

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 1 March 2006 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
Councillor Zahid Ali	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Eddie Hughes	Children's services
Councillor Marco Longhi	Environment and transport
Councillor Melvin Pitt	Housing and community safety
Councillor Garry Perry	Leisure and Culture
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration

1482 Apology

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

1483 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2006, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment.

1469 Draft corporate revenue budget

The recommendation to Council should not include (1) and (2) and should commence from 3(a).

1484 Declarations of interest

Councillor Perry declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 11 on the agenda relating to funding to voluntary organisations and left the room during consideration of that item.

1485 Forward Plan

The forward plan as at 17 February 2006 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

1486 “Local strategic partnerships – shaping their future”

Councillor Ansell presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet agrees to submit the response to the consultation set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

1487 School sites surplus to education requirements

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Three Crowns, Redhouse, Moxley Infants, Clothier Street, Lakeside and Little London JMI School sites be declared surplus to education requirements;
- (2) That legal services be directed to begin application to the DfES for reuse of school playing fields.

1488 Education capital programme – further schemes

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the schemes and expenditure set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

1489 Beechdale Primary School

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given for public consultation to take place on the three options detailed in Appendix A to the report.
- (2) That a report on the outcome of public consultation be presented to the Cabinet in April 2006.

1490 Outcome of consultation Mary Elliot, Oakwood and Old Hall Special Schools

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the consultation responses received be noted;
- (2) That approval be given to the publication of a statutory proposal to change the age range to 11-19 and increase the number of places to 110 at Mary Elliot Special School from 1 September 2008 with a replacement school building to be co-located on the Frank F Harrison Community School site;
- (3) That approval be given to the publication of a statutory notice to change the age range to 3-11 at Oakwood Special School from 1 September 2008;
- (4) That approval be given to the publication of a statutory notice to change the age range to 3-11 and change the number of places to 60 at Old Hall Special School from 1 September 2008.

1491 Rushall Community College

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given for consultation to take place on the closure of Rushall Community College from 31 August 2006.

1492 Corporate parenting – CRB checks for members

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That all elected members undergo enhanced CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks.

1493 Funding to voluntary organisations 2006/7

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Perry having declared a personal prejudicial interest, left the room during consideration of this item.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of this report including the 54 applications for Council financial support in 2006/07 received from local community and voluntary organisations, listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of this report be endorsed as a means of determining the allocation of available funds.
- (3) That in accordance with these criteria, approval be given to the allocation of funds to the 28 organisations as set out in paragraph 4, and in the sums stated;

- (4) That it be confirmed that all awards greater than £500 will only be released following finalisation of an agreed Service Level Agreement (SLA) setting out how the council's financial support will be spent, and allowing access by the Council's internal audit service.
- (5) That those performance management procedures be carried forward for the year ahead with SLA's and performance targets directed towards the achievement of the Council's vision and strategic objectives
- (6) That it be noted that the present application and allocation process will be reviewed and revised for 2007-08, based on both the outcomes from the current on-going review by the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel, and the forthcoming Local Area Agreement

1494 Shopmobility scheme implementation

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That progress on establishing the Shopmobility scheme be noted and approval be given to the arrangements for opening initially on a four day a week basis, but agreeing to increased hours if there is a proven demand.
- (2) That the imposition of a charging regime for shopmobility be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration in conjunction with relevant portfolio holders and the Shopmobility Partnership Board, with the intention that this approach leads to shopmobility being self funded within three years.

1495 West Midlands LTP settlement and transport capital programme

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

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 2006/08 transport capital programme as summarised in Table 3 (full details included in Appendix 1), be approved.

- (3) That it be noted that it may be necessary to modify the proposed 2006/08 capital programme dependent on the timing of a decision from the Secretary of State regarding the Town Centre Transport Package.
- (4) That it be noted that the structure of the capital programme report has changed to remove over-programming of schemes against resources; a two-year programme is proposed to improve the Council's ability to deliver schemes and make financial monitoring more transparent and that the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised to vary the transport capital programme for 2006/08 to ensure efficient use of resources and that expenditure is kept within resource allocations, following procedures as outlined in the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- (5) That the outcome of Regional Prioritisation of Major Transport Schemes and the current situation for Walsall's Major Schemes be noted.
- (6) That this report be submitted to all Local Neighbourhood Partnerships for their information and noting.

1496 Darlaston strategic development area

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That officers be authorised to take the steps necessary to commence the Statutory Order process in accordance with the scheme programme;
- (2) That Officers be authorised to take steps necessary to prepare and submit a planning application for the proposed new highways and structures and associated works in accordance with the scheme programme;
- (3) That before the Statutory Orders are published or the planning application submitted, detailed proposals will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

1497 Beacon index – 3rd quarter

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the third quarter performance of the Beacon Index be noted.

1498 **Corporate risk management**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted, the resolution of Audit Committee endorsed and the application of the risk management policy and allied processes be supported.

1499 **Strategic transformation programme**

Councillor Longhi presented the report during which time, the Leader advised the Cabinet that a letter of representation had been received from UNISON relating to the lack of consultation with the Unions on the proposals and concern in respect of any proposed outsourcing. Councillor Longhi read out the Council's response which set out the consultations that have taken place and the general principle of the Council-wide transformation programme to improve services:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the strategic transformation programme as identified in this report be approved.
- (2) That the Strategic Transformation Team be established to lead this programme.
- (3) That officers continue with the implementation of the strategic transformation programme and put in place the programme governance arrangements identified within the report.
- (4) That Councillor Marco Longhi be designated as having Cabinet responsibility for the transformation programme.

1500 **Modernisation of the library service**

Councillor Perry presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the four year modernisation programme for the Library Service as outlined in the report.

- (2) That Cabinet approve a departure from current policy, on this occasion, to earmark receipts from the disposal of current library sites to cover the cost of re-provisioning and refurbishing libraries in the capital programme

1501 Lichfield local development framework

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet endorse the representations, as referred to in this report, made in response to the consultations on Lichfield's emerging LDF;
- (2) That officers be authorised to attend the Examination-in-Public, due to begin on 25 April, and present evidence in support of the representations made; and commission, where required, information to support the Council's evidence.

1502 Regional prioritisation of major transport schemes

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in this report and the provisional success that Walsall has achieved through direct involvement in the process be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet be aware that a future information paper will be provided when a formal response is received from government on the submission made at the end of January 2006.

1503 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.

1504 **Transportation services framework consultancy**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Faber Maunsell be appointed as the Council's Transportation Services framework consultant, using the agreed prices as detailed in the resource and legal section of the report;
- (2) That approval be given to the award and sealing of the contract for a period of two years, starting in April 2006 (subject to completion of legal procedures) with the option of a two year extension, subject to satisfactory performance against key performance indicators agreed between the Council and the appointed consultant;
- (3) That authority for the extension of the contract for the further period of two years be delegated to the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services.

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

1505 **Household waste recycling centres and transfer station contract**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That ECT Recycling Ltd be awarded the contract for the day to day management of two household waste recycling centres and transfer station with the Council retaining ownership of materials and the contractor having responsibility for transportation of the materials to reprocessing and disposal sites from 1 May 2006 to 31 March 2011 with an option for up to a three year extension.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.

Leader:

Date: