

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

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

3623 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 10 and 15 March 2017 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3624 Declarations of interest

Councillor Jones declared a pecuniary interest in item 15 – Selective licensing of the private rented sector and withdrew from the room for that item.

3625 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.

3626 Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

3627 Questions

There were no questions.

3628 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 10 April 2017 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3629 The Walsall Plan – Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Walsall

Councillor S. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Coughlan that the wording in paragraph 3.2: “Safely reduce the number of children that need to be in care” should be amended to read:

“Supporting and empowering vulnerable children and young people to improve their physical and mental health”

Councillor Robertson commented that the Health and Wellbeing Board had also approved the plan and he took the opportunity to thank Ms Chapman for her work on this.

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020 be approved as the overarching plan for the Walsall partnership.

3630 Broadway North Home

Councillor Jeavons presented the report:

(see annexed)

At this point, the leader declined a request from Councillor Martin to address the Cabinet. He said that he would allow one speaker and that that he had already received a request from Mrs. B. McCracken of the Park Hall Community Association to do so.

Mrs McCracken was invited to address the Cabinet and said that she passionately believed in the value of community education, particularly with people living longer and the need to focus on Health and Wellbeing. She pointed out that the Park Hall Community Association provided education and activities which focussed on keeping people fit and healthy, not just for residents of Park Hall but also the wider paddock area with Chuckery having a large multicultural population with many large families and elderly residents. She also added that the Paddock ward did not have other community buildings which would be able to provide this service.

The Leader reminded everyone that the building was registered as an Asset of Community Value and that the community would be supported through that process.

Councillor Jeavons **moved** the recommendations as set out and this was seconded by the Leader.

At this point, some members of the audience expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision during which time allegations relating to conflicts of interest were made. Both the Chief Executive and the Council's Monitoring Officer, Mr A. Cox, intervened and cautioned that any allegations must be substantiated. Mr Cox reminded the meeting that there was a proper published complaints procedure which should be used and that he had delegated authority to investigate such matters.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet declares the site, shown edged bold on plan no. EPMS 3549 and extending to 8,267 square metres or thereabouts, surplus to the Council's requirements and approves the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in it on the open market by informal tender.
- (2) That Cabinet notes that the property cannot be marketed until the Adult Social Care and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health NHS Trust staff have been relocated and Park Hall Community Association have vacated the building.
- (3) That, to facilitate disposal, Cabinet approves the termination of Park Hall Community Association's licence to occupy at an appropriate point prior to sale.
- (4) That Cabinet delegates approval of the terms for disposal to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

3631 Darlaston Town Hall

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet in principle approves the grant of a 25-year lease of Darlaston Town Hall to Murray Hall Community Trust at a peppercorn rent of £1 and notes that a market rent for the building is estimated to be in the region of £20,000 per annum.
- (2) That Cabinet in principle approves the entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Murray Hall Community Trust to ensure that the building will be used to support the council's corporate priorities.
- (3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director, Change and Governance in consultation with the Executive Director, Economy and Environment to negotiate the terms of the lease and memorandum of understanding as set out in recommendations (1) and (2) and subsequently report the outcome of those negotiations to Cabinet.

3632 Specialist school place planning

Councillor Nawaz presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the proposal to provide additional special school places at the school sites set out in this report to meet the increase in demand for special school places in September 2017.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the potential increase in the number of specialist school places in Walsall that may be required and approves a process of statutory consultation on the proposals to increase capacity. A formal period of consultation would run for a period of at least four weeks.
- (3) That Cabinet receive a further report to consider the options available to ensure the authority can meet its statutory requirement to ensure sufficient school places are available within Walsall.

3633 **Walsall Adult and Community College**

The item was withdrawn.

3634 **Contributions policy for community based services**

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Coughlan said that the wording in paragraph 5.1 should be amended to read:

“It is proposed to implement this new charging policy with effect from the 1 May 2017. The Cabinet decision will therefore terminate the existing contributions policy with effect from 30 April 2017. This comes into effect for all new and existing customers, however for those existing customers who do not have a support plan figure populated in Mosaic (because their review is pending) the actual charge from 1 May 2017 will be based on an estimated support plan cost (as set out in paragraph 5.7 below) until their next review.”

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the cessation of the existing contribution policy for community based services and approves a revised Contributions Policy for Community Based Social Care, effective from 1 May 2017 for new and existing clients.

3635 **Selective licensing of the private rented sector**

Councillor Jones, having declared a pecuniary interest, withdrew from the room for this item

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

(1) That Cabinet approve a public consultation exercise in line with the prescribed process for the Selective Licensing of 2 areas to be known as:

- *Willenhall* and shown on Map 1: Appendix 3a
- *Town Centre and adjoining areas* and shown on Map 2a : Appendix 3b

This consultation to include proposed licensing conditions (Appendix 5) and fee levels (Appendix 7),

(2) That Cabinet receives a further report following the above consultation.

3636 Child poverty

The report of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report and recommendations of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

3637 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.

Summary of items considered in private session

3638 West Midlands Growth Company and variation of CIF allocation

The Cabinet considered a report which outlined the approved timescales, governance and funding arrangements to create a West Midlands Growth Company following the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board approval on 3 March 2017. The report asked Cabinet to consider that Walsall Council become an 'A' Member of the West Midlands Growth Company which is set to go live from 1 May 2017. Cabinet approved:

- (1) That Walsall Council be an 'A' Member of the West Midlands Growth Company that is scheduled to go live on 1 May 2017.
- (2) That the Leader of the Council be the member representative of the Walsall Council as an 'A' Member of the West Midlands Growth Company together with delegated authority to nominate the Walsall Council Non Executive Director.

- (3) That the Chief Executive of the Council be the West Midlands Councils senior management representative as Non Executive Director of the West Midlands Growth Company for the duration of his employment with the Council together with delegated authority to the Leader to nominate any replacement in the event of vacancy in that Non Executive Directorship.
- (4) That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive of the Council are fully indemnified and insured by the Council in these roles.
- (5) The integration of strategic growth functions.
- (6) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the details of any agreements regarding the West Midlands Growth Company.
- (7) That subject to the terms of the legal agreement, to underwrite up to a maximum of one sixth of Birmingham City Council's revenue account losses arising from its role as Accountable Body for the West Midlands Collective Investment Fund ('CIF') until such time that the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is able to borrow funds for non-transportation purposes in its own right.
- (8) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Leader, to agree the details of any legal agreement between the Walsall Council and Birmingham City Council.

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

3639 Black Country Enterprise Zone – land acquisition

- (1) The Cabinet approved the acquisition of a piece of land within the Black Country Enterprise Zone which is of strategic importance to Walsall's employment land supply and also to the delivery of the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan's economic objectives; and which is capable of delivering significant investment, floor space and job creation. The Cabinet also made a recommendation to Council to amend the Capital programme accordingly.
- (2) Cabinet also delegated authority to the Executive Director Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to approve the final terms of the acquisition.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.40 p.m.