

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet

Wednesday 11th March, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor P Lowe (Leader – Chair)
Councillor S Turner (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K Ahmed, H Bills, D Branwood, T Crumpton, J Foster,
R Harris, G Partridge and D Sparks.

Opposition Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Councillors R James, L Jones, I Kettle, D Vickers and M Wood (Conservative Group); Councillors P Brothwood and S Etheridge (UKIP Group)

Officers:

S Norman (Chief Executive), J Millar (Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing)), P Tart (Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation)), P Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services), D Harkins (Chief Officer (Health and Wellbeing)), I Newman (Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services)), and R Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer (Democratic Services)).

63 **Apologies for Absence**

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

64 **Changes in representation of Opposition Group Members**

Councillors I Kettle and D Vickers were serving in place of Councillors P Harley and P Miller for this meeting of the Cabinet.

65 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

66 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 11th and 25th February, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

67 **Pauline Sharratt – Interim Director of Children's Services**

This being the last meeting of the Cabinet that Ms Sharratt would be attending prior to her impending retirement from the Council's service, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning paid tribute to Ms Sharratt's outstanding service in the fields of Children's Services and Social Care work.

Resolved

That the Cabinet place on record its appreciation of Ms Sharratt's outstanding contribution in the fields of Children's Services and Social Care work.

68 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services) on the progress of the Capital Programme and a number of proposed amendments.

During the discussion and questions on this report, it was agreed that the proposed allocations of the Basic Need funding for schools, as referred to in paragraph 9 of the report would be sent to all Cabinet Members and Opposition spokespersons.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:-

- (1) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme be noted.
- (2) That the Integrated Transport funding allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.
- (3) That the project to reline the cremators at Stourbridge Crematorium be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

- (4) That the School Condition allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.
- (5) That the Schools Devolved Capital allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.
- (6) That the Schools Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 to 2017/18 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.
- (7) That the Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2 funding be noted, and subject to confirmation of detailed allocations, the relevant associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme.

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

69

Organisational Restructure

As part of the ongoing organisational restructure, the Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive requesting approval to formal consultation being carried out on the proposed organisational structure, to include 3rd, 4th and 5th tier posts.

The report also contained an update on the current position regarding the appointment of Strategic Directors and Chief Officers. A correction was made to paragraph 9 of the report to indicate the position regarding the number of Chief Officers.

A Member asked to be supplied with the forecast of anticipated savings, as referred to in paragraph 8. A written reply would be sent to him.

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet agree the proposed structure to commence formal consultation with the staff affected.
- (2) That redundancies for the interim/temporary posts, where no redeployment is achieved, be approved.
- (3) That the introduction of two new grades for Heads of Service where externally evaluated using the LGE Job evaluation schemes, be approved.
- (4) That the update on Strategic Director and Chief Officer appointments, be noted.

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

70 **Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the third Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report for 2014/15, relating to performance for the period 1st October to 31st December, 2014.

Resolved

That the Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report for the third quarter of 2014/15, for the period from 1st October to 31st December, 2014, be noted.

71 **Formal Adoption of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy and Cost Recovery Policy for Dudley Borough following Public Consultation**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) seeking approval for the adoption of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy and the associated Cost Recovery Policy documentation following a public consultation exercise held between 12th December 2014 and 16th January, 2015.

Resolved

That the adoption of the revised Contaminated Land Strategy and Cost Recovery Policy for the Borough of Dudley, be approved.

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

72 **Approval for consultation of the draft revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) seeking approval for the draft review of the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to be used as a basis for public consultation commencing on 13th March, 2015 for a period of six weeks.

Resolved

That the use of the draft review of the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document as a basis for public consultation commencing on 13th March, 2015 for a period of six weeks, be approved.

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

73 **Draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document – Approval to Consult**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) seeking approval to undertake a period of six weeks' statutory consultation on the draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document commencing on 13th March, 2015.

Resolved

That the use of the draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document as the basis for public consultation commencing on 13th March, 2015 for a period of six weeks, be approved.

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

74 **Dudley Market**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) seeking approval for a pilot project to enable Dudley Market to be operated by a company established by Dudley Market Traders.

Resolved

- (1) That the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) and the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to enter into an agreement on appropriate terms and conditions with a Traders Management Company for a pilot project for the management of Dudley Market.
 - (2) That a further report on the management of Dudley Market by the Market Traders be considered by the Cabinet after the first six monthly review and before the end of the twelve month pilot.
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75 **Issues Arising from Scrutiny Committees**

No issues were reported under this item.

The meeting ended at 6.25 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL