

# **Cabinet minutes**

**Wednesday 14 April 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 Harris	Leisure and culture
Councillor Ansell	Transport

## **2420 Apology**

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

## **2421 Welcome**

The Leader welcomed Paul Davies the recently appointed Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion.

## **2422 Councillor Perry**

The Leader informed everyone that this would be Councillor Perry's last Cabinet meeting. He would be stepping down from the Cabinet as he would be Deputy Mayor next municipal year. The Leader praised Councillor Perry for his loyalty and hard work as portfolio holder.

Councillor Perry responded and thanked Cabinet colleagues for their support.

## **2423 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2010 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

**2424 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2425 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.

**2426 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 31 March 2010 was submitted:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the forward plan be noted.

**2427 Darlaston Strategic Regeneration**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet welcomes the investment and focus being given to Darlaston through these tough economic times in line with policies already followed in Moxley, Bentley, Brownhills, Goscote and Willenhall
- (2) That Cabinet welcomes the themes, strategy and projects detailed in the Darlaston Regeneration Framework Study, summarised in Appendix A of the report be agreed.
- (3) That specific regard is paid to the following projects identified as priority interventions within the framework strategy:

- (a) **King Street Bullstake** – Primarily environmental works to facilitate the reinstatement of one way vehicular traffic along King Street (limited to bus and taxis movement) with the inclusion of bus stops. Re-routing bus movements will have the effect of increasing footfall along King Street, will help to address the relationship of the ASDA store with the remainder of King Street – particularly pedestrian movement to and from the store.  
**Project Value** (indicative) – £675,000  
**Potential Funding/Intervention** (indicative) – S106 contributions from local development, a bid to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) round three, Urban Challenge Fund, Council Capital Programme.
- (b) **Town Hall Yard & The Forge** – Creation of approx 15,000sq ft of retail space to attract operators such as Wilkinsons, Home Bargains etc who generally like to operate in the vicinity of larger retail stores such as ASDA - creating a magnet for users of ASDA to move across King St. To complement this, an improved walkway through to the Town Hall including a retail arcade for smaller operators will improve the integration of the Town Hall with the centre as an improved community based facility. Works at the Town Hall are proposed to include a new ‘commercial’ kitchen to facilitate a variety of functions.  
**Project Value** (indicative) – £2.5million  
**Potential Funding/Intervention** – (indicative) Private investment, Accord Housing land, Council facilitating land assembly.
- (c) **The Leys** – Housing scheme at the northern gateway into Darlaston Centre, approx 70 – 80 residential units on primarily Council owned land. Project also indicates the reconfiguration of the roundabout to two signal controlled junctions to further enhance the development opportunity.  
**Project Value** (indicative) - £6.5million (residential elements) £400,000 (road reconfiguration)  
**Potential Funding/Intervention** (Indicative) – Private/RSL investment, LTP3, Urban Challenge Fund, Council land and to facilitate land assembly.
- (d) **St Lawrence Way (Referred to as Wesleys Fold in Appendix A)**  
– Two options have been identified for this site a) Housing development – likely to be by an RSL led scheme with potential for elderly persons provision given the location to the district centre b) A ‘value’ retailer such as Aldi / Lidl whom like to locate near ASDA and other such larger retailers. The impetus behind this is two fold, one being increasing offer and attractiveness to the centre and two realising funds to contribute towards the King St Bullstake proposals.  
**Project Value** (indicative) – ‘Value’ food retailer approx £3.5million private investment.

**Potential Funding/Intervention** (indicative) – Retail scheme agreement with current land owners, release of S106 money and developer contributions towards other schemes. RSL agreement to develop out the site suitably for residential purposes. Council intervention through land assembly and partnership working, integration with the wider regeneration proposals.

- (4) The above projects are the four main priority projects within the wider strategy and are seen as being instrumental in the delivery of the overall aspirations for the Darlaston area.

#### 2428 **Early years capital programme planned expenditure**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the schemes and budgets set out in of this report be approved, including permission to seek tenders and appoint contractors on Council owned properties and that authority be delegated to the Director of Children's Services to award contracts (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) to the most suitable contractors having regard to Best Value for the works/services as set out.
- (b) That the schemes and budgets set out in Appendix B of this report be approved, including permission to make grant awards for those settings that are privately owned and authority be delegated to the Director of Children's Services to award the grants (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) as set out in Appendix B.

#### 2429 **Procurement of children's short break centre**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration, for the appointment of Willmott Dixon through the SCAPE framework as part of the collocation with the Healthtec project, to construct the replacement children's short break centre subject to the overall cost of the project not exceeding £1.028 million and DCSF approval, if necessary, for land disposal being granted

**2430 Neighbourhood management – update**

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the programme for implementing Area Partnerships/Neighbourhood Management in Walsall as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

**2431 Registration Services**

Councillor Flower presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That a new Scheme called “The Walsall Registration Scheme 2010” be introduced with effect from 1 June 2010 and that the Council’s Seal be applied to the Scheme.

**2432 Corporate financial performance 2009/10**

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

The Leader commented that in respect of recommendation (b) he would be reviewing the relevant company liquidation policies to ensure that everything was done to secure the Council’s position.

**Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- (a) Note a net revenue overspend of c £1.794m (0.24% of the current gross budget) which includes the effects of identified corrective action plans and the effects of non essential expenditure restraint.
- (b) Approve write off of debt as detailed in table 6 as required by the Constitution.
- (c) Note that opening reserves for 2010/11 will be in line with those set out in the medium term financial strategy (MTFS).

- (d) Note slippage/underspends on the capital programme of £6.934m, the majority of which is expected to be required to be carried forward into 2010/11, subject to Cabinet approval at year-end.

#### 2433 **Leisure strategy**

The report of the portfolio holder, together with the report of the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted:

(see annexed)

The Leader refuted recent press reports that the Council would be closing all leisure centres. He confirmed that there were a number of options, all of which would be evaluated in detail before a decision was made.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the recommendation of the Community Services Scrutiny Panel of 30 March 2010 be noted.
- (2) That a more detailed report on the preferred option be received at a future meeting of Cabinet.

#### 2434 **Walsall Adult and Community College – Ofsted report**

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That officers report back to the next Cabinet meeting on a proposed action plan to address the areas for development identified in the Ofsted report.

#### 2435 **Walsall Adult Learning Plan and lead accountable body status**

Councillor Harris presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Principal of Walsall Adult and Community College, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, prepare for the Council to become a lead accountable body by commissioning the work necessary to draw up an Adult Learning Plan for Walsall.

- (2) That agreement, in principle, be given to the vision and objectives for informal and adult learning set out in the report and to the Council expressing an interest in becoming lead accountable body, when invited to do so, and that a further report setting out detailed implications, be brought back for approval before any firm commitments are entered into.

#### 2436 **Entitlements to care**

Councillor Bird presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet agree to the implementation of an equitable and fair process of allocating resources for care to those with greatest need – substantial and critical within the Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care in England 2010 (Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care).
- (2) That Cabinet delegate to the Director of Adult Social Services and the Chief Finance Officer an annual review of the ceilings for the values of critical and substantial care packages as set out in the table at section 3.5.

#### 2437 **Joint Director of Public Health**

The Chief Executive presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

That Cabinet endorse the managerial arrangements set out in the report.

#### 2438 **Private Session**

##### **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 those items in private.

## **Summary of items considered in private session**

### **New Council office building proposal**

The Cabinet gave approval to the further development of the outline business case for the development of a new office building within the Gigaport area and for the Executive Director of Regeneration Services to conclude negotiations on terms to be agreed.

### **New Council depot, Brownhills – acquisition of additional land**

The Cabinet gave approval to the Business Case for the acquisition of additional land, and the agreement of terms be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Regeneration

### **St. Matthews Quarter: Lower Hall Lane car park**

The Cabinet approved a proposal for securing private sector investment in Walsall town centre and approved the surrender of the lease for the former market stores and car park,. subject to conditions.