

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 21 March 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Tom Ansell	Leader of the Council
Councillor Zahid Ali	Children's services
Councillor Rachel Walker	Environment and street pride
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration and enterprise
Councillor John O'Hare	Resources
Councillor Garry Perry	Safer stronger communities, partnerships and Vision 2021
Councillor Alan Paul	Social care, health and housing

1733 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Longhi.

1734 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2007 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

1735 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1736 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 19 February 2007 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following change to the forward plan be noted:

2/07 Residential care strategy to 18 April 2007

1737 Progress in implementing Walsall's Children's Trust arrangements

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet note progress made towards Children's Trust arrangements.

1738 Change for children

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

The Managing Director for Education Walsall, Helen Denton, withdrew from the room during consideration of this item.

Resolved

- (1) That the Cabinet endorse Option 4: Part B Procurement for the provision of Children's Services with particular reference to education support services.
- (2) That the Cabinet endorse the broad outline scope as defined, and as agreed with the DfES.
- (3) That aspects of provision which serve children and young people or institutions which largely serve their needs, which lie outside of the current contract and the Children's Services Directorate and DCS direct responsibilities, be reviewed . This will be to assess their place in any future arrangements. This will include areas of mutual interdependence, for example, ICT, asset management, etc.

1739 Determination of admission arrangements

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the admission arrangements for primary and secondary community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2008/2009 as set out in the report, be agreed.

- (2) That approval be given to the publication of the associated statutory notice.
- (3) That Education Walsall inform all consultees of the determination of the admission arrangements for 2008/09.

1740 **Update on impact of Government's new school food standards**

Councillor Zahid Ali presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the catering service be further developed to ensure compliance with the School Food Trust's new standards, with particular emphasis on marketing the service to increase uptake for both free and paid meals.

1741 **West Midlands Local Transport plan settlement and capital programme**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed 2007/09 transport capital programme as summarised in Table 1 and detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
- (2) That Walsall's major schemes programme be subject to a local prioritisation exercise, recognising the impact of changes in guidance for the approval of major scheme funding implemented by the DfT in 2006.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Directors of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods to manage the programme to ensure delivery within budget limits.
- (4) That approval be given to the use of the new West Midlands Capital Programme Management System as the primary project management system, to meet regional and DfT requirements for project management and monitoring

1742 **Local Government Pension Scheme – revised policy statement**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the new Policy Statement set out at Appendix 1 be approved.
- (2) That publication of the policy be made within one month and be applied where applicable from that date.

1743 **Corporate financial performance 2006/7**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

It was noted that the summary of the report should have read "..... previously reported position to January Cabinet of c£1.35m.

Resolved

- (1) That the following currently predicted year end forecasts be noted:
 - a net revenue overspend of up to £0.7m (0.12% of the current gross budget).
 - a surplus of c £6.9m on the capital programme which is largely expected to be carried forward into 2007/8.
- (2) That action being taken to seek to improve the current forecast outturn be noted;
- (3) That it be noted that a number of carry forward requests may be approved under the council's approved protocol within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, resulting in a revised overspend of c £1.2m, which is within the predictions previously outlined and which has been taken into account in the replenishment of reserves in setting the 2007/08 budget.

1744 **Age equality scheme**

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the draft Age Equality Scheme be agreed.

1745 Integrated mental health service

Councillor Paul presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approve the proposal to put in place a formal Section 31 Partnership Agreement for lead commissioning of mental health services with Walsall tPCT.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the proposal to put in place a formal Section 31 Partnership Agreement for the integrated provision of mental health services, and the secondment of social care staff to the tPCT with effect from 1 April 2007.
- (3) That Cabinet note the intention to explore the development of a new provider organisation, this being a Mental Health Partnership Trust across Walsall and Dudley, from 1st April 2008, and to receive further reports on the detailed proposals once these have been consulted upon and scrutinised by the Health Panel.

1746 Contract for the supply of office furniture

David Brown presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That authority be given to tender the supply of office furniture for a five year period.
- (2) That delegated powers be given to the Executive Director to award the contract for the supply of office furniture for a five year period.

1747 Corporate risk management

James Walsh presented the report:

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the resolution of Audit Committee be endorsed and the application of the revised risk management policy and allied processes be supported.

1748 School organisation matters

The report of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

The meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Leader:

Date: