

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 5th December, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillors K Ahmed, Branwood, Crumpton, Foster, Partridge, S
Turner, Waltho and Wood

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

Conservative Group - Councillors Harley, James, Kettle, Miller, Vickers
and Wright

OFFICERS:-

The Chief Executive, the Director and Interim Director of Children's
Services, the Director of Corporate Resources, the Director of the Urban
Environment, the Director of Public Health, the Treasurer, the Assistant
Director of Corporate Resources (Human Resources and Organisational
Development), the Interim Assistant Director for Adult Social Care and
the Assistant Principal Officer (Democratic Services) – Richard Sanders.

45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Lowe and Mrs Simms.

46 CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Miller was serving in place of Councillor
Mrs Simms for this meeting of the Cabinet only. It was also reported that
Councillor Kettle was serving for this meeting in place of Councillor K
Turner, further to the resignation of the latter from the Conservative
Group.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

48

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30th October, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

49

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and proposing certain amendments to the Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended that current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme as set out in Appendices A and B to the report submitted to the meeting be noted.
- (2) That the results of the Post Completion Review of capital projects, as set out in Appendix C to the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.

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

50

REVIEW OF BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted updating Cabinet on the outcomes of a review of the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief policy and containing associated proposals.

RESOLVED

That the proposals contained in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting be approved, as follows:

- (1) That no changes to the eligibility criteria and amount of relief awarded via the current policy be made, meaning that charities will continue to pay no rates and other eligible organisations will retain their current rate reductions.
 - (2) That entitlements be awarded for one financial year at a time, rather than indefinitely, as is the case at present.
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CORPORATE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on corporate performance for the period 1st July to 30th September, 2013. The Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 20th November, 2013.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Corporate Quarterly Performance Management report be approved.
 - (2) That the consideration of the report by the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee be noted.
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BLACK COUNTRY CITY DEAL

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted seeking Cabinet approval for the Council to become a joint signatory to the Black Country City Deal document. The key themes which formed the basis of the City Deal proposal were set out in paragraph 6 of the report now submitted.

The report indicated that the four Black Country authorities were being asked to sign up to the principle of the Black Country City Deal Programme as referred to in the report.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign the Black Country City Deal document.
 - (2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet detailing any proposed financial commitments by the Council arising from negotiations in relation to specific elements of the City Deal process.
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DUDLEY GRID FOR LEARNING 3 – PROJECT MID POINT REVIEW

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted setting out the current position regarding the Dudley Grid for Learning 3 project and containing proposals for actions arising from a need to review the project further to the cessation of Private Finance Initiative funding and feedback from schools concerning their desire for flexibility in the service received, in order to meet their individual needs.

RESOLVED

That the current position with the Dudley Grid for Learning (DGfL) project be noted and that the actions below be approved:

- (1) That consultation commence to inform the new flexible provisions to be made available for the second five years of the existing contract;
- (2) That the local authority client team work closely with RM PLC to define the new offer and ensure appropriate contract Key Performance Indicators properly support its delivery;
- (3) That to maintain oversight during this period of change the DGfL3 Executive Steering Board be re-convened in April 2014 to ensure senior leaders within the local authority have knowledge of and opportunity to feed into these developments and that the existing DGfL3 Steering Board continue to be the vehicle through which school consultation and dialogue will be obtained.
- (4) That, in response to the schools budgetary timetable, the new offer be presented to schools in Autumn 2014 in preparation for delivery from 1st February 2016.

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ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No issues were reported under this item.

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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 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

Staffing Issues – Children’s Services

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STAFFING ISSUES – CHILDREN’S SERVICES

A report of the Director of Children's Services containing proposals for the termination of the contracts of employment of certain staff on the grounds of redundancy. An updated report with a revised appendix had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the termination of the contracts of employment of the employees referred to in the revised appendix to the report submitted to the meeting be approved, on the grounds of redundancy, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the report and appendix.

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL