

Cabinet

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Minutes of the meeting held in the Town Hall, at Leicester Street, Walsall at 6pm.

Members Present – in person

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities
Councillor Ali	Customer
Councillor Ferguson	Internal Services
Councillor Flint	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor M. Statham	Education and Skills
Councillor Wilson	Children's

In attendance – in person

Mrs K. Allward	Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub
Mr S. Portman	Head of Law
Mr C. Goodall	Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mr E. Cook	Assistant Democratic Services Officer

In attendance – remote

Mrs D. Hindson	Executive Director, Resources and Transformation
Ms E. Hopkins	Director, Customer Engagement
Mr S. Neilson	Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Communities

Part 1 – Public Session

3919 Welcome

Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person and would be using the hybrid meeting system to enable it to be streamed and to enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He said that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance; and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council's website. Introductions took place and a quorum was established.

3920 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Murphy.

3921 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3922 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.

3923 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

3924 Questions

No questions were submitted

3925 Forward plan

The Forward Plan, as at June 2022, was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved (by assent)

That the Forward Plan be noted.

3926 Pre-Audit Outturn 2021/22 and Covid-19 update

Councillor Bird presented a report which sought to inform Cabinet of the pre-audit revenue and capital outturn position and the financial and treasury indicators for 2021/22, including the impact of Covid-19 funding and costs/income losses. He highlighted that there had been a revenue underspend of £1.49m.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet note the pre-audit revenue outturn underspend of £1.49m and note the S151 Officers action under delegations to transfer this to earmarked reserves in 2022/23 to assist in managing the potential impact of pay and price inflation on council services in 2022/23.
- 2) That Cabinet note the service positions (table 1 and Appendix 1) and the carry forward of undelivered 2021/22 savings (Appendix 5) to 2022/23 and that 2022/23 savings delivery will be kept under review and progress reported to Cabinet in July.
- 3) That Cabinet note the transfers from and to earmarked reserves as set out in table 2 and Appendix
- 4) That Cabinet note that the opening general reserves balance will be £17.69m as at 1 April 2022.

- 5) That Cabinet note the additional funding allocated to Walsall as set out in sections 4.7 to 4.13 and Appendix 3 of this report, which has been sufficient to cover the additional costs of supporting the council's Covid-19 response in 2021/22; the final outturn position by activity as shown in table 4 and Appendix 4, and the financial impact on the delivery of 2021/22 approved savings as set out at Appendix 5.
- 6) That Cabinet approve the amendments to the 2021/22 capital programme since the last update to Cabinet in February 2022, as set out in table 8 in section 4.17.
- 7) That Cabinet note the pre-audit capital outturn underspend of £4.16m, net of carry forwards of £153.31m (table 9 and Appendices 6 and 7).
- 8) That Cabinet note and approve the capital re-profiling/carry forwards from 2021/22 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 6 and 7.
- 9) That Cabinet note the financial health indicators for 2021/22 as summarised in Appendix 8.
- 10) That Cabinet note the 2021/22 prudential indicators in Appendix 9 of this report and Walsall's compliance with these indicators.

3927 Corporate Plan 2021/22 – Markers of Success Quarter 4 and Annual Summary

Councillor Bird presented a report on Quarter 4 of the 2021/22 Corporate Plan Markers of Success, which identified achievements, interdependencies and support required to realise the agreed Corporate Plan outcomes for the period of January to March 2022, and also provided a summary of the overall 2021/22 annual performance.

(see annexed)

Resolved (by assent)

- 1) That Cabinet note the overall performance in Q4 relating to the period January – March 2022.
- 2) That Cabinet note the key achievements and identified interdependencies as highlighted in the appendices.
- 3) That Cabinet note the overall improved performance in 2021/22 (Q1 – Q4).

3928 Corporate Performance Management Framework

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought to provide Cabinet with a refreshed Performance Management Framework, following consideration and recommendations incorporated from Audit Committee, which aimed to provide assurance that the council's performance management arrangements are fit for purpose and support delivery of the Council Plan.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet note the recommendation of the Audit Committee.
- 2) That Cabinet approve the use of the Performance Management Framework for all services.

3929 **Black Country Plan: Additional Sites Consultation**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought authorisation to consult on additional housing sites, outlined in Appendix B to the report, for inclusion in the regulation 18 Draft Plan version of the Black Country Plan. The main methods to be used in the consultation were outlined in Appendix C to the report.

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew clarified that the report only related to the additional sites. The process for consultation will be followed as set out in the statutory process. The public were urged to participate and engage with the consultation process.

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve additional regulation 18 consultation to include in the BCP the additional sites as set out in the draft consultation document at Appendix B.
- 2) That Cabinet approve the approach to the consultation, as set out in Appendix C.
- 3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for Regeneration to make any necessary amendments to the Draft Plan and other consultation documents prior to the commencement of the additional regulation 18 consultation process.

3930 **Walsall Revised Local Development Scheme**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which set out the proposed revisions to the Walsall Local Development Scheme (LDS) following changes that required it to be updated.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the revised Local Development Scheme (at Appendix A to this report) and resolve to bring it into effect as of 22 June 2022.

- 2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities to make any necessary factual amendments, apart from in relation to the timetable, to the content of the Local Development Scheme.

3931 **Adult Social Care Charging Policy, Minimising Debt and Maximising Income**

Councillor Pedley presented a report which sought to provide Cabinet with a progress update on the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and associated activity.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet note the activity undertaken thus far, in relation to debt; streamlining process and maximising income.
- 2) That Cabinet approve the interim process revisions to continue to be implemented, in order to continue the improved trajectory across debt management and income maximisation; improve customer satisfaction and process efficiency.
- 3) That Cabinet approve that the Adult Social Care Charging Policy changes are consolidated into one Adult Social Care Charging Policy, which fully reflects the Health and Social Care financial reforms, considers the March 2021 consultation outputs and brings alignment of residential and community care charging Local Authority Circular.

3932 **Housing Renewal Assistance Policy**

Councillor Ali presented a report which sought to ensure that the council can assist residents with a range of property related grants (including Disabled Facility Grants) to improve the condition, accessibility and energy efficiency of dwellings in the borough.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet adopts and publishes the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022-25, as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Children's and Customer to make minor amendments to the policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer.

3933 **Housing Retro-fit 2022/23 scheme**

Councillor Ali presented a report which seeks to ensure that the authority can use time-limited Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUGs) funding to improve the energy efficiency of dwellings in the borough and help tackle fuel poverty, excess winter deaths and domestic carbon emissions,

through awarding contracts with E.on Energy Solutions Limited and Yes Energy Solutions (CiC).

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet awards contracts for energy efficiency works to homes in Walsall under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS 3) and Home upgrade Grant (HUGs 1) as call offs from the Fusion 21 Framework to:
 - a) E.on Energy Services Limited with an anticipated value of up to £5.20m;
 - b) YES Energy Solutions (CiC) with an anticipated value of up to £3.00m.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children's and Customer to enter into the relevant agreements with E.on Energy Services Limited and YES Energy Solutions on behalf of the council and to subsequently authorise signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents.

3934 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 the items in private.

Part II – Private Session

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

Whilst the meeting considered the below item in private the below minute is a full and open account.

3935 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2022 were submitted (see annexed).

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022, a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record.

There being no more business, the meeting terminated at 6:24 p.m.

Chair:

Date: