

# Cabinet minutes

**Wednesday 27 September 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**

**in Conference Room 2 at the Council House Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Tom Ansell	Leader of the Council
Councillor Zahid Ali	Children's services
Councillor Rachel Walker	Environment and street pride
Councillor Louise Harrison	Leisure and culture
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Regeneration and enterprise
Councillor John O'Hare	Resources
Councillor Garry Perry	Safer stronger communities, partnerships and Vision 2021
Councillor Alan Paul	Social care, health and housing
Councillor Marco Longhi	Transformation and performance management

At this point in the meeting, the Leader welcomed Dave Martin attending as Interim Chief Executive.

## **1598 Apologies**

There were no apologies submitted for non-attendance at the meeting.

## **1599 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2006, copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **1600 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Andrew declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 15 on the agenda relating to domestic violence strategy and left the room during consideration of that item.

Councillor Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 15 on the agenda relating to domestic violence strategy and left the room during consideration of that item.

**1601 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at 19 September 2006 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the forward plan be noted.

**1602 Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Constitution**

Councillor Ansell presented the report:

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership constitution document already approved by the WBSP be endorsed and also endorse its adoption as the governing document of the WBSP.

**1603 Inspection of older peoples services**

Councillor Paul presented the report:

(see annexed)

Councillor Ansell welcomed Kathy McAteer, the Interim Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion.

Councillor Paul introduced Tim Willis, Lead Inspector and Barbara Skinner, Business Relationship Manager, from the Commission for Social Care Inspection. Mr. Willis gave a presentation which explained the findings of the Inspection of Social Care Services for Older People during May, 2006. He then responded to questions and points of clarification from members.

Members commented on the findings, following which, Councillor Ansell thanked Mr. Willis for his presentation.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the findings of the inspection report be noted;
- (2) That an Action Plan based upon the recommendations contained within the final inspection report be developed, and that the Action Plan be received at a future Cabinet meeting for approval.

#### 1604 **Change for children**

Councillor Zahid presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet endorse this report outlining Walsall's Change for Children programme which will further transform children's services to improve outcomes for children and young people in Walsall, and that within the overarching Change for Children Programme there are some significant programmes of work. That the Change for Children is incorporated into the Member Development Programme;
- (2) That Cabinet agree the time schedule to support the review of arrangements for the provision of Education Services post-2008 and receive a further report in March 2007 containing an Options Appraisal which will consider possible means of commissioning appropriate services beyond 2008. That authority to accept tenders for specialist support in relation to the contractual arrangements for children's services be delegated to the Director for Children's Services in consultation with the portfolio holder.

#### 1605 **Foster service inspection action plan**

Councillor Zahid presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the findings of inspection of Foster Services be noted;
- (2) That the action approved at Appendix 2 of the report be noted.

#### 1606 **Waste management update strategy**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That a comprehensive feasibility study commence exploring future options regarding the collection of recyclable and non-recyclable materials;
- (2) That a Landfill Allowance Trading Strategy (LATS) be developed for implementation;

- (3) That responsibility for buying and delivering LATS permits be delegated to the Executive Director, in conjunction with the portfolio holder;
- (4) That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director, in conjunction with the portfolio holder, the authority to enter into agreements for the purchase of “energy from waste” capacity, if in their judgement, it is to the financial advantage for the Council to do so;
- (5) That the Council continues to support the outcome of the Black Country Waste Study to produce an outline business case and to develop a partnership approach to those outcomes.

#### 1607 **Decriminalisation of parking enforcement**

Councillor Walker presented the report:

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet authorise the Head of Engineering and Transportation, in conjunction with the portfolio holder, to take all necessary steps to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) by April 2008 with the management of service, notice processing and appeals service undertaken in house and the enforcement service contracted out;
- (2) That officers be authorised to enter into discussions with West Midlands Police Authority to arrange the most appropriate transfer of the parking enforcement function and any staff affected under TUPE;
- (3) That Cabinet delegates to the Head of Engineering and Transportation the authority to use RTA Associates Limited, the Council’s consultants on this project, as necessary;
- (4) That officers be authorised to investigate the extent that consistency of implementation and economies of scale can be realised through the shared utilisation of the Sandwell enforcement contract, in collaboration with other Black Country authorities;
- (5) That officers be authorised to keep under review the extent that DPE wardens can be used as multi-functional enforcement wardens;
- (6) That officers be authorised to investigate the merits of limited on street charging for Walsall town and district centres, preparing a further report indicating the implications of its introduction both in financial and traffic management terms.

## 1608 **Walsall Town Centre Management Partnership Board**

Councillor Andrew presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That approval be given to arrangements for establishing the Town Centre Management Partnership Board and its constitution, and any future changes to the constitution be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration in conjunction with the Regeneration and Enterprise portfolio holder, following liaison with the Town Centre Partnership Board.

## 1609 **Corporate Property Strategy**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the key management principles and actions set out in the Corporate Property Strategy for Walsall Council be endorsed.

## 1610 **Partnering and framework contracts**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the use of framework contracts to appoint consultants and contractors as set out in the report be approved;
- (2) That approval be given to the use of the Scape/Willmott Dixon national framework contract to replace Mary Elliot School subject to;
  - (a) the development of a concept scheme and price, and,
  - (b) a further detailed report being presented to Cabinet to authorise progression of the project to feasibility/contract stage.
- (3) That approval be given to the adoption of Constructionline for compiling future tender lists for construction and professional and related services for any works falling outside the scope of the framework contracts;

- (4) That approval be given to the compilation of a substantially reduced Approved Small Firms tender list to enable local firms to tender for small jobs outside the scope of the framework contracts.

#### 1611 **Corporate financial performance 2006/2007**

Councillor O'Hare presented the report:

(see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

That the following currently predicted year end forecasts be noted:

- (a) A net revenue overspend of up to £1.14m which, if no action is taken, would leave estimated general reserves of c £4.5m, but that actions are currently being implemented to seek to further improve this position;
- (b) A surplus of c £8.06m on the capital programme.

#### 1612 **Domestic violence strategy**

Councillors Andrew and Walker withdrew from the room during consideration of this item having declared an interest.

Councillor Perry presented the report:

(see annexed)

A discussion took place, during which time, Councillor Ansell asked for suggestions for the Member Strategic Champion to be forwarded to himself in due course.

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2006-9 be endorsed;
- (2) That a member strategic champion be identified who will promote the strategy.

The meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.

Leader:

Date: