

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 16 December 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and regeneration
Councillor Arif	Business support services
Councillor Walker	Children's services
Councillor Flower	Environment
Councillor Towe	Finance and personnel
Councillor Sanders	Leisure and culture
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Ansell	Transport

2318 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Perry

2319 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

2320 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2321 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

2322 Farewell to David Martin

At this point in the meeting, the Leader and Cabinet members extended their best wishes to David Martin, Executive Director, Social Care and Inclusion, who would be leaving the authority at the end of the year. They thanked him for his hard work and dedication during his time at Walsall, both as Executive Director and Interim Chief Executive.

2323 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 7 December 2009 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2324 Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That decisions relating to funding allocations concerning additional Working Neighbourhoods Fund funding of £526,421 be delegated to the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- (2) That the Executive Director for Regeneration be given authority to procure the proposed contract for the Multi Agency One Stop Shop (Caldmore, Palfrey, Pleck), as required by financial and contract rule 10.3.1(a), and delegate the management of the contract to relevant officers.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration to accept one or more tenders received for an additional Multi Agency One Stop Shop (Walsall town centre) as required by financial and contract rule 13.9, to apply additional funding (if necessary), or to make a contract with the proposed contractor for an additional Multi Agency One Stop Shop (Walsall town centre).

2325 **Red Routes package 2**

Councillor Ansell presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be give to the inclusion of the A452 Chester Road, A461 Lichfield Road, A4031 West Bromwich Road and A4041 Queslett Road, as part of the West Midlands Red Route Package 2 network that will be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in early 2010.
- (2) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet once the design options for the route(s) have been completed.

2326 **Public Rights of Way Gating Orders**

Councillor Ansell presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Public Rights of Way Gating Order Policy be approved.

2327 **Walsall Housing Renewal and Assistance Policy**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2009-2011 as contained in Appendix A of this report, be approved and published with the commencement dates as listed in the policy document.

Resolved

- (1) That funds returned to the Council through the proposed Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) land charging process be made available for future DFGs and aids and adaptations.
- (2) That the Executive Director Regeneration be delegated authority to seek and accept tenders for the installation of disabled facility grant and related assistance lifts (stair, vertical, step etc) for the period up to 31 March 2012.

2328 **Comprehensive Area Assessment results**

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment results be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet welcomes the successes highlighted in the published results and the contributions of Council and partner staff in delivery of this.
- (3) That the Cabinet acknowledges the improvement areas identified by the findings and commits to working with partners to deliver those improvements.

2329 **Beacon index 2009/10**

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the performance position for the Council's priorities and pledges as of 30 September 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (2) That the proposed change to target for Beacon Index measure CFI05 (% Tellus comments, compliments, complaints (non-statutory) responded to within timescales (includes: Chief Executives, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration, Resources and Strategic Housing), be agreed.

2330 **Early years capital programme**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix B of this report be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the portfolio holder of Children's Services to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified.

2331 Education capital programme

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix B of this report be approved, including permission to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified.
- (3) That the Executive Director for Children's Services and Executive Director for Regeneration be delegated authority to award contracts in consultation with the portfolio holder (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) for the appointment of Willmott Dixon through the SCAPE framework to construct the Healthtec building and associated works subject to the overall cost of the construction not exceeding £5.5 million.

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2332 Co-ordinated mid-year admissions to primary and secondary schools

Councillor Walker presented the report::

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the scheme for co-ordinated midyear admissions to primary and secondary schools 2010/11 as set out in Appendix A of this report, be approved.
- (2) That Walsall Children's Services - Serco be requested to inform all consultees that the scheme for co-ordinated midyear admissions to primary and secondary schools 2010/11 has been approved.

2333 Improving services for disabled children

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That a tender be issued to secure new services for disabled children £ funded by the ring fenced Aiming High grant.
- (2) That the contract period be for 3 years with a break clause after 1 year to avoid risk of grant ceasing.
- (3) That existing spot purchased services using mainstream budgets for disabled children be included as a lot within the tender in order to secure better value .
- (4) That the authority to accept tenders and authorise the Council entering into contracts for this service be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder.
- (5) That officers ensure that an exit strategy is put in place before the commencement of the tendering process.

2334 Learning and Skills Council transfer

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Black Country proposals for a Sub Regional Group as required by the Department of Children Schools and Families, be endorsed:
- (2) That the Memorandum of Understanding between Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the Borough Council of Sandwell and Wolverhampton City Council, be endorsed.
- (3) That the Executive Director for Children's Services be authorised, following consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services and the other three Black Country Local Authorities, to make any final amendments to these proposals necessary to meet DCSF requirements, subject to legislation in the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, that ensures the Walsall Local Authority's capacity to commission 16-19 provision after April 2010.

2335 Provision of secondary school places 2019

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the schedule of secondary school places as set out in Appendix A of this report, be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the challenges that are likely to arise as a result of the requirements set out by Partnerships for Schools with regard to the schedule.
- (3) That Cabinet approves consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge Frank F Harrison Engineering College by increasing the admission number from 180 to 240 from 1 September 2014.
- (4) That Cabinet approves consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge Pool Hayes Arts and Community School by increasing the admission number from 213 to 240 from 1 September 2016.

2336 Restructure of Pupil Referral Units in Walsall

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Executive Director, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, be delegated authority to implement the following changes ensuring any comments made during consultation are taken into account:

- (a) To extend the New Leaf Centre to make 'short-stay' school provision for both Key Stage 3 and 4 students from 1 January 2010
- (b) To close the Ruiz Centre on 31 December 2009
- (c) To commission 10 Key Stage 3 places in mainstream secondary schools.

2337 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education be approved for implementation in Walsall from 1 September 2010.

Resolved

That approval be given to the launch and promotion to schools of the agreed syllabus.

2338 Roadside memorials

Councillor Flower presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to adopt this new procedure with immediate effect and to endorse comments made by the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel at its meeting on 16 November 2009 as outlined in paragraph 3 of this report.

2339 Revenue Support Grant provisional settlement

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the details of the draft settlement be noted.
- (2) That the development and despatch of a formal response to the draft settlement be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (CFO), in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance and personnel.

2340 Budget consultation 2010/11

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and its appendices be noted.
- (2) That the recommendations of scrutiny panels be noted.

- (3) That the outcomes from the budget consultation, set out in this report, be considered by Cabinet as it develops the Council's 2010/11 draft corporate revenue and capital budget.

2341 Draft capital programme 2010/11

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the current draft capital programme of £67.652m be approved as a basis for consultation.
- (2) That the report be referred to all scrutiny and performance panels for consultation, to enable their comments to be considered by Cabinet prior to the Cabinet meeting on 3 February to make its final recommendations to Council.

2342 Affordable housing working group

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Affordable Housing Working Group be commended for their thorough report
- (2) That the recommendations of the group (paragraph 3.3) be supported, subject to the final recommendation also relating to affordable housing and request that they are considered by services in their development of service plans.
- (3) That Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) be requested to promote the recommendations of the group in their future business plans and that progress is reviewed through Walsall Housing Partnership (WHP)

2343 Shopmobility

The report of the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

2344 Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre

The report of the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Leader thanked the scrutiny panel for their work and advised Cabinet that a report in response to the recommendations would be submitted to the next meeting of the Trustees of the School Holiday Fund of Walsall.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

2345 Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the items for consideration are exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider those items in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

Sale of land at Beddows Road Walsall

Cabinet approved the sale of freehold interest at less than best consideration as part of the wider redevelopment of the site.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

Land at former Reedswood Golf Course

Cabinet approved the transfer of Council's freehold interest in land in return for a right of way from Reedswood Way for the benefit of a future development of the golf course.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.