

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Transport
Councillor R. Andrew	Children's services
Councillor I. Shires	Community engagement and voluntary sector
Councillor Harris	Leisure and culture
Councillor Towe	Resources

3006 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ali, Arif, Bird and McCracken.

3007 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2013 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3008 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3009 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.

3010 Petitions

The schedule of petitions was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the schedule be noted.

3011 Questions

There were no questions submitted.

3012 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 12 August 2013 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3013 Black Country Executive Joint Committee

The Chief Executive presented the report:

(see annexed)

The Chief Executive advised of an addition to the wording (in bold) to Annex A – Terms of reference: Functions of the Committee:

4.1(b) Agreeing allocation of spending **in accordance with the budget allocated to it.**

He also advised of the following additional recommendation:

- (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration to make minor amendments to the Black Country Joint Committee Constitution in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Councillor Andrew **moved** the recommendations as amended which was duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves the establishment of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee and amends the Councils Constitution accordingly.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the Constitution of the Joint Committee including Terms of Reference at Appendix A and delegates the functions and powers therein referred to the Executive Joint Committee.

- (3) That Councillor Bird, as Leader of the Council, be appointed as the Cabinet's representative on the Executive Joint Committee together with Councillor A Andrew to act as substitute.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration to make minor amendments to the Black Country Joint Committee Constitution in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- (5) That Cabinet note the proposals for the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board as set out in the report and the proposed governance structure as set out at Appendix C.
- (6) That Cabinet approves Walsall Council acting as Secretary to the Joint Committee and Advisory Board.

3014 Extension of electricity supply contract to Council buildings, traffic signals and public lighting

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to approve a five month extension of the flexible electricity framework contract from 1 November 2014 to 31 March 2015 with YPO.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director - Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holder, to extend the existing flexible electricity framework contract with the preferred supplier npower.

3015 Sale of the site of the former Rushall Mews

Councillor A. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor R. Andrew reminded Cabinet of previous discussions during which it was made clear that local residents would be looking for potential community investment as a result of the sale of this site.

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the former Rushall Mews as shown edged in bold on plan number EPMS 3800/16 extending to 2.16 acres (8756 square metres) (or thereabouts).

- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holder for Regeneration and Transport to approve the terms for the disposal.

3016 St. Matthews Quarter – disposal of land in Digbeth and Lower Hall Lane

Councillor A. Andrew presented a report:

(see annexed)

Cabinet members noted the information contained in the report which would be considered as part of a further report in the private session and which included additional confidential information required by the Cabinet in order to reach a decision. The decision therefore would be made in private session.

3017 Alternative provision for children and young people at key stage 3/4

Councillor R. Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet notes that a procurement process has been commenced and delegates authority to the Governing Body of New Leaf Centre to enter into contracts and ancillary related documents for alternative provision services in relation to children and young people at key stage 3/4 who have been, or are at risk of, permanent exclusion from mainstream school both in and out of the borough of Walsall.

3018 Walsall Council Food awards 2014

The report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to the institution of a Food Business Award Scheme the culmination of which will be planned for Food Safety Week in June 2014.
- (2) That Cabinet acknowledge and endorse the Health Switch scheme as a key component of the authority striving to tackle health issues caused by obesity and incentivising a progressive switch to better nutrition in the borough's food establishments.

3019 Council tax reduction scheme

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Towe pointed out that paragraph 12.1 referred to a preferred option. He advised that this was not relevant as the consultation would be on all options.

Resolved

- (1) That the options in this report for a localised council tax reduction scheme for the future commencing 2014/15 be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to a public consultation exercise on the four options set out in the report to establish a local Council tax reduction scheme to commence on the 1 April 2014 and to continue for future years until the Council considers that a change is necessary.

3020 Housing21 daytime and respite care services

The report was submitted and presented by Mr. A. Rust, Head of Joint Commissioning:

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr. Rust pointed out that paragraph 6.2 should read:

“6.2 Discussions will be ongoing with Housing21 regarding the costs of any changes including redundancy costs.”

It was **moved** by Councillor A. Andrew, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet note that a consultation will be conducted with residents of the extra care schemes and their families, day service users, and Housing21 staff regarding:
 - de-commissioning the part of the Council’s contract with Housing21 in relation to the provision of day centres within the extra care schemes provided under that contract; and
 - reducing the number of respite care units provided under the Council’s contract with Housing21.
- (2) That Cabinet note that a further report is brought back to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation referred to in recommendation (1) above.

3021 Brownhills Common

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet endorse the proposed Higher Level Stewardship Agreement management plan as summarised in paragraph 3.4 of the report including removal of plantations 11 and 15 (see Figure 2 of the attached report to Scrutiny, Appendix A) and the area restored to lowland heathland.

3022 Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the next item on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the item for consideration is 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 item in private.

Summary of item considered in private session

3023 St. Matthews Quarter – disposal of Council’s interests in Digbeth and Lower Hall Lane

Cabinet approved the disposal of the Council’s freehold interest in 28 Digbeth and the surrender of its leasehold interest in the former car park in Lower Hall Lane, subject to planning permission.

3024 Public session

Household waste recycling centres and transfer station contract

The report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Councillor A. Andrew suggested that consideration of this matter be deferred for a further report when an evaluation of the tenders had been made in order for Cabinet to make the decision to award the contract. Cabinet concurred and it was **moved** by Councillor A. Andrew, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the meeting be adjourned to a date to be agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 6.40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25 September 2013

3025 Household waste recycling centres and transfer station contract

A further report was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contract for the operation and management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Haulage be awarded to Sita UK Limited and that the Executive Director Neighbourhoods be delegated authority to sign or authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts and other related documents in relation to such services.
- (2) That Cabinet consider any changes to the level of service in the contract as part of the budget setting process for future years.
- (3) That officers be requested to discuss with the contractor opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships in the contract.

The meeting terminated at 5.10 p.m.

Leader:

Date: