

Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Held in the Town Hall at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

Present – in person

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Martin	Adult Social Care
Councillor Butler	Clean and green
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Craddock	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Statham	Internal Services

In attendance – in person

Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive

Mr A. Cox, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

In attendance – remote

Mrs D. Hindson, Executive Director, Resources and Transformation

Mr S. Neilson, Executive Director, Economy Environment and Communities

Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub

Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director Children's Services

Mr S. Gunther, Director of Public Health

3771 Welcome

At this point, Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person with appropriate social distancing requirements and would be conducted using the hybrid meeting system to enable it to be streamed on YouTube and to enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He said that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance; and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council's website.

3772 Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Wilson

3773 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2021 were submitted.

Resolved (unanimous)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2021 a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3774 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3775 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

3776 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

3777 Questions

No questions were submitted

3778 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 6 September 2021 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3779 Corporate Plan: markers of success Q1

Councillor Bird presented a report which reported on the Council's first quarter 2021/22 Corporate Plan Markers of Success, highlighting current achievements, identified interdependencies and any support requirements to ensure Markers were met.

(see annexed)

Resolved (assent)

That Cabinet note the achievements, identified interdependencies and requirements set out in the report relating to the period April – June 2021, being the 1st quarter of 2021/22

3780 **Assistance with Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought to increase assistance to the national Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), being the same as the Acceleration of the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff, to safely relocate Afghan nationals who had supported the armed forces

(see annexed)

It was Moved by Councillor Andrew, Seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote:

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1) That Cabinet pledges to assist with the relocation of an additional up to 40 Afghan individuals (which includes immediate family), taking Walsall's total pledge to up to 120 individuals, through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy
- 2) That Cabinet approve the variation of the contract for the Provision of Resettlement and Support for Syrian Refugees with the Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) to support the relocation of additional Afghan Refugees and to include the option to extend the RMC contract until 30 November 2022. The estimated value of the variation is £130,000 taking the estimated total contract value including this variation and extension to £604,744.
- 3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to authorise these and any further variations to the contractual arrangements for the services identified above, should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules.
- 4) That Cabinet approve in principle to support the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme subject to proper processes being followed.

3781 **Consultation Plan on Preferred Local council Tax Reduction Scheme**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval to consult upon the implementation of a new local council tax reduction scheme (LCTR) from April 2022.

(see annexed)

It was Moved by Councillor Andrew, Seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote:

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1) That Cabinet agrees to proceed with an 8 week public consultation period to start from 20 September on the preferred option to implement a new banded income scheme as detailed in option 2

- 2) That a further report detailing the outcome of the consultation and any revisions to the preferred scheme are considered by Cabinet and approved by Council before the 31st January 2022.

3782 Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Wave 1.

Councillor Andrew presented a report which proposed to assist registered social landlords (RSLs) with stock in the borough to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings that have the lowest energy efficiency through co-ordinating and submitting a bid on their behalf for Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).

(see annexed)

It was Moved by Councillor Andrew, Seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote:

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director Children Services to bid to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and for the council to act as Accountable Body for the same.
- 2) That Cabinet agrees that as part of the bid a fee for councils services of up to 5% is included which will be used as income to directly support Finance and Housing Energy Team costs in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

3783 Payment by Plan for Adult Social Care Provers during Covid-19 pandemic

Councillor Martin presented a report which sought approval for the Council to reintroduce flexible arrangements for Adult Social Care Home Care providers.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Martin referred to the recent Government announcement in relation to Adult Social Care and made the following statement:

“Successive governments, over two decades, have promised sustainable funding and reform of adult social care and so the Prime Ministers announcement yesterday feels like a significant step forward. We hope that this will be the start of a transformation of health and social care for those of us with care and support needs, or who care for family members who do.

We will understand more as the detail becomes available, but, the plan, published yesterday – ‘Building Back Better’ sets out its intentions for social care to:

- *introduce a cap on personal care costs;*
- *provide financial assistance to those without substantial assets;*
- *deliver wider support for the social care system, which includes:*
 - *CQC oversight of Adult Social Care and ICS’s*
 - *Developing the social care workforce*
 - *Supporting unpaid carers*
 - *Investing in Disabled Facilities Grants and Supported Housing*

- *Improving information and advice for service users*
- *improve the integration of health and social care systems*

The new Health and Social Care levy of 1.25% will raise £36 Billion pounds over 3 years. However, It should be noted that in the first 3 years, only £5.4 billion pounds of that is allocated to social care, with the rest supporting the recovery of the NHS. Furthermore, the plan presented yesterday, whilst going some way to addressing equity of access to social care support for those with moderate savings, it also sets out a number of clear additional burdens for the local authority, without clarity on if Councils will be fully recompensed for these. Certainly, in the short to medium term, the additional levy will not ease the profound and escalating demand and unit cost pressures on the Adult Social Care budget.

Our officers in Adult Social Care will work closely with regional, national colleagues and the Department of Health and Social Care in coming weeks and months to seek further clarity on the reforms and the impact for Walsall and will provide a full report to Cabinet on this in due course.”

It was Moved by Councillor Martin, Seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote:

Resolved (unanimous)

- 1) That Cabinet approves the restart of financial relief for contracted and non-contracted Adult Social Care domiciliary care providers of ‘payment by plan’ arrangements (except where there is no evidence of care having taken place) for domiciliary care services until the 31 March 2022 with an estimated total additional cost of £28,000 per week for 2021/22.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Adult Social Care (ASC) Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Public Health & Hub, and the Council’s Section 151 Officer to cease or extend arrangements based upon demand levels over the winter 2021-2022, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds, variations and other related documents.

3784 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2021-2026

Councillor Towe presented a report which sought approval for the new syllabus following the statutory 5 year annual review.

(see annexed)

It was Moved by Councillor Towe, Seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote:

Resolved (unanimous):

That the Walsall Agreed Syllabus “Walsall RE Syllabus June 2021 – 2026” attached as an appendix to this report, be approved.

Part II - Private session – Public Summary

3785 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.

3785 Delivery of Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

Public summary:

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval for the surrender of a lease to enable the delivery of improved public transport interchanges in the town centre which formed part of the Connected Gateway project funded by the Future High Street Fund.

The Cabinet approved the terms put forward and delegated authority to the Director of Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Leader to agree the final terms.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.31 p.m.

Chair:

Date: