

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 16 March 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 Towe	Finance and personnel
Councillor Harris	Leisure, culture and environment
Councillor McCracken	Social care and health
Councillor Ansell	Transport

2611 Apology

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

2612 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2011 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

2613 Declarations of interest

Councillor Arif declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 13 – Community Integration – and withdrew from the room during consideration of this item.

2614 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.

2615 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 4 March 2011 was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Leader referred to No. 17/11 relating to Mellish Road Church and explained the current position and proposal to resolve the situation. He expressed his personal thanks to the Head of Regeneration, Development and Delivery, and his team for the work they had done to get a resolution to this problem.

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2616 Corporate plan

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved to recommend to Council

That the Corporate Plan 2011-14 'Building Pride in Walsall', incorporating the new Council Operating Model – "Delivering. Right, Fast and Simple" be approved

2617 Contract for the provision of security services

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That following a robust tender process, to two suppliers, Profile Security Ltd. and Senator Security Services Ltd. be awarded the contracts.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Regeneration to undertake the necessary arrangements to award contracts to ensure continuity of supply.

2618 Birchills Strategic Regeneration Framework Strategy

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew expressed his appreciation and thanks to all those involved in the project for the exemplary and professional work they had done. He also recognised the work of the cross-party Birchills Project Reference Group for their visionary and brave proposals.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Birchills Strategic Regeneration Framework be endorsed; the broad themes of the strategy and identified projects are included in an Executive Summary, set out in as Appendix A of the report.
- (2) That officers be authorised to continue to work with the Project Reference Group to develop a detailed delivery plan which will determine priorities and funding mechanisms for the projects as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- (3) That the Birchills Strategic Regeneration Framework is used by the Council, its partners and stakeholders to promote investment into the area, create development partnerships, particularly in respect of the site of the former Reedswood Golf Course, and maximise opportunities for securing external funding.
- (4) That consideration of the use of any capital receipts secured from future public land disposal for reinvestment in projects identified in the Birchills Strategic Regeneration Framework be subject to the provisions of a clear business case and normal capital strategy requirements, and subject of a further report to Cabinet.

2619 Leasing of Sneyd School site

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Black Country University Technical College be granted a short term lease for construction of the new facility and subsequently a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent of the land shown edged bold on plan number EPMS 3478 and extending to 135,200 square metres or thereabouts to facilitate the opening of the UTC Academy on the 1 September 2011.
- (2) That approval be given to granting 125 years leases at a peppercorn rent in respect of those schools primary and secondary that convert to academy status in accordance with Partnerships for Schools guidelines.

2620 **Determination of admission arrangements**

Councillor R. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed scheme as set out in Appendix A of this report be approved.
- (2) That the admission arrangements for primary and secondary community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2012/13, as set out in Appendix B of this report, be agreed.
- (3) That Walsall Children's Services - Serco be asked to inform all consultees of the determination of the admission arrangements for 2012/13.

2621 **Children's services Education review outcome**

Councillor R. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the service reduction in the Education Support Services contract with Serco as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) That the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, be authorised to finalise the necessary changes to the Education Contract with Serco so as to implement the service reductions.
- (3) That the Cabinet note the impact of the Education Bill 2011 and how it will transform the nature of schools – so that it is 'the norm for all schools to be Academies', independent of Local Authority control and support – and that the Government intends to consult on direct funding of schools with many powers transferring to the Secretary of State.

2622 **Domestic abuse strategy**

Jamie Morris. Executive Director presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Domestic Abuse Strategy be approved;
- (2) That responsibility to commit expenditure against the new Community Safety grant of £299,898 for 2011/12 be delegated to the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Safer Walsall Partnership Board and;
- (3) That a report be received on a six-monthly basis to note funding allocations.

2623 Community integration – moving forwards

Councillor Arif withdrew from the room during consideration of this item having declared a personal and prejudicial interest.

Jamie Morris, Executive Director presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note the proposed changes to the PREVENT strategy post 31 March 2011 to ensure that the available funding is prudently allocated to maximise the effectiveness of the remaining funding through 2010/11 and 2011/12.
- (2) That Cabinet approve:
 - (a) the carrying forward into 2011/12 an underspend of £121,000 of remaining PREVENT funding
 - (b) the delegation of decision making on commissioning of community integration activity to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Chair of the Safer Walsall Partnership Board using agreed evaluation criteria based on local priorities
 - (c) an early allocation of £25,000 of this proposed community integration funding to the Caldmore Village Festival Group to contribute towards the estimated £90,000 total project cost

2624 Walsall Adult and Community College

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That officers continue the drive to become an outstanding service and explore opportunities to make a greater contribution to the council staff training and apprenticeship scheme.

2625 West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3

Councillor Ansell presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed 2011 -2013 transport capital settlement figures as summarised in Table 1 of the report, be approved.
- (2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Transport, to agree the programme content for uncommitted resources, to ensure that all future delivery remains within budget limits.
- (3) That Cabinet note and approve the use of the capital programme funding as set out within 3.2 of this report, notably the funding required to submit the application to Department for Transport for the Darlaston Strategic Development Area application and its subsequent implementation.
- (4) That Cabinet endorse an efficiency review in conjunction with an audit of the current development and implementation processes and procedures for capital projects. This aims to ensure that the use of limited capital resources is maximised and that our service delivery capacity moving forward matches the resources available to us. (3.6)
- (5) That Cabinet approve the slippage from the Integrated Transport (IT) Block from 2010/11, for use during future years, which will include the development of the Darlaston Strategic Development Area project, including any required property acquisition, and delivery of the remainder of Capital Schemes from 2010/11.

2626 Dog fouling

Jamie Morris, Executive Director presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet, in response to the recommendations of the Dog Fouling Working Group, receives and endorses the proposed actions as set out in Appendix A of this report.

2627 Safeguarding services to vulnerable children

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

(see annexed)

It was noted that the response of the portfolio holder would be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved

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

2628 Community based support for vulnerable adults

The reports of the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel and portfolio holder were submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the report of the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.
- (2) That the response to the three recommendations from the 18 November 2010 detailed in section 3 of the report be noted.

2629 Walsall Housing Regeneration Community Association Limited

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Council resigns its membership of the Walsall Housing Regeneration Community Association Ltd.

2630 **Private Session**

Exclusion of public

Resolved

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.

2631 **New Council depot – acquisition of land**

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

The Leader commented that extensive consultation had been carried out with the District Auditor who had said that he would not challenge the proposed approach to dealing with the disposal to a named party.

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the acquisition of the additional 4 acres of land adjacent to the new depot at Pelsall Road, Brownhills, as shown edged bold on plan number EMPS 3469.
- (2) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holder for Regeneration to agree the land to be exchanged in lieu of consideration and authorise its disposal, subject to the Council receiving further independent valuations for the former Redhouse school site.

[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 6.40 p.m.

Leader:

Date: