

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 18 June 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor John 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 Arif	Procurement, transformation and performance management
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and inclusion

1988 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harrison and Harris

1989 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 16 April and 14 May 2008 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as correct records.

1990 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1991 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 6 June 2008 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted:

1992 Sustainable Community Strategy

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved recommend to Council

That Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

1993 Primary capital programme

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Walsall's Primary Capital Strategy be approved.

1994 Education capital programme

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix B of the report be approved.

1995 Harnessing technology grant

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the allocation of grant to schools set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

1996 Proposed closure – Castleview Children’s Home

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the timetable for the closure of Castleview Children’s Home as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.
- (2) That the proposed strategies to minimise the risk of compulsory redundancy by offering redeployment and voluntary redundancy (Section 4.3), be endorsed.

1997 Joint Area Review report 2008

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Ofsted’s report attached at Appendix 1 be formally received.
- (2) That the contents of the Joint Area Review report published on 3 June 2008, and its findings of many strengths and good capacity for continuing improvement, be acknowledged and celebrated.
- (3) That it be noted that a draft improvement plan will be brought to Cabinet at its meeting in September 2008.

1998 Review of waste collection service

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the updated Waste Policy for the new waste collection service, with effect from 1 February 2009, be approved (Appendix A), with any minor amendments to the policy agreed with the portfolio holder in advance
- (2) That the Marketing and Communications Plan for implementing the new waste collection service, be approved (Appendix B) with any amendments to the plan agreed with the portfolio holder in advance.

1999 Corporate financial performance 2007/8

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following pre-audit outturn be noted:

- a net revised revenue underspend of £4.46m, after allocation of £0.96m to SCI, prior to approval of carry forwards,
- carry forwards of £0.38m including £0.71m of slippage/planned underspends and £0.33m carry forward of overspends,
- a net revenue under spend, after approval of carry forwards, of £0.76m, resulting in year end general reserves of c £7.78m,
- unspent capital resources of £17.1m; £10.6m on the mainstream capital programme, and £6.5m on the prudential programme,
- approved capital slippage/carry forwards of £11.2m, of which £10.1m is mainstream and £1.1m is prudential borrowing.
- additional reserves over and above that required by the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) will be prudently earmarked by the CFO, in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance and personnel following the audit of the accounts, as set out in the approved MTFS.

2000 Welfare Rights Joint Team

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Welfare Rights Joint Team's project continue as an established team between the Council's Welfare Rights Service and the Department of Works and Pensions Local Service.

2001 Black Country Libraries Partnership Consortium

Jamie Morris, Executive Director, presented the report in the absence of Councillor Harrison:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given for the Black Country Purchasing Consortium to tender on behalf of Walsall for the supply and servicing of library books, audio visual material for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011 with an option to renew the contracts for a further two years, with contracts being awarded by Wolverhampton City Council on behalf of Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton

2002 CPA Report 2008

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Audit Commission's corporate assessment attached at Appendix 1 be formally received.
- (2) That the contents of the corporate assessment report to be published on 3 June 2008, and the resulting consolidation of the Council's overall 3 star CPA status be acknowledged and celebrated.
- (3) That it be noted that a draft improvement plan will be brought to Cabinet at its meeting in September 2008.

2003 Sheffield Community Sports and Community College

(a) Report of Scrutiny Panel

The report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

(b) Report of portfolio holder

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the decision of the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel to support the Cabinet decision made on 16 April 2008: 'that approval be given to consultation on the proposal to close Sheffield Sports and Community College on 31 December 2008, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State to approve the opening of the school as an Academy from 1 January 2009' subject to the results of the consultation being presented to the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel for consideration before they are presented to Cabinet.

2004 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.

Summary of items considered in private session

Darlaston Strategic Regeneration Area

The Cabinet approved the commencement of work on the Darlaston Strategic Regeneration Framework Area through the preparation of a framework study, and supported the principle of using compulsory purchase powers to facilitate the assembly and redevelopment of a key site in Pinfold Street within Darlaston District Centre.

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

Contract for the recovery of energy from municipal waste

The Cabinet has awarded contracts for the recovery of energy from municipal waste.

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