

Special Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 6.00 p.m.
in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader and regeneration
Councillor Arif	Business support services
Councillor R. Andrew	Children's services
Councillor Ali	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Towe	Finance and personnel
Councillor Harris	Leisure and culture

2708 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillors Ansell and McCracken.

2709 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2710 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

2711 Government consultation documents – change to scheme of delegations

It was **moved** by the Leader, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That in the light of the number of consultation documents being received from various Government Departments, and in order that the Council's views on changing national policy and legislation can be known to Government without delay, Council is recommended to delete paragraph 5.2(e) from the scheme of delegations to officers of non-executive functions which states that officers may not:

- “(e) provide formal responses to any White Paper, Green Paper or other consultations likely to lead to policy changes or have significant impact upon services;”

2712 Responses to consultation documents

(a) Proposals for business rates retention

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed changes in relation to business rates scheme be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet note and approve the draft response to the main consultation as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and delegate responsibility to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance and Personnel to finalise the responses which are required to be returned by 24 October 2011. This would include any additional responses to the 8 technical papers published last month which are currently being worked on.

(b) Proposals for a replacement for Council tax benefit

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed changes in relation to localisation of Council tax benefit be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet note and approve the consultation response as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and delegate responsibility to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance and Personnel to finalise the consultation responses by the due date of 14 October 2011.

(c) Department of Health: allocation options for distribution of additional funding

Paul Davies, Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed changes in relation to Local HealthWatch, NHS Complaints Advocacy and PCT Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet note and approve the consultation response as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and delegate responsibility to the Executive Director Social Care and Inclusion and portfolio holder for Social Care and Health to finalise the consultation documents, which are to be returned by 24 October 2011.

(d) Single fraud investigation service

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed changes in relation to the creation of a single fraud investigation unit be noted.
- (2) The Cabinet note and approve the consultation response as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and delegate responsibility to the Chief Finance Officer and portfolio holder for Finance and Personnel to finalise the responses which are required to be returned by 14 October 2011.

The meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.