



## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 5.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

### **Present:**

#### **Cabinet Members**

Councillor P Bradley (Deputy Leader - Vice-Chair in the Chair)  
Councillors P Atkins, R Buttery, S Clark, Dr R Clinton, M Rogers and  
L Taylor-Childs.

Councillor I Kettle (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) attended the meeting by invitation.

#### **Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet**

Labour Group: Councillors S Ali, A Aston, J Cowell, J Foster and S Ridney.

Independent Group: Councillors S Keasey and M Westwood.

#### **Officers**

K O'Keefe (Chief Executive), B Heran (Deputy Chief Executive), C Driscoll (Director of Children's Services), H Martin (Director of Regeneration and Enterprise), R Cooper (Head of Financial Services) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager)

Officers attending remotely via Microsoft Teams: L Fulci (Director of Digital, Customer and Commercial Services), M Abu Affan (Director of Public Health and Wellbeing), E Atkins (Interim Head of Projects and Placemaking) and A Westwood (Senior Project Manager)



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74 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Bayton, I Bevan, K Casey, D Corfield, P Harley, P Lowe, S Mughal and P Sahota.

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75 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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76 **Towns Fund Project Update Spring 2024**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted providing an update on the Health Innovation Dudley (HID) Towns Fund project, which sought the approvals and the necessary resources to progress to the next stage of the project.

The Director of Regeneration and Enterprise responded to questions from Opposition Group Members concerning the associated costs, the budget position and identified risks to the project.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the project update be noted.
  - (2) That the transition of the project from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the Insurance Backed Alliance (IBA) process be approved.
  - (3) That the Council be recommended to make a maximum provision of £1.871m in the capital programme to meet the project's cost pressures including the maximum 'pain share' and that this be funded by prudential borrowing if further external funding cannot be secured.
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77 **Questions to the Leader under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.5**

There were no questions to the Leader pursuant to Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.5.

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78 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved**

That the public and press 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 the relevant paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as set out below:

Minute No. 79 - paragraph 3 - relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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79 **Towns Fund Project Update Spring 2024**

Further to Minute No. 76 above, a report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the Health Innovation Dudley (HID) Towns Fund project.

**Resolved**

That the current position in respect to negotiations to acquire third party land and new rights within the Order Land, whilst a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is being promoted, be noted.

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The meeting ended at 5.25 pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL