

Special Cabinet minutes

Monday 19 March 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor S. Coughlan	Leader of the Council
Councillor Shires	Community, leisure and culture
Councillor Robertson	Health
Councillor D. Coughlan	Social care
Councillor Chambers	Agenda for change/Personnel and business support

3765 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jeavons, Jones and Nawaz.

3766 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3767 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items for discussion in the private session.

3768 Call-in: Proposed selective licensing scheme for private rented sector

The following reports were submitted:

- (a) Report of the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- (b) Report to Cabinet on 14 February 2018
- (c) Report of the portfolio holder

(see annexed)

The Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its recommendation. He pointed out that the concerns of the Committee had been about the consultation process which was addressed in the reports submitted.

Councillor D. Coughlan said that the concerns of the Committee had been carefully considered and she was of the view that the consultation undertaken was robust and had provided Cabinet members with sufficient information to give conscientious consideration to the proposal. However, she said that during the process of seeking external legal advice, the Council had been informed of a ruling by the Court of Appeal on 21 February 2018, after Cabinet had made its decision on 14 February, which related to the conditions within the scheme. Councillor Coughlan said that she had been informed by officers that this may fundamentally change the Scheme and therefore the Council had no choice but to re-consult.

Following a discussion, it was **moved** by Councillor D. Coughlan, seconded by the Leader and:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet thanks the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its recommendation which is noted.
- (2) That Cabinet considers that the consultation requirements were fully met and its decision of 14 February was fully informed.
- (3) That, in the light of the recent Court of Appeal Case (Brown Vs Hynburn BC) the Cabinet defers its decision taken on 14 February 2018 regarding the proposed selective licensing scheme for the private rented sector to allow for the implications of this case to be evaluated and;
- (4) That, subject to those evaluations, Cabinet authorises officers to make such amendments as are necessary to the proposed selective licensing scheme for the private rented sector, and to undertake such further consultation as may be necessary, and thereafter bring back to Cabinet a revised scheme.

The meeting terminated at 6.10 p.m.

Chair:

Date: