

Cabinet

Wednesday 20 April 2022

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

Present – in person

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Craddock	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Statham	Internal Services

In attendance – in person

Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive
Mr C. Goodall, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

In attendance – remote

Mrs D. Hindson, Executive Director, Resources and Transformation
Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub
Ms P. Venables, Director, Regeneration and Economy
Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director, Children's and Customer
Mr S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
Mr S. Portman, Head of Law

3901 Welcome

Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person with appropriate social distancing requirements and would be conducted using the hybrid meeting system to enable it to be streamed and to enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He said that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance; and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council's website. Introductions took place and a quorum was established.

3902 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Butler and Wilson.

3903 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3904 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3905 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.

3906 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

3907 Questions

No questions were submitted

3908 Forward plan

The forward plan as at April 2022 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved (by assent)

That the forward plan be noted.

At this point, the Leader brought forward item 13 on the agenda – Resilient Communities – Safer Streets programme as there were a number of speakers attending for this item.

3909 Resilient Communities – Safer Streets programme

Councillor Perry presented a report which provided an update on the implementation of the programme which had been approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 October 2021.

(see annexed)

Councillor Bird then paid tribute to the many organisations across the borough which had been engaged in, and delivered projects supported by this programme. He introduced the following persons who were in attendance and wished to address the Cabinet on behalf of two of those organisations.

Residents R Us Beechdale:

Kayleigh Street, Vice-Chair and Toni Atkins, Treasurer.

Lest We Forget:

John Elwell and Rob Baker

Residents R Us Beechdale: Ms Street addressed the Cabinet and explained the background to the organisation which had begun in 2010 with support from the Council. She explained the variety of activities the organisation provided, as set out in the report and expanded upon those, particularly the creation and running of a food bank for residents of Beechdale and the surrounding areas; a charity shop; book exchange to encourage more reading; a café whose profits are used to support the food bank; and the regular, seasonal outdoor and indoor events and activities for all ages. She said that the organisation linked with other local clubs to support each other and explained the types of activities they wished to provide in the future.

Lest we forget: Mr Elwell addressed the Cabinet. He began by thanking Councillor Hicken for encouraging and supporting the organisation to expand from supporting veterans to help the wider community. He said that the organisation had formed as a Community Interest Company which he said gave them more freedom to donate funds to other local community organisations. Mr Elwell explained in more detail the activities provided as set out in the report and was particularly enthusiastic about the work being done in conjunction with a local school to bring together veterans and young people. He gave examples of activities planned for the future and thanked everyone for their support.

Councillor Bird thanked the speakers of both organisations and commended them for their hands-on approach which he said had demonstrated a community coming together and had made a difference to those communities. He also commended the Director of Resilient Communities and his team for their support and Councillor Perry as portfolio holder.

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet notes the progress made with the Safer Streets Programme pilot as part of its commitment to delivering Resilient Communities.
- 2) That Cabinet approves a revenue budget of £50,000 for 2022/23 to support the Safer Streets Programme pilot.
- 3) That Cabinet receives a report in October 2022 on the delivery of the pilot areas

3910 **Corporate Plan Performance: Markers of Success Q3**

Councillor Bird presented a report which presented Quarter 3 performance of the 2021/22 Corporate Plan Markers of Success – highlighting achievements for that period; identified interdependencies and any support requirements to ensure the Markers were met.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Bird said that as Councillors Butler, Craddock and Towe would not be members of the Cabinet next year he wished to record his personal thanks to their work over their time as Cabinet members. Those members reciprocated and thanked officers for their support.

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet note the overall improved performance in Q3 relating to the period October – December 2021 (Appendix 1)
- 2) That Cabinet note the key achievements (appendix 2) identified interdependencies (Appendix 3) and support required to achieve the Outcomes, which are set out in the report.

3911 **Disabled Facilities Grant Building and other Housing related works and services – award of contract**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought authority to award contracts to provide continuity of service for installation of Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) building works, handyperson services and other works.

(see annexed)

Note: Decision taken in the private session following consideration of confidential information. See minute number 3917

3912 **Consolidation of Agreements for the Revenue and Benefit processing system**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval to consolidate current contracts with the existing supplier to ensure continuity of service.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the award of a contract to NEC Software Solutions UK Limited, T/A Northgate Public Services under Lot 2A (Business Applications) of Crown Commercial Service (CCS) framework RM3821 (Data and Application Solutions) for the period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2027 with an estimated total value of £981,340.

- 2) That Cabinet delegate, to the Executive Director for Children & Customer Services, the sealing of any deeds or signing of contracts and any other related documents in order to enter into the proposed contract and to subsequently authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements, should this be required, throughout the duration of the contract term provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3913 **Walsall Council Strategic Asset Plan**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval for the Strategic Asset Plan, being the key document which sets out the Council's vision and approach for the management of its property portfolio.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet approves the Strategic Asset Plan 2022-27 as attached in Appendix A including the governance arrangements, strategies and processes contained in the appendices to the Strategic Asset Plan as attached in Appendices A1, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7 and A8 but excluding Appendix A2 which will be brought to a future Cabinet meeting for approval

3914 **Black Country Ultra-Low emission Vehicle Strategy**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval for the adoption of the strategy to support the council's commitment to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the adoption of the Black Country Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Strategy, including the 2021 Advisory Note, set out at **Appendices A and B** respectively.
- 2) That Cabinet endorse the future delivery of infrastructure in line with the targets identified in the strategy, subject to all relevant legal, financial, and planning approvals.
- 3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, to award the contract for the provision of on-street residential chargepoints, as part of the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles' On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme.

- 4) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of the concession contract and any other related contracts and/or documents for the provision of such services, as well as any extension and variation of the contractual arrangements should this be required throughout the duration of the contract

3915 Walsall Early Help Community Activity Reducing Exploitation Programme (CARE)

Councillor Towe presented a report which sought approval to pilot an innovative approach to provide respite care/short breaks to young people aged between 11 and 18 yrs. who have disabilities and/or additional learning needs who due to their vulnerabilities are at risk of low level exploitation and poorer outcomes compared to their peers.

(see annexed)

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

- 1) Delegates authority to accept tenders and award contracts for the provision of Early Help Community Activities Reducing Exploitation (CARE) services, for a period from 20 June 2022 to 31 March 2023 with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further period of up to two years (subject to securing funding) to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, following completion of the tender.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to enter into contracts for these services and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.
- 3) Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services 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, provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015

3916 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

3917 **Disabled Facilities Grant Building and other Housing related works and services – award of contract**

See Minute number 3911

The Cabinet approved the award of new contracts for the period 1 May 2022 up to 31 March 2026 for works and services set out in Table 1, below:

Lo t 1	Building works associated with Disabled Facility Grants and adaptations	1. SRC Group Ltd 2. Dolphinlifts Midlands Ltd 3. Hardyman Group Ltd 4. Starrant Ltd 5. Eden Adaptions Ltd 6. Hindley Contractors Ltd	Up to £1.6m per annum
Lo t 3	Building works including but not limited to repair, refurbishment and improvements to housing (including empty homes) and other council stock.	1. SRC Group Ltd 2. Hindley Contractors Ltd 3. Hardyman Group Ltd 4. Dolphinlifts Midlands Ltd	Up to £0.6m per annum

The Cabinet also delegated authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services, to enter into a new contract/s to deliver the 'Disabled Facility Building Works and other Housing related Works and Services' by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any contract, deeds or other related documents for such works and services

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

3918 **Sale of land on Spout Lane, Caldmore**

Councillor Andrew presented a report in detail which sought approval for the disposal of a piece of land in the Council's ownership on Spout lane Caldmore. The land had a history of problems arising from fly tipping and anti-social behaviour and therefore the Council was seeking to dispose of the land for the development and provision of affordable housing.

The Cabinet approved the disposal for the restricted use of affordable housing only at less than best consideration and undervalue on the basis that the proposed affordable housing development will contribute to the objective to promote economic and social well-being; and delegated authority to the Executive Director, Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for Regeneration to approve the final terms for the disposal to the highest affordable housing bidder

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

The meeting terminated at 6.58 p.m.

Chair:

Date: