

Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Martin	Adult Social Care
Councillor Wilson	Children's
Councillor Butler	Clean and green
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Craddock	Health and wellbeing
Councillor Chattha	Personnel and business support

3709 Welcome

At this point, Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

Councillor Bird also advised that the Cabinet would be using an e-voting system at this meeting whereby members would vote using the Microsoft forms for this purpose. As the vote was formally recorded but results not visible on screen, he said that he would announce the result following confirmation from Democratic Services Officer and that the results would be included in the decision list published on the Council's website the following day.

H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

At this point, Councillor Bird reflected on the recent passing of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and paid tribute to the contribution he had made to Walsall and the nation. He reported that as a mark of respect, the Council's flags were set at half-mast until after the funeral; and that a book of condolence had been opened. Councillor Bird also remarked that it was also Her Majesty the Queen's 95th Birthday.

3710 Minutes

Councillor Bird moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2021 which was duly seconded. The vote was taken and it was:

Resolved(Unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3711 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3712 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

Resolved (by assent)

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.

3713 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

At this point, Councillor Andrew mentioned that he was aware that some residents on the Riverpoint Estate in Willenhall were expecting Cabinet to be considering a petition relating to land nearby. At Councillor Andrew's request, the Head of Law, Mr S. Portman explained the process relating to the receipt and consideration of petitions in that any petition containing over 500 signatures would be discussed at a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee but not at the point of receipt in order that reports on the matter could be prepared to inform the discussion. He confirmed that petitions containing over 1500 signatures would be submitted to the full Council meeting for debate.

3714 Questions

Questions

3715 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 12 April 2021 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved (by assent)

That the forward plan be noted.

3716 Review of Achievements 2020-21

Councillor Bird presented a report which contained a Review of Achievements document for 2020-21 to provide an overview of delivery against the corporate priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan 2018-21; and key achievements as part of the Council's response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

(see annexed)

Each member of the Cabinet gave an overview of achievements within their portfolio, during which time, Cabinet members took the opportunity to thank officers, the Leader and volunteers for their work over the past year. Councillor Bird specifically thanked the Chief Executive, Helen Paterson for her support and that of the Corporate Management Team.

Councillor Bird reported that Councillor Bal Chattha had decided to leave the Cabinet and thanked her for her contribution to the Cabinet and her diligence in managing her portfolio.

Councillor Bird moved approval of the recommendations and it was:

Resolved (by assent)

To note the achievements as detailed in the Review of Achievements 2020-21 document attached at appendix 1 and agree to the publication of this document on the Council's website.

3717 Shared Lives Model

Councillor Martin presented a report which sought approval to commence a formal consultation regarding revised payments for Shared Lives Carers.

(see annexed)

Councillor Martin moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared carried and it was:

Resolved (Unanimously)

1. That Cabinet note the report and the draft model.

2. That Cabinet approve that a formal consultation period can commence with Shared Lives carers and service users for them to have the opportunity to influence the final model.
3. That feedback on the results of the consultation be submitted to Cabinet

3718 **Direct Payment Support Services Tender**

Councillor Martin presented a report which sought approval for the proposal for the future provision of the service.

(see annexed)

Councillor Martin Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared Carried and it was:

Resolved (Unanimously):

1. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services to agree a contract modification with existing providers for the period of up to 12 months up to 5 October 2022 to allow for the completion of review and amendment of the service the specification and a 90 day transition between new and outgoing providers; should this be necessary.
2. That Cabinet delegates authority to accept tenders and award contracts for the provision of DPSS services, for a period of three years, with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further period of up to two years, to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services following completion of the tender.
3. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services to enter into contracts for the provision of DPSS services and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.
4. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts and provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.

5.

3719 Walsall Carers Centre – Extension of contract

It was noted that this item was withdrawn for consideration at the next meeting.

3720 Housing 21 – Project Agreement – Deed of Variation

Councillor Martin presented a report which sought approval for the Council to enter into the 4th Deed of Variation with Housing 21.

(see annexed)

It was noted that a decision on this item would be taken in the private session following consideration of the confidential information contained in a report therein.

Note: See minute number 3726

3721 Youth Justice Plan

Councillor Wilson presented a report which sought approval to the Annual Youth Justice Plan showing how youth justice services will be provided and funded.

(see annexed)

Councillor Wilson Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared carried:

Resolved (unanimously)

To recommend to Council:

1. That Walsall's Youth Justice Annual Strategic plan be approved.
2. That the Executive Director Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder be authorised to make any future minor amendments to the plan if and when required.

3722 School Improvement and Moderation Service

Councillor Towe presented a report which informed of the arrangements for securing a single contracted provider for the service.

(See annexed)

Councillor Towe Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared carried:

Resolved (Unanimously):

1. Following the completion of a tendering exercise in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) approve the award of a contract to the successful tenderer for the provision of School Improvement and Moderation from 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2023, together with an option for the Council to extend any part up to 3 years to 31 August 2026 and to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services, as appropriate Cabinet delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills.
- 2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts and provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3723 Provision of Alternative Education

Councillor Towe presented a report which informed of arrangements for securing a new Alternative Education Framework.

(see annexed)

Councillor Towe Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared carried:

Resolved (Unanimously):

1. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills to approve the award of contracts for the provision of Alternative Education from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2025 with option to extend any part up to 4 years to 31 July 2029 and to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services, as appropriate.

2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to authorise all subsequent call offs from the new framework agreements in accordance with the processes for doing so and terms and conditions of any such call offs that are set out in the Alternative Education Framework agreement.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts and provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the Regulations).

3724 General Building and Fire Safety maintenance Contract

Councillor Chattha presented a report which sought approval to award contracts to ensure continued statutory compliance and that essential building repairs works are undertaken.

(see annexed)

Councillor Chattha Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote and declared carried:

Resolved (Unanimously):

1. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation to award the contracts for (i) General Building Maintenance and Fire and (ii) Access Repair and Maintenance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, with start dates for both contracts of 1 June 2021.
2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation to subsequently sign or seal the above contracts.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to subsequently sign or seal any other related documents for the provision of such services as well as any extension and variation of the contractual arrangements or other related documents should this be required throughout the duration of the contracts.

Private session

3725 Exclusion of public

Resolved (by assent)

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.

Public Summary

3726 Housing 21 Project Agreement – Deed of Variation

Councillor Martin presented the report

(see annexed)

Public Summary :

The Cabinet unanimously authorised the Council to enter into the 4th Deed of Variation with Housing 21 in order to maximise efficiencies/value for money and release savings.

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

3727 Walsall Future High Streets Fund

Councillor Andrew presented a report which informed of the status of the Council's submission to the Future High Street Fund and which sought approval of the full business case and funding package for the proposed project which he said would play a key role in helping to deliver the vision set out in the Town Centre Masterplan.

(see annexed)

Public Summary

The Cabinet (unanimously) :

1. supported the Future High Street Fund project, approved the full Business Case and noted that the approved corporate Budget Plan included funding specifically to support delivery of the project.

2. approved additional funding from the Council's Pipeline Investment Fund which formed part of the Corporate budget Plan 2021-24; and noted the funding offer from MHCLG, the acceptance of which was delegated to the Executive Director Economy Environment and Communities
3. approved the property acquisitions required to deliver the project up to a specified total overall cost.
4. approved the reallocation of £0.25m of the Town Centre Masterplan and £0.25m of the Walsall Public Realm capital budgets to fund additional project costs of up to £0.50m should they be required.

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

The meeting terminated at 7.10 p.m.

Chair:

Date: