

# **Cabinet**

**Wednesday 16 March 2022**

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall at 6pm.**

## **Present – in person**

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor Butler	Clean and Green
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Craddock	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Statham	Internal Services

## **In attendance – in person**

Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive  
Mr S. Portman, Head of Law  
Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

## **In attendance – remote**

Mrs D. Hindson, Executive Director, Resources and Transformation  
Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub  
Mr S. Neilson, Executive Director, Economy Environment and Communities  
Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director, Children's and Customer  
Mr S. Gunther, Director of Public Health

### **3880 Welcome**

Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person with appropriate social distancing requirements and would be conducted using the hybrid meeting system to enable it to be streamed and to enable officers to contribute remotely if required. In doing so, he advised that this was a new external livestreaming system and took the opportunity to thank the Council's IT officers who had been supporting the previous in house system, brought in as a result of the pandemic, for their hard work. He said that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance; and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council's website. Introductions took place and a quorum was established.

### **3881 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Perry and Wilson.

### **3882 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

**3883 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**3884 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.

**3885 Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

**3886 Questions**

No questions were submitted

**3887 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 6 February 2022 was submitted:

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (by assent)

That the forward plan be noted.

**3888 Walsall Proud programme: Next stages of Proud**

Councillor Bird presented a report which set out the approach to delivering the Proud programme, the benefits achieved so far, the estimated future benefits and the next steps.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the achievements of the Proud programme to date and ongoing future milestones as set out in sections 4.1 – 4.15.
- 2) Notes the position on benefit opportunity identification and investment to date as set out in sections 4.21 – 4.29.
- 3) Notes delivery of current and forecast performance against the approved financial parameters and approve a revised approach to agreeing future investment as set out in sections 4.21 – 4.29.
- 4) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the Leader, to subsequently authorise any extension and variation of PwC contractual arrangements or other related documents should this be required throughout the remaining duration of the contract as set out in sections 4.31 – 4.35.

### 3889 **Digital Strategy 2022-25**

Councillor Bird presented a report which sought approval for Digital Strategy aimed at boosting social and economic benefits through the facilitation of digital enablement across the borough and wider West Midlands region enabling Walsall to become a vehicle for positive change by further leveraging its Digital capabilities.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the Digital Strategy 2022-2025 as set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to make any minor amendments, if necessary, to the Digital Strategy before and after it is publication, to the Executive Director, Resources & Transformation in consultation with the Leader of the Council

### 3890 **Update to Walsall Council Housing Allocations Scheme**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which proposed minor amendments to the scheme to comply with the Housing Act 1996.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (Unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approves that the Walsall Council Housing Allocation Scheme is updated to award Gold Band priority for the additional household categories in parts 4.3 to 4.5 of the report
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to make any future amendments to the Walsall Council Housing Allocations scheme to the Executive Director of

Children's and Customer Services, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Regeneration.

### **3891 West Midlands Local Transport Plan and Transport Capital Programme**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval for the delivery of a programme of capital projects in 2022/23 that supported the implementation of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives in various locations across the Borough.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That, subject to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement being confirmed to the West Midlands Combined Authority, Cabinet approves the Walsall Council Transport Capital Programme 2022/23 funding of £5.16m as set out at Table 2 in Section 4 of this report.
- 2) That, subject to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement being confirmed to the West Midlands Combined Authority, Cabinet approves the utilisation of the Local Network Improvement Plan element of the grant funding for 2022/23 (£1.56m) as described in paragraphs 4.38 to 4.40 of this report and Appendices A to G, including the allocation of any carry forward from 2021/22 to the 2022/23 programme.
- 3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to manage any required changes to the 2022/23 Local Network Improvement Plan capital programme, including amending individual scheme budgets (within the overall programme budget); adding new projects (to replace or part-replace other projects that can no longer be delivered); and managing carry forward, to maximise the use of the grant.
- 4) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to negotiate on its behalf with the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands Combined Authority and government departments to maximise the values of future financial resources allocated to the Council in pursuit of its transport priorities, including signing relevant agreements and contracts for schemes which are approved within the Walsall Transport Capital Programme 2022/23.

### **3892 COVID Memorial**

Councillor Butler presented a report which proposed the provision of a memorial feature for the residents of the borough to recognise the COVID pandemic.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the proposal to create an COVID-19 memorial trail in Walsall Arboretum.
- 2) That Cabinet delegate to the Executive Director for Economy Environment and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green the approval of the detailed design.
- 3) That Cabinet note that funding will initially be sought from external sources but should that prove unsuccessful the capital costs are to be funded via the capital investment pipeline fund, following submission of a business case to Strategic Investment Board.

### **3893 Walsall Borough bonfire Night – Future Proposals**

Councillor Butler presented a report which set out options for how the Council could provide bonfire events that were safe, accessible, enjoyable, affordable and sustainable.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

That Cabinet approve traditional bonfire night events at Walsall Arboretum, King George V and Willenhall Memorial Park, and a further firework event to celebrate Diwali (Option D).

### **3894 Extension of the Healthy Child Programme Contracts**

Councillor Craddock presented a report which requested the extension of the contracts to allow sufficient time to reconfigure the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approves the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 (School Nursing and Teenage Pregnancy) contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 2) That Cabinet approves the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 (Health Visiting, Health in Pregnancy and Smoking Cessation in Pregnancy) contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023
- 3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub and the Portfolio Holder for Health to extend contracts on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services identified above, should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2023.

**3895 Children's Services Education Case Management System**

Councillor Towe presented a report which sought approval to re-procure the Education Case Management System underpinning the Council's requirement to fulfil its statutory duties as set out in the Education Act 1996 and the Children and Families Act 2014

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approve the direct award of a contract to Capita via the facility under RM6194 (Back Office Software) to re-procure the Council's existing case management system for education commencing April 2022 to April 2027.
- 2) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director - Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Director - Resources and Transformation, the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services.
- 3) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director - Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Director - Resources and Transformation, the Leader and the Portfolio holder for Education and Skills, 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

**3896 Early Years Funding Formula for two, three and four year olds 2022-23**

Councillor Towe presented a report which sought approval for the formula, being the local process that was utilised to allocate the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

That Cabinet approves the Early Years Funding Formula (Appendix A) recommended by Walsall's Schools Forum at its meeting on 9th March 2022.

**3897 Proposed High Needs Local Funding Formula 2022-23**

Councillor Towe presented a report which sought approval for an update to the formula previously approved by Cabinet which allocates the funding for school aged children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (unanimously)

- 1) That Cabinet approves the Local High Needs Funding Formula for 2022/23 with the increased top-up rates for special schools and pupil referral units.
- 2) That Cabinet approves to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, to agree the utilisation of any amount of available High Needs funding to support special schools and Pupil Referral Units in financial difficulty, as allowed within the High Needs Funding guidelines.

**3898 General Building Repair and maintenance Contract**

Councillor Statham presented a report which sought approval to award the contract to ensure that general building repairs, maintenance and compliance works continue to be undertaken to Council owned and occupied buildings.

(see annexed)

Note: Decision taken in the private session following consideration of confidential information. See minute number 3900 for public summary of the decision.

**3899 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 the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the items in private.

**Public Summary of decision taken in the Private Session**

**3900 General Building repair and maintenance Contract**

See Minute number 3898.

The Cabinet unanimously:

- 1) Approved the award of the contract, valued in the region of £500,000 per annum, to Graham Asset Management Limited (trading as Graham), for the provision of General Building Repair and Maintenance Services Contract, for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025 with two optional extension periods of up to 12 months each.
- 2) Delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director for Resources and Transformation to enter into the contract and to subsequently authorise the

sealing, signing or variation of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services including the optional extension periods.

The meeting terminated at 7. 34p.m.

Chair:

Date: