



Walsall Metropolitan Borough

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 17th January, 2005, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR M.A. BIRD (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR

Councillor J.R. Cook (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ T.G. Ansell
“ D.A. Anson
“ M. Arif
“ A. Aslam
“ C.M. Ault
“ J.M. Barton
“ L.A. Beeley
“ A.G. Bentley
“ Mrs. J. Beilby
“ P. Bott
“ M.R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ R.J.H. Collins
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ A.E. Griffiths
“ L.A. Harrison
“ E.F. Hughes
“ A.D. Johnson
“ H. Khan
“ M. Longhi
“ S.W. Madeley
“ Ms. R.A. Martin
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken
“ Mrs. C. Micklewright
“ M. Munir

Councillor J.G. O'Hare

“ T.S. Oliver
“ A.J. Paul
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ D.J. Pitt
“ Mrs. E.E. Pitt
“ M.G. Pitt
“ I.C. Robertson
“ R.S. Robinson
“ J. Rochelle
“ C.E.M. Rose
“ T. Rowley
“ B. Sanders
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires
“ I. Shires
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ D.J. Turner
“ W.T. Tweddle
“ A. Underhill
“ R.A. Walker
“ H. Withnall
“ V.G. Woodruff
“ M. Yasin
“ P.A. Young
“ Zahid Ali

75. Apology

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

76. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2004, copies having been sent to each member of the Council be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to:

- (1) Councillor Walker's name being added to the list of declarations of interest in relation to Item 11 – Local Government Pension Scheme (personal/prejudicial)
- (2) The name of Councillor Robertson replacing the name of Councillor Chambers as moving the notice of motion in respect of Housing provision in the borough.

77. Declarations of interest

Councillor Sears declared a personal interest in any item relating to Acorn Home Care.

78. Petition

Councillor Phillips presented a petition with regard to Town Green status on the site known as Ashbourne Road Recreation Area.

79. Questions by members of the Council

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Councillor Robertson asked the following question of Councillor Ansell:-

What payments have been made compared with the actual budget allocation from NRF receipts to this Council in each of the first six months of this financial year with a comparison from the NRF accounts for the previous year?

Councillor Ansell replied that as the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership, that partnership is responsible for achieving spend related to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. The local authority's role is that it is the accountable body as well as being partners with the Local Strategic Partnership and ensuring that the LSP achieves the tasks set primarily by government, but most importantly implementing local priorities.

Councillor Ansell went on to say that this question should really be addressed to the board of the LSP, but he was able to report the most recent position, although he was not able to provide detailed monthly figures but was able to provide an overall picture of the spend. As members will be aware, the LSP now uses a strategic outcome based commissioning rather than funding projects which has ensured that spend is focused on the delivery of floor targets. This was a fundamental change in the way that the LSP allocated funds and is supported as the strategic approach favoured by government as it is most likely to achieve floor targets. By its nature this strategic approach has required a lead in time for some major commissions this year. It is this lead in time that has resulted in a slow down in spend at the beginning of the financial year when the groups within the LSP were working on floor targets and commissioning. Councillor Ansell then asked the Council to note that the Government Office of the West Midlands had commented very favourably on the partnership's strategic approach.

When looking at the two year position of expenditure and commitments there is a current estimated underspend of £1 million from a total budget of £8.2 million. This is currently being addressed by the partnership through the commissioning executive and by year end it is expected that full spend will be achieved as required by Government Office for the West Midlands. Arrangements, however are being put in place to agree any underspend to be carried forward. The entire allocation is committed for the next financial year until 31st March 2006 which demonstrates that the commissioning approach has been effectively rolled out.

80. **Mayoralty 2005/2006**

It was **moved** by Councillor Ansell, duly seconded and:-

Resolved

That Councillor J.R. Cook be nominated as Mayor and Councillor Mrs. B.V. McCracken be nominated as Deputy Mayor of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2005/2006.

81. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(1) Walsall Council Core Values

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Zahid and duly seconded:-

That the Council's core values be adopted by the Council.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:-

Resolved

That the Council's core values be adopted by the Council.

(2) Offensive Weapons Act

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Longhi and duly seconded:-

- (a) That the enforcement of the relevant provisions of The Criminal Justice Act, 1988, as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996, which relate to the sale of knives and certain articles with blade or point to persons less than 16 years of age, be delegated to the Head of Public Protection.
- (b) That enforcement of the relevant provisions of The Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act, 1959, with respect to the offences for the sale of flick knives and gravity knives be delegated to the Head of Public Protection.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:-

Resolved

- (a) That the enforcement of the relevant provisions of The Criminal Justice Act, 1988, as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996, which relate to the sale of knives and certain articles with blade or point to persons less than 16 years of age, be delegated to the Head of Public Protection.
- (b) That enforcement of the relevant provisions of The Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act, 1959, with respect to the offences for the sale of flick knives and gravity knives be delegated to the Head of Public Protection.

82. **Improving the Council's performance in development control**

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor O'Hare and duly seconded:-

- (1) That approval be given to the disestablishment of the existing Development Control committee and that a new Development Control Committee of 12 members, based on proportionality be established.
- (2) That nominations for membership of the Committee be submitted to the Chief Executive by 21 January as follows:

Conservative	7 members
Labour	4 members
Liberal Democrat	1 member
- (3) That the Constitutional amendments in relation to the delegations to the Head of Planning and Transportation, Head of Legal Services and the Head of Environmental Regeneration set out in the report be approved,
- (4) That the Constitutional amendments be adopted from 1st February 2005.

Amendment moved by Councillor Ansell and duly seconded:-

That in respect of the recommendations of the report improving the Council's performance in development control:-

Recommendations 1 and 2 be deleted and further consultation take place on a cross party basis on the future of the Development Control Committee and the Council agree recommendations 3 and 4 as set out in the report to improve performance of development control by delegating to officers the new authority to make officer decisions in respect of Appendix A of the report.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried and the substantive motion was put to the vote as follows:-

- (1) That the Constitutional amendments in relation to the delegations to the Head of Planning and Transportation, Head of Legal Services and the Head of Environmental Regeneration set out in the report be approved,
- (2) That the Constitutional amendments be adopted from 1st February 2005.

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the Constitutional amendments in relation to the delegations to the Head of Planning and Transportation, Head of Legal Services and the Head of Environmental Regeneration set out in the report be approved,
- (2) That the Constitutional amendments be adopted from 1st February 2005.

83. Changes to Councillor representation on Council Committees

Resolved

That the following change in membership for the remainder of the municipal year be noted:-

Committee	New nomination	Replacing
Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel	Councillor Micklewright	Councillor Martin

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.