

# **Cabinet minutes**

**Wednesday 12 April 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**

**in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Tom Ansell	Leader of the Council
Councillor Zahid Ali	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Eddie Hughes	Children's services
Councillor Zahid Ali	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Melvin Pitt	Housing and community safety
Councillor Garry Perry	Leisure and Culture
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration
Councillor Alan Paul	Social care and health

## **1522 Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor O'Hare.

## **1523 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2006, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **1524 Declarations of interest**

Annie Shepperd declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 15 on the agenda relating to the Adult Learning Inspectorate report.

## **1523 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 17 March 2006 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

That the forward plan be noted.

**In view of the public interest, Cabinet agreed to take the following item next.**

### **1524 Beechdale Primary School – outcome of consultation**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Cabinet agreed to a request from Councillor Rose to make representations on behalf of parents and pupils at Beechdale Primary School in respect of the proposed closure.

Councillor Rose addressed members. She said that whilst it was accepted that the school had been classed as not performing well, parents felt that there was still a future for the school. She referred to concerns in respect of the safety of children attending other schools and of a reduced level of attention focused on children at those schools because of increased numbers. In view of these concerns, Councillor Rose requested that, during the period of consultation, parents be allowed to submit alternative proposals.

Members responded to Councillor Rose in respect of the process and thanked her for her contribution.

Helen Denton, Education Walsall, explained the next steps of the consultation process.

It was **moved** by the Leader, duly seconded and:-

## **Resolved**

That approval be given to the publication of a statutory proposal to manage the closure of Beechdale Primary School and agree the most appropriate alternative placement for each pupil in other schools in the Borough through negotiation with each parent with effect from 31 August 2006 (Option 1 of the consultation document).

### **1525 Education capital programme 2005/06 and 2006/07**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix 2 of this report be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director to accept tenders for works in excess of £250,000 but within the identified resources.

#### **1526 Rushall Community College – outcome of consultation**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That approval be given to the publication of a statutory proposal to close Rushall Community College from 31 August 2006.

#### **1527 Determination of admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the admission arrangements for primary and secondary community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2007/08 as set out in this report be approved.
- (2) That the associated statutory notice be published.
- (3) That Education Walsall inform all consultees of the determination of the admission arrangements for 2007/08.

#### **1528 Results of Government Office for the West Midlands reassessment of the Youth Service**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Members congratulated all staff involved on the excellent progress that the service had made.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**1529 Children's Centre capital**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the allocation of capital funds as set out in the report be agreed.

**1530 Site of Redhouse JMI School**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That Cabinet delegate to relevant Executive Directors in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council authority to develop proposals for consultation on the use of the proceeds that can be attributed to the sale of the playing fields at Redhouse JMI School.

**1531 Equality and diversity strategy 2005-08**

Councillor Zahid presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Equality and diversity strategy 2005 – 2008 be approved.

**1532 Beacon index 2006/07**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Beacon Index as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved and finalisation of targets be delegated to the Executive Director (CFO) in consultation with relevant colleagues and the cabinet portfolio holder for performance management.

**1533 CPA improvement plan**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the progress made on delivering the CPA improvement plan at Appendix 1 of the report be noted and endorsed.
- (2) That the CPA improvement plan be terminated now that it has served its purpose.
- (3) That approval be given to the development of a corporate assessment and joint area review action plan for approval and monitoring by Cabinet.

**1534 Walsall Council – Adult learning inspectorate report December 2005**

Councillor Perry presented the report:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That Cabinet approve the preparation of an action plan to address the Adult Learning Inspectorate findings and that this be submitted for Cabinet approval in due course.

#### **1535 The Black Country study**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet endorse the draft document setting out the preferred options for revisions to the Region Spatial Strategy (RSS) for submission to the Secretary of State by West Midlands Regional Assembly, subject any necessary future amendments.
- (2) That the Executive Director Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council and relevant portfolio holder be delegated authority to agree any necessary amendments in respect of issues outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and in relation to the emerging 'Black Country Story'.

#### **1536 Urban open space supplementary planning document**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the responses to be submissions received in reply to the formal consultation exercise noted endorsed.
- (2) That the Urban Space Open Supplementary Planning Document be adopted.

#### **1537 Townscape Heritage initiative funding**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

That officers be authorised to prepare and submit a Stage 1 Townscape Heritage Initiative funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Willenhall Town Centre for submission in May 2006.

## **1538 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.

At this point in the meeting, the Leader thanked the Cabinet for their contributions during the municipal year.

### **Summary of private session**

#### **Late Item**

## **1539 Gladstone House, Hospital Street, Walsall**

The Cabinet received a report in respect of the disposal of Gladstone House, Hospital Street, Walsall and agreed to dispose of the property to Caldmore Area Housing Association Ltd subject to conditions. Cabinet accepted that this may be below Best Consideration in accordance with the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003.

[Exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.

Leader:

Date: