

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 10 September at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor S. Coughlan	Leader of the Council
Councillor Nazir	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Cassidy	Children's services and education
Councillor Hussain	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Jeavons	Environment and transport
Councillor Robertson	
Councillor Chambers	
Councillor D. Coughlan	

3181 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3182 Declarations of interest

The Monitoring Officer granted a general dispensation in relation to Item 23 – Localised Council tax reduction scheme.

The following members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor S. Coughlan	(1)	Item 13 – Children's services commissioning plan "other interest" (paragraph 14 of the members' code of conduct
------------------------	-----	---

Councillor Coughlan made the following statement in this respect:

"I would just like to declare an other interest in item 13 – Children's services commissioning plan in that I am taking future employment with Palfrey CA. I am not proposing to leave the meeting as this item is many months in preparation and pre-dates my leadership of the Council."

(2)	Item 14 – Expansion of Christ Church CE JMI, Fibbersley Park Primary and King Charles Primary Schools (non-pecuniary)
-----	---

Councillor Jeavons Item 14 – Expansion of Christ Church CE JMI,
Fibbersley Park Primary and King Charles Primary
Schools (non-pecuniary)

3183 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.

3184 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

3185 Questions

There were no questions submitted.

3186 Tackling youth homelessness and group funding to prevent homelessness

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

A discussion took place during which time, the Executive Director for Resources, Rory Borealis, responded to questions in respect of consultation undertaken to inform the proposal for accommodation for young people. He briefly explained the extent of consultation which had been targeted at specific issues and confirmed that a large number of young people who would have had experience of the service had been involved.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the commissioning of up to 60 units of accommodation to be used to temporarily accommodate young people (aged 16-25) who are homeless pending permanent re-housing, and delegates authority to award the contract(s) for this to the Executive Director of Resources.

- (2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Resources to sign or authorise the sealing of contracts, deeds or other documents in relation to the provision of accommodation for young people at risk of homelessness so that the new service can commence as soon as practicable.
- (3) That Cabinet note, in line with the Council's Grant Manual, the significant progress in the development of a range of initiatives (listed in Appendix 2) to help prevent homelessness for the West Midlands and Warwickshire area funded by a grant of £1.074 million from the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- (4) That Cabinet note the largest award of £170,940 for the *No Second Night Out* initiative supporting rough sleepers in nine council areas, including Walsall, at a cost of under £19,000 per Council area for 18 months.
- (5) That Cabinet approve future bidding for capital funds to the Department of Health, for improvements to hostels and shared accommodation in the borough where any such bid is in excess of £100,001 in line with the Council's Grant Manual (Appendix E).

3187 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 11 September 2014 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3188 Corporate financial performance 2014/15

Councillor S. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the pressures outlined in the report be noted and that directorate corrective action plans have been produced to mitigate the potential overspend down to £1.58m.
- (2) That the action being taken to manage the cost pressures arising be noted.
- (3) That the risks to the forecast be noted.

- (4) That the forecast underspend on the Council funded capital programme of £300k be noted.
- (5) That approval be given to the use of the Care Act implementation funding to be utilised by Social Care and Inclusion as detailed in section 3.5
- (6) That the amendments to the capital programme and the release of match funding as detailed in section 3.7 be approved.

3189 St. Mathews Quarter – Land in High Street, Walsall

Councillor Nazir presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Nazir said that the decision relating to this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing commercially sensitive information.

3190 Education capital programme

Councillor Nazir presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the schemes, subject to confirmation of an appropriate school contribution, and budgets set out in Appendix A of this report – including permission to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified.
- (2) That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director for Regeneration Services in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder authority to award contracts (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) to the most suitable contractors having regard to Best Value for the works/services as set out.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the option to use an appropriate form of procurement and contracting arrangements determined by the Head of Property Services to provide the most efficient and value for money means of delivering the projects. This shall include consideration of traditional procurement and EU compliant frameworks available to local authorities.

3191 Category 2 School Crossing Patrols

Councillor Nazir presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet withdraw support to the proposed budget saving in light the consultation feedback, meaning that the Category 2 crossing patrols as defined at Appendix A will remain in place at the Council's cost.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees to seek alternative savings to absorb the £85,000 (that has already been removed from the Property Services budget) from elsewhere in preparing budgets for 2015/16 and future years, while managing the in year pressure as set out in section 6.

3192 Walsall Local Plan – Review of Local Development Scheme

Councillor Nazir presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet endorses the amended Local Development Scheme set out and attached as the appendix to the report, in accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

3193 Children's services commissioning plan 2014-17

Councillor Cassidy presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Children's Services Commissioning Plan 2014-17 be noted and that the Executive Director, in consultation with the portfolio holder, seeks further Cabinet approvals for specific procurement projects where appropriate.
- (2) That approval be given for the Council to join regional/sub-regional framework contracts for these services:
 - Residential Care for Children from November 2014

- Independent Fostering Agency Care from November 2014, noting this may require significant spot purchasing if current providers are not on new framework
 - Non-accommodation based services from April 2015
 - Supported accommodation, agree extension from November 2014 and to join a new framework from November 2015
- (3) That approval be given to extend the framework contract for the provision of contact services (the arrangements which promote and maintain contact for looked after children with their parents and siblings) from 12 December 2014 to 11 December 2015 and commence a procurement process in early 2015.
- (4) That approval be given for Children's Services to commence a joint procurement with Adult Social Care of short break services for adults and children if it offers the best service options for children and best value to the Council, or if not, approval is given to commence re-procurement of existing short break services in early 2015.

3194 Expansion of Christ Church CE JMI, Fibbersley Park Primary and King Charles Primary Schools

The Director of Children's Services, David Haley, advised the Cabinet that this item was withdrawn in order for further costings to be undertaken. A further more detailed report would be presented to a future meeting.

3195 Walsall Council School admissions policy

Councillor Cassidy presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Walsall Council adopts the proposed Admissions Policy from September 2014.

3196 Active living (leisure Centres)

The following resolution of the Council from its meeting on 11 August 2014 was submitted:

- “(1) That the 2014/15 capital programme be amended to include the capital investment required for the construction of two new leisure centres at Oak Park and Bloxwich (option 1) as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

- (2) That in agreeing to the recommendation of Cabinet to amend the capital programme, Cabinet be requested to consider the following:
- (a) That a full site visit be undertaken to Leamore Park with relevant officers and local councillors together with other partners such as the police to identify areas of concern especially security issues of residents and members of the friends of the Park. This will be acted upon and supported financially by this council.
 - (b) That detailed consultation be undertaken with all residents who back onto park led by local Councillors, on the layout of areas of the Park that are close to their rear gardens
 - (c) That developers will hold regular meetings with local residents and Friends of the Park during the different phases of this development.
 - (d) That there will be an appraisal of the old pavilion in Leamore Park on how this could possibly be enhanced for the use by the Sons and Daughters of Rest and by visiting football clubs.
 - (e) That the current staff of the existing centres be given assurances that their jobs will not be put at risk due to the proposed new build."

Resolved

That the comments of Council be noted and accepted.

3197 Review of highways repairs and maintenance contract

Councillor Jeavons presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Jeavons said that the decision relating to this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing commercially sensitive information.

3198 Award of contract for temporary agency staff

Councillor Chambers presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet awards the contract for a Managed Service provider for Temporary Agency Staff following the procurement exercise to Starting Point Recruitment Limited for a period of three years with an option to extend for one further year.
- (2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Resources to finalise negotiation on the terms and conditions of contract and authorise execution of the contract.

3199 Award of public health contracts 2015/16

Councillor Robertson presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Robertson advised that he had been informed that there would be no uplift to the public health budget this year.

Resolved

That Cabinet approve the new service design for drug and alcohol services to allow the commencement of the re-tendering process.

3200 Joint procurement of community services for children and adults

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the award of 12 month transitional contracts for 2014/15 (expiring on 30 June 2015) to allow timely procurement processes and award of new contracts by July 2015.
- (2) That Cabinet approves a new commissioning approach for adult personal care and support services within the Support for Living at Home Services re-tender incorporating a cost and volume contract.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the re-tendering of the Support for Living at Home Services to also include a range of children's community services to incorporate the legislative requirements of both the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.

- (4) That Cabinet approves that the re-tender process for SLHS will be inclusive of a framework agreement for a range of Regulated Community Based and Short Break Services, for example:
- Complex Care i.e. Learning Disability/Mental Health/Physical Disability;
 - Continuing Health Care;
 - Reablement;
 - Home from Hospital;
 - Rapid Discharge;
 - Children Short Breaks;
- (5) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Social Care and Inclusion in consultation with the portfolio holders for Social Care and Health, and the Executive Director of Children Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services and education, to award, and enter contracts for Regulated Community Based and Short Break Services by using the most appropriate procedures and to sign or authorise the sealing of contracts, deeds or other documents in relation to the provision of Regulated Community Based and Short Break Services, and carry out appropriate consultation with existing users and carers.

3201 Review of social care and inclusion charging policy for non-residential services

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve consultation on social care and inclusion non-residential charges.
- (2) That Cabinet agree to receive a further report at a future meeting on the outcome of the consultation, with consequent recommendations for a new non-residential charging policy to operate from April 2015.

3202 Localised Council tax reduction scheme 2015/16

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report and additional information:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- (1) Will consult on four options for a localised council tax reduction scheme for the future, commencing in 2015-16, these being:

Option 1: providing a maximum council tax discount to working age customers of 75%

Option 2: providing a maximum council tax discount to working age customers of 80%

Option 3: providing a maximum council tax discount to working age customers of 90%

Option 4: providing a maximum council tax discount to working age customers of 100%

- (2) Will listen carefully to the feedback received during the consultation and carry out a full equality impact assessment prior to making a final recommendation to Council at its meeting in December 2014.

3203 Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the item for consideration is 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 the item in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

3204 St. Matthews Quarter – Land in High Street

Cabinet approved the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the alley-way between 28 Digbeth and 43-44 High Street and its freehold reversions in leasehold registered titles WM229002 and WM717486, known as 42-44 High Street, (as shown edged bold on Appendix A EPMS number 4071/1).

Cabinet delegated authority to the Executive Director Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holder Regeneration and Transportation to review the VOA (District Valuer) report and approve the terms of disposal.

3205 Integrated Young People Support Services – Information advice and guidance services contract

The Cabinet considered a report in relation to the contractual arrangements for the delivery of targeted careers information advice and guidance.

Cabinet noted that the current contractual arrangements with Prospects for the delivery of these services (as part of the Integrated Young Peoples Support Services) expires on 31 March 2015.

Cabinet also approved that the nature and level of targeted Information Advice and Guidance services that the Council will provide from 1 April 2015, to meet its continuing statutory duty, will need to be subject to the necessary consultation related to the budget setting process.

3206 Review of highways repairs and maintenance contract

Councillor Jeavons presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the granting of an extension of the existing contract with Lafarge Tarmac Limited for a period of 2 years commencing 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2017 in line with an internal assessment which takes into account the findings of the independent analysis.
- (2) That officers will continue to work with Lafarge Tarmac to further improve the efficiency and quality of the service to achieve value for money for the public.

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

3207 Monitoring Officer report under Section 5A, Local Government Act 1989

Tony Cox, Monitoring Officer presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That this report is noted by the Executive of the Council.
- (2) That the report be distributed as soon as practicable to all members of the authority in accordance with s5A Local Government and Housing Act 1989, S5A, ss5(b).

- (3) That the Interim Director of Adult Social Care and Inclusion be instructed to prepare a report to Cabinet as soon as practicable detailing what action will be taken by the Executive in response to this report.

[Exempt information under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.