

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 20 June 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

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| 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 I. Shires | Community engagement and voluntary sector |
| Councillor Towe | Finance and personnel |
| Councillor Ali | Public protection |
| Councillor McCracken | Social care and health |
| Councillor Ansell | Transport and environment |

2804 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Harris.

2805 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 4 and 18 April 2012 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as correct records.

2806 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2807 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.

2808 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 8 June 2012 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2809 **Growing places fund: Black Country Enterprise Zone – Darlaston site Investigation**

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet agree to retrospectively endorse the submission of the Growing Places Fund application for grant funding (circa £1.075m) for the Black Country Enterprise Zone- Darlaston Site Investigation Strategy.
- (2) That the Council act as the grant recipient for the Growing Places Fund allocation for the Black Country Enterprise Zone- Darlaston Site Investigation Programme, and subsequently act as the Accountable Body for the proposed Black Country Enterprise Zone- Darlaston Site Investigation Strategy grant programme.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director – Regeneration, in consultation with the Regeneration portfolio holder, to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to the Growing Places Fund funding award and management of grant to individual applicants under the Black Country Enterprise Zone- Darlaston Site Investigation Strategy programme.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director – Regeneration, in consultation with the Regeneration portfolio holder, to authorise decisions to allocate the Growing Places Fund monies received by the Council to third parties or otherwise to support the Black Country Enterprise Zone- Darlaston Site Investigation Strategy, by way of a grant or otherwise.

2810 **Growing places fund: Noirit site infrastructure**

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet agree to retrospectively endorse the submission of the Growing Places Fund application for grant funding (circa £1.065m) for the Noirit Site Infrastructure project.
- (2) That the Council act as the grant recipient for the Growing Places Fund funding allocation for the Noirit Site Infrastructure project.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration, to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to the Growing Places Fund funding award for the Noirit Site Infrastructure project.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration, to authorise the procurement of the proposed works for the Noirit Site Infrastructure project and to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to the Noirit Site Infrastructure project works.

2811 Education capital programme 2012/13 – further schemes

Councillor R. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix A of this report – including permission to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified, be approved.
- (2) That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director for Children’s Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio holder authority to award contracts (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) to the most suitable contractors having regard to Best Value for the works/ services as set out.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the option to use an appropriate form of procurement and contracting arrangements determined by the Head of Property Services to provide the most efficient and value for money means of delivering the projects. This shall include consideration of traditional procurement and EU compliant frameworks available to local authorities.

2812 Walsall Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011/12

Councillor R. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew commented on the importance of training for all elected members to ensure that they fully understood their corporate parenting role and suggested that this should be mandatory. Cabinet members concurred and asked officers to action this accordingly.

Resolved

That the continued progress made in safeguarding across the partnership be noted.

2813 Corporate financial performance – draft outturn 2011/12

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer for revenue carry forwards as set out in table 1 of the report, be endorsed.
- (2) That the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer for capital re-profiling and carry forward as set out in the main body of the report and Appendix 1, relating to council funded schemes, be endorsed.
- (3) That subject to (1) and (2) above, Cabinet note the pre-audit revenue outturn underspend of £0.58m and the pre-audit capital outturn underspend of £1.63m.
- (4) That the write off of debt as referred to in table 2 of the report be authorised.
- (5) That the 2011/12 prudential indicators in Appendix 2 of this report and Walsall's compliance with these indicators, be noted.
- (6) That the updated accountable body arrangements referred to in Appendix 3, be approved.
- (7) That the Chief Finance Officer (Assistant Director – Finance) be delegated authority to finalise and accept the most economically advantageous arrangements for the provision of the insurance service with the preferred insurer/insurers, in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance and personnel.

2814 Medium term financial strategy

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the updated Medium term financial strategy as attached to the report be approved.

2815 Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area Status

Jamie Morris, Executive Director presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note and welcome the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area status and funding.
- (2) That the Head of Greenspaces be authorised to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to cover membership of the Nature Improvement Area partnership and to access funding.
- (3) That the Head of Greenspaces be authorised to submit applications for funding to the Nature Improvement Area partnership and for match funding to other external grant bodies.
- (4) That in the event of applications being successful that the Council enter into grant agreements with the funding bodies and that the Head of Greenspaces be authorised to agree the terms of the same and sign the agreements where appropriate.
- (5) That no scheme will be allowed to commence unless an approval from the funding provider has been received to ensure that there will be no unbudgeted call on council mainstream resources.

2816 Review of Safeguarding services for disabled children

The report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Councillor R. Andrew informed members that she would be preparing a response for submission to the next meeting of Cabinet.

Resolved

That the report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

2817 **Creating and sustaining business in Walsall**

The report of the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Councillor A. Andrew informed members that he would be preparing a response for submission to the next meeting of Cabinet.

Resolved

That the report of the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

2818 **New Art Gallery**

The report of the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Members noted that a report in response to the recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet at the next meeting.

Resolved

That the report of the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

2819 **Private Session**

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the items 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 items in private.

2820 **Waverley mast – legal action**

Councillor A. Andrew was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That officers be instructed to proceed with the legal action in relation to the installation of a disputed telecommunication mast in Waverley Avenue, at the junction of Beacon Road, as detailed in the report and the advice of Queen's Counsel.

[Exempt information under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Leader:

Date: