

## MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 at 6.00 p.m.  
In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Evans, Fraser-Macnamara, Jones, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mrs Millward, Mrs Shakespeare and Vickers, together with the following Minority Group Members:- Councillors Crumpton, Ms. Foster and Sparks (Labour Group); and Mrs. Patrick (Liberal Democrat Group)

### Officers

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

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### MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Ali, G.H. Davies, Tyler and C.L. Woodall.

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DUDLEY AND THE CITY REGION

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted, advising the Cabinet of recent developments regarding the proposed City Region based on the West Midlands area, and the City Regions Initiative in the national context.

In the discussion on the item, reference was made to the importance of Dudley and the Black Country retaining its autonomy and identity within a City Region, and not becoming part of a greater Birmingham. Notwithstanding this, it was considered to be in Dudley's interests to maintain a close involvement with the West Midlands regional initiative.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That Dudley's continued involvement and contribution to the City Region proposals and City Region Development Plan be approved.
- (3) That update reports on progress be submitted to future meetings of the Cabinet.

BLACK COUNTRY STUDY - APPROVAL OF COMMENTS ON THE OPTIONS DOCUMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted containing a draft response to an options document produced by the Black Country Consortium on the Black Country Study.

In the discussion on this issue, reference was made to the potential adverse impact on manufacturing of the substantial rise in the re-designation of brown field sites for residential purposes. The member who raised the issue had concerns in this regard arising from a number of cases where residents on new housing estates situated on former industrial land had caused difficulties for existing, neighbouring, industries, in some cases causing them to leave.

The intention to include in the comments to be made to the Black Country Consortium, the resolution of Halesowen Area Committee advocating the making of representations for the protection of Green Belt land in the area around the vicinity of the Committee was reported.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the comments made on the Black Country Study Options Consultation, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting and detailed in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- (2) That it be noted that the resolution of Halesowen Area Committee advocating the making of representations for the protection of the Green Belt land in the area around the vicinity of the Area Committee will be included in the Council's repose.

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**BLACK COUNTRY STUDY - INFORMATION REPORT ON THE BLACK COUNTRY STUDY DUDLEY EVENT**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted indicating the issues that were raised at the Black Country Study Dudley Event held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.

RESOLVED

That the issues raised at the Black Country Study Dudley Event held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, as summarised in the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

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**ADOPTION OF THE DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE AREA DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted, seeking approval to the adoption of the Dudley Town Centre Area Development Framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance.

RESOLVED

That the adoption of the Area Development Framework for Dudley Town Centre and Supplementary Planning Guidance, be approved.

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**IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT 5 (IEG5)**

A joint report of the Director of Finance and Corporate E-Champion was submitted seeking approval to the fifth and penultimate Implementing Electronic Government Statement, which was required to be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, by the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2005.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current draft IEG5 Statement set out at Appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and that the Director of Finance and the Corporate e-Champion be authorised to make any final updates and improvements and submit the final statement to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2005.
- (2) That the final IEG5 Statement be published on the website on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 to complement other IEG statements, going back to 2001.

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE LETTER - COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION (CSCI)

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the content of the Commission for Social Care Inspection Letter entitled "Annual Review of Performance of the Authority's Adult Social Care Functions".

The provisional assessment in the letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005 was that Social Care Services in the Dudley Area were serving most adults well and that the Council's capacity to improve those services was excellent.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the CSCI Annual Review of Performance Letters dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2005, as submitted to the meeting, be received and accepted.
- (2) That the Cabinet acknowledge the improvements identified since the previous Annual Review.
- (3) That the Cabinet be advised that the areas for improvement will be addressed in the Directorate of Adult Community and Housing Services' Strategic Planning Process.
- (4) That the staff involved be congratulated on the Commission's report.

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted indicating the process by which the Adult Performance Assessment of Children's Services had been carried out and advising on the feedback received following the Assessment.

### RESOLVED

- (1) That the information on the Annual Performance Assessment, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, and the letter from the Commission for Social Care Inspection dated 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2005 appended to the report, be noted and accepted.
- (2) That the Annual Performance Assessment letter be welcomed.
- (3) That the staff involved be congratulated on the Annual Performance Assessment report.

## QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

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A report of the Chief Executive was submitted under cover of which the Quarterly Performance Management Report was attached.

In presenting the report, the Chief Executive drew attention to two issues which required attention and reported briefly on how these matters were being addressed.

### RESOLVED

That the report submitted to the meeting be received and its content approved.

## PROVISIONAL REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT SETTLEMENT 2006/07 AND 2007/08

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A report of the Director of Finance was submitted presenting details of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for the Council for 2006/07 and 2007/08. The report contained a draft response to the Local Government Minister in relation to his provisional statement on the settlement.

### RESOLVED

- (1) That the details of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2006/07 and 2007/08 be noted.
  - (2) That the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, be authorised to make an appropriate response to the Local Government Minister on the lines set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.
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### CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was submitted on issues relating to the Capital Programme.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to enter into a contract with the Heritage Lottery Fund to accept the Development Grant referred to in paragraph 3 of the report submitted to the meeting and to submit a stage 2 bid in respect of the Townscape Heritage Initiative for Dudley Town Centre as set out in paragraph 3.
  - (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to submit the project to realise the Council's vision for the Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve, the Seven Sisters, the Stepshaft Mine and the Wrens Nest Canal Tunnel, together with increased interpretation, education and outreach work, as part of the Black Country Living Landmarks Stage 1 bid, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - (3) That the current progress with the 2005/06 Programme, as set out in paragraph 2 and Appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
  - (4) That the result of the post completion review of the Project, as set out in paragraph 5 and Appendix B to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
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### REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted, containing a review of the Constitution and seeking consideration of a number of amendments thereto.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
  - (2) That the Council be recommended that the amendments to the Constitution set out in paragraph 9 and Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
  - (3) That the arrangements for declarations of interest, set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
  - (4) That the arrangements proposed for the review of the Code of Practice for Members and Officers dealing with planning matters, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
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### USE OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

A report of the Lead Officer to the Select Committee on Good Health was submitted on a recommendation made by that Committee regarding the use of Health Impact Assessments in future major decisions.

#### RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Select Committee on Good Health, at its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, that Health Impact Assessments form an integral part of any future major decision that affects health and wellbeing in the Borough, be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL