

Cabinet

Wednesday 14 December 2022

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

Present – in person

Councillor Bird (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Councillor Ali	Customer
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Elson	Children's
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

H. Paterson, Chief Executive
D. Hindson, Executive Director
S. Portman, Head of Law
C. Goodall, Principal Democratic Services Officer
E. Cook, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

In attendance – remote

K. Allward, Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Hub
S. Neilson, Executive Director - Economy, Environment and Communities
S. Rowe, Executive Director – Children's Services
S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
K. Goodall, Communications Business Partner

Part 1 – Public Session

3997 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.

3998 Apologies

No apologies were received.

3999 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 7 September 2022 (private minutes), 18 October 2022 and 2 November 2022 (Special Meeting) were submitted.

Resolved

That the minutes of 7 September 2022 (private minutes), 18 October 2022 and 2 November 2022 (Special Meeting), a copy of each having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

4000 **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Perry declared an interest in item number 21.

4001 **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.

4002 **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

4003 **Questions**

The following question to Cllr Andrew was received from Mrs Fiona Macmillan:

Are there any details concerning the pre-consultation period for the Walsall Local plan, where the aim is to raise public awareness? And if not, when might such details be available for the public? (reference para 4.21 Black Country Plan-Walsall Local Plan. Special Cabinet meeting)

Councillor Andrew explained that Walsall Council's Cabinet considered a report at its meeting on 2 November 2022 which set out that following the announcement made by the leader of Dudley Council it would confirm that work on the Black Country Plan would no longer proceed. The Cabinet agreed that work would therefore start on a statutory planning document for Walsall, to be known as the Walsall Local Plan. The Cabinet approved a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is a statutory document which sets the timetable for the Walsall Local Plan.

The LDS timetable indicates that the first consultation stage on the Walsall Local Plan is scheduled for September-October 2023 and will follow consideration of an Issues and Options document by Cabinet in June 2023. At that stage, the Council will also consider the consultation approach which will be taken for the Issues and Options document.

We are not yet in a position to advise further about the arrangements for the Walsall Local Plan. A large number of issues have to be considered, including the content of the document, the resources (both staff and financial) that might be available, and the techniques to be used to ensure that consultation is as effective as possible; we will be able to elaborate after further internal discussions. However, the Cabinet reports that authorised consultation about the Black Country Plan included authorisation for the consultation techniques. We would expect any future report seeking authorisation to consult on the Walsall Local Plan to include a similar request.

As a supplementary question Mrs Macmillan asked how public awareness of the consultation would be raised? In response Cllr Andrew explained that the timing and type of pre-consultation work was, at this stage, to be confirmed.

4004 **Forward plan**

The forward plan as at December 2022 was submitted:

(annexed)

Resolved (by assent)

That the forward plan be noted.

4005 **Renewal of the council's insurance arrangements from 1 April 2023**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought to ensure that the council had adequate insurance arrangements in place from 1 April 2023 when its current policies expired.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Delegate authority to the Executive Director Resources & Transformation, in consultation with the Leader of the council as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to

award contracts for the provision of Insurance and Claims Handling Services for a period of 3 years, commencing on 1 April 2023.

2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director Resources & Transformation, in consultation with the Leader of the council as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to enter in to the optional 2 years extension period (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028) should this be the best decision at that point following a detailed review of options available to the council at that time.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director Resources & Transformation, in consultation with the Leader of the council as the relevant Portfolio Holder, to subsequently sign and/or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for the services being tendered.

4006 **Treasury Management Mid-Year Position Statement 2022/23**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which provided a mid-year position statement reviewing treasury management activities and prudential and treasury indicator performance.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2022/23 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).
2. Note that all Members should undertake training that is available from the Council's external Treasury Management advisors to enable Members to better understand and challenge the long-term financial implications of matters reported within the Treasury Management Strategy

4007 **Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23**

Councillor Bird introduced a report on the forecast corporate financial position for 2022/23, based on the position to October 2022 and actions being taken to address the position to ensure the council outturns on budget.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (Unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note a forecast revenue overspend of £0.05m and progress against delivery of approved savings, and approve in year mitigation actions totalling £11.28m as set out in this report and **Appendix 2**.
2. Note that £1.19m of adult social care discharge fund has been confirmed to support hospital discharge pressures in Adult Social Care. The grant is required to be pooled into the local Better Care Fund (BCF) and a spending plan is being developed.
3. Approve the use of £175k of Covid-19 funding from unringfenced grant as referenced in section 4.15 relating to additional costs of children in care due to delays in court proceedings.
4. Note that there is further risk in terms of fluctuating demand and prices in Children's Social Services; data issues in Adult Social Care; and increased cost of living demands, which may impact the forecast further, and therefore agree that all '*contractually*' uncommitted grants and earmarked reserves not included as mitigating actions by services are corporately risk assessed and subjected to a 'test and challenge process' and centralised as appropriate as a first call on any further deterioration in the 2022/23 position and that no further commitments are made against any grants or reserves until this process is complete;
5. Approve amendments to the capital programme as set out in section 4.16.
6. Note that the forecast for the capital programme is currently predicted to be on budget after the expected carry forward of £92.64m into 2023/24, as set out in sections 4.17 and 4.18.
7. Note financial health indicator performance as set out in section 4.20 and **Appendix 4**.
8. Note the prudential indicators as set out in section 4.26 and **Appendix 5**.
9. Approve the delegation of authority to the Interim Executive Director of Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Finance (Leader of the Council) to negotiate and enter into the appropriate grant agreement/s with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to manage and deliver the Black Country Growth Hub, within the budgets and durations allocated for its use, as detailed in section 4.29.

Councillor Bird introduced a report which provided an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget for (including savings proposals for consultation) and draft capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including setting out the process and timescale for setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/24.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note, as a basis for consultation, the revised financial assumptions and projections within the draft revenue budget, the uncertainty around core funding, and that these assumptions will change as the budget progresses. Along with savings already identified and reported within the Budget report to Council in February 2022, this represents a balanced budget for 2023/24.
2. Note the implications from the Chancellors Autumn Statement announcement on 17 November 2022 as set out in section 4.18-4.20 and that any financial implications arising once the Provisional (and Final) Settlement is received will be included in the budget report to Cabinet on 8 February 2023.
3. Note that the medium term financial outlook position assumes an increase in council tax of 2.99% in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and 1.99% in the following 2 years, the assumed level of “reasonableness” in respect of the current referendum principles.
4. Approve that the further 2% increase for Adult Social Care, permitted by the Autumn Statement be consulted on, with a report back to Cabinet on the outcome of that consultation.
5. To note the policy savings proposals for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2A and agree that they proceed to formal consultation, reporting back to Cabinet for a decision once consultation and equality impact assessment are complete.
6. Approve the operational savings proposals for 2023/24 to 2026/27 set out in Appendix 2B of this report, and instruct officers to implement these under officer delegations, subject to any required consultation, equality impact assessment, and any changes arising as a result of the latter two.
7. Approve as a basis for consultation the current draft capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27 in section 4.32 to 4.48, and Appendices 3 to 5 -

£110.09m for 2023/24 with a further £208.05m over the 3 year period 2024/25 to 2026/27.

8. Note that the level of contingency funds and general reserves will be set in line with the levels contained within the council's MTF, the final level to be based on a detailed risk assessment, which will be reported to Cabinet and Council in February 2023 for approval.
9. Refer the budget for statutory consultation with national non domestic rate (NNDR) payers in respect of the current and available council tax assumptions in line with the referendum principles announced in the Autumn Statement 2022.
10. Refer this report to Scrutiny Overview Committee on 7 February 2023, to enable the Committee's comments to be considered by Cabinet. All Scrutiny Committees will also receive proposals relating to the individual remit of each Committee.

4009 **Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which aimed to secure approval for the procurement route to support delivery of Willenhall Garden City Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street), which would lead to the development of new homes.

(annexed)

Decision taken in the private session, following consideration of exempt information (see minute 4027).

4010 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought to secure authority to enter into agreements with the Lead Authority (West Midlands Combined Authority) to draw down funding to support delivery of the outcomes of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), set out in the WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note the total funding allocation for Walsall from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £8,252,409 and £1,785,434 from Multiply from 2022/23 to 2024/25.
2. Note that Walsall will also receive a share of the 4% management fee to support programme management of UKSPF in addition to the allocations set out in 3.1.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to:
 - Accept Walsall's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Multiply and enter into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding and annual grant funding agreements with West Midlands Combined Authority as lead authority.
 - Agree a set of interventions to be delivered locally which will deliver the agreed outcomes set out in the Investment Plan.
 - Approve further changes to the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund local spending profiles based on ongoing discussions with the West Midlands Combined Authority.
 - Agree spend at risk through delegated authority as outlined in 4.15 and 4.24.
 - Approve the establishment and spend of revenue and capital budgets in line with the funding agreement.
 - Carry out commissioning of UK Shared Prosperity and Multiply funding, including procurement activity and award of contracts as required.
 - Enter into contracts and to subsequently authorise the sealing, signing or variation of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services including optional extension periods.
 - Approve the payment of grants for delivery of local activity to voluntary sector organisations, partners and/or sub-contractors, and enter into the appropriate funding agreements.
 - Agree the final arrangements for the management administration allocation with WMCA, to support programme management of UKSPF.
4. Note the use of delegated authority by the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities to accept £155,000 of Multiply funding to support numeracy learning provision ahead of Cabinet agreeing to delegate acceptance of the overall package.

4011 **Walsall Economic Strategy**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which set out the Walsall Economic Strategy.

(annexed)

The Walsall Economic Strategy sought to provide an evidence-based document stating and analysing the current position in terms of the local economy, working with Council teams and external partners to shape the narrative and create a set of interventions to drive improvement in the economic performance of the borough.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet approve the Economic Strategy and its recommendations, as set out in Appendix A, as an analysis of the current position and a reference for future funding bids.

4012 **Responses to Birmingham City Council, Stafford Borough Council and South Staffordshire District Council Local Plan Consultations**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought to agree the consultation responses to be submitted by Walsall Council to consultations on the local plans for Birmingham, Stafford and South Staffordshire.

(annexed)

Councillor Andrew explained that the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities included those who were formerly participating in the Black Country Plan and that the responses being considered in the report had been recommended by Planning Committee to Cabinet for approval. It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Confirm approval of the consultation response to the Birmingham Local Plan Issues and Options consultation attached as **Appendix 2** and the response to Stafford Borough Local Plan Preferred Options consultation attached as **Appendix 3** of this report which have been submitted to the respective consultations as these closed prior to the date of this meeting of Cabinet.
2. Approve the proposed response to the South Staffordshire Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) consultation attached as **Appendix 4** of this report for submission.
3. Note that future responses to consultations on neighbouring authorities' local plans on behalf of Walsall Council will be reported to Cabinet for approval.

4013 **We Are Walsall 2040 Engagement feedback**

Councillor Perry introduced a report which provided engagement feedback from residents, voluntary and community groups and the business community as part of We Are Walsall 2040 engagement.

(annexed)

Members thanked the Communications and Resilient Communities teams for their work in making the We Are Walsall 2040 engagement so wide-reaching. It was moved by Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (by assent)

That Cabinet:

1. Note the findings from various engagement activities carried out throughout June-November 2022 to inform the We are Walsall 2040 borough plan.
2. Note existing and planned activities that will address priorities and concerns raised through We are Walsall 2040 engagement.
3. Note the timescales for development of the borough plan through to ratification at Council June 2023

4014 **Walsall Council Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2022/23**

Councillor Perry introduced a report including the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan (the Plan). The Plan described how the Authority would enforce statutory controls regarding food safety and monitor food, premises and personnel in a structured manner. The Plan would also be used as the basis for any inspection or audit by the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

(annexed)

A supporting presentation with examples of good and bad practice was provided, along with data regarding food standards enforcement in Walsall. It was moved by Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet receive the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for the year 2022/23, as evidence of the Council's compliance with its statutory duties in relation to food law, and recommend it to Council for approval and adoption.
2. That the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities write to the Government to request for it to be a mandatory requirement to display food hygiene certificate ratings in all takeaway and food outlets in England.

4015 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2 Procurement and Update

Councillor Ali introduced a report which sought to enable the council to deliver any funds secured under the Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGS 2) up to project close on 31 March 2025 in line with corporate procurement rules.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Ali and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's and Customer to enter into the relevant agreements with contractors (listed in Table 2) from the Fusion 21 Framework (the "Framework") if Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2 funding is approved by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

4016 Award of contract for provision of the Housing First service

Councillor Ali introduced a report which sought to ensure the Council continues to support customers who remain within the Housing First service, contributing to the continued reduction of rough sleeping in Walsall.

(annexed)

Decision taken in the private session, following consideration of exempt information (see minute 4029).

4017 Food For Life Contract Extension

Councillor Flint introduced a report which sought approval to extend the Food For Life contract. The request for extension was to continue support for healthy eating and growing in early years settings and schools by working with school staff, caterers, and parents from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. This period would allow consideration on the future plans for healthy eating in schools and early years based on the proposed Walsall Food Plan.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Flint and seconded by Councillor Statham and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the extension of the Soil Association Food for Life's existing contract from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 at a cost of £220,000.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, to extend the contract on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services, and variations should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules.

4018 Future contracting arrangements for Integrated Sexual Health Services and Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19

Councillor Flint introduced a report which sought to ensure that Walsall Council continues to provide a robust integrated sexual health service and Healthy Child 0-19 Programme, using an appropriate and agreed commissioning mechanism from April 2023.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Flint and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve entering into a Section 75 agreement for the provision of the integrated sexual health service, delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
2. Approve entering into a Section 75 agreement for the provision of the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 service contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
3. Approve entering into a Section 75 agreement for the provision of the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, for any further decisions required in relation to moving forward with the contracts.

4019 Approval to extend the Electronic Call Monitoring Contract with Access UK limited

Councillor Pedley introduced a report which sought permission to extend the existing Electronic Call Monitoring (ECM) contract a further 6 months from 26

April 2023 to 25 October 2023 and gave the option of extending the same contract a further 12 months if required to 25 October 2024, pending the outcome of an options appraisal.

(annexed)

Councillor Pedley explained that some providers of care had no monitoring system, whilst others used the contracted ECM service. Extending the contract would enable work to be conducted to find a suitable replacement system for all providers. It was moved by Councillor Pedley and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the request to extend the existing Electronic Call Monitoring contract with Access UK Limited a further 6 months from 26 April 2023 to 25 October 2023.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adults, Public Health and Hub, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to extend the Electronic Call Monitoring contract with Access UK Limited for further periods, as may be required pending the outcome of an options appraisal, up to a maximum of 12 months ending 25 October 2024.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adults, Public Health and Hub, to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services as identified above.
4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adults, Public Health and Hub, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care to subsequently authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the contract and provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

4020 **Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24**

Councillor Statham introduced a report which sought approval for the proposed schools local funding formula for 2023/24.

(annexed)

It was explained that at their meeting of 13 December 2022, Schools Forum had recommended funding option 4 be used, rather than option 5 as recommended in the report. This was because Schools representing the majority of pupils did not choose option 5 during the consultation period and therefore the majority of Schools Forum representatives supported option 4.

Whilst, the majority of primary school representatives supported option 4 and secondary representatives supported option 5, option 4 still provides a move to the national funding formula over a period of 2 years and allows schools a longer period of time to make preparations for the transition. It was moved by Councillor Statham and seconded by Councillor Flint and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Review and note the outcome of the consultation exercise, which recommended funding option 5 as the basis for the Schools Funding Formula for 2023/24 (implement National Funding Formula rates in full as set out in Appendix 1). Cabinet also noted the recommendation to proceed with option 4 (gradual transition over 2 years) from Schools Forum at its meeting on 13 December 2022.
2. Approve funding option 4 to be used as the basis of the Schools Funding Formula for 2023/24
3. Note that the Department for Education may request revisions to individual funding formula factor values on review of the October 2022 census.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills to amend the formula in line with Department for Education requirements and to comply with relevant funding regulations for the 2023/24 Schools Funding Formula.

4021 **Secondary Place Sufficiency**

Councillor Statham introduced a report which sought to address the additional need for school places within secondary schools to ensure there are sufficient school places for resident children who want a school place.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Statham and seconded by Councillor Ali and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note the potential increase in the number of secondary school places in Walsall that may be required.
2. Approve the proposal to provide additional secondary school places at the school sites set out in this report to meet the increase in demand for school places from September 2023.

3. Approve the creation of temporary secondary school places as a at Grace Academy, Pool Hayes Academy and Joseph Leckie Academy, creating 150 places for September 2023 at a cost of £1,672,200.
4. Approve a design and feasibility study for the permanent expansion at Pool Hayes Academy and Joseph Leckie Academy at a cost of £639,840. Once full financial costs are established, a further paper will be brought to Cabinet for approval.
5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director: Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to enter into agreements up to the values noted in 3.3 and 3.4 of this report for the temporary solutions for September 2023 and feasibility studies for the permanent expansions.

4022 **Special Educational Needs Sufficiency**

Councillor Statham introduced a report which sought to address the additional need for school places within special schools to ensure there are sufficient school places for resident children who want a school place. The report provided an overview of the current position and short, medium- and long-term options to support the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) specialist provision planning within the Local Authority.

(annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Statham and seconded by Councillor Bird and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note the potential increase in the numbers of Special Educational Needs (SEN) places in Walsall that is required.
2. Approve providing additional SEN school places across the borough.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director: Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to enter into agreements up to the values noted in 4.5 for the creation of Specialist Resourced Provision at mainstream schools at a cost of £2,480,000 and 4.11 and for feasibility studies for the permanent expansions at a cost of £500,000.
4. Approved the creation of additional places within the Education Development Centre (EDC) as part of the Oakwood School by creating a satellite provision creating an additional 140 places at a cost of £1,140,000.

4023 Recommendations from Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Elson introduced a report which set out a recommendation from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, made on 27 September 2022.

(annexed)

Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Whilst budgetary pressures meant the funding of non-statutory services must be based on priorities, Cabinet felt this was an important service to support and believed that removing support would have a negative effect on young people.

Resolved (by assent)

That Cabinet noted the recommendation of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that investment of £888,396 into Early Help is included in the draft revenue budget 2023/24 – 2026/27.

4024 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 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.

Public Summary of decisions taken in the Private Session

4025 Update On Streamlining Black Country Ways of Working – Black Country Consortium Ltd

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought to outline and approve the streamlining of Black Country ways of working, with regards to the Black Country Consortium Ltd and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP).

It was moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the voluntary winding up of the Black Country Consortium Limited.
2. Agree in principle to support a TUPE transfer of the Black Country Consortium Economic Intelligence Unit to Walsall Council on 1 April 2023, subject to due diligence being completed and notes that it will receive a future report in relation to this.
3. Note the Association of Black Country Authorities Leaders' endorsements made at their meeting held on 19 October 2022.

(Exempt Information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

4026 **Black Country Enterprise Zone - Gasholders Site**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought approval for the direction of travel and undertaking of investigatory works, to enable the redevelopment of the Gasholders site for high-quality employment use and subsequent generation of economic outputs, including business growth and job creation, for the local area.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Statham and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the direction of travel for the Council to continue to assess and progress pre-development work towards the objective of developing a high-quality employment scheme at the Gasholders site, with a view to finalising the procurement route enabling the preparation of the procurement strategy.
2. Approve to undertake a series of further site investigation works, using existing Council budgets within Regeneration, Housing & Economy service in order to refine the estimated project capital costs and funding requirement, including preparation of an outline business case for future consideration by the West Midlands Combined Authority and Cabinet.

(Exempt Information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

4027 **Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report, including exempt information, which aimed to secure approval for the procurement route to support delivery of

Willenhall Garden City Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street), which will lead to the development of new homes.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Flint and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Note and approve the preferred developer partner procurement route set out in this report.
2. Authorise Officers to commence the procurement of a developer partner for Willenhall Garden City: Moat Street and Villiers Street (Phase 1) via the Homes England Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) noting that the appointment of the successful bidder will be the subject of a future Cabinet decision.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to approve the Invitation To Tender documentation specifically relating to the Council's minimum requirements and the evaluation criteria.
4. Note the updated funding position for Willenhall Garden City: Phase 1 resulting from work on the Levelling Up Round 2 and Black Country LEP Land and Property Investment Fund bids.

(Exempt Information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

4028 **Creative Industries Enterprise Project**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which report set out the progress made on the Creative Industries Enterprise Project and discussed considerations in taking the next steps.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Flint and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources & Transformation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to negotiate and enter into all necessary legal agreements to successfully deliver the Creative Industries Enterprise Project (CIEP) which comprises of the total refurbishment of The Guildhall, a Grade II* listed building, into a makerspace for creatives.

2. Agree to fund a further £3,000,000 capital budget in the event that the bid to the Arts Council for the Cultural Development Fund is unsuccessful.

(Exempt Information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

4029 **Award of contract for provision of the Housing First service**

Councillor Ali introduced a report which sought to ensure the Council continue to support customers who remain within the Housing First service, contributing to the continued reduction of rough sleeping in Walsall.

It was moved by Councillor Ali and seconded by Councillor Flint and upon being put to the vote it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the award of the contract for the provision of the Housing First service to GreenSquareAccord Limited for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025 with an expected contract value of £676,400 with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months to 31 March 2027 which would take the estimated total contract value to £1,329,200.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's and Customer, to enter into a contract to deliver the Housing First service and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services including the optional extension periods.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for the service identified above, should this be required at any time during the contract term, in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules.

(Exempt Information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6:56 p.m.

Chair:

Date: