



Minutes of the Cabinet

**Wednesday 20th September, 2023 at 6.00pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House,
Priory Road, Dudley**

Present:

Cabinet Members

Councillor P Harley (Leader - Chair)
Councillor P Bradley (Deputy Leader - Vice-Chair)
Councillors I Bevan, S Clark, D Corfield and Dr R Clinton.

Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet

Councillors S Ali, C Bayton, J Cowell, J Foster, S Mughal, S Ridney and P Sahota.

Observer

Councillor I Kettle.

Officers

K O'Keefe (Chief Executive), H Martin (Director of Regeneration and Enterprise), I Newman (Director of Finance and Legal) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager).

22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Aston, P Atkins, R Buttery, K Casey, P Lowe, M Rogers and L Taylor-Childs.



23 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J Cowell declared a non-pecuniary interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, as a Council tenant.

24 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July, 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

25 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Legal was submitted on progress with the implementation of and proposed amendments to the Capital Programme.

Cabinet Members and Officers responded to questions raised at the meeting concerning public sector decarbonisation, major regeneration projects (including risks), Very Light Rail and Council housing projects. The question raised by Councillor S Ridney concerning CCTV in Roseville, Coseley would be referred to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities for an urgent response.

Resolved

- (1) That progress with the 2023/24 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.
- (2) That the new firewalls budget of £460,000, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report, be approved and included in the Capital Programme.
- (3) That the approval and inclusion within the Capital Programme of the budget of £26,000 for the Holiday Activities and Food Programme funded fully by the grant, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be noted.

- (4) That the transfer of £75,000 between the ICT Strategy and Storage Area Network, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report, be approved.
- (5) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme for additional costs in the Fire Suppression works contract for £70,000, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

26 **West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – West Midlands Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the necessary actions in advance of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board meeting on 13th October, 2023 to support the ratification of the trailblazer deeper devolution deal.

Feedback on the draft Governance Review and Scheme would be forwarded to WMCA to enable any amendments to be made to the final drafts prior to approval at the WMCA Board. It was noted that similar reports were being considered by the other West Midlands Councils.

Members welcomed the report and supported the proposals. The Leader and the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise responded to questions concerning the implications for the Dudley Local Plan and the need to ensure staff resources were deployed to deliver on key priorities.

The Director of Regeneration and Enterprise undertook to clarify a discrepancy identified by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change concerning the financial values shown in the report relating to Air Quality Sensors.

Resolved

That the Leader be authorised to assent to the ratification of the deal on behalf of the Council, at the meeting of the West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 13th October, 2023, and to take any necessary or consequential actions to proceed with the deal implementation.

27 **Questions from Members to the Leader (Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.5)**

No questions were raised under this agenda item.

The meeting ended at 6.50pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL