

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Martin	Adult social care
Councillor Wilson	Children's
Councillor Butler	Clean and green
Councillor Perry	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Chattha	Personnel and business support

3428 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Andrew and Longhi.

3429 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3430 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3431 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.

3432 **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

3433 **Questions**

A question was submitted by Dr. F. Macmillan, Chair of Walsall Arboretum User Group with regard to the Arboretum Visitor Centre. In the absence of Dr. Macmillan, Councillor Bird read out the question:

“Has the revenue generated by the use of the Visitors Centre changed since the reorganisation?”

Councillor Bird replied as follows:

“Thank you for your question on revenue generated at the Arboretum Visitor Centre since the formation of the Healthy Spaces Team which commenced on 1 August 2019.

Revenue generated at the Arboretum Visitor Centre comes from a range of activities which includes room bookings, art and craft, private parties, rent, concessions such as the café and ice-cream vendor and physical activity (e.g. yoga).

The number of bookings for these areas for the periods August and September in 2018 and 2019 are:

August 2018, 63 and August 2019, 57
September 2018, 58 and September 2019, 60

The income associated with these bookings is reported periodically via the Council's finance systems and will therefore not appear until the quarter following receipt”.

3434 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 7 October was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

At this point, the Leader brought forward item 17 in view of public interest

3435 Outdoor pursuits – service cessation

Councillor Perry advised a report on this matter had been withdrawn to gain full assurance on the equalities impact and alternative provision for existing users. He said that further engagement with service users would take place and further publicity to seek a provider would be undertaken. Cabinet members concurred.

The Leader allowed an interested member of the public, Mr Summers, to comment. Mr Summers thanked Cabinet for pausing the decision to cease the service and welcomed engagement with service users.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to the December Cabinet meeting.

3436 Microsoft agreements

Councillor Bird presented the report

(see annexed)

It was noted that the decision on this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information.

3437 Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report and Plan, Councillor Perry confirmed that the plan had been agreed by the Safer Walsall Partnership (SWP) Board on 22 October 2019. He recommended that the plan be approved by the Council as a constituent partner. He commended the work of officers in the Communities team to bring this plan together.

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked Councillor Perry for his diligence.

Resolved

(1) To recommend to Council

That the Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020 be approved as the Community Safety Plan for the borough.

- (2) That Cabinet notes the Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020 priorities made in response to the key issues of the communities.

- (3) That Cabinet considers the information provided in the Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020, in their discussions on the Council's wider operational developments aligned to existing challenges and progress.

3438 Draft revenue budget 2019/20 to 2022/23

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the latest forecast overspend for 2019/20 of £1.40m as at August 2019, subject to re-profiling of Proud savings as set out in section 4.14 to 4.23. Action continues to be taken, and there is confidence that sufficient ongoing and one-off actions will be identified to bring the position back in line with the approved budget.
- (2) That the amendments to the 2019/20 capital programme as set out in section 4.24 be approved.
- (3) That Cabinet note the quarter 2 financial health indicator performance as set out in Appendix 1, and prudential indicators at Appendix 2.
- (4) That Cabinet note the financial assumptions and projections within the draft revenue budget, the uncertainty around final funding, and that these assumptions may change as the budget progresses.
- (5) That the report be referred to Scrutiny Overview Committee on 25 November 2019, to enable the Committee's comments to be considered by Cabinet.
- (6) That Cabinet note that the medium term financial outlook position assumes an increase in council tax of 1.99% in 2020/21 and future years, the assumed level of "reasonableness" in respect of referendum principles, and that any changes to those principles, as set by the Secretary of State, may change the overall budget. These assumptions are based on the Spending Round announcement on 4 September 2019.
- (7) That Cabinet note that the level of contingency funds and general reserves will need to be in line with the levels set out within the council's MTFS, the final level to be based on a detailed risk assessment, which will be reported to Cabinet in February 2020.

3439 Walsall Proud Programme – Customer Access Management

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the Council's approach and work underway as part of the Walsall Proud Programme to develop and improve the experience for customers, including how they access information and services with the council.
- (2) That Cabinet approve customer / public engagement research to be undertaken in order to inform and shape future ways of working.

3440 Walsall Proud Programme – Planning Services redesign

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note and endorse the direction of travel for the redesign of the Planning Service.
- (2) That Cabinet agree that a further report on implementation of the redesign will be presented to the next Cabinet meeting, December 2019.
- (3) That to ensure ongoing service performance during a time of change, time limited funding be released to support extra capacity in the service as set out in section 4.27 of the report and therefore Cabinet approves the earmarking of £150k of reserves to fund this extra capacity.

3441 Winter Service Operational Plan 2019 to 2022

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the Winter Service Operational Plan 2019 to 2022.
- (2) That the Executive Director, Economy & Environment in consultation with the Deputy Leader and portfolio holder Regeneration, be authorised to make minor amendments to the Winter Service Operational Plan, as necessary, to ensure the ongoing efficient and effective delivery of the winter service.

3442 Nursing block contract award

Councillor Martin presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the award of a block contract for the provision of 36 standard and nursing care with specialisms beds, for period of 18 months, with a maximum lifetime value in the region of £1,388,402.40 to £1,528,035.84 to MACC CARE (WILLENHALL) LIMITED from 4 November 2019.
- (2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to enter into the contract for the provision of 36 standard and nursing care with specialisms beds, by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise the sealing, signing or variation of any contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services.
- (3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to authorise any variations to the contract or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the contract.

3443 Walsall Proud Programme – Resilient communities

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet adopts the Model of Resilient Communities as a policy that drives the way the Council interacts with communities
- (2) That Cabinet approves the re-design of the personal responsibility component of the Model to facilitate self-help initiatives, prevention activities, a whole community education offer and a single approach to understanding the data from communities about their needs
- (3) That Cabinet approves the development of community forums in place of the current localities boards - see Appendix 2.
- (4) That Cabinet extends the locality panels to include vulnerable adults as well as children as operational fora for multi-professional teams to coordinate responses to those at risk.

- (5) That Cabinet commits to a collaborative approach with partners by establishing expectations, specifying roles and responsibilities in the Walsall Safer Partnership and the community safety unit as an initial step.
- (6) That Cabinet approves the establishment of the community safety unit as a multi-agency partnership, with multi-agency resources, as a unit to share data to drive decision-making to prevent crime and disorder as well as an appropriate response from the most appropriate organisation - Appendix 3.
- (7) That Cabinet approves the integration of the following services of the Council into one Safer Walsall Partnership arrangement; licensing applications; licensing enforcement; localities and partnerships; domestic abuse; trading standards; anti-social behaviour; statutory nuisance and environmental crime enforcement; CCTV; environmental health; Prevent; and any legacy following the Walsall for All programme and notes that a detailed structural plan will be presented to Cabinet in December for agreement.

3444 District libraries and Streetly Community Library – cessation of Sunday opening

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet agree to the cessation of Sunday opening at the five District libraries (Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall) and at Streetly Community Library, in order to contribute £40k per annum to the agreed revenue budget savings, to take effect from Sunday 5 January 2020.

3445 Proposed schools local funding formula 2020/21

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Members were informed that Schools Forum at its meeting on 16 October 2019 agreed the recommendations.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the Schools Funding Formula (Appendix A) that was recommended by Walsall's Schools Forum at their meeting on 16 October 2019

- (2) That Cabinet notes that the Department for Education may request revisions to the school funding formula and that values attributed in the formula may need to change once the Department for Education reviews the October 2019 census data.
- (3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills to amend the formula in line with Department for Education requirements and to comply with all and any relevant Department for Education regulations for the 2020/21 Schools Funding Formula.

3446 New Leaf Pupil Referral Unit

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the contents of the following reports: Walsall Pupil Referral Unit Stage 1 Options Appraisal Report (Appendix A), and the addendum to that report (Appendix B).
- (2) That Cabinet agree that the preferred option for the relocation of the Walsall Pupil Referral Unit should be to the former Educational Support Centre and former Pinfold Centre, Bloxwich and agree to move to next stage of design and feasibility study for the proposal.

3447 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.

3448 Microsoft agreements

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet award a contract to Specialist Computer Centres Plc for the resale of Microsoft Software Licences and Microsoft Cloud Services; the contract will be for 3 years and shall have an initial value of £5,644,503.
- (2) That Cabinet approve a variation of +50% of the initial contract value (50% being +£2,822,251) should it be necessary to purchase additional products and licences during the contract term.
- (3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources and Transformation to sign the relevant agreements with Microsoft on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents.

3449 Nursing block contract award

Councillor Martin presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the award of a block contract for the provision of 36 standard and nursing care with specialisms beds, for period of 18 months, with a maximum lifetime value in the region of £1,388,402.40 to £1,528,035.84, to MACC CARE (WILLENHALL) LIMITED, for the provision of a Residential and Nursing Block Contract, for the period 4 November 2019.
- (2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to enter into the contract for the provision of 36 standard and nursing care with specialisms beds, by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise the sealing, signing or variation of any contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services.
- (3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to authorise any variations to the contract or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the contract.

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

The meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Chair:

Date: