

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 24 June 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader, Economy, infrastructure and development
Councillor Hughes	Care and safeguarding
Councillor Harrison	Clean and green
Councillor Towe	Learning skills and apprenticeships
Councillor Bennett	Personnel and business support
Councillor Martin	Public health and wellbeing
Councillor Arif	Shared services and procurement

Councillor Andrew (Deputy Leader) in the chair

3327 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bird and Harris.

3328 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2015 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3329 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3330 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

3331 Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

3332 Questions

There were no questions submitted.

3333 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 8 June 2015 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3334 Pre-audit outturn 2014/15 and resource allocation 2016/17 to 2019/2020

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- Note the revenue carry forwards approved by the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance, as set out in table 1 of the report.
- Note the capital re-profiling and carry forwards approved by the CFO in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance, as set out in the main body of the report and in appendix 2.
- Note the pre-audit revenue outturn overspend of £1.64m and the pre-audit capital outturn underspend of £350k. £340k of this capital underspend will be used to support the 2015/16 capital programme as approved by Council.
- Note the financial health indicators for 2014/15 summarised in Appendix 1
- Approve the proposed use of s31 grant as outlined in 3.5.
- Note the 2014/15 prudential indicators in Appendix 3 of this report and Walsall's compliance with these indicators.
- Approve the changes to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy.

- Approve the process and timetable for setting the budget – the Resource Allocation Framework.

3335 **Specialist health learning disabilities service – renewal of contract**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

With the agreement of the Cabinet, Councillor Longhi addressed the meeting. He referred to paragraph 7.3 of the report which had indicated that as this would be a standard form contract, Legal Services had not advised on the form of contract or the general contractual arrangements. He suggested that, whilst it was a standard contract, it would be for a period up to 3 years for which Council would be the accountable body, and therefore the Cabinet should receive assurance from legal services prior to the contract being awarded.

The Head of Legal Services, Mr S. Portman assured the Cabinet that as legal services had seen and were satisfied with the standard contract for 2014/15, and as there was limited scope to change or vary the form of the contract, he said that legal services did not need to review the contract again as they would not normally comment on the service element. Notwithstanding this, he undertook to review the contract again.

Councillor Hughes said that assurance from Legal Services would be sought as part of the delegated decision.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hughes, duly seconded and

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Social Care and Inclusion in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Care and Safeguarding and Public Health and Wellbeing to award, and enter in to a new contract, for a period of 1 year from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, with an option to extend by up to 2 years from 1 April 2016, with Black Country Partnership Foundation NHS Trust for the provision of specialist health learning disability services.
- (2) That recommendation (1) be carried out in accordance with the most appropriate and compliant procurement procedures and subsequently signed or sealed in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules.

3336 **Better Care Fund**

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to the legal agreement between Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group and Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council for the Better Care Fund Pooled Budget of £23.977m in 2015/16 under Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006.

3337 Reprourement of specialist advocacy services

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

With the agreement of the Cabinet, Councillor Longhi addressed the meeting. He said that he had previously voiced concerns about the visibility of the 'voiceability' Complaints Advocacy Service and reiterated that the service needed to be publicised more. He urged the Cabinet to continue to press for this through the contract.

Councillor Hughes accepted the comments made by Councillor Longhi. It was **moved** by Councillor Hughes, duly seconded and

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Social Care and Inclusion in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Care and Safeguarding to enter into shared arrangements with Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton Councils, to be led by Sandwell Council, for the procurement of independent specialist advocacy services including the establishment of a new collaborative framework for the period up to March 2020.
- (2) That Cabinet notes that Social Care and Inclusion will need to identify funding for these independent advocacy services from within their current approved cash limited budget prior to any procurement to cover the full period of the procurement.

3338 Support for living at home services (community based services)

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve a fee uplift to bring all existing personal care at home services that are below £12 per hour up to £12 per hour through the completion of a further transitional contract, as set out in recommendation (2).
- (2) That Cabinet approve the award of a further transitional contract (Transitional 3 contract), to supersede the existing Transitional 2 Contracts, from 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016, pending completion of the previously agreed competitive tender and award of new contracts.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the award of further transitional contracts for the Home from Hospital and Rapid Discharge from Hospital Services from 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2016.

3339 Community Alarms charging policy

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Hughes said that he had amended the recommendations in the report to backdate the removal of the charge from 1 April 2015. He also said that he recognised that some bills will have already been sent out and that some may have already been paid however, these would be reimbursed.

Accordingly, it was **moved** by Councillor Hughes, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the Cabinet approve the exemption of all users of the community alarm service with effect from 1 July 2015 (option 2 in the report) backdated to 1 April 2015.

3340 Review of social care and employment support and day services

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Hughes stressed that there would be no change in service provision during the consultation period.

Resolved

That the Executive Director of Social Care and Inclusion review and consult with users, carers and other relevant stakeholders on the options for improving outcomes of those receiving employment support and day services operated by the Council and we will then report to Cabinet on the options considered and feedback from consultation and recommend any improvements where necessary

3341 Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator

Councillor Hughes presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet adopts the recommendation and creates a permanent, full time post of Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator.

3342 Tractor cutting of large grassed areas

Councillor Harrison presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That fortnightly grass cutting be reinstated to the 26 sites identified in this report for the 2015/16 season with the cost pressure of £28k being met from the Economy and Environment directorate budget.
- (2) That a review of grass cutting arrangements on the 26 sites is carried out to inform the 2016/17 budget taking into account residents' views and biodiversity benefits.

The meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Chair:

Date: