

Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 13 January 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and regeneration
Councillor Arif	Business support services
Councillor Walker	Children's services
Councillor Perry	Communities and partnerships
Councillor Flower	Environment
Councillor Towe	Finance and personnel
Councillor Sanders	Leisure and culture
Councillor McCracken	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Ansell	Transport

2348 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2009 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

2349 Declarations of interest

Councillors Andrew and Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 19 – Implementation of early years funding formula.

2350 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.

2351 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 4 January 2010 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

2352 Medium term financial strategy

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

He informed Cabinet of an amendment to the strategy. The amendment was discussed and approved.

Resolved

That the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, subject to the Section 5.N3 being amended to read:

“All one-off, unplanned/windfall income, or income generated above the specified levels approved by Cabinet each year in their budget proposals, will be returned to the corporate centre and pooled for the “corporate benefit” and will not be utilisable by the service.”

2353 Revised draft Corporate Revenue Budget 2010/11

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the following be noted for consultation:
 - (a) The current draft net budget requirement of £242.678m;
 - (b) The provisional formula grant entitlement of £137.243m;
 - (c) The collection fund surplus of £58k, requiring a reduction in the draft Council tax increase;

- (d) A revised provisional Council tax increase of 4.26% and provisional Council tax at Band D, of £1,389.43 excluding precepts;
 - (e) Total full year effect investments of £1.105m and efficiencies of £3.298m arising from previous budget decisions, as set out in Appendix 1.
 - (f) Total investment of £8.331m, relating to budget pressures and investment in service development as set out in section 4.4 and Appendix 2;
 - (g) Total savings, efficiencies and income generation proposals of £11.213m as set out in section 4.5 and Appendix 3.
- (2) That this report be referred to all scrutiny and performance panels for further consultation, to enable their comments to be considered, prior to Cabinet meeting on 3 February 2010 to make it's final budget recommendations to Council.

2354 **Budget consultation**

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of this report and its appendices be noted.
- (2) That the outcomes from the budget consultation, set out in this report, be considered by Cabinet as it develops the Council's 2010/11 draft corporate revenue and capital budget.

2355 **Council Tax base 2010/11**

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Council tax base for 2010/11 be set at 78,143.38 band D equivalents.

2356 Corporate financial performance 2009/10

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That a net revenue overspend of c £4.017m (0.56% of the current gross budget) which includes the effects of identified corrective action plans and the effects of non essential expenditure restraint be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet note and approve amendments to the net revenue budget due to new or increased grant allocations since the budget was approved by Council on 23 February 2009, as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report.
- (3) That slippage on the capital programme of £3.473m, which is expected to be required to be carried forward into 2010/11, subject to Cabinet approval at year-end be noted.
- (4) The Cabinet note and approve amendments to the capital programme from additional grant approvals received since the programme was approved by Council on 23 February 2009, as set out in table 3 of the report.

2357 Usual cost, preferred accommodation and top up policy on care home replacements

Councillor McCracken presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Usual Cost, Preferred Accommodation and Top Up Policy be approved.

2358 Darlaston Academy outline business case

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Executive Director Children's Services in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder for the signing of the outline business case for the indicative funding allocation £26,987,944..

2359 Hatherton and Lichfield Canals Trust

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That officers be authorised to pursue the formation of an officer steering group with relevant organisations including neighbouring local authorities (Lichfield, Cannock Chase and South Staffordshire District Council's), Staffordshire County Council, British Waterways and the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust. The steering group would meet annually or twice yearly initially.
- (2) That the role of the steering group be to advise the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust on specific planning and strategic issues relating to the restoration of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal links.
- (3) That Walsall Council play a supporting role, rather than the leading role in this group.

2360 Meat and meat products contract

Councillor Arif presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the intention to make use of an existing framework contract between Sandwell Council and Welsh Brothers, to supply meat and meat products to Walsall Council from 1 February 1 2010 until 31 July 2013, be noted, and
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the portfolio holders to approve the acceptance of the Framework Contract and Walsall Council entering into it under its official seal.

2361 **Tackling environmental crime**

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the updated Environmental Enforcement Improvement Plan and its actions for tackling environmental crime be approved;
- (2) That the enforcement outcomes achieved since the last report was presented to Cabinet around measures for tackling environmental crime be noted.

2362 **Placarding for community events**

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That approval be given to proposals for authorising the display of placards for certain community events as outlined within this report to take effect from 1 February 2010, to allow time to document and publish the proposed processes, and seek the views of local communities;
- (2) That Cabinet note the role of the Borough's Safety Advisory Group, chaired by Council officers, in considering public safety issues and in filtering applications for community events where placards may be permitted.

2363 **Transforming learning in secondary education**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet approve the adoption of the revised Strategy for Transforming Learning in Secondary Education as set out in Appendix A.

2364 Sneyd Community School

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That approval be given to the statutory proposal to discontinue (close) Sneyd Community School from 31 August 2012.

2365 Implementation of early years funding formula

Pauline Pilkington, Executive Director presented the report and supplementary report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That changes detailed in section 4.2 of the main report be implemented on 1 April 2010, as part of the DCSF's pilot, in advance of the new statutory implementation date of 1 April 2011.

2366 Welfare Advice in Walsall

The report of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted@:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

2367 Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining 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.

2368 Project W2R provision of energy from waste capacity

Councillor Flower presented the revised report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the principles of the draft Inter Authority Agreement be approved.
- (2) That Cabinet approve continuing to progress the Inter Authority Agreement with Staffordshire County Council, for the purposes of reassuring the bidders and DEFRA that we are still fully committed to the project.
- (3) That the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services continue to progress the contract in consultation with the portfolio holder.
- (4) That officers explore the potential for flexibility in the contract in the event of technological changes.

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

The meeting terminated at 6.40 p.m.

Leader:

Date: