

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Thursday, 13th 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 Blood, P Harley, Stanley, A Turner, Vickers and Mrs Walker

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

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

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Director of Corporate Resources, Director of the Urban Environment, Acting Director of Children's Services, Treasurer, Assistant Director (Human Resources and Organisational Development), the Director of Employers Services (West Midlands Councils) and the Democratic Services Manager.

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Adams.

47 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

No changes were reported.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ali, Crumpton, Foster and Lowe declared personal interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item No. 9 (Implementation of Single Status Grading and Pay Review) in view of their employment and/or membership of the trade unions referred to in the report.

Councillor Crumpton declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in Agenda Item No. 6 (Proposals for a Localised Council Tax Rebate Scheme in England – Consultation) in view of his employment with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2012/13

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/13 to 2014/15. The report also contained spending and funding options for consultation with Scrutiny Committees and representatives of Business Ratepayers.

In response to a request by a Member, the Cabinet Member for Finance undertook to provide a copy of the list of the groups to be consulted on the budget proposals as referred to in the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended to amend the 2011/12 budgets, as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report now submitted.
- (2) That the preliminary strategy outlined in the report now submitted be approved as a basis for further consultation.
- (3) That the various issues and risks, which will need to be taken into account in finalising budget proposals for 2012/13, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVIEW: PROPOSALS FOR BUSINESS RATES RETENTION – CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Government's proposals for local business rates retention and seeking approval for a response to the consultation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the responses given to the main consultation questions, as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be approved.
- (2) That the Treasurer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, be authorised:-

- (a) to respond to the questions in the technical papers, to be consistent with the responses to the main questions where relevant.
- (b) to contribute to a joint response by Black Country authorities where this is consistent with the responses in Appendix A to the report now submitted.

51 PROPOSALS FOR A LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX REBATE SCHEME
IN ENGLAND – CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the Government's proposals for a new, localised Council Tax rebate scheme and seeking approval for a response to the consultation.

Members raised concerns regarding the detrimental impact the changes might have on vulnerable people and the risks involved in the practical implementation of the new system in terms of its complexity and the envisaged timescales. Members also raised concerns regarding the detrimental effect the changes might have on the efficient systems currently operated in Dudley.

RESOLVED

That the proposed responses to the consultation questions, as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be approved.

52 STAFFING ISSUES – YEAR ONE BUDGET SAVINGS SUMMARY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on staffing issues giving a summary of the year one budget savings and associated issues.

The attention of Members was drawn to an amendment to the figures in paragraph 18 of the report as circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the contents of the report now submitted and the learning outcomes be noted.
- (2) That the draft outline timetable for year two savings, be noted.

- (3) That the Council seek expressions of interest in a voluntary redundancy process for year two savings to further support a reduction in compulsory redundancies and that the category of posts excluded at this stage be noted.
- (4) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and Governance, be authorised to determine all applications for voluntary redundancy including those where there are pension implications, up to a maximum of £2.5 million for direct redundancy costs and £1.5 million for the capitalised cost of pension strain.
- (5) That the Council be recommended to endorse the recommendations on staffing issues associated with the budget strategy for 2012/13 as appropriate.

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

53 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

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 I of Schedule 12A 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 I of Schedule 12A</u>
Implementation of Single Status – Grading and Pay Review	2 and 4

54 IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE STATUS – GRADING AND PAY REVIEW

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the implementation of the Single Status Grading and Pay Review. The Cabinet received a verbal update on the content of the report from the Director of Employers Services (West Midlands Councils).

The recommendations in the report, as amended, would be submitted to an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 18th October, 2011. Further reports would be submitted to the Cabinet as and when necessary.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations in the report submitted, as amended at the meeting, be considered by the Council at an extraordinary meeting to be held on 18th October, 2011.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL