

Cabinet

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Minutes of the meeting held in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall at 6pm.

Present

Councillor Perry	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Associate Leader – Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor M. Statham	Deputy Leader – Finance
Councillor Elson	Children and Young People
Councillor Flint	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Garcha	Resident Access and Housing Support
Councillor Kaur	Education and Skills
Councillor Lee	Internal Services
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care

In attendance

C. Male	Executive Director – Children’s and Customer
D. Brown	Executive Director – Economy, Environment and Communities
A. Cox	Director – Governance
S. Darcy	Director of Finance – Corporate Performance Management and Corporate Landlord
J. Pugh	Director – Adult Care
C. Goodall	Principal Democratic Services Officer
E. Cook	Democratic Services Officer

Others in attendance

Councillor Follows

Part 1 – Public Session

4264 Welcome

Councillor Perry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council’s website. He explained that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance.

4265 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Murphy.

4266 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were submitted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024, a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record.

4267 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4268 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

4269 Petitions

No petitions were received.

4270 Questions

No questions were received.

4271 Forward Plan

The forward plan as of September 2024 was submitted:

(annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

4272 Recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the Derelict Properties Taskforce

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Follows introduced the report on behalf of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(annexed)

Councillor Andrew offered to bring an update report to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the future. It was **moved** by Councillor Andrew and it was;

Resolved (by assent)

It be noted that the Cabinet is leading on strengthening the Councils approach to derelict properties and has set up a cross-service Taskforce to provide focus and leadership. The Taskforce is leading on a review to develop a policy/strategic plan on actions required to improve the Council's approach to addressing the challenging issue of derelict properties including tackling landowners, long term void sites and identifying what resources across council services are required to make an impact across the borough.

4273 Article 4 Direction for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Councillor Andrew introduced the report which sought to provide the council the means to have greater consideration and control over the increasing number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) within the borough.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Andrew and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Associate Leader, Economic Growth and Regeneration to make a non-immediate article 4 legal direction which will be applied to the council's administrative area (borough-wide) to remove permitted development rights for the change of use of dwellinghouses (C3 use) to smaller Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (C4 use).**
- 2. That notice of the article 4 direction be publicised for a period of at least six weeks to allow members of the public and other interested stakeholders to submit comments on the proposal.**
- 3. That Cabinet note that a further report will be submitted to a meeting following the end of the consultation period to consider any comments made, and informed by these comments, determine whether the article 4 direction should be confirmed.**
- 4. That should the article 4 direction be confirmed, that confirmation not take place until 12 months after first notice has been made.**

4274 Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy

Councillor Andrew introduced the report which set out the Walsall Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargepoint Strategy including the action plan for the delivery of EV chargepoints focused on Council-owned land up to 2030.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Andrew and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet approve the adoption of the Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy as set out at Appendix A.**
- 2. That Cabinet approve the future delivery of infrastructure in line with the targets identified in the Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy, subject to all relevant legal, financial, and planning approvals.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Associate Leader for Economic Growth and Regeneration, to award the contract(s) for the provision of electric vehicle chargepoints across the borough to meet the interim targets included in the Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy.**
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Associate Leader for Economic Growth and Regeneration, to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of any related contract(s) and/or document(s) for the provision of electric vehicle chargepoints across the borough to meet the interim targets included in the Walsall EV Chargepoint Strategy, to include 300 chargepoints across the borough up to 2026 as well as any extension and variation of these contractual arrangements should this be required throughout the duration of the contract(s).**
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Associate Leader for Economic Growth and Regeneration, to negotiate on its behalf with the West Midlands Combined Authority, government departments and private sector to maximise the values of future financial resources allocated to the council in pursuit of the delivery of electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure. This includes signing relevant agreements and contracts for electric vehicle chargepoint investment across the borough in line with targets outlined within the Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy.**
- 6. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Communities, in consultation with the Associate Leader for Economic Growth and Regeneration, to authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of grant agreements relating to the development of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure capital funding and City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme capital funding for the Black Country Transport and Innovation Programme.**

Councillor Statham introduced the report which sought to enable the council to become more commercially minded and business-like in its activities.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Statham and **seconded** by Councillor Elson and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet is recommended to approve Walsall Council's commercial strategy contained at Appendix A of this report.**
- 2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Associate Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, to make minor amendments to the strategy and update the programmes.**

4276 **West Midlands Regional Residential Children's Homes Framework**

Councillor Elson introduced the report which sought approval to join the new West Midlands Regional Residential Care Framework.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Elson and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet authorise the Council to enter into an Access Agreement with Coventry City Council to join the new West Midlands Regional Residential Framework.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such residential services under the framework, as appropriate, including any access agreement with Coventry City Council to facilitate access to and provision of these services.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, 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.**
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to enter into 'call off' contracts with Residential Children's Home Providers who are awarded 'Residential Framework Agreement' contracts by Coventry City Council pursuant to the new West Midlands**

Regional Residential Care Framework for a period of 5 years with the provision to extend by 2 increments of 3 and 2 years respectively with an expiry date no later than 16 December 2034.

- 5. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to enter into 'spot contracts' where the framework does not meet capacity and/or capability requirements.**

4277 Contract Extension of the Black Country Family Drugs and Alcohol Court (FDAC) Service in the Boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley

Councillor Elson introduced the report which sought to ensure the continued delivery of the Black Country Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) to children and families subject to care proceedings initiated by the Local Authority.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Elson and **seconded** by Councillor Perry and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, to vary the contractual arrangements to allow the extension of the contract from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or associated contracts, deeds or other related documents.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, to authorise any lawful variations to the contractual arrangements for services identified above, should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules.**

4278 Walsall Youth Justice Service Annual Strategic Plan

Councillor Elson introduced the report which set out key achievements over the past 12 months and identified risks to service delivery and improvement.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Elson and **seconded** by Councillor Kaur and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet note the initial overview and activity set out in the report and recommends the Walsall Youth Justice Annual Strategic Plan to Council for approval.**

2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, to make any future minor amendments to the plan, if and when required.

4279 **Registration with the Regulator of Social Housing to enable provision of additional Homeless Temporary Accommodation**

Councillor Garcha introduced the report which sought to ensure that the council met its statutory obligations to provide homeless households in priority need with temporary accommodation.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Garcha and **seconded** by Councillor Flint and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

That Cabinet approve the Council's registration with the Regulator of Social Housing to become a Registered Provider.

4280 **Secondary School Sufficiency**

Councillor Kaur introduced the report which sought to ensure the provision of sufficient secondary school places.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Kaur and **seconded** by Councillor Andrew and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

1. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to accept tenders and award contracts for the provision of Community Reablement services, for a period from 1st November 2024 until 31st March 2025, with the option to extend the contract by up to a further 6 months, following completion of the tender.
2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care to enter into contracts for these services and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.
3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care 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, provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.

4281 **Community Reablement – Phase 1**

Councillor Pedley introduced the report which outlined and sought approval for procurement related to the provision of Community Reablement – Phase 1 from 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2025.

(annexed)

It was **moved** by Councillor Pedley and **seconded** by Councillor Flint and it was;

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to accept tenders and award contracts for the provision of Community Reablement services, for a period from 1st November 2024 until 31st March 2025, with the option to extend the contract by up to a further 6 months, following completion of the tender.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care to enter into contracts for these services and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care 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, provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6:44pm.

Chair:

Date: