

Meeting of the Cabinet – 15th December, 2021

Notice of Decisions

Notice is given that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 15th December, 2021, made the following decisions in respect of the items listed.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Decisions</u>
Capital Programme Monitoring	That the additional costs identified for the Himley Road Homes for Sale scheme be approved and included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted.
Medium Term Financial Strategy	<p>(1) That the actions of the External Auditors, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted, be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the forecast variances to budget in 2021/22 and progress with delivery of savings, as set out in paragraph 9 and Appendices B and C of the report submitted, be noted.</p> <p>(3) That the various issues and risks which will need to be taken into account in finalising Budget proposals for 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.</p> <p>(4) That the preliminary financial strategy, as outlined in the report submitted, be approved as a basis for scrutiny and consultation.</p>
Home to School Transport Policy	<p>(1) That the information contained within the report about the proposed changes be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Children’s Services be authorised to organise and conduct statutory consultation on the proposals.</p>
To Submit Stage 2 Business Case for the Towns Fund Deal	(1) That the submission of the Stage 2 Business Case to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the £25m Towns Fund to build a Health Innovation Centre on Castle Hill, be approved

	<p>(2) That the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise submit a report to the Cabinet in due course, seeking authority for the Council to use its Compulsory Purchase Powers, to enable the site assembly, if willing negotiations to make land and property transactions cannot be satisfactorily concluded.</p>
<p>The Brierley Hill Plan – Approval of Issues and Options Report for Consultation</p>	<p>(1) That the Brierley Hill Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be approved for a seven-week consultation period from 10th January to 28th February 2022, to be carried out in line with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement 2020.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise be authorised to make any non-substantive changes considered necessary to the document, and any associated consultation documents, prior to their publication</p>
<p>Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21</p>	<p>That the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020/21 be approved.</p>
<p>Section 141 Policing and Crime Act 2017 Review of Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2022</p>	<p>That the recommendation of the Licensing and Safety Committee be endorsed and the Council be recommended to approve the retention of the Cumulative Impact Policy in respect of the specified area of Stourbridge Town Centre.</p>
<p>Review of Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles)</p>	<p>(1) That the recommendations of the Licensing and Safety Committee, be endorsed.</p> <p>(2) That the Council be recommended to approve the revised Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles).</p>
<p>Annual Review of the Constitution</p>	<p>That the Council be recommended to approve:</p> <p>(a) The recommendations of the Audit and Standards Committee concerning the adoption of the revised Members' Code of Conduct and Standards Arrangements, effective from 6th May, 2022, together with the necessary revision of the Constitution, as set out in paragraphs 6 to 12 and Appendix 1 of the report submitted.</p> <p>(b) The amendments to the Petition Scheme, as set out in paragraphs 13, 14 and Appendix 2 of the report submitted.</p> <p>(c) The incorporation of the Best Consideration Protocol into Part 6 of the Constitution, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted.</p>

- (d) The amendment of Article 4.02(a) and Cabinet Procedure Rule 1.2(c) to reflect the process for making amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in Part 3 of the Constitution, as set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report submitted.
- (e) The arrangements for making nominations concerning the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen, as set out in paragraphs 18 to 21 of the report submitted.

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

Question put by Councillor C Bayton as follows:-

“My question at the public debate at full Council on 29th November. My question to the Leader then was at what point will the Black Country Plan (BCP) be presented to all 72 councillors to vote on either adoption or rejection? In order to maintain democracy in the borough it is vital that all 72 elected members have the opportunity to represent, and be seen to represent, the views of the residents they are elected to serve.

Response from the Leader:-

Following the recent Black Country Plan consultation, a revised version of the draft Plan will be prepared. This version of the Plan will form the Publication Plan which will be published, subject to Cabinet approval, for consultation in summer 2022.

Following the consultation in summer 2022, the Publication version of the Plan will be amended. It will then be considered by Cabinet and Full Council in early 2023 to seek approval to submit the Plan to the Secretary of State for an independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

The submission of the Plan will allow the important process of the Examination in Public (EiP) to take place. This is a crucial aspect of Plan preparation where an independent planning inspector is appointed by the Government to examine the ‘soundness’ and legal compliance of the Plan. Importantly, the Inspector will also have the opportunity to consider all the consultation responses made to the most recent Publication draft of the Local Plan, which the Council will have previously consulted. The EiP process is therefore an opportunity for those who made objections to the Plan at the Publication stage to have their views considered by the Inspector. At this stage we expect the examination to take place during 2023.

Subject to the outcome of the examination process, Full Council will then be asked to formally adopt the Black Country Plan. This is likely to be in Spring 2024.

Details of the above items are set out in the reports considered at the Cabinet meeting.

The public reports may be obtained from Democratic Services (contact 01384 815238) or e-mail democratic.services@dudley.gov.uk or on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website (www.dudley.gov.uk)

Except where matters have been referred to the Full Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days from 16th December, 2021 unless a Scrutiny Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands

Dated: 16th December, 2021

(Display until 24th December, 2021)