

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor John O'Hare	Leader of the Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Zahid Ali	Children's services
Councillor Garry Perry	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Walker	Environment
Councillor Al Griffiths	Finance and personnel
Councillor Arif	Procurement, transformation and performance management
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Anthony Harris	Transport

2034 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Harrison.

2035 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2008 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

2036 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2037 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 8 September 2008 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted:

2038 Area Based Grant

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Inward Investment programme, as set out in section 3.2 of the report, be approved.
- (2) That the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Worklessness programme, as set out in section 3.3 of the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation to the Sustainable Urban Development programme, as set out in section 3.4 of the report, be approved.
- (4) That the current progress regarding Target Action Planning, as set out in section 3.5 of the report, be noted.

2039 Sale of former Kings Hill JMI School

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to the sale of the Council's freehold interest in the land shown edged in red on the attached plan EPMS 2818/4, extending to 4543 square metres (or thereabouts) to the highest bidder who is proposing a scheme in accordance with the Council's planning policy, with the purchaser being responsible for the Council's surveyor's fees and legal costs incurred in the transaction.

2040 Regional Spatial Strategy – Gypsies and travellers

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Council's response to consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three Revision, Walsall Section 4(4) response appended to the report be endorsed.

2041 Education capital programme

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the scheme and budget set out in Appendix B of this report , be approved.;
- (2) That the submission of a bid for Targeted Capital Funding to the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support building developments at Rosedale Infants School, be approved.

2042 Walsall Adoption Agency annual report

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the Annual Report and the work of the Walsall Adoption Agency be noted.
- (2) That the reports of the Adoption Agency be received biannually in line with legislative requirements.

2043 Joint area review action plan

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Joint Area Review improvement plan submitted to the Secretary of State on 8 September, be noted.

2044 Medium term financial strategy

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

2045 Review of Council tax discounts for second homes and empty premises

The item was withdrawn.

2046 Corporate financial performance 2008/9

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following currently predicted year end forecasts be noted:

- a net revised revenue overspend of £0.59m (0.09% of the current gross budget) following inclusion of corrective action.
- unspent resources of c £3.56m on the capital programme which is largely expected to be carried forward into 2009/10.
- To note that further corrective action is being sought to mitigate the remaining overspend.

2047 Annual review of Treasury Management policy statement

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the revised treasury management policy statement and practices set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.
- (2) That the 2007/8 treasury management activities and performance statistics in Appendix B and the monitoring of Walsall's prudential indicators as at 31.03.08 and 31.07.08 contained in Appendix C of the report, be approved.

2048 Budget setting framework and timetable

Councillor Griffiths presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the budget framework and timetable of budget activity be noted and endorsed.

2049 Successful Green Flag awards

Jamie Morris, Executive Director presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet acknowledge Greenspace Services success in achieving a Green Flag Award for Willenhall Memorial Park in 2008 and in Palfrey Park retaining the first Green Flag Award achieved for Walsall's Park and Greenspaces in 2007; and thanks the Friends groups for their contribution to this success.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees future applications for the Green Flag Award for the Council's other premier parks and greenspaces as set out in the Council's adopted Greenspace Strategy.

2050 Beacon index – quarter 1 – 2008/09

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the quarter one position of the Beacon Index as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

251 Structures of secondary schools

(a) Report of Children scrutiny panel

The report of the scrutiny panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

(b) Report of portfolio holder

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the recommendation of the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel that the Darlaston consultation process should commence immediately and be as wide as possible and should include the recognised unions of staff in the school and the Anti Academies Alliance.

2052 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 those items in private.

2053 Walsall Gigaport – proposed disposal of land

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to the disposal of the land shown edged bold on plan no. EPMS 3027/2 and extending to 5,388 square metres or thereabouts to Walsall Housing Group, to facilitate the delivery of their new headquarters, on terms to be agreed by the Assistant Director for Regeneration in conjunction with the Deputy Leader.

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

2054 Highways repair and maintenance procurement

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet authorises the appointment of Tarmac Ltd as the 'Potential Service Provider' for the delivery of the Highways Repairs and Maintenance Service
- (2) That a further report be presented to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity in respect of the award 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 6.35 p.m.

Leader:

Date: