

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird
Councillor Andrew

Councillor Hughes
Councillor Bennett
Councillor Martin
Councillor Arif

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader, Economy, infrastructure and
development
Care and safeguarding
Personnel and business support
Public health and wellbeing
Shared services and procurement

3449 Apologies

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

3450 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 and 24 February and 7 March 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3451 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3452 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.

3453 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 8 March 2016 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3454 **West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2016/17**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the West Midlands 2016/17 Block Allocations as set out at Table 1 in Section 6 of this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the Walsall Transport Capital Programme 2016/17 as set out at Table 2 in Section 6 of this report.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the utilisation of the Integrated Transport Block element of the grant funding for 2016/17 as described in paragraphs 6.3 to 6.8 of this report and appendices A to G, including the allocation of any slippage from 2015/16 to the 2016/17 programme.
- (4) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Development, to manage any changes to the 2016/17 Integrated Transport Block programme allocations in order to manage the overall budget within approved limits.
- (5) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Development, to negotiate on its behalf with the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands ITA and government departments to maximise the values of future financial resources allocated to Walsall Council in pursuit of its transport priorities, including signing relevant agreements and contracts for schemes which are approved within the Walsall Transport Capital Programme 2016/17.

- (6) That Cabinet approve the use of the Homes and Communities Agency Technical Framework Panels 2014 – 2018 and the West Midlands Transportation Professional Services Framework to procure essential specialist services such as structural engineering or traffic modelling as necessary to ensure that delivery programmes are met. This would be utilised when the resource is not available in-house or via existing shared services with other local authorities in line with the Council's Contract Rules and in consultation with the Council's Procurement Team.

3455 Local strategy for flood risk management in the Black Country

A report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet approve the Black Country Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management.

3456 Extending the Economic Growth Programme

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the continued use of £3,176,636 of capital and revenue funding as set out within table 3.6.1 to support the Economic Growth Programme moving forward.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the use of £2,674,256 of revenue funding from the Economic Growth Programme together with £4,221,718 of mainstream funding and £360,000 of Local Growth Funding as set out in section 3.9, providing a total of £7,255,974 to extend the Economic Growth Programme through to the 31 March 2019, directly supporting Council staffing and associated costs in the delivery of services that create the conditions for and achieve outcomes, as illustrated in tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the acceptance by officers of £990,000 of Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall (VIEW) funding once approved to enhance the Economic Growth Programme, providing an increased budget of £8,245,974.

- (4) That Cabinet grants delegated authority to the Executive Director for the Economy and the Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make the appropriate revisions or additions to the Economic Growth Programme's design, costs, contents, duration and flexibility as required, together with the reinvestment of all identified reserves, including the £502,380 capital funding set out within table 3.6.1, together with any additional funding secured.
- (5) That Cabinet grants approval for officers to seek out, secure and if offered accept additional external resources in accordance with the Councils Grants Manual.

3457 Site of former Daw End School

Councillor Andrew presented the report and said that the decision relating to this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information and that a summary of the decision would be published:

(see annexed)

3458 Willenhall Economic and Development Programme

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the progress made by officers towards the production of a programme of targeted activity for the Willenhall Economic Development Programme area.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees the baseline report, attached as Appendix A, and the resulting twelve month work plan, attached as Appendix B,
- (3) That Cabinet authorises officers to implement the twelve month work plan subject to the identification of additional resources as necessary.
- (4) That Cabinet agrees to receive a future report on progress in delivering the initial work plan, and a strategy for delivery of an economic and development programme over defined timescales and including budgetary and resource implications.

3459 Independent fostering agencies framework

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve award of spot purchase call off contracts under the West Midlands Regional Foster Care Framework, for an initial term of two years, to commence service delivery from the 4 April 2016 to 3 April 2018, with the option to extend the initial term by up to a further two years, from 4 April 2018.
- (2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Children Services, to enter into spot purchase, call-off contracts with providers under the West Midlands Regional Foster Care Framework for the provision of foster care services, by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise contracts or other related documents for such service.

3460 Fostering service annual report

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet note the good progress made during this period, and also the additional report covering April – September 2015.

3461 Adoption Service 6 monthly progress report

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

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

3462 Healthwatch, Walsall

Councillor Bird presented the report and said that the decision relating to this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information and that a summary of the decision would be published:

(see annexed)

3463 Agreed syllabus for Religious Education

David Haley, Executive Director, Children's Services presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

(1) To recommend to Council

That the Agreed Syllabus be approved, to be implemented from 1 September 2016.

(2) That Cabinet subsequently approves the launch and promotion to schools of the Agreed Syllabus.

3464 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 the items in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

3465 Site of former Daw End School

Following consideration of confidential information, the Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the disposal to the proposed purchaser of the freehold interest in the land at the former Daw End Special School shown edged in black on plan number EPMS 3188/7 **Appendix A**, extending to 2.84 acres (or thereabouts);

provided:
 - i) the sale price satisfies the requirement to achieve best consideration;
 - ii) the site investigations are satisfactory;
 - iii) the purchaser enters into a contract conditional on planning permission with the chosen Housing Association;
 - iv) the purchaser bears the Council's surveyor's fees and legal costs; and
 - v) the transaction does not reach legal completion until the purchaser has obtained detailed planning permission from the Local Planning Authority for the proposed development.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy Regeneration and Development to approve the final terms for the disposal of the freehold interest in the site.
- (3) Noted that under section 77 of the 1998 Act a proportion of the proceeds of the sale is required to be reinvested and that Cabinet previously resolved that these funds should be allocated to the named project for Rushall Primary School.
- (4) Further noted that the first call on receipts not covered by Section 77 will be to complete work on the Education Development Centre as agreed by Cabinet in December 2013.

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

3466 Healthwatch, Walsall

Following consideration of the confidential information, the Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the award of a contract for a Local Healthwatch service for Walsall, for an initial term of two years from 5th April 2016 until the 31st March 2018 with an option to extend by a further 12 month period to Engaging Communities Staffordshire.

- (2) Delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director of Social Care & Inclusion to enter into the contract for the delivery of a Local Healthwatch Service for Walsall by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

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

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.