

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Thursday 25th April, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillor Ali (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K Ahmed, Crumpton, Foster, Islam, Lowe, Partridge and Wood

together with the following Opposition Group Members appointed to attend meetings of the Cabinet:-

Conservative Group - Councillors Blood, Harley, James, Miller, K Turner, Vickers and Wright

OBSERVER:-

Councillor J Martin

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources, Director of Children's Services, Director of the Urban Environment, Director of Public Health, Treasurer, Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director of the Urban Environment and the Democratic Services Manager, together with other officers

94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

95 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF OPPOSITION GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Miller had been appointed to serve as an Opposition Group representative in place of Councillor Mrs Walker for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the Council's arrangements in advance of the 2013/14 municipal year.

The Leader expressed thanks to the Scrutiny Chairs for the production of the proposals, which would strengthen democratic accountability as part of the ongoing review of the Council's governance arrangements.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Corporate Resources advised that additional meetings of Scrutiny Committees would be convened as and when necessary to carry out the workload arising from the Annual Scrutiny Programme to be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. It was also clarified that the political proportionality rules would apply to the Board and the Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of specific reference to the Office of Public Health in the terms of reference of the Health Scrutiny Committee, the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report, be submitted to the annual meeting of the Council on 16th May, 2013.

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

DUDLEY MARKET PLACE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on matters associated with the delivery of the Dudley Market Place Public Realm Project.

The Cabinet noted that the outcome of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid was awaited. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration indicated that should the funding bid be unsuccessful, a programme of works would be maintained and alternative sources of funding would be investigated.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the positive support arising from the consultation exercise undertaken for the Dudley Market Place proposals be noted.

- (2) That the Council be recommended to include the expenditure of £6.7m on the Dudley Market Place project in the Capital Programme, subject to the approval of the European Regional Development Fund grant.

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EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) APPLICATIONS

A joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking approval for the Council to act as Guarantor on European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) applications submitted by third party organisations.

Members welcomed the report and asked that the Equality Impact section of the report be supplemented in future to make reference to the wider benefits, implications and added value of the individual schemes referred to.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council act as a Guarantor for the projects outlined in paragraph 3 of the report now submitted, and for any further such projects in the current 2007-13 and future 2014-2020 European Programmes, where there is a realisable chargeable asset to and where a risk assessment has been undertaken that identifies acceptable risk to the Council.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake the necessary property valuations and legal work to ensure that the proposed charging of the assets is sufficient to protect the Council's position and the cost of this be met by the relevant third party organisation.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Law and Governance, in consultation with the Directors of the Urban Environment and Corporate Resources, be authorised to;
 - (a) Enter into back to back legal agreements with third parties benefiting from ERDF grant where the Council is the Guarantor to ensure grant conditions and liabilities are passed on.

- (b) Ensure that, where appropriate, third parties secure at their own expense independent expertise to confirm compliance with key areas of the ERDF grant process such as procurement and defrayment of expenditure accord with European Union (EU) requirements.

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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 indicated 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 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Staffing Issues – 2013/14 Budget Savings	1

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STAFFING ISSUES – 2013/14 BUDGET SAVINGS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted seeking approval to terminate the contracts of employment of employees, on the grounds of redundancy, in accordance with the Managing Employees at Risk of Redundancy policy and the Retraining and Redeployment policy.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to terminate the contracts of employment of up to 8 employees referred to in the report now submitted on the grounds of redundancy.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL