

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 26th October, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor L Jones (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)
Councillor Wright (Deputy Leader)
Councillors Adams, Blood, P Harley, Stanley, A Turner and Vickers

together with the following Minority Group Members appointed to attend meetings of the Cabinet

Councillors Ali, Crumpton, Foster, Ms Partridge and Sparks
(Labour Group)

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Director of Corporate Resources, Acting Director of Children's Services, Treasurer, Director of the Urban Environment and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Corporate Resources), together with other officers.

55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Lowe and Mrs Walker.

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sparks declared a Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No. 7 (Castle Hill Regeneration), as the Chair of the Dudley Zoo Board.

57 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th September, 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

58

UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on the update of the Council's Capital Strategy.

RESOLVED

That the draft Capital Strategy attached to the report submitted to the meeting be agreed as the basis of consultation with Scrutiny Committees.

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

59

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and which proposed certain amendments to the Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current progress with the 2011/12 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the results of the Post Completion Reviews of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (3) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) That the works to Grange Road Subway, Halesowen, be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (b) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

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

CASTLE HILL REGENERATION

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Treasurer was submitted seeking approval to the inclusion of the Castle Hill project in the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended to include the Castle Hill project in the Capital Programme, subject to confirmation of funding.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Treasurer, be authorised to negotiate a funding agreement with Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Limited to pass on the European Regional Development Fund's contractual obligations including grant clawback in order to mitigate risk to the Council.

COMMUNITY FIRST

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the Community First programme announced by the Government to provide neighbourhood grants to nine wards in the Borough.

Reference was made in the discussion to the rationale for the allocation of the grant, in the light of the wards selected for an award. The governance arrangements were also considered, in so far as the extent to which Members of the Council might be involved.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the introduction of the Community First programme be noted and that the approach outlined in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting be approved.
- (2) That a seminar for Members of the Council on the Community First Programme be held, the seminar to include advice on the accessing arrangements by communities for the grants allocated.

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for England with regard to the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Councillor Sparks, be authorised to examine any viable alternative proposal for Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries within the Borough and, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, make an appropriate submission to the public hearing to be held by the Boundary Commission for England.

63

ANNUAL REVIEW OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY 2011

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Annual Review of Equality and Diversity 2011.

RESOLVED

That the annual review of equality and diversity 2011 be approved.

64

ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No issues were reported under this item.

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL