

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 29th June, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor L Jones (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Faulkner, 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, Hanif, 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 and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Corporate Resources), together with other officers.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Adams, Blood, Foster and Wright.

2 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Hanif had been appointed to serve as a Minority Group representative in place of Councillor Foster, for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared a Personal or Prejudicial Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 16th March and 18th May, 2011, be approved as correct records and signed.

5 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2010/11

A report of the Treasurer was submitted setting out the provisional financial results for the Council for the year ended 31st March, 2011.

An assurance was given by the Leader that regular updates on the financial position regarding redundancy would be provided.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the draft outturn for 2010/11, be noted.
- (2) That the effect of the General Fund Revenue Outturn on General Balances at 31st March, 2011, be noted.
- (3) That the position on earmarked reserves at 31st March, 2011, be noted.
- (4) That the latest forecast General Fund Revenue position for 2011/12, be noted.
- (5) That the Council be recommended to amend the 2011/12 general fund revenue budgets, as set out in paragraph 20 of the report submitted to the meeting.

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

6 REVIEW OF HOUSING FINANCE

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Treasurer was submitted providing an update on developments in Housing Revenue Account (HRA) finance; and proposing revisions to HRA budgets to reflect latest financial forecasts and revisions to the Public Sector Housing Capital Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the latest position on Housing Revenue Account funding reform from 2012/13, be noted.
- (2) That authority be given to the disposal to Registered Providers of up to 30 void properties where the anticipated refurbishment costs are in excess of £10,000.
- (3) That approval be given, in principle, that all capital receipts arising from the sale of Housing Revenue Account assets continue to be used for the improvement of council homes (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing).
- (4) That the continued uncertainty around future years' funding arrangements for the Housing Revenue Account, be noted.
- (5) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) To approve the revised Housing Revenue Account budget for 2011/12, as set out in paragraph 8 and Appendix 1 of the report submitted to the meeting.
 - (b) To approve the amendments to the Public Sector Housing capital programme for 2011/12 to 2015/16, as set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 and Appendix 2 of the report submitted to the meeting.

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

7

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 withdrawal from the procurement via Local Improvement Financial Trust of a Health and Social Care Centre in Lye, be noted, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (b) That expenditure on parks and open spaces funded from successful bids by “Friends of Parks” and other similar groups be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (c) That expenditure to be funded from the Short Break grant be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (d) That the Area Committee capital budget allocations be approved, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- (e) That the Urgent Amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 10 to 12 of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

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

8 CITY STATUS APPLICATION

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the application for City Status as part of Her Majesty the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

RESOLVED

That the submission of a City Status application as part of Her Majesty the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations, be noted.

9 FUTURE OF LOCAL PUBLIC AUDIT - CONSULTATION

A joint report of the Director of Corporate Resources and the Treasurer was submitted to consider a response to the Department of Communities and Local Government consultation document on the future of local public audit.

It was reported that the draft response appended to the report now submitted had been endorsed at the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 28th June, 2011, subject to any comments made by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to respond to the Department of Communities and Local Government consultation on the future of public audit based on the information contained in the Appendix to the report.

10 QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the fourth Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report for 2010/11, relating to performance for the period 1st January to 31st March, 2011.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report for the period from the 1st January to the 31st March, 2011 be noted and its contents approved.
 - (2) That the information contained within the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report be referred to Scrutiny Committees to consider specific issues within their Terms of Reference.
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11 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking consideration of the appointment of Council representatives to outside organisations for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Minority Group Leader, as appropriate, be authorised to determine the appointment of representatives to serve on the outside organisations indicated in the Appendix to the report submitted to the meeting.

12 ADOPTION OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking consideration of the adoption of the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended that the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan be approved and adopted.

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

13 STOURBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN (AAP) (PREFERRED OPTIONS)

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the progress of the Stourbridge Area Action Plan (AAP) and to seek approval for the AAP Preferred Options (dated June 2011) as a basis for public consultation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the work being undertaken on the Stourbridge Area Action Plan, be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to the Stourbridge Area Action Plan Preferred Options (June 2011) as a basis for public consultation.

14 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No issues were reported under this item.

15 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 1 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>
Staffing Issues – year one budget savings	1

STAFFING ISSUES – YEAR ONE BUDGET SAVINGS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking approval to terminate the contracts of employment of the officers referred to in the report, on the grounds of redundancy in accordance with the Managing Employees at Risk of Redundancy Policy.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the termination of the contracts of employment of the officers referred to in the report submitted to the meeting be approved, on the grounds of redundancy, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the report.
- (2) That the current status of the employees whose termination of contract of employment on the grounds of redundancy was approved, as detailed in the report submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet dated 18th May, 2011, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7 p.m..

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL