

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor O'Hare	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and regeneration
Councillor Zahid Ali	Children's services
Councillor Perry	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Walker	Environment
Councillor Griffiths	Finance and personnel
Councillor Harrison	Leisure and culture
Councillor Arif	Procurement, transformation and performance management
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Harris	Transport

2180 Minutes

Resolved

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

2181 Declarations of interest

The following members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Walker	Outline of business case for Shelfield Academy (personal and prejudicial)
Councillor Andrew	Barr Beacon Heritage project (personal and prejudicial)
Councillor Harrison	Barr Beacon Heritage project (personal and prejudicial)

2182 **The future of Sneyd Community – A Specialist Maths and Computing College**

The following documents were submitted:

- (a) Report
- (b) Supplementary report
- (c) Recommendation of Willenhall Local Neighbourhood Partnership

Councillor Zahid Ali explained the background to the proposals; all of the options in detail; and the impact on community facilities.

A lengthy discussion took place following which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the commencement of consultation on options A, B and C outlined in the report.
- (2) That Cabinet asks the relevant officers to commence discussions with Walsall College, Wolverhampton University and the DCSF regarding the establishment of a 14-19 Engineering academy in the Borough, potentially on the Sneyd site; and to consult with other local secondary head teachers regarding this proposal and also the possible establishment of a Skills Centre on the Sneyd Site. Either outcome would be in keeping with the overall secondary educational strategy to establish vocational provision across the Borough and would fulfil the desire expressed by Walsall Council's Children and Young People's Scrutiny and Performance Panel to retain education provision on the Sneyd site

2183 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 8 April 2009 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2184 **Area Based Grant**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the current position of Working Neighbourhoods Fund, as set out at section 3.7.1 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That OJEU processes be put in place for those projects listed at section 3.8 of the report.
- (3) That progress regarding Target Action Planning, as set out in appendix 1 of the report be noted.
- (4) That Cabinet note the approval and allocation of Area Based Grant funding has already been agreed to relevant service areas, as part of the budget process for 2009/10.
- (5) That Cabinet approve the allocation of £10,000 from the Local Area Agreement (2007 – 2010) Performance Reward Grant, to continue to support the development of the Nottingham Declaration, as set out in section 3.11.1 of the report.

2185 Strategic Partnership Agreement: development model with WHG

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet agree to the principle of a joint venture development agreement as the development model with whg as the basis for the Strategic Partnering Arrangement to deliver the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) programme in Brownhills, Moxley and Goscote Lane Corridor, as described in the ikon report set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (2) That a further report be received on the process of selecting a development partner(s) as part of the joint venture development model for the Strategic Partnering Arrangement to deliver the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) programme in Brownhills, Moxley and Goscote Lane Corridor.
- (3) That further reports be received on the detailed financial terms of the joint venture development agreement, to be finalised in a Full Business Case, from the Executive Director Regeneration and the Assistant Director Finance, and on governance arrangements with whg and the selected development partner(s).

2186 Willenhall: The Plan “the Vision”

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew introduced Neil Homer, the Director of LDA Design who gave a presentation which highlighted key issues influencing the plan for the regeneration of Willenhall.

A brief discussion took place following which it was:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet endorse the recommendation of the Willenhall Project Reference Group to approve the ‘Vision’ document for ‘Willenhall: the plan’, including the draft vision, objectives and spatial plan as a basis for statutory public consultation.
- (2) That Cabinet endorses the need to sustain/create the right mix of housing and employment land and jobs to maintain a sustainable economic base for the borough, which should become a key consideration of both the Willenhall ‘Vision’ and throughout the borough through the Joint Core Strategy.
- (3) That Cabinet receive a further report on the final submission ‘Willenhall: the plan’ document to a future meeting before the need to secure final approval by Council.

2187 Provision of new youth centre in Chuckery

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

A brief discussion took place during which time, the Cabinet agreed to revised recommendations circulated by Councillor McCracken which she felt reflected residents concerns and it was:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet recognises the importance of appropriate service provision for young people and is keen to develop this in accordance with reference to young people and local residents.
- (2) That Cabinet also recognises that a rare opportunity to fund a new facility now exists and that there is a very tight timetable for accessing the grant finance. Accordingly, Cabinet authorises officers to continue preparation of the facility in accordance with the report and;

- (3) That local consultation continue in order to seek to accommodate the needs of both young people and local residents, including investigation into alternative sites. A further report to be presented to Cabinet in June at which time a final decision will be taken.

2188 Outline business case for Shelfield Academy

Councillor Walker withdrew from the room for this item.

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet approves delegated authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration or Executive Director Children's Services in consultation with the portfolio holders for the signing of the OBC for the indicative funding allocation £23,587,363.00.

2189 Procurement of natural gas for Council buildings

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to obtain European Union (EU) compliant tenders and employ energy suppliers for natural gas prior to the expiry of the existing contract.
- (2) That the to the Executive Director or Assistant Director of Regeneration be delegated authority to accept tenders in consultation with the portfolio holder and appoint suppliers of gas subject to EU procurement procedures.

2190 Building Schools for the Future

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet authorises officers to submit to Partnership for Schools, Frank F Harrison Engineering College as the proposed sixth school for inclusion within wave 6a and note that this is subject to approval from the Government Offices of the Schools Commissioner and Partnership for Schools.

2191 Equalities peer assessment

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the recommendations from the Diversity Peer Challenge report for implementation through the Corporate Equality Group and Corporate Management Team.
- (2) That Cabinet welcomes Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel's support and endorsement for Member training in the area of equality and diversity.

2192 Contracts for the treatment, recovery and disposal of municipal waste

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That officers be authorised to commence the procurement process for the Treatment, Recovery and Final Disposal of Municipal Waste, and to report back to Cabinet for further decisions as required at key stages of the tendering process.

2193 Tenders of the supply of recruitment advertising services

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet endorse the awarding of the contract for the supply of recruitment advertising services to Euro Riley RSCG.

- (2) That the Assistant Director, Law and Constitutional Services, be requested to draft a formal contract which the preferred supplier will be required to sign.

2194 Barr Beacon Heritage project

Councillors Andrew and Harrison withdrew from the room for this item.

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Barr Beacon Heritage Project be identified as a priority for seeking Lottery funding.
- (2) That the submission of a Stage 1 application for the Barr Beacon Heritage Project to the HLF Heritage Grants programme by June 2009 be supported.
- (3) That the Head of Leisure and Culture act as the lead contact on the HLF application form.
- (4) That bids for match funding be submitted to other external grant bodies.
- (5) That opportunities be fully explored to develop links between the Barr Beacon Heritage Project and other heritage sites.
- (6) That it be noted and endorsed that the scheme will only commence when approval from the funding provider has been received to ensure that there will be no unbudgeted call on the Council's mainstream resources.

2195 Corporate project management – strategic project monitoring

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet members continue to work with relevant executive directors to implement any necessary corrective action to ensure successful delivery of strategic projects.

- (2) That Cabinet continues to endorse the use of the Council's programme and project management methodologies and practices, requiring that they are applied without exception.

2196 Major adaptations eligibility criteria and provision

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the revised eligibility, priority and service provision criteria, as set out in Appendix A, be approved.
- (2) That the actions proposed in relation to service users already in the system for the provision of adaptations be noted.

2197 Revised complaint arrangements for health and Adult Social Care

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the changes to the statutory complaints procedures for social care services as set out in this report be noted.
- (2) That the approach set out in this report for the implementation of the changes be endorsed.

2198 Walsall Wood Lorry Park

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the outcome of the public consultation exercise undertaken in June 2008, demonstrating 80% public support for the re-designation to a car park.

- (2) That Cabinet authorise the preparation and submission of a planning application for a change of use from a lorry park to a car park based on the indicative layout on the plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- (3) That Cabinet authorise the advertisement of modifications to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, made under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to re-designate the car park, if planning permission is granted. (June 2009) and delegate authority to the appropriate officer (Head of Legal Services or Head of Engineering and Transportation), in consultation with the portfolio holder, to seal the Order after consideration of any objections and expression of support received.

2199 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 the items in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

Green Rivers Community Centre

The Cabinet considered a report in respect of the procurement of design and construction services for the new Green Rivers Centre and made a decision thereon. A further report will be submitted in the new municipal year which will seek approval to enter into a building contract.

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

Termination of contract: Walsall Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Cabinet considered a report which informed of the current position with regard to the contract for LINK. Approval was given to terminate the existing contract and re-tender; and to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the portfolio holder, to award the new contract.

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

At this point, Councillor Andrew on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked Councillor O'Hare for his leadership of the Cabinet and wished him well in his year as Mayor.