

# Cabinet

## Wednesday 22 March 2023

Minutes of the meeting held in Conference Room 2 at the Council House,  
Lichfield Street, Walsall at 6pm.

### Present

Councillor Bird (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Ali	Customer
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Ferguson	Internal Services
Councillor Flint	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Murphy	Clean and Green
Councillor M. Statham	Education and Skills

### In attendance – in person

D. Hindson, Chief Executive  
K. Allward, Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Hub  
J. Greenhalgh, Interim Executive Director - Resources  
S. Neilson, Executive Director - Economy, Environment and Communities  
S. Rowe, Executive Director – Children’s Services  
S. Darcy, Director – Finance Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord  
S. Portman, Head of Law  
C. Goodall, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
E. Cook, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

### In attendance – remote

D. Brown, Director – Place and Environment  
S. Gunther, Director of Public Health

## Part 1 – Public Session

### 4051 Welcome

Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council’s website. He explained that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance.

### 4052 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Elson.

**4053 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 8 February 2023 were submitted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of 8 February, a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**4054 Declarations of interest**

The following Members declared an interest relating to Agenda Item 13 - Letting Agent Enforcement Policy:

Andrew (pecuniary)  
Ali (pecuniary)  
Murphy (personal)

**4055 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.

**4056 Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

**4057 Questions**

No questions were received..

**4058 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at March 2023 was submitted:

(annexed)

**Resolved** (by assent)

**That the forward plan be noted.**

**4059 Renewal of the Council's Oracle Cloud licenses**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought approval for the renewal of the Council's Oracle Cloud licenses.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Bird and **Seconded** by Councillor Andrew and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet approved the award of the contract for provision of Oracle Cloud licences for a period of 5 years, commencing on 31 May 2023.
2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Leader of the Council as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to subsequently sign contracts or other related documents for the services that have been procured.
3. That Cabinet authorise the signing of this contract under hand, as due to the nature of the services provided it is unlikely the Council would benefit from 12 years of protection under seal.
4. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord (Section 151 Officer), to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts and provided they are in line with the Council's Contracts Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.

#### 4060 **Approval of the Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought to set into place the arrangements agreed by the four Black Country Local Authorities (BCLA's), required to retain and continue the successful administration of legacy funding in the Black Country, following the abolition of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Bird and **Seconded** by Councillor Andrew and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet approve the revised Collaboration Agreement, attached as Appendix A, with significant changes set out in further detail in this report.

2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord and Corporate Performance (s151) in consultation with the Leader, to make any final amendments and authorise the sealing by the Council of the Collaboration Agreement.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord and Corporate Performance (s151) in consultation with the Leader, to negotiate, approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Enterprise Zones.

#### 4061 **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge: Action Plan**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which presented the findings of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) and sought approval for a high-level action plan responding to the recommendations made by the LGA.

(annexed)

Cabinet thanked all Members and Officers who had taken part and congratulated the Audit Committee for their work.

It was **Moved** by Councillor Bird and **Seconded** by Councillor Andrew and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet note and celebrate the successes highlighted by the Corporate Peer Challenge report.
2. That Cabinet approve the Council's action plan, which responds to the Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2023.

#### 4062 **West Midlands Local Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought to ensure the delivery of a programme of transport capital projects in 2023/24 that supported the implementation of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) objectives in various locations across Walsall.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Andrew and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet approve the Walsall Council Transport Capital Programme 2023/24 funding of £5.252m as set out at Table 2 in Section 4 of this report.
2. That Cabinet approve the utilisation of the Local Network Improvement Plan element of the grant funding for 2023/24 (£1.563m) as described in paragraphs 4.40 and 4.41 of this report and appendices A to G, including the provisional allocation of carry forward from 2022/23 to the 2023/24 programme.
3. That Cabinet approve the utilisation of the Promotion of Community Health and Safety – Council capital funding for 2023/24 (£0.12m) as set out in Appendix A, including the provisional allocation of carry forward from 2022/23 to the 2023/24 programme.
4. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to manage any required changes to the 2023/24 Local Network Improvement Plan capital programme, including amending individual scheme budgets (within the overall programme budget); adding new projects (to replace or part-replace other projects that can no longer be delivered); and managing carry forward, to maximise the use of the grant.
5. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to negotiate on its behalf with the West Midlands Combined Authority and government departments to maximise the values of future financial resources allocated to the Council in pursuit of its transport priorities, including signing relevant agreements and contracts for schemes which are approved within the Walsall Transport Capital Programme 2023/24.

#### 4063 Response to Sandwell Local Plan Consultation

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought endorsement of the consultation response submitted by Walsall Council to consultation on the Sandwell Local Plan Issues and Options Review.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Andrew and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet confirm approval of the response to the Sandwell Issues and Options Review, as agreed by Planning Committee and attached

at Appendix 1, which has been submitted to the consultation which closed prior to the date of this Cabinet meeting.

2. That Cabinet approve a delegation to the Executive Director, Economy Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to submit future responses to neighbouring authority consultations, subject to Planning Committee approval.

#### 4064 Letting Agent Enforcement Policy

*At this point, Councillors Andrew, Ali and Murphy left the room, having declared interests in the next item on the agenda.*

Councillor Perry introduced a report which set out and sought approval for the Council's new Letting Agent Enforcement Policy.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Perry and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet approve the adoption of the enforcement policy in relation to relevant letting agency legislation as set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. That Cabinet authorise the Executive Director Economy Environment and Communities to make amendments to the financial penalty charge matrices to reflect any changes necessary as a result of amendments to legislation, legal decisions, statutory and best practice guidance.

*Following the conclusion of the above item on the agenda, Councillors Andrew, Ali and Murphy returned to the room.*

#### 4065 The use of Drones to deal with off-road vehicles

Councillor Perry introduced a report which provided an update on measures taken to tackle the major impact of off-road vehicles on the communities and environment of Walsall, through intensive partnership efforts between Walsall Council and West Midlands Police.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Perry and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That Cabinet note the content of the report and support the partnership approach to tackle this issue through enforcement, education and other security measures known as target hardening.**

4066 **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 to 2028**

Councillor Ali introduced a report which sought to ensure that the Council met its statutory requirement to have in place a strategy (reviewed on a maximum five-year cycle) setting out the authority's plans for the prevention of homelessness and for securing that sufficient accommodation and support was available for people who became homeless or who were at risk of becoming so

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Ali and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet approve the Walsall Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 to 2028 (Appendix A).**
- 2. That Cabinet delegate authority to make any future amendments to the Walsall Homelessness Strategy 2023 to 2028 to the Director of Customer Engagement in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer.**

4067 **Walsall Civic Centre and Council House Improvement Works**

Councillor Ferguson introduced a report which sought to ensure that the Civic Centre and Council House were maintained to a satisfactory level with improved energy efficiency and working environments; and remained fit for purpose in the future.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Ferguson and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord & Assurance to award the contract to the successful tender applicant to undertake the supply and installation of the new replacement windows, frames and doors in the Civic Centre complex.**

2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord & Assurance to award the contract to the successful tender applicant to undertake the supply and installation of the new air source heating and ventilation systems in the Civic Centre and Council House.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord & Assurance to award the contract to the successful tender applicant to undertake the supply and installation of the new replacement hybrid fire alarm detection system in the Civic Centre and Council House.
4. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord & Assurance to award the contract to the successful tender applicant to undertake the refurbishment of the Civic Centre ground floor. That Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord & Assurance to subsequently authorise the sealing of Deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services as well as any variation of the contractual arrangements or other related documents should this be required throughout the duration of the contract.

4068 **Proposed High Needs Local Funding Formula 2023/24 – Including an Overview of the DSG Management Plan**

Councillor Statham introduced a report which provided an update on the Local high Needs Funding Formular for 2023/24 to ensure a fair, needs led and child centred approach to allocating funding for school aged children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Statham and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet approve the Local High Needs Funding Formula for 2023/24 with the increased top-up rates for all provisions, as recommended by Schools Forum at their meeting on 7 March 2023.
2. That Cabinet note the work that has been undertaken to develop the Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan, the position that this identifies and direction of travel and actions that will be required, and that this plan will be subject to ongoing (at least annual) review and update and in-year reporting.

4069 **Proposed Early Years Funding Formula for two, three & four years olds - 2023/24**

Councillor Statham introduced a report which sought approval of the proposed Early Years Funding Formula used to allocate the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding that the Council receives to the early years providers in Walsall.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Statham and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet approve the local Early Years Funding Formula (Appendix A) recommended by Walsall's Schools Forum at their meeting on 7th March 2023, with the exception of the Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary funding that is subject to the recommendation in paragraph 3.2.**
- 2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills to agree the final allocation methodology within the totality of Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary funding that will be available.**

4070 **Recommendations from the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the outstanding debt owed to the Council for Adult Social Care.**

Councillor Pedley introduced a report which received a recommendation from the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee made on 19 January 2023 regarding outstanding debt owed to the Council for Adult Social Care.

(annexed)

Councillor Pedley provided an update on work being undertaken to resolve the issues set out in the report and recommendations from Scrutiny.

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

4071 **Exclusion of public**

**Resolved**

**That during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the items for consideration are exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the items in private.**

*Private Session: The following is a public summary of the decisions taken in the private session.*

**4072 Town Deal Walsall Adult Learning Campus project**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which set out amendments to the Town Deal programme and sought approval for these changes.

(annexed)

It was **Moved** by Councillor Andrew and **Seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet agree to support removal of the Town Centre Theatre project from the Town Deal programme;**
- 2. That Cabinet agree to submit to government the Town Deal summary documents for the Adult Learning Campus project;**
- 3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Finance, Corporate Landlord and Corporate Performance (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, to negotiate and enter into all necessary legal agreements to successfully deliver the Adult Learning Campus project, subject to an updated Outline Business Case**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6:45 p.m.

Chair:

Date: