

## **Minutes of the Cabinet**

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at 5.00 pm  
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

### **Present:**

#### **Cabinet Members**

Councillor P Harley (Leader – Chair)  
Councillor D Vickers (Deputy Leader – Vice-Chair)  
Councillors N Barlow, R Buttery, S Clark, I Kettle, A Lees, K Shakespeare and L Taylor

#### **Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet**

Councillors K Ahmed, C Bayton, J Foster, B Gentle, J Martin and Q Zada

#### **Observer**

Councillor S Keasey

#### **Officers**

A Lunt – Deputy Chief Executive, I Newman – Director of Finance and Legal, D Harkins – Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, M Bowsher – Director of Adult Social Care, M Williams – Director of Public Realm, M Farooq – Lead for Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, P Mountford - Head of Planning and Regeneration and M Johal – Senior Democratic Services Officer

### 38 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S Phipps, S Ali, K Casey and S Ridney.

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### 39 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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40 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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41 **Urgent Amendment to the Capital Programme**

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Legal was submitted on an urgent amendment to the Capital Programme.

Arising from the presentation of the report, the Deputy Chief Executive undertook to provide a written response to queries raised relating to the delay in pursuing the project together with associated costs incurred arising from the delay, given the scheme was originally approved in February, 2018. Also, further statistical information to be provided detailing numbers of mourners attending funerals over a period of time to enable Members to determine whether thirty additional mourners was sufficient together with information on conforming to national guidance given expected nitrogen oxide release and whether this would incur any additional costs.

**Resolved**

That additional expenditure of £1m on the Stourbridge Crematorium project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

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42 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Approval of 2019 Spend (Autumn)**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the partial spend of CIL receipts.

Members of the Opposition Group expressed concerns on there being no Councillor representation on the CIL Assessment Panel, that there were currently no Neighbourhood Plans in Dudley and the length of time given for projects to be completed and suggesting this be reduced to twelve months to achieve maximum benefits for the community.

The Leader referred to Member input on CIL projects and indicated that consultation should take place with relevant Members prior to submission to Cabinet.

## Resolved

- (1) That the rolling forward of remaining Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies for consideration of spend, be approved.
- (2) That the transfer of up to £72,318.00 Capital and Revenue Infrastructure CIL receipts to The Friends of Mary Stevens Park following receipt of costings and completion for play area improvements at Mary Stevens Park, be approved and if work is not completed by December 2021, the monies be made available to alternative projects.
- (3) That the transfer of £165,000 Capital and Revenue Infrastructure CIL receipts to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council following receipt of detailed costings and completion of works for Castle Hill Woodland project, be approved and if work is not completed by December 2021, the monies be made available to alternative projects.
- (4) That Officers review the governance arrangements for the appraisal of CIL projects, including the role of Members and provide an update report to the Cabinet.

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### 43 **Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism**

A report of the Leader of the Council was submitted on the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Arising from the presentation of the report concerns were expressed by the Opposition Group that the scale and type of issues together with hotspots relevant to Dudley were not detailed in the report. Reference was also made to the Community Cohesion/Hate Crime Strategy and on there being no mention of antisemitism and the need to link varying strategies.

The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to provide a written response detailing hate crimes in the Borough over the past twelve months.

## Resolved

That the Council be recommended to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

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44 **Towns Fund – Proposals for Dudley Town Centre**

A report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted on Dudley Town's inclusion in Government's Towns Funds initiative and on progress development of structures and proposals that focus upon delivery of additional Higher Educational facilities in the town in collaboration with Dudley College.

Arising from the presentation of the report concern was again expressed that there was no Member representation on the Dudley Town Deal Board.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the inclusion of Dudley Town in the Government's Towns Fund initiative be noted.
- (2) That the priority for the proposal to be developed focussing upon delivery of a further two educational establishments within a Town Centre campus, in collaboration with Dudley College, be confirmed.
- (3) That the existing Dudley Town Centre Programme Board be re-named the Dudley Town Deal Board, with responsibility delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive to ensure Membership of the Board, Governance and Terms of Reference are developed that are fit for purpose.
- (4) That responsibility for the allocation of the £173,029 Capacity Funding provided by Government be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in collaboration with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise.
- (5) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting to outline progress on the Towns Fund initiative.

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45 **Towns Fund – Dudley Driverless Vehicles Consortium – Extension of Agreement**

A report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted on a request submitted by Dudley Driverless Vehicles Consortium (DDVC), to extend the current agreed period of time to develop proposals for the Dudley Hippodrome site, given the projects close connection with the proposed development of additional educational establishments as part of the Towns Fund initiative for Dudley.

In presenting the report, the Deputy Chief Executive referred to correspondence received from the Theatres Trust.



Arising from concerns expressed relating to the lack of information on progress to date from the DDVC, the Deputy Chief Executive undertook to provide a briefing note to update the Leader and other relevant Members on progress made.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the existing agreement with Dudley Driverless Vehicles Consortium to develop a proposal for a driverless vehicle route and hub on the site of Dudley Hippodrome and adjacent land be extended until September 2020.
- (2) That the extension to facilitate a comprehensive and co-ordinated submission of Dudley's bid for Towns Fund resources during Summer 2020, be confirmed.
- (3) That a briefing note detailing the Consortium's progress to date be submitted to the Leader, Opposition Group Leader and relevant Cabinet Members.

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## 46 **Approval to Widen the Scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee**

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted on the changes that required implementation following the launch of the Government's National Growth Assurance Framework and the recent appointment of Walsall Council as the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Single Accountable Body.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the roles and responsibilities set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Local Growth Assurance Framework, be noted.
- (2) That the amendments to the Collaboration Agreement covering the widening of the scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee's roles and responsibilities, Constitution and Terms of Reference, be approved.
- (3) That the delegation of authority to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee to make decisions on its behalf in relation to the approval of all Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funding applications, together with submissions for all external funding on behalf of the Black Country LEP and Collaboration Agreement partners, be approved.
- (4) That Officers be authorised to draft and enter into the appropriate Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreements Deed of Variation.



- (5) That the Deputy Chief Executive, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise and the Opposition Cabinet Member, be authorised to take part in any negotiations and to make any minor amendments prior to its sealing as a Deed.
- (6) That a further report in relation to the governance of the Enterprise Zones, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report, be submitted to a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 5.58 pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

