

# **Cabinet minutes**

**Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

**in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor S. Coughlan	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jeavons	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Burley	Children's services and education
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Jones	Clean and green
Councillor Robertson	Health
Councillor S. Coughlan	Social care
Councillor Nawaz	Personnel and business support
Councillor Shires	Agenda for change

## **3520 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **3521 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Shires declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11 – Financial arrangements for the preferred accommodation policy and withdrew from the room during consideration of the item.

In relation to Item 12 – Council tax empty property discounts 2017/18 and Item 13 – Council tax reduction scheme 2017/18, the Monitoring Officer granted a dispensation to all members under Section 33(2)(a) of the Localism Act 2011 on the basis that the number of persons prohibited by Section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business.

## **3522 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

### 3523 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

### 3524 **Questions**

There were no questions

### 3525 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 8 August 2016 was submitted:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the forward plan be noted

### 3526 **Home to school transport review**

Councillor Burley presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet approve the proposal to carry out a consultation on all aspects of home to school transport in Walsall.
- (2) That Cabinet agree to receive a further report at their meeting on 14 December 2016 that reports on the outcome of the consultation exercise and which presents proposals for approval.

### 3527 **Adoption service annual report 2015/16**

Councillor Burley presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the contents of this report be accepted as an accurate reflection of how Walsall Council is meeting its statutory duties in relation to delivery of adoption services.

### 3528 **Fostering service annual report 2015/16**

Councillor Burley presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the contents of this report be accepted as an accurate reflection of how Walsall Council is meeting its statutory duties in relation to delivery of its fostering service.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Shires withdrew from the room during consideration of this item, having declared a pecuniary interest.

### 3529 **Financial arrangements for preferred accommodation policy**

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the 'Financial Arrangements for Preferred Accommodation' policy be amended to remove the 'Usual Rates' for Residential and Nursing Home care table and refer readers to published, annually updated, 'Usual Rates Information' which are agreed by the Executive Director in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
- (2) That Option 3 be implemented which will see an increase in the current Deferred Payment charges to the following charging bundle:
  - A one off charge of £400 in setting up the Deferred Payment to cover legal dispersals, land registry charges and valuation fees to be implemented for new clients from 1 October 2016.
  - An annual administration charge of £300 to cover re-valuation fees, issuing statements and invoices, monitoring account and application of interest to be implemented for new clients from 1 October 2016.
  - A one off charge of £110 to cover closure costs for example redemption costs, lifting charges, final invoice and application of interest to be implemented for new clients from 1 October 2016.
- (3) That these charges be reviewed annually and new rates agreed by the Executive Director in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

**3530 Council tax empty property discounts 2017/18**

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Cabinet noted an error in the report at paragraph 6.1 in that reference to 2016/17 should read 2015/16

**Resolved to recommend to Council**

That the revised current discount scheme including the removal of the seven-day 100% discount for empty homes be approved.

**3531 Council tax reduction scheme 2017/18**

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet approve a public consultation exercise on the options summarised in Table 1 in the report to establish a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for introduction from April 2017.
- (2) That Cabinet receive a further report following the above consultation.

**3532 Community Cohesion strategy**

The following recommendation of the Council from its meeting on 21 July 2016 was submitted:

- “(1) That a new standalone, community driven ‘Community Cohesion Strategy’ and action plan be created for Walsall. This strategy and action plan should be ready for delivery by April 2017;
- (2) That the ‘Community Cohesion Strategy’ be included in the policy framework as an ‘other plan and strategy’ under Part 4.01 (a)(ii) of the Walsall Council Constitution;
- (3) That the remaining recommendations of the Community Cohesion Working Group be referred to Cabinet to consider their implementation.”

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That Cabinet agree to the proposed responses to the remaining recommendations of the Community Cohesion Working Group as set out in section 4 of the report.

The meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.

Chair:

Date: