

Special Meeting - Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Held in Council Chamber at the Council House Walsall

Note: This meeting was held in the Council Chamber in accordance with s.102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Constitution. In order to comply with social distancing requirements as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings.

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Martin	Adult Social Care
Councillor Wilson	Children's
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Craddock	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Statham	Internal Services

In attendance - in person

Mr S. Neilson, Executive Director Economy Environment and Communities
Mr A. Cox, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

In attendance - remote

Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive
Mrs D. Hindson, Executive Director, Resources and Transformation
Mr Tony Meadows, Interim Director, Adult Social Care
Mrs Elise Hopkins, Director, Customer Engagement
Mr S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
Ms A. Ives, Head of Planning and Building Control
Mr N. Ball, Principal Planning Policy Officer

Councillor Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration in the Chair.

3748 Welcome

At this point, Councillor Andrew opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that as the emergency legislation which enabled Council meetings to meet virtually had expired, the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person with appropriate social distancing requirements. He advised that the meeting would be conducted however via Microsoft Teams to enable it to be streamed on YouTube for members of the public to view and enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He also confirmed that voting that evening would be by way of a show of hands which would be visible on YouTube. Councillor Andrew directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

3749 **Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Butler.

Note: Councillor Butler attended remotely as an observer and took no part in the discussion or voting on the agenda items.

Councillor Bird attended from 5.15pm.

3750 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3751 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items for consideration in the private session of the agenda

3752 **Black Country Plan: Draft Plan for Consultation**

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought authorisation to consult on the Draft Plan version of the Black Country Plan.(Note: revised plan submitted – amendment to page 103 of Appendix A1 Draft Black Country Plan Written Statement. The correction affected an area of Dudley. No change no change to any part of Walsall).

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Councillor Andrew stressed that this was a consultation document and urged elected members, residents and businesses to get involved in the consultation process.

Members discussed the report during which time Councillor Bird attended and thanked Councillor Andrew for chairing the meeting. Councillor Bird said that as he was the Chairman of the Planning committee, his comments would be confined to policy matters and not planning matters. Councillor Andrew remained in the Chair.

Following the discussion, Councillor Andrew Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Wilson. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the draft Black Country Plan as set out in Appendix A for consultation.

- 2) That Cabinet approves the approach to consultation as set out in Appendix D of this report.
- 3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Regeneration and Economy to make any necessary amendments to the Draft Plan and other consultation documents prior to the commencement of the consultation process.

3753 Assistance with the Acceleration of the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation scheme

Councillor Andrew presented a report the purpose of which was to agree to pledge assistance with the relocation of 80 Afghan individuals (which includes immediate family) through the Acceleration of the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation scheme

(see annexed)

Councillor Andrew Moved approval of the recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Bird. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet pledges to assist with the relocation of 80 Afghan individuals (which includes immediate family) through the Acceleration of the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation scheme
- 2) That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Regeneration, authority to agree additional tranches of individuals to be relocated in Walsall.

The meeting terminated at 5.27p.m.

Chair: Councillor Andrew

Date: