

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Martin	Adult social care
Councillor Wilson	Children's and health and wellbeing
Councillor Harrison	Clean and green
Councillor Perry	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Longhi	Health and wellbeing
Councillor Harris	Personnel and business support

3407 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3408 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3409 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.

3410 **Petitions**

Councillor Andrew submitted the following petitions:

- Mallory Crescent site injunction zone
- Compulsory purchase of derelict pubs on Mossley/Clean up Mossley

3411 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 5 August 2019 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3412 **Income and commercial policy**

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the Walsall Council Income and Commercial Policy, attached at Appendix 1, with immediate effect.
- (2) That consultation be undertaken on the four income generating proposals contained within section 4.9 of this report.

3413 **Corporate financial performance – Quarter 1**

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the forecast revenue overspend of £1.70m, after use of reserves and successful delivery of corrective action plans identified to date and that on-going pressures will need to be addressed as part of the 2020/21 budget process be noted.
- (2) That amendments to the capital programme as set out in section 4.10 be approved.

- (3) That the forecast council funded capital programme is expected to be on budget after rephasing of £3.10m into 2020/21.
- (4) That the financial health indicator performance as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (5) That the prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 2 be noted.

3414 Corporate Plan delivery – Quarter 1

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet endorse the performance information provided in the appendix.

3415 Corporate debt policy

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the Walsall Council Corporate Debt Policy with immediate effect.

3416 Corporate outcomes – Walsall Proud Programme

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Cabinet members commented upon the report which updated on the progress of the Outcomes workstream, during which time Councillor Longhi referred to the cross-cutting themes (paragraph 4.10) and asked officers to investigate the possibility of consulting upon the replacement of grass verges with tarmac and trees.

Resolved

- (1) That the ten refreshed Corporate outcomes be approved.

- (2) That the cross-cutting themes (components) that the Proud Programme will focus on be agreed; and
- (3) That the indicative three-year timetable for the roll-out of the component elements and transformation projects be agreed.

3417 Alternative education provision framework contract

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the award of the framework contract to the list of providers attached to the report at Appendix 1.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the delegation to award additional contracts to the Director of Children's Services, once all relevant quality assurance checks are completed. List is attached to the report at Appendix 2.

3418 Street cleansing service

Councillor Butler presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet approve additional funding on a time-limited basis from 1 October 2019 until 31 March 2020 for:

- (1) The introduction of eight additional environmental employees as mobile street cleansing operatives (Barrowmen) at a cost of £131k.
- (2) The reinstatement of an agency budget to cover holidays, sickness absence and training at a cost of £141k.
- (3) A budget for the supervision of a Community Payback Team to support street cleansing resources and volunteer groups with street cleansing activities at a cost of £20k.

3419 Supply of hired compact sweepers

Councillor Butler 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.

3420 **Outcome of trials to address fly tipping**

Councillor Butler presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the outcomes of the three trials and their effectiveness in reducing fly tipping across the borough.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the opening of both Household Waste Recycling Centres for an additional two days per week (seven days per week opening) with the operating hours of:
 - Summer hours - April to September, 26 weeks, 8.00am to 18.00pm
 - Winter hours – October to March, 26 weeks, 9.00am to 16.00pm
 - One day late start and late night opening per site
- (3) That Cabinet approve additional funding of £220K in 2019/20 in order to continue with the seven-day opening at the Household Waste Recycling Centres from October 2019 to March 2020.
- (4) That Cabinet approve additional funding of £450K (including inflationary increase) from 2020/21 to allow the opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres seven days per week.
- (5) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green, to vary the contract with Suez (the current operator) to change the Household Waste Recycling Centres opening hours to suit operations and customer demand.
- (6) That Cabinet approve a reduction in the charge for bulky collections to allow residents to have every third item collected free of charge from April 2020 as follows;
 - Current charge of £15 for up to three items reduced to £10,
 - Current charge of £30 for up to six items reduced to £25,
 - Current charge of £45 for up to nine items reduced to £40.

- (7) That Cabinet approve a reduction in Clean and Green's income targets of £39K from 2020/21 due to loss of income.

3421 Regional Materials Recycling Facility Coventry

Councillor Butler 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.

3422 Contract for dry mixed recycling waste

Councillor Butler presented the report:

(see annexed)

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

3423 Period poverty

Councillor Longhi presented the report:

(see annexed)

At this point, the Leader welcomed the new Director of Public Health, Mr Stephen Gunther.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the resolution from the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is supportive of raising issue of period poverty.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the current provision of free sanitary products in secondary schools and through services supporting vulnerable women.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the intention to focus on how to reach and ensure supply of sanitary products to vulnerable women, through services, contact with the business community, and school age girls during the holidays.

3424 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

3425 Supply of hired compact sweepers

Following consideration of the confidential information Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the award the contract for the supply of five hired compact sweepers plus a spare (only to be used if one of the 5 sweepers is off the road), for a period of five years from 18th November 2019 to Bidder 1 (Dawson Group Sweepers Ltd).
- (2) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green to authorise the signing / sealing of any contracts or related documents.

3426 Regional Materials Recycling Facility Coventry

Following consideration of the confidential information Cabinet:

- (1) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green to negotiate the terms and enter into a Joint Working Arrangement (JWA2) between the Council and other Partner Councils in order to facilitate the delivery stage of a local authority owned Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).
- (2) Approved an amendment to the 2019/20 Capital Programme (approved 28 February 2019) to fund the Council's share of development costs, noting that this should be recovered from the net interest receivable on loans over the 20 year life of the project.
- (3) Approved a further investment and to be funded from a combination of loan repayments from AssetCo and the net interest return from loans.
- (4) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources, Transformation, and the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction with AssetCo, such authority to include:

- The power to enter into the relevant binding agreements including a shareholders' agreement and associated documents necessary to complete the transaction with AssetCo;
 - In relation to the management of the loan facility, the power to negotiate and agree variations to the terms of the loan facility;
 - The power to approve the Council representation on the AssetCo Board, once the Board is established.
 - The power to enter into the Service Level Agreement with AssetCo committing the Council's waste tonnage for 20 years.
- (5) Noted a maximum gate fee (for all recyclable materials delivered by the Council to the Materials Recycling Facility) will be determined and recorded in JWA2.
- (6) Noted that if the project does not proceed, the development costs will be abortive and will be funded from a corporate revenue reserve.

3427 Contract for dry mixed recycling waste

Following consideration of the confidential information Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the award of contract for the provision of the treatment and recycling of Dry Mixed Recyclable waste to Bidder 1 (Casepak) for an initial period of 3 years, to commence on 1 October 2019 and with an option to extend for up to two years.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Environment, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder (Clean and Green) to enter into contract with the successful bidder by using the most appropriate procedures and, to authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services.
- (3) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Environment, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder (Clean and Green) to vary the contract during the contract period to ensure that the Council continues to achieve value for money.
- (4) Approved an increase in Clean and Green budgets to reflect the increase in contract costs.

The meeting terminated at 6.32 p.m.