

# Cabinet

**Wednesday 17 April 2024**

**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 Elson	Children's Services
Councillor Ferguson	Internal Services
Councillor Flint	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Murphy	Clean and Green
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor M. Statham	Education and Skills

## **In attendance**

E. Bennett	Chief Executive
D. Brown	Executive Director – Economy, Environment and Communities
C. Male	Executive Director – Children's and Customer
S. Darcy	Director of Finance, Corporate Performance Management and Corporate Landlord
S. Portman	Head of Law
J. Pugh	Director – Adult Care
C. Goodall	Principal Democratic Services Officer
A. Caville	Team Manager – Transition and Leaving Care Service
E. Cook	Democratic Services Officer

## **Part 1 – Public Session**

### **4221 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.

### **4222 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew.

### **4223 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2024 were submitted.

**Resolved**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2024, a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**4224 Declarations of interest**

The following declarations of non-prejudicial interest were received:

- Councillor Flint: Item 9 Resilient Communities – Safer Streets.
- Councillor Perry: Item 14 Extension of Contractual Arrangements for Local Healthwatch for Walsall under Reg 72 to allow for full design, tendering and implementation.

**4225 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**

**4226 Petitions**

No petitions were received..

**4227 Questions**

No questions were received.

**4228 Forward plan**

The forward plan as of April 2024 was submitted:

(annexed)

**Resolved**

**That the forward plan be noted.**

4229 **Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic**

Councillor Elson introduced the report setting out the proposal to treat ‘care experienced’ as a local protected characteristic.

(annexed)

Two care experienced young people addressed the meeting and answered questions.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That ‘Care Experienced’ be treated as a local protected characteristic as part of Walsall Council’s Equality Duty.**

4230 **Resilient Communities – Safer Streets**

Councillor Perry introduced a report which updated Cabinet on the Safer Streets programme.

(annexed)

Representatives from two voluntary organisations, Palfrey Big Local and Blessed 2 Bless, addressed Cabinet and provided an update on their work.

Imrana Niazi, Colleen Jones and Maham Urooj from Palfrey Big Local provided an update on the organisation’s work. The Charity was a resident-led organisation. The Project had focussed on small-scale projects, treating all people the same and after nine years, had invested the remaining funds available from the Big Local grant, into green spaces in the Palfrey area. Throughout, the Project had helped empower local people, invested in youth and improved green spaces.

Jenny Turner and Bishop Delroy Mason, from Blessed 2 Bless, provided an overview of the charity’s work, including providing a food bank and participating in the street pastors scheme. Ms Turner thanked the Council for their support and embracing the organisation, following the charity’s initially unplanned relocation from Birmingham.

Cabinet Members personally thanked the representatives and the organisations for their work and continued support in supporting the Council and partners throughout Walsall.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet note the update to the safer streets programme and further commits to develop strength-based approaches within the Council.**
- 2. That Cabinet will receive an update on the Safer Streets initiative in six months.**

**4231 Council Plan 2022-25 – Q3 23/24**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which provided an update on performance vis-à-vis the Council Plan Markers of Success in Quarter 3 of 2023-24.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (by assent)

- 1. That Cabinet note the performance in Q3 relating to the period October – December 2023.**
- 2. That Cabinet note any key achievements, identified interdependencies and support required to achieve the Outcomes, set out in this report.**

**4232 Surveillance and Access to Communications Data**

Councillor Perry introduced a report which outlined a revised policy and procedures regarding the use of the powers available to the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA).

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Perry and **seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 ('IPA') Corporate Policy and Procedures.**

**4233 Contract Award – Multi-Functional Printing Devices, Production Printing Devices and Associated Software**

Councillor Ferguson introduced a report which sought to ensure the council had provision to continue delivering services using digital and paper records.

(annexed)

*The decision was taken in the private session following consideration of exempt information (see minute 4239).*

#### 4234 **Supply of Hired Compact Sweeper Contract**

Councillor Murphy introduced a report which sought approval to award a contract for the supply of hired compact sweepers.

(annexed)

*The decision was taken in the private session following consideration of exempt information (see minute 4240).*

#### 4235 **Extension of Contractual Arrangements for Local Healthwatch for Walsall under Reg 72 to allow for full design, tendering and implementation**

Councillor Pedley introduced the report which sought approval to extend contractual arrangements for Local Healthwatch for Walsall under Regulation 72.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Pedley and **seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet approves the extension of the existing contract with Engaging Communities Solutions CIC for a period of 10 months from 1st June 2024 to March 31, 2025, at a value of £158,708.**
- 2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Public Health and the Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, 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 variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents should this be required throughout the duration of this contract.**

4236 **Recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding Fixed Penalty Notices and Enforcement Legislation**

Cabinet received and considered a report containing recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding fixed penalty notices and enforcement legislation.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Perry and **seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That Cabinet will work with and support the Local Government Association to lobby Government to increase the financial levels of fixed penalty notices for littering and fly tipping and strengthen enforcement legislation.**

4237 **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.**

**Part 2 - Private Session**

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

4238 **Purchase of a Property in Pelsall for Operational Purposes**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which sought approval for the purchase of a property in Pelsall for operational purposes.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and **seconded** by Councillor Murphy and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

**That Cabinet approve the acquisition of the freehold interest in a property in Pelsall and delegate the approval of the final terms of the acquisition to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration on the proviso that:**

- a) the legal due diligence currently being undertaken by the council's lawyers demonstrates that the property presents a good and marketable title; and**
- b) the transaction represents a purchase at best value.**

*(Exempt Information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended)*

**4239 Contract Award – Multi-Functional Printing Devices, Production Printing Devices and Associated Software**

Councillor Ferguson introduced a report which sought to ensure the council had provision to continue delivering services using digital and paper records, including exempt information.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Ferguson and **seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet approves the award a 5-year contract, with an associated value in the region of £1.6 million, to Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd, for the leased supply of multifunctional printing devices, production printing devices and associated printing software.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Resources to enter into subsequent lease agreements which may be taken out under this contract and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Resources to vary the contract/leases during the contractual period to ensure the Council continues to achieve value for money and the service continue to meet the corporate priorities.**

*(Exempt Information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended)*

#### 4240 **Supply of Hired Compact Sweeper Contract**

Councillor Murphy introduced a report which sought approval to award a contract for the supply of hired compact sweepers.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Murphy and **seconded** by Councillor Bird and it was;

**Resolved** (unanimously)

1. **That Cabinet award a contract for a period of three years from 18 November 2024 to 17 November 2027 to Dawsongroup with an anticipated contract value of £698,400 for the supply of compact sweepers.**
2. **That Cabinet approve the increase in cost of £75,589 to Clean and Green for five years inflation, however, this can be covered by the current revenue budget.**
3. **That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, or related documents.**
4. **That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Economy and Environment 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 Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.**

*(Exempt Information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended)*

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7:21 pm.

Chair:

Date: