

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 24 June 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 Flower	Children's services
Councillor Perry	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Walker	Environment
Councillor Towe	Finance and personnel
Councillor Sanders	Leisure and culture
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Ansell	Transport

At this point the Leader, with the agreement of Cabinet, took Item 19 – A future approach for Walsall's markets – legal implications, in order for an informed decision to be made in the public session on Item 8 – A future approach for Walsall's markets .

Private Session

2204 Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the item 19 on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

2205 A future approach for Walsall markets – legal implications

The Assistant Director of Legal and Constitutional Services, Mr. B. Gill presented the report:

(see annexed)

Mr. Gill explained the legal implications for "A future approach for Walsall markets" Cabinet report later on the agenda.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

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

Public session

2206 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 15, 22 and 24 April 2009 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as correct records.

2207 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2208 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 5 June 2009 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2209 Walsall strategic funding raising strategy

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the following be agreed as the name of the strategy and steering group:

- Walsall External Bids Co-ordinating Strategy
 - Walsall External Bids Co-ordinating Group.
- (2) That Walsall External Bids Co-ordinating Strategy and Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
 - (3) That Cabinet receive an annual progress report from the Walsall External Bids Co-ordinating Group.

2210 **Area Based Grant – Walsall Partnership Programmes**

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the financial and programme performance updates, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet approve Working Neighbourhoods Fund for the Vine Trust programme of £100,000 for financial year 2009/10 and £100,000 for financial year 2010/11, as set out in section 3.7.3 of the report.
- (3) That Cabinet approve the additional carry forward of £22,528 from the Stronger Safer Communities Fund from financial year 2008/09 to 2009/10 for the Walsall Voluntary Action programme, as set out in section 3.9.3 of the report.
- (4) That Cabinet approve the continued allocation of the Community Cohesion Fund to support the work of the Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy and Action Plan, for financial year 2009/10, as set out in section 3.10 of the report.
- (5) That Cabinet note the carry forward amounts for each programme, as set out in section 3.11.3 of the report.
- (6) That Cabinet approve the allocation of the remaining £2,628 Local Area Agreement (2006 – 2009) Pump Priming Grant to the Domestic Violence (Local Target) for financial year 2009/10.
- (7) That Cabinet note the current approved commitments against Local Area Agreement (2006 – 2009) Performance Reward Grant, as set out in sections 3.13.3 and 3.13.4 of the report.
- (8) That Cabinet approve the criteria for any future allocations from Performance Reward Grant, as set out in section 3.13.6 of the report.

- (9) That Cabinet approve the additional transfers of programmes between Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Neighbourhoods Renewal Fund and vice versa, as set out in section 3.14.2 of the report.
- (10) That Cabinet note the progress regarding completion of Target Action Plans, as set out at appendix 5.of the report.

2211 Young peoples centre – St. Matthews/Paddock wards

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

A lengthy debate took place on the proposal. The Leader recommended Cabinet to instruct that a planning application be submitted urgently.

It was noted that neither he or Councillor McCracken, as members of the Development Control Committee, would take part in any decision on the planning application.

Resolved

- (1) That the outcome of consultation with the local community as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
- (2) That the delivery of the Young Peoples Centre on the former bakery site in Paddock Lane be supported.
- (3) That approval be given to the acquisition of the former bakery site in Paddock Lane indicated on plan no. EPMS 3256, on terms to be agreed, to enable delivery of the Young Peoples Centre.
- (4) That the funding allocation as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report, which includes the minor change in the capital programme be approved.
- (5) That officers be instructed to submit a planning application as a matter of urgency.

2212 Future approach to Walsall markets

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

It was noted that neither the Leader or Councillor McCracken, as members of the Development Control Committee, would take part in the decision on the planning application.

Resolved

- (1) That a planning application be submitted, as a matter of urgency, to facilitate the temporary move of Walsall Market to The Bridge in Walsall town centre.
- (2) That the Deputy Leader and Executive Director of Regeneration Services be requested to lead a comprehensive and definitive review of all the markets within the borough, leading to the development of all options for their long term development; improvement and management, including the delivery of a new market Square in Walsall town centre.
- (3) That any work on a joint venture model for the management of Walsall Market be halted pending the outcome of the borough-wide markets review, as detailed in recommendation (2).
- (4) That a delivery plan for the future of the Borough's markets be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting at the earliest possible date.

2213 Appointment of Technical Advisor for Building Schools for the Future

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Executive or Assistant Directors of Regeneration be delegated authority to accept tenders and appoint consultants to carry out the role of Technical Advisor (TA) within the budget identified for the TA within the Transforming Learning programme.

2214 Education capital programme

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the schemes and budgets as set out in Appendix B of the report be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Children's Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services to accept tenders for schemes detailed in Appendix B of the report where tenders are in excess of £500,000.

2215 Governance of Willenhall School Sports College

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the intention of Willenhall Schools Sports College to become a foundation school.
- (2) That the action being taken to safeguard current Council assets be noted.

2216 Voluntary and community sector strategy

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

2217 Walsall Council workforce plan

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Walsall Council Workforce Plan 2009-12 be approved.

2218. Corporate financial performance 2008/09 (pre-audit outturn)

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the net revenue overspend of £1.471m (0.22% of net budget), after approval of carry forwards be noted.

- (2) That carry forwards totalling £0.334m due to slippage/planned underspends be approved.
- (3) That the year end unspent capital resources of £13.799m; £13.506m on the mainstream capital programme, and £0.293m on the prudential programme be noted.
- (4) That capital slippage/carry forwards of £12.867m, of which £12.574m is mainstream funded and £0.293m is funded from prudential borrowing be approved.
- (5) That it be noted that additional reserves over and above that required by the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) will be prudently earmarked by the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance and personnel following the external audit of the accounts, as set out in the approved MTFS.

2219 Residential and nursing care services

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes and approves the approach adopted to date.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees:
 - (a) the project deliverables and requirement for a Section 75 Agreement to be entered into with NHS Walsall in relation to commissioning, integrated service provision and any potential pooled budgets and
 - (b) delegates the signing of the agreement to the Executive Director of Social Care and Inclusion in consultation with the portfolio holder for Social Care and Health.
- (3) That the established usual cost for Phase 1 older people services as detailed below be agreed:

Type	Category	2009/10 £/week
Residential	Older People	356.50
Residential	Older People Elderly Dementia (EMI)	374.50

Type	Category	2009/10 £/week
Nursing	Older People	471
Nursing	Older People Elderly Dementia (EMI)	471

2220 **Social care transport charges**

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor McCracken responded to questions from the Cabinet, during which time it was noted that there would be no retrospective charging following the recommencement of charging.

Resolved (unanimous)

- (1) That there be no charges made to service users for transport to and from day care centres until the Council implements a robust business system which delivers a cost effective solution to the Council for handling small payments.
- (2) That charging recommence upon implementation of the new business system.

2221 **Walsall health inequalities strategy**

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor McCracken suggested the following change to recommendation (5):

Delete the words "consider the addition of" and insert 'be requested to add'.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet endorse the Walsall Health Inequalities Strategy.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the success already achieved by the Council and its partners.

- (3) That Cabinet agrees the proposed actions included in this report.
- (4) That resources designed to tackle health inequalities be concentrated on those areas of greatest need.
- (5) That officers be requested to add health inequalities as a performance measure for improving inequality in the Borough and that all plans that go to the Local Strategic Partnership should have health inequalities considerations.

2222 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.

2223 European Regional Development Fund action plan

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

It was noted that all Cabinet members would be kept fully informed.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress being made to minimise the financial exposure of the Council, by ensuring that the final claim to GOWM for Community Regeneration in Walsall ERDF Action Plan 2000-2006, contains only eligible expenditure, be noted.
- (2) That the course of action set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report be agreed.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for neighbourhoods services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Regeneration and portfolio holder for Finance and personnel, and that the Chief Finance Officer take such reasonable steps to de-commit from the programme such sums as are necessary to ensure that only eligible expenditure is included in the final claims.

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

2224 Streetly Crematorium – environmental improvements

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the proposed procurement process and timescale for the project for the replacement of three cremators and installation of mercury abatement equipment and associated enhancements to the building as described in paragraph 4.3, and authorise the start of the procurement process.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder, decisions relating to the:
 - (a) selection of short-listed companies to be invited to tender;
 - (b) award of the contract for works to enable it to be completed during 2011.

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

2225 Darlaston Strategic Development Area – highways improvements

Councillor Ansell presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the 2009/10 scheme development costs as set out in Section 4 and preferred scheme alignment as set out at Appendix A of the report be noted.
- (2) That the Executive Director of Regeneration Services be given authority to progress the scheme in line with Section 3, paragraph 3.14 of the report.

[Exempt information under paragraphs 2 & 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.

Leader:

Date: