

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 22 March 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Tom Ansell	Leader of the Council
Councillor Zahid Ali	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Eddie Hughes	Children's services
Councillor Melvin Pitt	Housing and community safety
Councillor Garry Perry	Leisure and Culture
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration
Councillor Alan Paul	Social care and health

1505 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Longhi and O'Hare.

1506 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2006, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

1507 Declarations of interest

Councillor Andrew declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 on the agenda relating to Further and higher education post compulsory discretionary awards and left the room during consideration of that item.

1508 District centres strategic regeneration framework

Councillor Andrew presented the report. He introduced Carol Wildman, Regeneration Director for Walsall Housing Group (WHG) and Francis Maude, lead consultant for Building Design Partnership (BDP) who gave a presentation outlining the proposed strategic regeneration framework:-.

(see annexed)

Members received the presentatiio and thanked the presenters:

Resolved

- (1) That the District Centres' Regeneration Framework and the priority transformational projects detailed in the report be approved, as a basis for consultation with residents and partners.
- (2) That authority for the adoption of the Strategic Regeneration Framework be delegated to the Executive Director Regeneration, in consultation with the portfolio holder Regeneration, following completion of the consultation period.
- (3) That the outline 5 year Joint Investment Strategy be presented before Cabinet for approval following the consultation process.

1509 Forward Plan

The forward plan as at 17 February 2006 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

1510 Local Area Agreements

Councillor Ansell introduced the report during which he commented positively on the work with partners and thanked David Trethewey for his contribution as project leader:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That it be noted that due to timescales the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader signed the agreement on behalf of Walsall Council and endorses that action and the agreement itself.

1511 Corporate financial performance 2005/6

Andy Burns, Assistant Director, presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the following currently estimated year end forecasts be noted:
- A net revenue overspend of c £1 m which, if no action is taken, would leave estimated general reserves of c £4m, but that actions are currently being implemented to seek to reduce this position further;
 - A surplus of c £1.4m on the capital programme, which is expected to be carried forward into 2006/7 to fund approved slippage of projects.
- (2) That the final allocation of £200k to the existing earmarked reserve relating to PtCF be approved and it be noted that the 2006/7 budget includes replenishment of this amount.

1512 Education capital programme 2005/6 and 2006/7

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the schemes and expenditure set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

1513 Further and higher education post compulsory discretionary awards

Councillor Hughes presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew having declared a personal prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of this item.

Resolved

That the LEA determines that it will exercise its power under The Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 regulations and not make such awards in the 2005/06 financial Year.

1514 Church Hill conservation area appraisal

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Church Hill Conservation Area Appraisal, be approved, for consultation;
- (2) That the proposed amendments to the boundary be noted and authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Regeneration to approve the final report, subject to no adverse comments being received.

1515 Walsall Locks conservation area appraisal

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Walsall Locks Conservation Area Appraisal, be approved, for consultation;
- (2) That the proposed amendments to the boundary be noted and authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Regeneration to approve the final report, subject to no adverse comments being received.

1516 Forest of Mercia

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement for the continued funding of the Forest of Mercia for 5 years until 31 March 2012.
- (2) That officers be authorised to negotiate a Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Forest of Mercia, in accordance with the proposals set out in this report.
- (3) That Council be recommended to nominate three elected members to represent the Council on the Forest of Mercia Members' Advisory Group

1517 Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI)

Councillor Andrew presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the award received under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) for the financial year 2005/06 be noted;
- (2) That the framework for investment through LABGI outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed, as the basis for the development of a detailed LABGI implementation programme.
- (3) That a detailed LABGI implementation plan and performance management framework be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting for consideration, to ensure that the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel are fully engaged in the process.
- (4) That the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel, be invited to propose their priorities for LABGI in the context of the framework set out in Appendix 1.

1518 Community Wardens Service – Scrutiny report

The report of Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

1519 Strategic review of Community Association funding scrutiny report

The report of Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet thanks the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel for the work that it has done on this review. This is an example of scrutiny working productively and helpfully on important issues.
- (2) That Cabinet supports a number of recommendations. In particular recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 reflect very much the way it is hoped that the community associations will develop in the future.
- (3) That Cabinet endorses wholeheartedly the focus of the scrutiny panel on the need for quality control and for community associations to establish stronger links with local neighbourhood partnerships. Governance arrangements regarding funding have never been stronger or as important
- (4) That Cabinet reaffirms its decision of only funding activities that meet the criteria of Transforming Youth Work and insisting on quality provision from trained youth workers, which has paid off and resulted in the very positive feedback received from the Government Office for the West Midlands.
- (5) That Cabinet requests community associations to consider the two key challenges which face them: firstly to address the historic over reliance on council funding for those services, beyond the statutory youth service, which they wish to provide, and secondly to demonstrate the real impact of their activity in local communities. The Council is now entering a Local Area Agreement with the government, which sets out demanding targets for improvements in the local economy, health and children's services and for creating safer, stronger communities. The focus must be on the things that really make a difference in these areas and all community associations are invited to consider how their activities from now on can really contribute to help meet these demanding targets.

1520 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 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

1521 Treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste

Jamie Morris, Executive Director, presented the report:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the contracts for the treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste be awarded in accordance with Table 1 of the report from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011, with an option for up to a three year extension.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.

Leader:

Date: