

MEETING OF THE CABINET – 10th SEPTEMBER, 2008

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 10th September, 2008, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Minutes	That the minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 th June, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.
Spending Projections 2008/09	<p>That the Council be recommended:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) To approve the allocations from General Balances to fund the budget adjustments set out in paragraph 4.(2) To note the spending pressures outlined in paragraph 5.(3) To reiterate to all Cabinet Members, Directors and budget holders the need to exercise stringent budgetary control for the remainder of the current financial year in accordance with the Council's Approved Financial Management Regime.(4) To note the effects on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.(5) To take action to replenish General Balances when the opportunity arises.
Update of the Council's Capital Strategy	That the draft Capital Strategy be agreed as the basis of consultation with Select Committees.
Community Renewal Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) That the Council be recommended to support the draft multi-agency Community Renewal Strategy.(2) That the progress made within Community Renewal since its transfer to the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services be noted.
Empty Homes Strategy 2008-2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) That the Empty Homes Strategy 2008-2011 be approved.(2) That the maximum grant assistance allowed for owners of empty properties be increased to £10,000.

Draft Post 19 Learning and Skills Strategy	That the draft Post 19 Learning and Skills Strategy be approved.
Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report	<p>(1) That the content of the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report submitted to the meeting be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the information contained within the Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report be referred to Select Committees to consider specific issues within their terms of reference.</p>
Revised Code of Corporate Governance	That the Council be recommended to approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
Review of the Constitution	<p>(1) That the report be noted and referred to the Council.</p> <p>(2) That the Council be recommended to authorise the Audit Committee to determine any amendments to Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders, including those relating to Schools.</p>
Capital Programme Monitoring	<p>(1) That the current progress with the 2008/09 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the results of the Post Completion Reviews of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B, be noted.</p>

That the Council be recommended:-

- (1) To approve the Adult, Community and Housing ICT Strategy projects and their inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5.
- (2) To give approval for a Section 8 agreement to be entered into with Staffordshire County Council, and that the drainage works at Norton Road/County Lane, Stourbridge be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6.
- (3) To approve the scheme to refurbish the toilets at Lister Road Garage and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7.

- (4) To note the successful grant applications for the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) project, and to include the related expenditure in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8.
- (5) To approve the improvements at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve and its inclusion in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9.
- (6) To note the Play Pathfinder grant allocation, and that subject to final Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) approval, the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10.
- (7) To amend the Capital Programme to include the costs resulting from the flooding incident at the Highfields site, as set out in paragraph 11.
- (8) To note the Urgent Amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 12-15.

Food Service Plan
2008/2009

That the content of the Food Service Plan of the Directorate of the Urban Environment 2008/2009 be noted and referred to full Council.

Local Involvement Network
(LINKs) in Dudley

That the progress towards establishing a LINK in Dudley to be provided by Shaw Trust be supported.

Transformation of Social
Care; The Personalisation
Agenda

- (1) That the development of the Personalisation agenda be approved.
- (2) That a member's workshop on Personalisation on 30th October 2008 at Himley Hall (from 1.00pm with the workshop from 2.00pm until 5.00pm) be supported.
- (3) That the Personalisation framework for implementation as detailed in paragraphs 15 to 27 be approved.

Proposed Dudley Mosque
and Community Training and
Enterprise Centre

- (1) That a decision on whether or not to enforce the right to buy-back the site at Hall Street, Dudley be deferred pending further consultation and the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment.

- (2) That the making of an application to the High Court for a judicial review, as referred to in paragraph 10 of the report, be approved.
- Annual Letter 2007/08 from the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of Complaints made against the Council
- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report submitted be noted and that the Chief Executive and Directors be requested to:-
- (i) review their internal arrangement, as appropriate, so as to address in particular the issue of premature complaints to the Ombudsman; and
- (ii) so that response times continue to improve, they continue to ensure that requests for information on complaints received are dealt with by the date requested so that responses can be submitted to the Ombudsman's office within the time scales set.
- (2) That the Annual Letter be posted on the Council's website.
- (3) That a copy of the report be forwarded to the Ombudsman, together with a copy of the decision taken, as the Council's formal response to his letter.
- South Black Country Enterprise and Innovation Centre
- (1) That the South Black Country Enterprise and Innovation Centre project be supported.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, be authorised to commence the process of seeking the most appropriate private sector partner for the development of the Centre.
- (3) That the Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery be authorised to make preparations for the submission of a planning application for the Centre on the Castle Gate site.
- (4) That the Directors of the Urban Environment, Children's Services and Adult, Community and Housing Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economic Regeneration, Children's Services and Adult and Community Services be authorised to investigate and then develop

an appropriate combination of Higher Education Institute (HEI) providers with a strong regional track record of delivery against the 3 core strengths of a) engagement of local people and businesses in relation to enterprise and innovation, b) higher level innovation and enterprise expertise and c) a wealth of research experience linked to innovation and enterprise.

- (5) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economic Regeneration, Children's Services and Adult and Community Services working with partners, be authorised to bring forward proposals for appropriate governance of the Centre.
- (6) That further updates on this project be provided to the Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education.

Strata (Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve) Project and Step Shaft Mine

- (1) That Option C, as set out in the report, be supported involving the infilling of the Step Shaft Gallery with aggregate to provide support to the gallery as the first phase in the permanent stabilisation of the mine thereby retaining the unique gallery and enabling access to be gained in the future.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment and the Director of Finance explore Council funding opportunities to fund Option C as part of this year's budget review process and, subject to any necessary approval of the Council, incorporate the project within the Council's Capital Programme.

Exclusion of the Public

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

Description of Item

Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A

Portway Close garage site, Kingswinford, Regeneration Project 3

Staffing Issues – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services 1

- Portway Close garage site, Kingswinford, Regeneration Project
- (1) That approval be given to dispose of the land at Portway Close garage site, Kingswinford, for the purposes of social housing.
 - (2) That approval be given to dispose of the land to Black Country Housing Group Ltd upon terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.

Staffing Issue – AE - Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services

That the request for voluntary severance in respect of the officer referred to in the report submitted to the meeting be approved on the terms and conditions set out in the report.

Staffing Issues – JJ - Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services

That the request for voluntary severance in respect of the officer referred to in the report submitted to the meeting be approved on the terms and conditions set out in the report.

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet. Copies of the public reports are available from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Law and Property (contact 01384 815235 or e-mail steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Council's Website www.dudley.gov.uk and follow the links to Council Decisions/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to full Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 11th September, 2008, unless a Select Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

J POLYCHRONAKIS
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

The Council House
Priory Road
Dudley
West Midlands

Dated: 11th September, 2008