

# **Cabinet minutes**

**Wednesday 18 April 2007 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       | Children's services                                      |
| Councillor Rachel Walker   | Environment and street pride                             |
| Councillor Louise Harrison | Leisure and culture                                      |
| Councillor Adrian Andrew   | Regeneration and enterprise                              |
| Councillor John O'Hare     | Resources                                                |
| Councillor Garry Perry     | Safer stronger communities, partnerships and Vision 2021 |
| Councillor Alan Paul       | Social care, health and housing                          |
| Councillor Marco Longhi    | Transformation and performance management                |

## **1749 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2007 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **1750 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **1751 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 19 March 2007 was submitted:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the forward plan be noted:

**1752 Phase 2 modernisation of Walsall children's homes**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That approval be given to continue with the modernisation of children's residential services within Walsall and approve the use of £125,000 of unsupported borrowing to fund the capital works.

**1753 Statutory proposals to close Daw End special school and open new schools**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the statutory proposal to close Daw End Special School from 31 December 2007 be approved;
- (2) That the statutory proposal to establish a new primary school for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties with 30 places (including 6 assessment places) for pupils aged 4 – 11 years at the Priory site from 1 January 2008 be approved;
- (3) That the statutory proposal to establish a new secondary school for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties with 56 places for pupils aged 11 – 16 years in the Manor Farm building from 1 January 2008 be approved.
- (4) That the Daw End Special School building on Floyds Lane be declared surplus to educational requirements following the relocation of pupils to the Manor Farm building.

**1754 King Charles Primary School – progress towards federation**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet supports the direction of travel as shown by the good progress made towards a federation between King Charles Primary School and Bentley West Primary School.

### **1755 Education Capital Programme 2007/8**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet approves the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix B of this report now submitted.
- (2) That Cabinet approves a contribution of £260,000 from revenue and other funds towards the cost of a replacement school building by the governors of Mary Elliot Special School and adds this additional provision to the funding previously identified in the capital programme for this scheme.

### **1756 Fostering service inspection and action plan**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report and congratulated all staff in the fostering service on the results of the inspection:

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet note the remarkable, substantial progress and achievements of the Walsall fostering service.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the action plan at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted.

### **1757 Route 51 bus showcase A34 red route**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That approval be given to tender for the appointment of a contractor in accordance with the Council's Financial and Contract Rules, to undertake the construction of the Bus Showcase and Red Route proposals for the Birmingham Road Corridor.
- (2) That authority for the acceptance of tenders and award of contract be delegated to the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, following an assessment of received tenders for Value for Money and quality.

#### **1758 Black Country Consortium living landmarks big lottery application**

Councillor Harrison presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Black Country Consortium Living Landmarks Big Lottery Fund Stage 2 application for the 'Black Country as Urban Park' be noted and endorsed.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Interim Chief Executive to submit Walsall's elements of the Stage 2 Development Plan for the Black Country as Urban Park initiative, in consultation with the portfolio holders for Regeneration & Enterprise and Leisure and Culture.

#### **1759 Walsall Town Centre office corridor**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the boundaries of the area to be defined as the office corridor as defined in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
- (2) That Cabinet support a "statement of intent" that will wish to seek to deliver office developments, as a first priority over other uses on land that is identified as lying within the defined office corridor.
- (3) That Cabinet support a programme of strategic acquisitions to expand the Council's portfolio of land in the office corridor.

**1760 Bentley Centre regeneration framework study**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the recommendations detailed in the Bentley Centre Regeneration Framework Study, as set out in Appendix A, be supported.
- (2) That the delivery of the Bentley Centre Regeneration Framework Study, as set in the framework programme as set out in Appendix B, be authorised.
- (3) That Cabinet approve the development model for the delivery of Bentley's new library as set in the report and reaffirm support for the use of the capital value created from the disposal of council assets in Bentley to define that development.

**1761 Local land charges registry search fee**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the price structure for Part 1 and Part 2 of the local land Registry searches as set out in option 3 of the report be approved.
- (2) That the new price structure commence on 1 May 2007.

**1762 Staffordshire construction framework contract**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet authorises the use of the Staffordshire County Council Framework to deliver projects in the Children's Centre Phase 2 programme and future significant projects as identified above £150,000 in value.

- (2) That, subject to satisfactory conclusion to feasibility of the legal access to the framework, the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, or his nominee, enters into the appropriate form of contract documentation for access to the Framework.
- (3) That subsequent reports be presented to Cabinet on a project by project basis to approve final costs prior to placing of a project order via the Framework.

**1763 Mary Elliot Special School**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Executive Director, Children's Services be delegated authority to place orders for the project.

**1764 Voluntary sector grants – service level agreements**

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the service level agreements between the Council and Walsall Voluntary Action and between the Council and Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau, be approved.

**1765 Reprovision of residential and day care services for older people**

Councillor Paul presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Acting Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion write to Housing 21 to inform them of the Council's decision, once the Acting Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion and the Executive Director Corporate Services consider that the proposals put forward by Housing 21 are affordable and demonstrate value for money.

- (2) That officers be authorised to continue negotiations with Housing 21 and agree the terms of the documents (as defined below).
- (3) That Housing 21 be authorised to seek admitted body status into the West Midlands pension fund.
- (4) That subject to the Acting Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion and the Executive Director Corporate Services considering that the project is affordable and demonstrates value for money, Cabinet approve the authority's authorised signatory to sign, seal, execute, deliver and/or initial (as required) the documents (as defined below).
- (5) That Cabinet approves and authorises the signature, sealing, execution, delivery, performance and/or initialling of the following documents (together the "documents") signature of which is required in order to reach financial close:
  - 5.1 the Project Agreement;
  - 5.2 the Senior Lender Direct Agreement;
  - 5.3 the Collateral Warranties;
  - 5.4 any Independent Certifier's Deed of Appointment
  - 5.5 the Leases; and
  - 5.6 any other consents, waivers, undertakings, notices, letters, certificates and documents to be signed and/or initialled by the authority, whether pursuant to the terms of the Project Agreement or otherwise (and including, without limitation, any documents referred to in the Project Agreement as 'Agreed Form' documents).
- (6) That Cabinet authorises the issue of certificates under the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 to the Contractor and the Senior Lender in respect of the Project Agreement and the Senior Lender Direct Agreement.
- (7) That subject to the documents having been executed pursuant to recommendations (4) and (5) above, authority be given for Housing 21 to commence construction works in accordance with the programme set out in the Project Agreement (with an anticipated start date at the beginning of September 2007).
- (8) That subject to the documents having been executed pursuant to recommendations (4) and (5) above, agreement be given to the TUPE transfer of staff to Housing 21 in accordance with the terms of the Project Agreement (an anticipated programme date of the 1 October 2007).

- (9) That officers continue to report on progress to the monthly Redesign Programme Board meetings.
- (10) That decision making powers in relation to the recommendations outlined in paragraphs (1)-(9) above and the project generally be delegated to the Acting Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion and the Executive Director Corporate Services

#### **1766 Regional housing pot**

Councillor Paul presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet note and welcome the 2007/2008 grant award from the Regional Housing Executive of £3,707,647.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion to manage the funding, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Social Care & Supported Housing and Regeneration & Enterprise.
- (3) That priority be given to concentrate funding on the priority areas identified within the Strategic Regeneration Framework and the potential NRA area in Birchills/Alumwell.

#### **1767 Contract for the supply of photocopiers and multi-functional devices**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That authority be given to utilise a framework contract for the supply of Photocopiers and Multifunctional Devices for a four year period.
- (2) That authority to agree the final award the contract to the framework which offers the best value for money be delegated to David Brown, Executive Director.

**1768 Corporate project management – strategic project monitoring**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That the report and the strategic project register at Appendix 1 be noted.
- (2) That the use of the Walsall Project Approach be endorsed for all projects undertaken by the Council and that the strategic project register be presented to Cabinet each quarter.
- (3) That Cabinet work with relevant executive directors to implement any necessary corrective action to ensure successful delivery of strategic projects.

**1769 Beacon index 2007/8**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Beacon Index as set out in the report be approved and finalisation of targets be delegated to the Executive Director for Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for performance management.

**1770 Consultation and engagement strategy**

Councillor Longhi presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the consultation and engagement strategy attached to the report be approved.

The meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Leader:

Date: