

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 11 May 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

1297 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2005, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

1298 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

For the benefit of members of the public, Cabinet agreed to take the following item first.

1299 Officer advice on scrutiny proposals on Neighbourhood Resource Centres

An advice note was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Following some discussion, it was **moved** by Councillor Andrew, duly seconded and:-

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the officer's advice note be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet recognises that partnerships with effective voluntary and community sector organisations can contribute positively to achieving the vision for Walsall. Such partnerships require partners to meet important obligations. The Council must ensure that any allocations of resources are undertaken in a transparent, consistent way that ensures value for money, including the contestability in the distribution of public resources. Partners must be sustainable organisations that operate in a businesslike way, clearly focussed on meeting specific needs of individuals, groups and areas.
- (3) That, within the principles set out in (2) above, an endowment fund be established that will provide for the on-going maintenance costs of council property occupied by voluntary/community organisations, managed by the council, and set up and maintained from lease rental contributions from voluntary and community sector organisations such as NRCs.
- (4) That standard leases for all the Neighbourhood Resource Centres be established, to include clear criteria relating to any concessions, to be introduced after individual discussions have concluded with each NRC, and that such leases include the clauses set out in sections 2.2 and 2.5 of the advice note.
- (5) That allocations from the endowment fund established at (3) above be made on an objective priority basis to those organisations that can evidence a sustainable medium term financial plan focussed on meeting identified needs that contribute to delivering the Vision for Walsall to enable best use of the limited resources available.
- (6) That the priority allocations framework outlined at (5) above take into account the criteria set out in 5.10 of the advice note (and reflect that used in determining the council's capital programme).
- (7) That a working group of officers be established as set out in 2.6 of the advice note to review the business cases that will be required to be produced by each NRC and to formally sign off the lease agreements, once the review of the sustainability of each NRC has been assessed.

1300 Forward Plan

The forward plan as at 19 April 2005 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

1301 Transport framework agreement

Councillor Paul presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Executive Director, Social Care and Supported Housing be delegated authority to accept tenders and authorise detailed terms in relation to the contracts are let under the Framework Agreement.

1302 Supplementary planning document for affordable housing

Councillor Pitt presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Supplementary Planning Document for Affordable Housing be approved and adopted.

1303 Fibbersley Park Primary School – scheme arrangements

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That agreement be given, in principle, to the allocation of Council funds of up to £400,000 to be identified from an appropriate combination of capital contingency, underspends on other schemes and above-target capital receipts, delegating authority for the identification of such funds to the Executive Director (CFO) in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for finance, noting that if these sources prove insufficient that a variation to the capital programme will be required and identification of funding from alternative sources, requiring a further report to Cabinet.
- (2) That in accordance with contract procedural rule 25.3, the Executive Director of Lifelong Learning and Community be delegated authority to accept tenders for the works.

1304 Elm Street Infant and Albion Road Junior Schools

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to statutory proposals to:-
 - (a) Close Elm Street Infants School from 31 August 2005;
 - (b) Close Albion Road Junior School from 31 August 2005
 - (c) Open a replacement primary school from 1 September 2005
- (2) That subject to the above, the scheme to provide a replacement primary school on one site be added to the Capital Programme.

1305 Proposed amalgamation of Edgar Stammers Infant and Edgar Stammers Junior Schools

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to informal consultation on the proposal to close Edgar Stammers Infants School from 31 December 2005 and to open a replacement 2 FE primary school with 26 FTE nursery places from 1 January 2006.

1306 Education Capital Programme 2005/06

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

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

1307 Walsall outdoor activity and environment learning centre/Frank F. Harrison School

Councillor Perry presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the tender from Piper Construction (Midlands) Limited be accepted and officers be requested to create and execute a contract under the Council's seal.
- (2) That the grant conditions as required by the New Opportunities Fund for the project be accepted.

1308 West Midlands Local Transport Plan submission 2005

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the proposals contained in the 2005 West Midlands Local Transport Plan for improvements to transport facilities and the management of traffic in Walsall and the West Midlands for the period 2006 to 2011 be noted.

Resolved to recommend to Council

- (a) That the 2005 West Midlands Local Transport Plan be approved.
- (b) That the Leader of the Council be authorised to agree any late changes to the plan, in consultation with the Leaders of the other West Midlands Councils through the West Midlands Joint Committee.

1309 Permits for skips and materials placed on the public highway

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the proposed charges for skips and materials permits be approved with effect from 1 August 2005.

1310 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.

1311 Walsall Town Centre Transport Package

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made in delivering the TCTP as detailed within this report be noted.
- (2) That Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Director (Finance, Law and Performance) acting as Chief Finance Officer, and the portfolio holder for the Environment, be authorised to award the contract for construction of the TCTP, subject to the DfT giving full acceptance to the application for funding.
- (2) That should the DfT approval fall short of the necessary requirement for the TCTP, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Director (Finance, Law and Performance) acting as Chief Finance Officer, and the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, be authorised to allocate funding from the central capital contingency and/or reappraise the Council's existing Transport Capital Programme and reallocate the necessary funding; any difference that cannot be funded by these two options, would need to be approved by full Council in terms of reallocating additional funding from the approved mainstream Capital Programme.
- (4) That the list of tenderers be approved, as detailed in the resources section of the report, for the supply of necessary supervisory staff for the construction phase of the project or to utilise the recent Council contract for the supply of agency personnel if considered adequate or if in place in sufficient time.
- (5) That the Executive Director be authorised to award the contract for the supply of supervisory staff, subject to being in accordance with the financial approval.

- (6) That the Assistant Director be authorised to take all necessary steps for completion and sealing of the contract for the construction of the TCTP and the supply of supervisory staff, as necessary.
- (7) That a further report be submitted on progress.

(Exempt information under paragraphs 7 & 8 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972)

The meeting terminated at 6.36 p.m.

Leader:

Date: