

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2005
AT 6.00PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Knowles (Mayor)
Councillor Kettle (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ali, Mrs Ameson, Mrs Aston, Attwood, Banks, Blood, Body, Boys, Bradney, Burston, Burt, Caunt, Mrs Collins, Cotterill, Mrs Coulter, Mrs Cowell, Ms Craigie, Crumpton, G H Davies, J Davies, M Davis, Debney, Donegan, Mrs Dunn, Evans, Mrs Faulkner, Finch, Ms Foster, Harley, Ms Harris, Ms Hart-Bowman, Islam, Jackson, James, Johnston, Jones, Mrs Jordan, Male, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mrs Millward, Mottram, Musk, Miss Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Patrick, Mrs Pearce, Rahman, Mrs Ridley, Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, Tomkinson, A Turner, K Turner, Mrs H Turner, Tyler, Vickers, C Wilson, Mrs M Wilson, C L Woodall, J Woodall and Wright; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Linda Woolhouse, led the Council in prayer.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 6th December 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, as follows:-

Councillor Finch - Minute No. 69(x) of the Development Control Committee held on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2118 – Donkey Pool Playing Fields - Wrens Hill Road, Priory Estate, Dudley – Removal of existing cabin and erection of two new cabins for proposed changing rooms/toilets/showers). Personal interest in view of his attendance at Committee meetings.

Councillor Finch – Agenda Item No. 4(a)(i) – Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme 2005/06 - Paragraphs 2.11.1 and 3.6 - Seven Sisters Mine Infilling. Personal interest in view of his attendance at associated meetings.

Councillor Miller - Minute No. 59 of the Brierley Hill Area Committee held on 3rd February, 2005 (Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order – Cot Lane, Kingswinford). Personal interest as a Governor of Glynne Primary School.

Councillor Mrs Ridley - Agenda Item No. 4(a)(i) – Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme 2005/06 – paragraphs 2.11.10 and 3.15 – The Coseley School – All Weather Football Pitch. Personal interest as a Governor of the School.

Councillor Burston - Agenda Item 4(a)(v) - Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Highways Capital Programme 2005/06 - paragraph 2.11 (Bus Showcase Programmes) and paragraph 2.14 (Minor Schemes - realignment of the highway at Queensway, Halesowen to enable the expansion of bus station). Personal interests due to his employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 68 of Halesowen Area Committee held on 2nd February, 2005 (Bus Showcase Route No 9 – A458 Belle Vale Junction Improvement). Personal interest due to his employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Burston – Minute No. 87(3)(g) of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Highways Capital Programme 2005/06 - Bus Showcase schemes). Personal interest due to his employment with CENTRO.

Councillor Harley – Minute No. 54(2) of North Dudley Area Committee held on 26th January, 2005 (Delegated Capital Allocations). Personal interest as Vice-Chairman of Gornal Athletic Football Club.

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 42 of the Select Committee on Good Health held on 27th January, 2005 (Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country Strategic Health Authority). Personal interest as Chair of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 43 of the Select Committee on Good Health held on 27th January, 2005 (Overview of Mental Health Services in Dudley – Joint Mental Health Strategy – Integrated Mental Health and Social Care Service – Structure, Governance and Financial Arrangements). Personal interest as Chair of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 69 of the Development Control Committee held on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2107 - Dudley Employees Sports and Social Club, Hillcrest Avenue, Brierley Hill – Replacement of lighting around perimeter of sports pitch). Personal interest as a club member.

Councillor Ms Harris - Delegated Decision No. 67 (Structure of the Integrated Mental Health and Social Care Service). Personal Interest as Chair of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust, providers of Mental Health Services to the Borough.

Councillor Ms Harris – Minute No. 91 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Integrated Mental Health and Social Care). Personal Interest as Chair of Dudley Beacon and Castle Primary Care Trust, providers of Mental Health Services to the Borough.

Councillor J R Davies – Minute No. 94 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Liveability Project – Improvement of Parks for People – Allocation of Funding). Personal interest in view of his attendance at Friends of the Parks meetings.

Councillors Adams, Mrs Dunn and Vickers – Minute No. 42 of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning held on 7th December, 2004 (Progress report on Rufford Primary School). Personal interests as Governors of Rufford Primary School.

Councillors Adams, Mrs Dunn and Vickers – Minute No. 49 of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning held on 25th January, 2005 (Sure Start Plan 2004-06). Personal interests in relation to Sure Start, operating from Rufford Primary School, as Governors of the School.

Councillors Adams, Mrs Dunn and Vickers – Minute No. 68 of Stourbridge Area Committee held on 31st January, 2005 (Capital Allocation to Rufford Primary School). Personal interests as Governors of the School.

Councillor Taylor - Minute No. 26 of the special meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16th December 2004 (School Balances and Deposits). Personal interest as a Governor of Holt Farm Primary School.

Councillor Taylor - Minute No. 39 of the Audit Committee held on 10th February 2005 (Annual Audit Report in relation to the Social Services Directorate). Personal interest in view of his daughter being an employee at one of the establishments inspected.

Councillor J Woodall – Minute No. 94 of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Liveability Project – Improvement of Parks for People – Allocation of Funding). Personal Interest as a Member of the Friends of the Leasowes Park, Halesowen.

Councillor Mottram - Agenda Item No. 4(a)(i) – Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme 2005/06 – paragraphs 2.11.10 and 3.15 – The Coseley School – All Weather Football Pitch. Personal interest as a Governor of the School.

Councillor Southall - Minute No. 69 of the Development Control Committee held on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2107 - Dudley Employees Sports and Social Club, Hillcrest Avenue, Brierley Hill – Replacement of lighting around perimeter of sports pitch). Personal interest as a Council Member of the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Southall - Minute No. 69 of the Development Control Committee held on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2118 – Donkey Pool Playing Fields - Wrens Hill Road, Priory Estate, Dudley). Personal interest as a Council Member of the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 42 of the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation held on 6th January, 2005 (Competing Demands for Sport and Recreation Resources). Personal interest – Council Member of the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Southall – Minute No. 43 of the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation held on 6th January, 2005 (Sport and Recreation Facilities in the Brierley Hill Area). Personal interest – Council Member of the Birmingham County Football Association.

Councillor Mrs Aston - Minute No. 69(x) of the Development Control Committee held on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2118 – Donkey Pool Playing Fields - Wrens Hill Road, Priory Estate, Dudley – Removal of existing cabin and erection of two new cabins for proposed changing rooms/toilets/showers). Personal interest in view of her attendance at Committee meetings.

Councillor Mrs Aston - Agenda Item No. 4(a)(i) – Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme 2005/06 - Paragraphs 2.11.1 and 3.6 - Seven Sisters Mine Infilling. Personal interest in view of her attendance at associated meetings.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minutes of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning – 25th January, 2005. Personal interest as Governor at Netherton Church of England School and Chairperson of Pupil Referral Unit Management Committee.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minute No. 26 of the special meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16th December, 2004 (School Balances and Deposits). Personal interest as a Governor of Netherton Church of England School.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minute No. 90 of the Taxis Committee held on 16th December, 2004 (Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr KHS). Personal interest as the applicant was known to her.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minute No. 68 of the Cabinet held on 15th December, 2004 (School Budgets). Personal interest as a Governor of Netherton Church of England School.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minute No. 80 of the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th January, 2005 (Revenue Budget Strategy 2005-06). Personal interest as Governor at Netherton Church of England School.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Minute No. 94 of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Liveability Project – Improvement of Parks for People – Allocation of Funding). Personal interest in view of her attendance at the Friends of Netherton Park.

Councillor Mrs Jordan - Minute No. 26 of the special meeting of the Audit Committee held on 16th December, 2004 (School Balances and Deposits). Personal interest as a Governor of Pens Meadow School.

Councillor Mrs Jordan - Minute No. 68 of the Cabinet held on 15th December, 2004 (School Budgets). Personal interest as a Governor of Pens Meadow School.

Councillor Mrs Jordan - Minute No. 80 of the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th January, 2005 (Revenue Budget Strategy 2005-06). Personal interest as Governor of Pens Meadow School.

Councillor Mrs Wilson – Agenda Item No. 4(a)(iv) – Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital. Personal interest as a housing tenant.

Councillor Mrs Wilson – Minute No. 62 of the Brierley Hill Area Committee held on 3rd February, 2005 (Provision of Car Park on Land South of Kinver Street, Wordsley). Prejudicial interest as a Member of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor J R Davies – Agenda Item No. 4(a)(iv) - Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital. Personal interest in view of relatives living in rented Council accommodation.

Councillor J R Davies – Minute No. 86 of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital). Personal interest in view of relatives living in rented Council accommodation.

Councillor Mrs Coulter - Agenda Item No. 4(a)(iv) - Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital. Prejudicial interest in view of renting two Council garages.

Councillor Mrs Coulter - Minute No. 86 of the Cabinet held on 9th February, 2005 (Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital). Prejudicial interest in view of renting two Council garages.

Councillor Mrs Coulter – Delegated Decision No. 3 (School Meals Price Increase 2005). Prejudicial interest in view of paying for the provision of her children's school meals.

Councillor Mrs Ameson - Minute No. 69(x) of the Development Control Committee on 24th January, 2005 (Plan no. P04/2118 – Donkey Pool Playing Fields - Wrens Hill Road, Priory Estate, Dudley – Removal of existing cabin and erection of two new cabins for proposed changing rooms/toilets/showers). Personal interest in view of her attendance at Committee meetings.

Councillor A Turner - Minute No. 68 of the Stourbridge Area Committee on 31st January, 2005 (Capital Allocations – St Mary's Church, Oldswinford). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of being an occasional member of the congregation of the Church.

Councillor Islam – Minute No. 42 of the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration held on 12th January, 2005 (Proposed Corporate Equality and Diversity Priorities for 2005/06). Personal interest as a Member of Dudley Racial Equality Council.

Councillor Islam – Minute No. 65 of the Central Dudley Area Committee on 8th February, 2005 (Public Forum - all references to the proposed building of a mosque and community centre on land at Oakeywell Street and associated funding issues). Personal and prejudicial interest in that he was technically a passive member of the Dudley Muslim Association, however, he had played no part in the submission of a planning application as referred to in the Minute.

Councillor Mrs Millward – Minute No. 54 of the North Dudley Area Committee on 26th January, 2005 (Delegated Capital Allocations). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of the fact that her two sons had been members or had connections with the 2nd Lower Gornal Scout Group.

Councillor Rogers – Minute No. 53 of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning on 25th January, 2005 (Outcome of Consultation on Proposed changes to the LMS Formula for 2005/06 – Including Proposed New Delegations). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his position as Associate Hospital Manager for North Warwickshire NHS Trust and the employment of his wife as an Inclusion Assistant for additional needs children.

Councillor Rogers – Minute No. 68 of the Stourbridge Area Committee on 31st January, 2005 (Capital Allocations – Hagley Girl Guides Division). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his association with the Guides Headquarters.

Councillor Rogers – Minute No. 68 of the Stourbridge Area Committee on 31st January, 2005 (Capital Allocations – St Mary’s Church, Oldswinford). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of being an occasional member of the congregation of the Church.

Councillor Rogers – Minute No. 69 of the Stourbridge Area Committee on 31st January, 2005 (Grant Applications: Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust). Personal and prejudicial interest in view of his membership of the fund raising committee for the 16th Stourbridge Norton, St. Michaels Scout Group who submitted the application for funding.

Councillor Ali – All references in the agenda to Dudley Racial Equality Council (DREC). Personal and prejudicial interest as an Executive Member of DREC.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

(a) Relief Fund – Tsunami Earthquake Disaster

The Mayor announced that Schools in the Borough had raised over £84,000 for the relief fund following the Tsunami earthquake disaster in south east Asia. Redhill School, Stourbridge had helped to initiate and co-ordinate the fundraising efforts. The Deputy Headteacher and two pupils from the School attended the meeting to receive a certificate from the Mayor as a token of the Council’s sincere appreciation for the fundraising efforts.

(b) Death of Former Councillor Frank Goddard

The Mayor reported with deep sadness on the death of former Councillor Frank Goddard in January, 2005. Mr Goddard had been a long serving member of Dudley MBC and the former Halesowen Borough Council. The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to his memory and Members paid tribute to Frank Goddard’s contribution during his long and dedicated local government service.

(c) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Fraser-Macnamara.

A report of the Executive was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Millward and

RESOLVED

- (1) That each Supported Capital Expenditure approval (SCE) be earmarked to the relevant service, but with a particular emphasis on demonstrating appropriate prioritisation within service programmes, and within spend headings, as set out in paragraph 2.3.2 of the report.
- (2) That Housing capital receipts be earmarked to be spent on Housing capital schemes as set out in paragraph 2.3.3 of the report.
- (3) That the Private Sector Housing Investment Programme for 2004/05 as set out in paragraph 2.5.2 of the report be approved.
- (4) That the Education capital resources and related schemes be included in the Capital Programme as appropriate, as set out in paragraph 2.6.5 of the report.
- (5) That, subject to the relevant element of the Revenue Budget Strategy being approved, the expenditure on Street Lighting Columns be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.9.3 of the report.
- (6) That the Capital Programme be amended to reflect the increased costs of the Seven Sisters Mine Infilling, as set out in paragraph 2.11.1 of the report.
- (7) That the scheme to remove the remaining Glass Reinforces Cement Cladding at the Ryemarket Car Park and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.2 of the report, be approved.
- (8) That the scheme to reconstruct the Tipton Road Bridge be approved and included in the Capital Programme, and that an agreement with Network Rail for the reconstruction work be entered into, as set out in paragraph 2.11.3 of the report.

- (9) That the expenditure on Incinerator Equipment be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.4 of the report.
- (10) That the scheme to reconstruct the retaining wall at Summer Lane, and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.5 of the report, be approved.
- (11) That the Lighting and Heating system at Lister Road Garage be replaced, and the expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (12) That the project for improvements to the Health and Fitness facilities at Halesowen Leisure Centre and the inclusion of the capital works element in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 2.11.7 of the report submitted to the meeting be approved.
- (13) That the scheme to improve security at Priory Hall be included in the Capital Programme at a cost of £210,000, being funded £50,000 from Risk Management resources, and £160,000 from resources generated by the disposal of surplus assets, as set out in paragraph 2.11.8 of the report.
- (14) That, subject to a bid for grant funding being successful, the scheme for the All Weather Football Pitch and Changing Rooms at Redhill School and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.9 of the report, be approved.
- (15) That subject to a bid for grant funding being successful, and to resources being available to meet the total cost, the scheme for the All Weather Football Pitch at The Coseley School and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.10 of the report, be approved.
- (16) That the contribution from reserves to enhance the Basic Need Project at Dudley Wood Primary School, as set out in paragraph 2.11.11 of the report, be approved.
- (17) That the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) project and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.12 of the report, be approved.
- (18) That the Benefits and Customer Access To Services (CATS) Telephony project and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.13 of the report, be approved.

- (19) That the amendments to the ICT Strategy, as set out in paragraph 2.11.14 of the report, be noted.
- (20) That the project to improve the Lye Homelessness Centre and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.11.15 of the report submitted to the meeting be approved.
- (21) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, arising from the projects listed below, and the reasons set out in paragraph 2.12 of the report, be noted:-

Air Quality Management – Purchase of Particulate Monitor
Reinforcement of Himley Road Embankment
Dudley Town Centre – Priory Street Acquisitions.

- (22) That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in paragraph 2.13 and Appendix A of the report, be approved.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Martin and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the necessary changes to the membership of Committees, taking account of the duty to review proportionality under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, be approved.
- (2) That Councillor Wright replace Councillor Burt on the Disciplinary/Dismissal/Grading Appeals Committee and Councillor Mrs Ameson replace Councillor Tyler on the Appointments Committee.
- (3) That in accordance with the nominations of Councillor Tyler, the following members be appointed to serve on the Committees indicated in place of Councillor M Davis:-

Development Control Committee -
Councillor Mrs Collins

Licensing and Safety Committee and Sub-Committee 5 -
Councillor Craigie.

- (4) That the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 not apply to the Sub-Committees established by the Licensing and Safety Committee, to enable them to deal with all licensing business requiring determination by members.
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CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Martin and

RESOLVED

- (1) That paragraph 3.1.2 of the Confidential Reporting Policy be amended as follows:-

“The Council recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make. If what you are saying is true, or if you have reasonable grounds for believing that it is true, you should have nothing to fear because you will be doing your duty to your employer and those for whom you are providing a service.”

- (2) That the list under paragraph 7.5 of the Policy be amended to include the Director of Social Services as an additional internal contact and the Bishop of Dudley as an external contact.
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DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2005/6 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
- (2) That the forecast Housing Revenue Account and capital resources outlined in Appendix 2 of the report be noted.
- (3) That the risks to the forecasts as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report be noted.

- (4) That the prudential indicators set out in Appendix 4 of the report be noted.
- (5) That the public-sector housing revised capital budget for 2004/5 and capital budget for 2005/8 attached as Appendix 5 of the report be approved.
- (6) That the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, be authorised to manage the capital programme as outlined in 2.5.5 of the report.
- (7) That the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, be authorised to procure and enter into contracts for the delivery of the capital programme, as outlined in 2.5.6 of the report.

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TRANSPORT CAPITAL SETTLEMENT AND PROPOSED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2005/06

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor J Woodall, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Transport Capital Settlement for 2005/2006 be welcomed and noted.
- (2) That the report and the allocation of Transport Capital Funding as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the meeting be approved.
- (3) That the following be approved:-
 - (a) The programmes identified in Appendix 1 and referred to in paragraphs 2.10 – 2.23 inclusive of the report and authorise the Director of the Urban Environment to implement them accordingly.
 - (b) The schemes and programming identified in Appendix 2 – Bridge Strengthening; and that advance work is undertaken on bridges not included in the current year.

- (c) The schemes and programming identified in Appendix 3 – Retaining Walls; that advance work is undertaken on walls not included in the current year and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to bring construction work forward as funding permits.
- (d) The schemes identified in Appendix 4 – Railway Road Vehicle Incursion; that design work is undertaken as resources permit, and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to bring forward construction as funding permits.
- (e) The schemes identified in Appendix 5 – Upgrading of Parapets; that design work be undertaken as resources permit and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to bring forward construction as funding permits.
- (f) The structural work identified in (a) to (d) above and various works in relation to Local Safety Schemes and Safe Routes to Schools be undertaken by the Council's Partnering contractor.
- (g) The schemes identified in appendix 6 – Bus Showcase; and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to undertake work in the light of consultation and as funding is made available.
- (h) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to make amendments to the programmes shown in Appendix 7, 8 and 9 in the light of consultation and the availability of funding.
- (i) The acquisition of land and property purchase associated with approved schemes as funding allows.

- (j) That the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to initiate studies into future minor improvement schemes and progress the formulation of Demand Management initiatives including strategies for both car parking and highway improvements.
- (k) The West Midlands Capital Monitoring system as set out in the report.
- (l) That the Director of Law and Property continue to retain land in the Council's ownership adjacent to the corridors previously identified within the West Midlands Area Multi Modal Study.
- (m) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to identify and, where appropriate, implement any remedial works to local safety schemes of a minor nature including the introduction of antiskid material and mobile speed camera sites as referred to in Paragraph 2.9.4.
- (n) That the Director of Law and Property in conjunction with the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to commence property acquisition by negotiation or Compulsory Purchase procedures to facilitate programmes identified in the highway capital programme.
- (o) That to enable the Brierley Hill Scheme to be progressed, finance up to £1.7m be made available from the Council's Capital resources to be paid back in full following the satisfactory resolution of statutory procedures and the release of Government capital support for the scheme.

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities as contained in legislation and associated guidance be noted.

- (2) That the Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved.
- (3) That the programme of work for the Corporate Parenting Champions Group based on the action plan contained in the Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved.
- (4) That the holding of a Member seminar on corporate parenting be approved.

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BLACK COUNTRY STUDY PROJECT PLAN AND OUTCOMES FOR BLACK COUNTRY III

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs Millward and

RESOLVED

That the Project Plan for the Black Country Study and the outcomes of the Black Country III event held in October 2004 be endorsed.

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT

A report of the Audit Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Burston, seconded by Councillor Caunt and

RESOLVED

- (1) That, in accordance with the Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices, the treasury management activity in the financial year 2003/4 and in the financial year 2004/5 up to November 2004, be approved.
- (2) That the Treasury Strategy 2005/6, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Director of Finance be authorised to effect such borrowings, repayments and investments as are appropriate and consistent with the approved Treasury Strategy and relevant guidance.

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NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

Councillor Johnston had given notice of a motion in the following terms:-

“This Council resolves to support and promote the concept of Fairtrade – ensuring that producers from developing countries get a fair price for their goods and labour.

The Council resolves to:

- (a) promote awareness of Fairtrade issues, and make publicity material and educational information available to local people concerning the world wide impact of unfair trade and the opportunities that Fairtrade provides to promote sustainable development.
- (b) investigate the Council’s own purchasing policies, and, where appropriate in conjunction with our statutory partners, with a view to purchasing Fairtrade where possible.
- (c) serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in its offices, canteens and restaurants.
- (d) consider buying Fairtrade products, such as those carrying the Fairtrade mark as they become available.
- (e) promote Fairtrade issues and practices amongst local businesses and commercial and other organisations.
- (f) develop a strategy to make Dudley a Fairtrade town.
- (g) formally allocate Fairtrade town responsibilities to a Council officer to work with a Steering Group set up to ensure continued commitment to a Fairtrade town status.”

The motion was moved by Councillor Johnston and seconded by Councillor Ms Hart-Bowman. During debate on the motion, the Mayor informed the Council that the 30 minutes allowed for dealing with notices of motion on the agenda had expired.

It was moved by Councillor Burt and seconded by Councillor C L Woodall:-

“Under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, that procedure rule 12.5 be suspended to enable the Council to continue to debate the notice of motion under consideration.”

The motion moved by Councillor Burt was put and lost. In accordance with the Council’s Procedure Rules, the notice of motion set out in agenda item 5 would therefore stand referred to the meeting of the Council on 18th April, 2005.

QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

During questions under Council Procedure Rule 11, there were no decisions that the Leader, Cabinet Members or Chairmen agreed to have reconsidered.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

MAYOR