

MEETING OF THE CABINET – 19th MARCH, 2008

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 19th March, 2008, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

Issue

Decision

Minutes

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th February, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the substitution of the words “Waste Recycling Environmental Limited” for “Heritage Lottery Fund” in the sixth line of minute 91 (Declarations of Interest – Councillor Ali)

Choice Based Lettings and a Review of the Housing Allocations Scheme

- (1) That the roll out of “Dudley at Home” to the rest of the Borough in summer 2008 be approved.
- (2) That the banding model be taken forward with the intention of it replacing the points scheme.
- (3) That the Select Committee on the Environment continue to monitor “Dudley at Home” and its full implementation and oversee the development of the banding model, ensuring that it meets the needs of Dudley residents.
- (4) That a further report on “Dudley at Home” be submitted to the Cabinet in March 2009.
- (5) That a report be submitted to the Cabinet in due course seeking approval to the implementation of a banding scheme as a bases of letting properties in Dudley.

Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report

- (1) That the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report for the third quarter for 2007/08, as circulated in advance of the meeting, be received and its content approved
- (2) That the information contained within the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report be referred to Select Committees to consider specific issues within their respective terms of reference

Affordable Housing Update Report	That the update information provided in the report submitted to the Meeting, including the outcome of Registered Social Landlord funding bids to the Housing Corporation, be noted and that the strategic housing work to maximise the provision of affordable housing, as referred to in the report, be supported.
Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2008/09	<p>(1) That the revised Economic Strategy for the Borough for 2008/09, as attached to the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the Revised Economic Strategy remain placed in the Members' Room for future reference.</p>
Investing in the Future – Primary Capital Programme	That the “Investing in the Future - Primary Strategy for Change” document appended to the report submitted to the meeting be approved and that the Director of Children's Services be authorised to submit the document to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
European Structural and Social Funds 2007/13	<p>(1) That the content of the report submitted to the meeting be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the European Social Fund Co-Financing Organisation/Leaning and Skills Council/West Midlands Local Government Association Memorandum of Agreement be adopted.</p> <p>(3) That proposals for maximising the take up of both European Development Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund resources to assist the delivery of key priorities identified by the Council and its partners, be investigated.</p>
Capital Programme Monitoring	(1) That current progress with the 2007/08 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report attached to the meeting be noted.

- (2) That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to submit a funding bid to Department for Children Schools and Families for the expansion of Hillcrest School and Community College, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That the Council be recommended:
 - (a) That the Breakthrough funding allocation be noted and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (b) That subject to the anticipated Kick Start allocation being forthcoming, the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (c) That £76,000 of Section 106 funding be used to support Affordable Housing at Queens Road / Bath Road, Stourbridge, and that this expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (d) That the further security measures at the Council House, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (e) That the works to the track at the Dell Stadium be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (f) That the stability assessment relating to the Sedgley Hall Park watercourse erosion be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- (g) That the enhancements to the Liveability programme be approved, and that the award of funding for a Youth Shelter at Woodside Park be noted, and the project be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report submitted to the meeting
- (h) That the allocation of Road Safety Grant be noted and the Capital Programme amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (i) That the Extended Schools project at Milking Bank Primary School be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (j) That the Computers for Schools grant allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (k) That subject to the funding bid to Department of Children Schools and Families being successful, the project to expand Hillcrest School and Community College be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (l) That the Safer Stronger Communities allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (m) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2007/08 and 2008/09, as set out in paragraph 22 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.

Local Area Agreement	That the Council be recommended that the revised priority outcomes in the draft Local Area Agreement appended to the report submitted to the meeting be approved as the basis for finalising negotiations with government and that the Leader of the Council be authorised to make the final submission of the Draft Agreement by 30 th May, 2008.
Priory Park and Ruin – Outline 10 Year Management Plan	That the outline 10 year management maintenance plan for Priory Park and ruin, as described in the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
Complaint to Local Government Ombudsman – Children’s Services Matter	That the content of the Ombudsman’s Report, attached as appendix 1 to the report submitted to the meeting, and the actions taken by the Director of Children’s Services to remedy the complaint made, as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Ombudsman’s report be endorsed and that the views of the Director of Children’s Services, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report of the Director of Law and Property submitted to the meeting, be noted.
Exclusion of the Public	That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in part 1 of schedule 12(A) to the Local Government Act, 1972, as specified below, and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Investing In The Future – Information And Communication Technology In Schools	3
Staffing Issue – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services	1
Staffing Issues – Directorate of Children’s Services	1

Investing in the Future - Information and Communication Technology in Schools	(1) That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to enter into negotiations for a two year extension to the present Dudley Grid for Learning Contract. (2) That the Director of Children's Services develop a strategy aimed at integrating the provision of support for all education information communication technology in Dudley into the procurement programme for Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme.
Staffing Issue – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services	That the termination of the contract of the officer referred to in the report submitted to the meeting, on the grounds of redundancy, and on the terms and conditions referred to in the report, be approved.
Staffing Issues – Directorate of Children's Services	That the termination of the contracts of employment of the staff referred to in the report submitted to the meeting, on the grounds of redundancy and on the terms and conditions referred to in the report, be approved.

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th March, 2008. Copies of the public reports are available from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Law and Property (contact Richard Sanders, 01384 815236 or e-mail richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Council's Website www.dudley.gov.uk and follow the links to Council Decision Meetings/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to full Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 27th March, 2008, unless a Select Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

J POLYCHRONAKIS
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

The Council House
Priory Road
Dudley
West Midlands

Dated: 27th March, 2008