

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 23 March 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Tom Ansell	Leader of the Council
Councillor John O'Hare	Deputy Leader and Resources and Performance Management
Councillor Eddie Hughes	Children's Services
Councillor Zahid Ali	Community engagement and organisational development
Councillor Garry Perry	Culture and Leisure
Councillor Marco Longhi	Environment
Councillor Alan Paul	Health and Social Care
Councillor Melvin Pitt	Housing and Community Safety
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration

1260 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2005, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

1261 Declarations of interest

Councillor Perry declared a personal prejudicial interest in items 23 (Partnership agreement for learning disability pooled budget) and 24 (Resources Scrutiny and Performance Panel report on Best Value and left the meeting during consideration of the items.

1262 Forward Plan

The forward plan as at 17 February 2005 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

In view of the public interest in item 21 on the agenda, Cabinet agreed to take this item first.

1263 Modernisation of the Community Meals Service

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the adoption of option 3 (the provision of a meals service that can be delivered daily as hot food or weekly or fortnightly as frozen food) as the preferred way forward for the development of the Council's community meals service.
- (2) That the Cabinet agree that further work is undertaken in the next phase of the project to evaluate the potential for supplying prime cooked food as an alternative to hot, previously frozen, food to meet the hot food element of the scheme.
- (3) That Cabinet to agree that full service specifications and draft contracts are developed in consultation with service users and carers, and reported to Cabinet for final approval in September 2005.
- (4) That the Cabinet note the resolutions of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel from 10 March 2005 and that attention to these will be a part of the future work in remodelling the service. The Panel resolved that it:
 - (a) Endorsed the recommendations in the report;
 - (b) Welcomed the retention of prime cook as an option for remodelling the service;
 - (c) Had concerns over issues relating to risk assessments, care plans and preventative measures;
 - (d) Wanted to ensure that service users have a real choice and not be pressured;
 - (e) Wanted to see more extensive and thorough consultation;
 - (f) Wanted support to be given to the in-house provision to ensure that it is in a fair position to provide options.

1264 Corporate Plan 2005–2006

Councillor Ansell presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Corporate Plan be adopted as part of the policy framework.

1265 Corporate financial performance 2004/5

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following currently estimated 2004/5 year end forecasts be noted:

- (a) An estimated net revenue under spend of c £1.27m and estimated general reserves (before allocation) of c£6.12m;
- (b) A surplus of c£6.86m on the capital programme, due to additional HRA receipts above those estimated at the time the 2004/5 capital programme was set and slippage of projects (£4.432m) which will be utilised in 2005/6.

1266 Developing a Local Public Service Agreement (LAPSA) for Walsall

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the alignment of Local Area Agreements with Local Public Service Agreements be noted;
- (2) That approval be given for a Local Area Agreement and Local Public Service Agreement application to be made by Walsall;
- (3) That the Executive Director (Finance, Law and Performance) be delegated authority to prepare and submit an application to become a pilot for a Local Area Agreement;

- (4) That it be noted that Walsall's final LAA/LPSA submission will be presented to Cabinet for approval, if we are selected as part of the Local Area Agreement pilot.

1267 Land in Blakenall Heath/Harden: Housing Renewal Project

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Ansell responded to residents concerns raised at the meeting in respect of public consultation and referred residents to the Walsall Housing Group.

Resolved

That agreement in principle be given to the use of compulsory purchase powers in respect of properties in Blakenall/Harden which form the Housing Renewal Project Phase 2 within the general area as shown on plan no. EPMS2767, subject to the full costs of such action being met by Walsall Housing Group, in the event that it is not possible to acquire the properties by negotiation.

1268 Determination of admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2006/7

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the admission arrangements for primary and secondary community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2006/2007 as set out in this report be agreed.
- (2) That publication of the associated statutory notice be approved.
- (3) That the responses, provided in Appendix 2, to the comments received during the formal period of consultation on the admission arrangements, be noted.
- (4) That Education Walsall inform all consultees of the determination of the admission arrangements for 2006/07.

1269 Moxley Infant School and Dorothy Purcell Junior School

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to statutory proposals to:-

- (a) close Moxley Infants School from 31 August 2005
- (b) close Dorothy Purcell Junior School from 31 August 2005
- (c) open a replacement primary school from 1 September 2005.

1270 Resources for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the arrangements for the allocation and use of £250,000 to support projects identified in local neighbourhood partnership plans, as outlined in Section 4 and Appendix 1 of this report,
- (2) That the arrangements for supporting LNPs and partners in seeking external funding be welcomed.
- (3) That members of the WBSP be encouraged to ensure that there is a mechanism for links to be made between their mainstream service and financial planning processes and LNPs.

1271 Local Neighbourhood Partnership plans

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet endorse the initial areas for action identified by the LNPs as outlined in Section 2 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
- (2) That the arrangements in place for LNPs to take forward these actions be welcomed.

1272 Realising our Vision – working with the community and voluntary sector

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the report be received and note that the conference report is available in group rooms.
- (2) That the Cabinet agree to work with statutory partners and with the community and voluntary sector locally to develop an action plan which builds overall capacity in the community and voluntary sector and which reviews and strengthens the relationship between the Council itself and the sector.

1273 Principles into practice: The Library Service review improvement plan

Councillor Perry presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the plan of action for the achievement of excellence by the Library Service, within the Council's vision for 2008 be agreed.

1274 The development of Walsall's Youth Service in 2005

Councillor Perry presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the actions being taken in respect to the Ofsted inspection findings be noted.

1275 West Midlands LTP Settlement and Transport Capital Programme

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

1276 **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of the settlement letter as outlined in this report and the key messages from government, be noted.
- (2) That the proposed 2005/06 transport capital programme as summarised in Table 3 be approved.
- (3) That it be noted that it may be necessary to modify the proposed 2005/06 capital programme in order to ensure progress on delivering the Town Centre Transport Package.
- (4) That the proposed over programming of 24% to assist programme delivery and that this will result in some schemes having to be delayed until 2006/07 be noted and that the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised to vary the transport capital programme for 2005/06 to ensure efficient use of resources and that expenditure is kept within cash limits, subject to the approval of the Assistant Director for the Built Environment where budget changes exceed £25,000.
- (5) That it be noted that the Brownhills Bypass/Clayhanger Link major scheme has been renamed the Brownhills Transport Package and that it is intended to submit a funding bid for the scheme to DfT in July 2005.

1277 **Section 106 and developer contributions to open space improvements**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given, with immediate effect, to the cessation of the operation of the existing policy of collecting financial contributions in lieu of developers providing on site public open space on developments of 4 or more dwellings.
- (2) That approval be given to the loss of revenue to services being supplemented by the use of planning delivery grant until a new supplementary planning document has been adopted by the Council during 2005/6.

1278 **Supporting people 5 year strategy needs and analysis**

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Walsall's Supporting People 5 year strategy as proposed by the Supporting People Commissioning Body, be approved.

Resolved to recommend to Annual Council

That the portfolio holder responsible for Health and Care become a member of the Supporting People Commissioning body.

1279 Integrated Community Equipment Services

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposal to put in place a Section 31 Agreement with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust, subject to approval by the respective Primary Care Trust Board, be approved.
- (2) That the Executive Director (Mr David Martin) be delegated authority to enter into agreements for the future provision of this service with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust.

1280 Review of respite care charges

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet agree to change the charging policy for respite care to a nightly basis and to continue with the current charging method for home care and day care.
- (2) That the recommended changes be implemented from 1 July 2005.

1281 Reprovision of residential and day care services for older people

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet agree that the reprovision project should progress to pre-tender preparation stage, including further consultation with key stakeholders and potential partners.
- (2) That a further report be presented to Cabinet in October 2005 to allow formal consideration of potential tender arrangements.

Councillor Perry withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the following item

1282 Partnership agreement for learning disability pooled budget (Section 31 agreement)

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the partnership agreement for the learning disability pooled budget and lead commissioning be approved and that the existing agreement be terminated and the amended agreement be sealed.

Councillor Perry withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the following item

1283 Resources Scrutiny and Performance Panel report on Best Value

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet notes and endorses the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny panel, and requests a report to a future meeting of Cabinet that specifically addresses the following:

- (a) A reassessment of the current best value review programme, setting out those areas that remain critical to the council's overall improvement plan, making suggested additions and substitutions where considered appropriate;

- (b) Critically appraises and revises, where appropriate, the corporate criteria for determining best value reviews before the publication of the next best value performance plan;
- (c) Sets out the outcomes of an objective evaluation of the crime and disorder best value cross cutting review to extract and share any learning for Walsall MBC.

1284 Walsall Civic Quarter

The resolution of the Licensing and Safety Committee from its meeting held on 17 February 2005 and an extract from the notes of the Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group on 27 January 2005 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet will proceed to carry through the recommendation, but officers be delegated to discuss with relevant service users specific problems and report back to Cabinet if they are unable to reach agreement.

1285 Late item

Neighbourhood Resource Centres - Call-in - Decision of Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel

The report was submitted and the Leader responded to concerns raised by the public at the meeting in respect of the consultants report (Pennington) and lease arrangements and said that their comments would be taken into account when a further report is submitted to Cabinet:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the original decision of Cabinet relating to this matter be confirmed with the exception of part (3) of the resolution and that a further report be submitted to Cabinet on the implications of lease arrangements as proposed and that the Pennington Report becomes a public document.

The meeting terminated at 6.55 pm.

Leader:

Date: