D Vickers (Deputy Leader – Vice-Chair)  
Councillors N Barlow, R Buttery, S Clark, S Keasey, I Kettle, S Phipps and K Shakespeare.

#### **Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet**

Councillors K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, C Barnett, C Bayton, J Foster and P Sahota

#### **Officers**

K O'Keefe – Chief Executive, B Heran –Deputy Chief Executive, I Newman – Director of Finance and Legal, C Driscoll – Director of Children's Services, M Bowsher – Director of Adult Social Care, P Davies – Director of Housing and Community Services, H Marsh-Geyton – Acting Director of Public Realm, M Farooq – Lead for Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer and M Johal – Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Taylor, P Lowe, S Ridney and Q Zada.

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### **2 Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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### 3 **Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### 4 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Legal on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, including the 2020/21 outturn position, together with proposed amendments to the Capital programme and proposed approval of a funding bid. A clarification note was also circulated at the meeting with respect to seeking funding for additional Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) cameras.

Arising from the presentation of the report, Members of the opposition made comments, and in particular, the need to ensure consultation took place with Councillors on issues from the outset.

Reference was made to the Town Centre Highways Infrastructure (Portersfield Link) and the need to share proposals regarding access. The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to arrange a briefing session with the Leader and the relevant Cabinet and Opposition Members to discuss issues.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Council be recommended:-
  - (a) That the outturn position for 2020/21, as set out in paragraph 4 and Appendix A of the report, be noted.
  - (b) That progress with the 2021/22 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix B of the report, be noted.
  - (c) That, subject to the request for Lottery funding being successful, extra spend on the Quarry Bank Park project up to the value of the grant be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
  - (d) That the footpath works at Marlborough Gardens and Ascot Gardens be approved and included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

- (e) That the project to install Solar Panels at the new Dudley Leisure Centre be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
  - (f) That the revised budget of £1,079,000 for the Town Hall/Bistro, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report, be approved.
  - (g) That a budget of £4m be approved for the refurbishment of the Council House, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.
  - (h) That Phase 3 of the CCTV upgrade programme be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report.
  - (i) That the extra expenditure of £90,000 on the Stourbridge Crematorium renovation project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report.
  - (j) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme be noted, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
- (2) That the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise be authorised, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise, to make bids to the Levelling Up Fund in later bidding rounds, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
  - (3) That further work be undertaken to explore the potential for the development of training facilities at Ward House, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

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## 5 **Revenue Outturn 2020/21**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Legal on the provisional revenue outturn position for 2020/21 and providing an update to 2021/22 forecasts.

Arising from the presentation of the report, the Deputy Chief Executive undertook to draft and circulate a briefing paper providing further detail on the purpose of the proposed external Consultant's role and expectations to assist with the Commonwealth Games.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturns for 2020/21, be noted.

- (2) That the effect of the General Fund outturn on General Balances at 31st March 2021, be noted.
- (3) That the position on General Fund earmarked reserves at 31st March 2021, be noted.
- (4) That the Council be recommended to approve an additional £50,000 budget allocation for 2021/22 to develop a cultural programme to support the Commonwealth Games, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.

The meeting ended at 6.38 pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL