

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor S. Coughlan	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jeavons	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Nawaz	Children's services and education
Councillor Jones	Clean and green
Councillor Robertson	Health
Councillor D. Coughlan	Social care
Councillor Chambers	Agenda for change/Personnel and business support

3645 Apology

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Shires.

3646 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 26 April and 18 May 2017 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3647 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3648 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

The Leader advised the Cabinet that he had agreed to a late report relating a retail investment opportunity of which the Council had recently been made aware and which required an urgent decision to be made to comply with submission deadlines. This report would be taken in the private session of the agenda as its content was commercially sensitive.

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.

3649 Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

3650 Questions

There were no questions.

3651 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 5 June 2017 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3652 Pre-Audit Outturn 2016/17 and resource allocation 2018/19+

Councillor S. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the revenue carry forwards set out in table 1 of the report be approved.
- (2) That the capital re-profiling and carry forwards set out in Appendix 2 be approved.
- (3) That Cabinet note the pre-audit revenue outturn underspend of £448k and the pre-audit capital outturn underspend of £1.68m, after approval of carry forwards. The capital underspend will be used to support the 2017/18 capital programme approved by Council in February 2017.

- (4) That Cabinet note the financial health indicators for 2016/17 as summarised in Appendix 1.
- (5) That Cabinet note the 2016/17 prudential indicators in Appendix 3 of this report and Walsall's compliance with these indicators.
- (6) That the write off of debts as detailed in section 5 be approved.
- (7) That Cabinet approve the passporting of grant as set out in section 6.
- (8) That the amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy be approved.
- (9) That the process and timetable for setting the 2018/19+ budget – the Resource Allocation Framework be approved.
- (10) That Cabinet note that opening balances will be £13.9m as at 1 April 2017, which is considered a prudent amount to carry for 2017/18 and within the parameters required within the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3653 Delivering the Corporate Plan – Inclusive Economic Growth programme

Councillor Jeavons presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the creation of the new £14.79million Inclusive Economic Growth Programme by utilising existing resources and approving a new allocation of £1million of revenue funding for each of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years, a total of £2million as set out in Appendix 1.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the use of the funding to directly support Council staff associated costs and programmes that will deliver services that create the conditions for growth, achieving outcomes as illustrated in tables 3.7.1 and 3.14.2.
- (3) That approval be granted for officers to seek out, secure and if offered accept into the Inclusive Economic Growth Programme (IEGP) any additional external capital and revenue resources approved in accordance with the Councils Grants Manual.

- (4) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to make the appropriate revisions or additions to the Inclusive Economic Growth Programme's design, costs, income, contents, duration and flexibility as required, together with the reinvestment of any identified reserves, and the use of any additional funding secured.

3654 **Black Country Core Strategy review**

Councillor Jeavons presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the Black Country Core Strategy Review 'Issues and Options Report', as set out in Appendix B, for consultation – to start on 3 July and to run for 10 weeks.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the Black Country Core Strategy Review 'Call for Sites' as set out in Appendix C for inclusion in the consultation.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the approach to consultation as set out in Section 12 of this report.
- (4) That Cabinet approves revisions to Walsall's Local Development Scheme (LDS) as set out in Appendix D.
- (5) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy and Environment, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, to make any necessary amendments to the Issues and Options report and other consultation documents prior to the commencement of the consultation process.

3655 **Assisted transport and taxi service**

Councillor Nawaz presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Nawaz responded to questions and points of clarification, during which time he confirmed that the criteria for providers of this service included requirements relating to the use of seatbelts, the provisions for wheelchair users and also the requirement to undergo training in relation to child sexual exploitation. He added that there was also consideration being given to providing CCTV cameras in taxis.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Children's Services to appoint transport providers to the Dynamic Purchasing System approved supplier list at the conclusion of this tender in July 2017 and in future when any new provider becomes eligible to join during the life of the Dynamic Purchasing System and any subsequent extension.
- (2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Children's Services to award (or delegate to the Children's Commissioners to award) specific school and route contracts, during the life of the Dynamic Purchasing System and any subsequent extension from 26 July 2017, and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

3656 Creation of a Regional Adoption Agency – Adoption@Heart

Councillor Nawaz presented the report:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Nawaz advised Cabinet members of an amendment to page 295 of the report in that services to support those affected by adoption would be delivered by the Regional Adoption Agency and not the Local Authority.

Councillor Nawaz also reported that Sandwell Council was in principle committed to the development and implementation of a regional adoption agency covering the four Black Country Authorities.

Resolved

- (1) That the Adoption@Heart Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) be established as outlined in this report
- (2) That the RAA be established as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), an organisation wholly owned by the participating local authorities
- (3) That such a company is constituted as a Community Interest Company (CIC) and a Company Limited by Shares (CLS).
- (4) That a further report presenting the full details of the LATC, including costing, is considered in October 2017 as part of stage two of the process.

3657 Adult social care increase in rates

Councillor D. Coughlan presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve fee increases to Residential and Nursing, Community Based Services Framework, Housing and Care 21 Contracts and Direct Payment recipients for 2017/18, backdated to April 2017 for non-complex contracts and to April 2016 for complex contracts.
- (2) That Cabinet note that the fee rates have been set by utilising existing core Adult Social Care budget and additional grant allocation via iBetter Care Fund.

3658 Asbestos and water testing and remediation and mechanical and electrical works

Councillor Chambers presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the change in service provision for securing testing and remediation works associated with asbestos and water in corporate premises from the current Solihull Framework to use of contractors from the Northern Housing Consortium Frameworks.
- (2) That Cabinet note that a further report will be presented following the evaluation of a mini-tender of contractors on the relevant Northern Housing Consortium Frameworks for asbestos and water.
- (3) That Cabinet authorise the awarding of contracts via the OJEU compliant, Constructing West Midlands Framework for a range of mechanical and electrical works including heating for corporate premises including works to schools.

3659 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.

Summary of items considered in private session

3660 Lichfield Street Central Library

The Cabinet considered a report which sought authority to approve a construction contractor from an appropriate framework contract to deliver a programme of works at Lichfield Central Library. Cabinet:

- (1) delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the portfolio holder to select and award a contract to the selected contractor, via an appropriate EU compliant procurement framework, for completion of the construction project at the Lichfield Street Central Library “Hub” building,
- (2) delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment to approve the schedule of works and final contract value with the selected provider and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services, and
- (3) agreed to re-profile the capital spend from two years to one if required, subject to the project detail being supplied, in the event that the renovation/construction work can be completed by 31 March 2018.

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

3661 Late item – Retail development opportunity – Walsall

The Cabinet considered a late report which related to retail development within the town and which required an urgent decision.

The Cabinet resolved to pursue a development and regeneration opportunity further and agreed to receive a more detailed report in due course.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.18 p.m.