

MEETING OF THE CABINET - 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006

The Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, made the following decisions:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Local Transport Plan 2005/06 to 2010/11	That the Council be recommended to approve the Local Transport Plan (LTP2) for submission to the Government and the action taken by the Leader of the Council, to approve the West Midlands Transport Innovation Fund Bid, be confirmed.
Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Highways Capital Programme for 2006/07.	<p>That the Transport Capital Settlement for 2006/2007 be noted.</p> <p>That the Council be recommended:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) To approve the report and the allocation of Transport Capital Funding as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the meeting.</li><li>(2) To approve the following:-<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) The schemes identified in Appendix 2 – Bridge Strengthening and that advance work be undertaken on bridges not included in the current year.</li><li>(b) The structural schemes indicated in Appendix 3 – Retaining Walls, Appendix 4 – Upgrading Approaches and Appendix 5 – Upgrading of Parapets; that advance work be undertaken on highway structures not included in the current year; that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to bring forward construction work as funding permits in respect of the schemes identified and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to consider urgent work on walls not included in the appendix.</li><li>(c) The scheme to relight Cinder Bank and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to approve the programme of Street Lighting improvement and the programme of Highway Maintenance as set out in the report.</li><li>(d) The Bus Showcase schemes identified in appendix 6 and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work on bus showcase schemes as funding is made available.</li></ol></li></ol>

- (e) The work identified at King Street, as set out in the report; the schemes identified in Appendix 7 – Local Safety Schemes (subject to the inclusion of an additional local safety scheme for Hagley Road and New Road, Stourbridge in 2006/07); Appendix 8 – Proposed Safer Routes to School; and Appendix 9 – Pedestrian Crossing Programme; and that the Director of the Urban Environment be authorised to undertake work from the reserve programme as funding permits.
- (f) That the Director of Law and Property, in conjunction with the Director of The Urban Environment, be authorised to acquire land and property associated with approved schemes as funding allows.
- (g) That the Director of The Urban Environment continue to progress the highway improvement programme associated with outcomes from the Black Country Study and regeneration initiatives as set out in the report.
- (h) That the Director of the Urban Environment support demand management as part of the West Midlands Transportation Innovation Fund Study and that a further report be submitted in due course.
- (i) That the Director of Law and Property continue to retain land in the Council's ownership adjacent to the corridors previously identified within the West Midlands Area Multi Modal Study.
- (j) That the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment, be authorised to identify and, where appropriate, implement any remedial works to local safety schemes of a minor nature, the introduction of antiskid material and provision of variable speed message signs and mobile speed camera sites as set out in the report.
- (k) That to enable the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network Scheme to be progressed, finance up to £2.1m be made available from the Councils Capital resources to be paid back in full following the satisfactory resolution of statutory procedures and the release of Government capital support for the scheme.
- (l) That the funding bid of £8.5m included in the Regional Prioritisation for the Brierley Hill Scheme be confirmed.
- (m) The development of a bus quality network for Brierley Hill.

Approval for Public Consultation on the Draft Supplementary Planning Documents for Nature Conservation and the Historic Environment.	<p>That the Director of the Urban Environment issue the two draft Supplementary Planning Documents for public consultation subject to the comments made at the meeting.</p> <p>That following public consultation and amendments, the Supplementary Planning Documents be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and adoption in July 2006.</p>
Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2005.	The Cabinet noted the contents of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter from the Audit Commission and the views of the Auditor.
Report on Progress in Developing a Strategy for Older People.	<p>That, subject to minor editorial amendments, the draft strategy for Older People be endorsed and that a publication launch be held at the third Older People's Consultation Conference in April 2006.</p> <p>That the actions for the Council within the strategy document be endorsed for incorporation into respective Directorate Strategic Plans.</p>
Remodelling of Council Services.	<p>That the progress identified in the report on establishing the Children's and Adult, Community and Housing Services Directorates be noted.</p> <p>That the proposed outline management structure for the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services as identified in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.</p> <p>That the functional structure proposed for the delivery of Business Services within the new Directorates as identified in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.</p> <p>That the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services in conjunction with the relevant lead members and officers, be authorised to implement all relevant Council employment procedures and practices necessary to establish her new Directorate in line with the principles identified within the report.</p> <p>That the position of the specific post-holders referred to in the report be the subject of consideration in the additional report submitted in the private session of this meeting.</p>
Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2006/07	<p>That the Council be recommended to approve the following:-</p> <p>(1) The budget requirement for 2006/07 and service allocations set out in paragraph 13 of the report.</p>

- (2) The statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending; income and use of reserves; budget requirement and; transfers to and from its collection fund as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report to the meeting.
- (3) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 2 of the report, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for Dudley Council services for 2006/07:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£641.69	£748.64	£855.58	£962.53	£1,176.43	£1,390.32	£1,604.22	£1,925.06

- plus the amounts to be notified for the Police and Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.

That the Council remind the Chief Executive and Directors to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2006/07 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years.

That the Council authorise the Chief Executive and Directors to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report to the meeting, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.

That the provisional Annual Efficiency Statement as set out in Attachment A to the report be noted.

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out as attachment B to the report be approved.

Deployment of Resources:  
Housing Revenue Account  
and Public Sector Housing  
Capital.

The Council be recommended to:

- (1) Approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2006/07 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (2) Approve a rent of £4.00 per week for garages in the Dudley area, with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, and further borrowing of £236,000 earmarked for investment in garage sites in the Dudley area as outlined in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (3) Approve the public-sector housing revised capital budget for 2005/06 and capital budget for 2006/07 to 2008/09 attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
- (4) Authorise the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to manage the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 13 of the report.

Capital Programme  
Monitoring and Capital  
Programme 2006/07

- (5) Authorise the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services to procure and enter into contracts for the delivery of the capital programme, as outlined in paragraph 14 of the report.
- (6) Approve the extension of contracts for level access showers and access ramps as outlined in paragraph 15 of the report.
- (7) Approve the medium-term financial strategy set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

That current progress with the 2005/06 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 2 and appendix A of the report be noted.

That the results of the Post Completion Reviews of capital projects, as set out in Appendix B be noted.

That the Council be recommended:-

- (a) That each Supported Capital Expenditure (SCE) be earmarked to the relevant service, but with a particular emphasis on demonstrating appropriate prioritisation within service programmes, and within spend headings.
- (b) That Housing capital receipts be earmarked to be spent on Housing capital schemes.
- (c) That the Private Sector Housing Investment Programme for 2006/07 be approved.
- (d) That the Education capital resources and related schemes be included in the Capital Programme as appropriate.
- (e) That the items of Social Services capital expenditure be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (f) That subject to the relevant element of the Revenue Budget Strategy being agreed, the expenditure to be funded from prudential borrowing be approved.
- (g) That the grant towards affordable housing at Stocking Street be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (h) That the Section 106 funded expenditure on Lye Local Centre be included in the Capital Programme.
- (i) That the expenditure to extend the children's play area at Mary Stevens Park be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

- (j) That the expenditure on seating at Buffery Park be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (k) That the replacement of doors at the Lister Road Transport Maintenance Workshops be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (l) That the Car Park Improvements be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (m) That the project to install a Pedestrian Crossing on Stourbridge Ring Road be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (n) That any Children's Play Initiative projects of a capital nature be included in the Capital Programme.
- (o) That subject to funding being available, the project for a Wind Turbine at the Robert Street School Environment Zone be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (p) That the expenditure on a Corporate Booking System and its inclusion in the Capital Programme.
- (q) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme relating to Lye Children's Centre, be noted.
- (r) To agree the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix C.

Scale of Fees and Expenses for Borough Council Elections.

That the Scale of Fees and Expenses as contained in Appendix 'A' to the report be approved with effect for all local elections held after 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006.

Neighbourhood Management Annual Report

That the contents of the annual report be noted.

That Directorates consider how they can reflect their contribution to the neighbourhood management approach within Directorate plans.

That the contribution of neighbourhood management to the local implementation of services and strategies be recognised.

Dudley Area Development Framework: Cavendish Quarter – Compulsory Purchase Powers.

That subject to English Partnerships or their development partner entering into a suitable indemnity agreement to cover any costs incurred, the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order(s) under Section 226 (1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the acquisition of the land shown on the Plan attached to the report, or the acquisition of new rights, for the purpose of securing mixed use development including, office, residential, leisure, ancillary retail and car parking in accordance with the proposals more fully described in the Dudley Town Centre Area Development Framework.

That the Director of Law and Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration be authorised to: -

- (a) take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order(s) including the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry;
- (b) acquire interests in land and new rights within the compulsory purchase order(s) either by agreements or compulsorily; and
- (c) Approve agreements with land owners setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order, including where appropriate seeking exclusion of land or new rights from the Order and/or making arrangements for relocation of occupiers.

That the Director of Law and Property be authorised to negotiate and complete any undertakings with English Partnerships regarding costs and any required development agreement(s) prior to the making of any Order(s).

(Private Session Item)  
Remodelling of Council Services – Voluntary Severance.

That the application for voluntary severance in respect of the post of Personal Assistant to the Director of Social Services (CB) be approved.  
(NB: The application in respect of the other post holder referred to in the report was withdrawn).

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2006. Where these were considered in public session, copies of the reports are available from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Law and Property (contact Steve Griffiths, 01384 815235). Except where matters have been referred to full Council or where decisions referred to in the Capital Programme Monitoring and Capital Programme 2006/07 have been taken under Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 unless a Select Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

JOHN POLYCHRONAKIS  
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

Council House, Priory Road, Dudley  
Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.