

MEETING OF THE CABINET – 30th OCTOBER, 2013

NOTICE OF DECISIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 30th October, 2013, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Recommendation(s)</u>
Revenue Budget Strategy 2013-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) That the Council be recommended that 2013/14 budgets be amended as set out in paragraphs 6 and 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.(2) That in respect of Looked After Children a report be brought back to Cabinet in February 2014 outlining the outcomes of the diagnostic exercise and presenting any proposals that arise from it, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.(3) That the preliminary strategy outlined in the report be approved as a basis for consultation.(4) That the Chief Executive and Directors, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant Cabinet Members, be authorised to examine the options set out in paragraph 36 of the report submitted to the meeting.(5) That the various issues and risks which will need to be taken into account in finalising budget proposals for 2014/15, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.
Staffing Issues – Budget Savings 2013-14	<p>Subject to the necessary approval of the Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) That the contents of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.(2) That the outline timetable for the next round of employee related budget savings be approved.(3) That a voluntary redundancy programme related to services where savings are identified, rather than a Council wide “expressions of interest” process, be approved.(4) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Human Resources (HR), Law and

Governance, be authorised to determine all applications for voluntary redundancy including those where there are pension implications, and that the Assistant Director HR and Organisational Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for HR, Law and Governance be authorised to determine all applications for compulsory redundancy including those where there are pension implications, up to a total maximum of £3.0m for direct redundancy costs and £1.5m for the capitalised cost of pension strain.

Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That, further to consideration of the outcomes of the preceptor and public consultation on the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme, member scrutiny, the equality impact assessment and last year's results of the Big Question budget survey in 2012, that the CTR scheme be amended from 1st April 2014; that the preferred scheme to be submitted for full Council approval on 2nd December, 2013 be based on the eligibility and calculation rules of the current scheme with a 20% cut in the resulting level of the reduction; and that a transitional arrangement of an 8.5% cut in the calculated reduction apply at least up to 31st March 2015 with full protection from any scheme changes being given to pensioners (as defined in legislation), disabled adults, disabled children, war pensioners and lone parents with a child under 5, the definition of the protected groups to be as defined in the 2013 public consultation.
- (2) That, subject to full Council approval before 31st January, 2015 the transitional arrangements of an 8.5% cut may be extended beyond 31st March 2015 without further public consultation.
- (3) That the proposal to document the preferred CTR scheme in such a manner that any personal allowances, premiums, disregards and non-dependent deductions are automatically linked to equivalent annually up-rated values published by the central government in either Housing Benefit legislation or the prescribed Council Tax Reduction scheme for pensioners, be approved; this allowing any approved scheme

to be automatically carried forward to future years, without the need for annual public consultation and re-approval, until such time that further scheme changes are considered.

Capital Programme Monitoring

- (1) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the Council be recommended:
 - (a) That current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A to the report submitted to the meeting be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
 - (b) That the Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

Annual Review of Equality 2013

- (1) That the annual review of equality 2013 be approved.
- (2) That the full copy of the annual review of equality and diversity for 2013 be circulated to all Members of the Council.

Annual Review of the Constitution

- (1) That the work undertaken and in progress to integrate public health functions within the Constitution, as referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9, be noted.
- (2) That the terms of reference of the Appointments Committee be amended, with consequential changes elsewhere in the Constitution, to provide for salary packages for new appointments and any severance packages for employees that exceed £100,000 to be recommended to full Council for approval as referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (3) That the review of the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice, as referred to in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

- (4) That the proposed addition to the terms of reference of the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee be approved as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (5) That the Deputy Leader (Cabinet Member for Finance) be authorised to sign Decision Sheets in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal and Property, as referred to in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (6) That the approach to the recording of Council, Cabinet, Committee and other meetings, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and that Council Procedure Rule 24.6 be amended accordingly.
- (7) That the amended Terms of Reference for West Midlands Joint Committee, as described in paragraphs 20 to 26 and Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the meeting, be approved insofar as they relate to the executive functions of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions to give effect to this decision.
- (8) That the establishment of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, as referred to in paragraphs 27 to 33 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (9) That the constitution of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, including the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the meeting, be endorsed and the associated functions and powers be delegated to the Executive Joint Committee, subject to the requirement that any revenue or capital expenditure programmes or commitments are approved by the Cabinet and full Council in accordance with the existing Constitutional requirements of Dudley MBC.

- (10) That the Leader of the Council be appointed as the Cabinet's representative on the Black Country Executive Joint Committee together with a named Member to act as a substitute.
- (11) That the proposals for the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board, as set out in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report submitted to the meeting, including the provision for the appointment of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be approved.
- (12) That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive and appropriate Directors, be authorised to make any necessary and consequential changes to the terms of reference of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee that may be required from time to time to implement the proposals in the report submitted to the meeting.
- (13) That the appointment of Walsall MBC to act as Secretary to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee and Advisory Board be noted.
- (14) That the ongoing reviews of governance arrangements, as referred to in paragraph 34 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet. Copies of the public reports may be obtained from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Corporate Resources (contact 01384 815235 or e-mail steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website www.dudley.gov.uk and follow the links to Council Decisions/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to the Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 1st November, 2013 unless a Scrutiny Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

PHILIP TART
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

The Council House
Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands

Dated: 1st November, 2013

(Display until 11th November, 2013