

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET

Thursday, 13th October, 2005 at 5.00 pm
In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Fraser-Macnamara, Mrs Martin, Miller, Mrs
Millward, Mrs Shakespeare and Vickers.

Minority Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Cabinet:
Councillors Ali, G H Davies, Ms Foster and Tomkinson (Labour Group)
and Councillor Tyler (Liberal Democrat Group)

Officers

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Property,
Director of the Urban Environment; Messrs Anderson, Pattinson and
Mrs Ford (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr Griffiths
(Directorate of Law and Property).

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st
September, 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

58

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared a personal or prejudicial interest, in accordance
with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any item to be
considered at this meeting.

59

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Sparks and C L Woodall.

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CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Tomkinson was serving in place of Councillor Sparks as a representative of the Labour Group for this meeting of the Cabinet only.

61

BLACK COUNTRY STUDY – OPTIONS DOCUMENT AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking endorsement of the process in respect of the Black Country Study and approval for the West Midlands Regional Assembly to use the consultation (Black Country Options) document as a basis for public consultation.

The Cabinet was also requested to endorse the use of the technical work, commissioned by the Black Country Consortium, by the West Midlands Regional Assembly as the evidence base for consultation on the Black Country Study.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended:-

- (1) That the process in relation to the Black Country Study be endorsed and that the Regional Assembly use the (Black Country Options) Document as the basis for public consultation.
 - (2) That the technical work commissioned by the Black Country Consortium be used by the West Midlands Regional Assembly as the evidence base for consultation on the Black Country Study.
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62

WEDNESBURY TO BRIERLEY HILL EXTENSION – MIDLAND METRO

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking authority for the signing of an agreement with CENTRO for the construction of the Midland Metro from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

The proposed agreement would include the Council retaining responsibility for an anticipated risk associated with the embankment construction. The agreement would also require the Council to bear any additional cost as a result of the requirement to cross the new highway to be constructed as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network (BHSAN) scheme. The design for the new road was complete and it was considered that any additional costs arising to Metro would be charged to the BHSAN scheme. All endeavours would be undertaken to ensure that costs were minimised. The BHSAN scheme was funded from the Local Transport Plan settlement.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Law and Property be authorised to complete the agreement with CENTRO in respect of the construction of the Midland Metro as set out in the report now submitted.

The meeting ended at 5.06 pm.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL