

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet

Wednesday 27th June, 2018 at 6.30 pm
In Committee Room 2 at The Council House, 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, S Phipps, K Shakespeare and L Taylor

Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet

Councillors P Lowe, C Bayton, K Casey, J Martin and Q Zada

Officers

A Lunt – Deputy Chief Executive (Strategic Director Place), M Samuels (Strategic Director People), I Newman – Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services, M Williams (Chief Officer Environmental Services), D Harkins (Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing), M Farooq (Lead for Law and Governance), N Powell (Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards), P Mountford – Head of Planning and Regeneration, S Cooper (Head of Corporate Landlord Services) and M Johal – Senior Democratic Services Officer

1 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.

2 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st March, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3 Capital Programme Monitoring

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme, including the 2017/18 outturn position and on a number of proposed amendments.

Reference was made to the Healthy Schools Capital Fund Allocation and given this was new income generated by the sugar tax levy it was queried why the money was to be allocated to remedy existing priorities. Further detailed information to include which schools and the types of schools that would benefit from the funding was requested. The Strategic Director People undertook to respond in writing.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:-

- (1) That the outturn position for 2017/18, as set out in paragraph 3 and Appendix A, be noted;
- (2) That current progress with the most significant capital schemes, as set out in Appendix B, be noted.
- (3) That the Strategic Director Place be authorised to submit bids to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in respect of the Sedgley Beacon improvements, and subject to full funding being secured, the project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report;
- (4) That the Capital Programme be amended to reflect the updated estimated cost of the Lister Road Depot redevelopment, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report;
- (5) That the Highways Incentive Fund 2018/19 allocation be noted and the associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme; and that expenditure which can be funded from future allocations of this nature also be included in the Capital Programme in due course, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report;
- (6) That the project to extend the Corbyn Road building be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report;
- (7) That the One Public Estate capital budget be increased by £40,000, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report;
- (8) That the Schools Condition allocation 2018/19 of £2,511,000 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- (9) That the Healthy Schools Capital Fund allocation 2018/19 of £226,000 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report;
- (10) That the expenditure of £190,000 on Library Self Service Kiosks be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

- (11) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 and 15 of the report, be noted.
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4 **Revenue Outturn 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

A report of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services was submitted on the provisional revenue outturn position for 2017/18.

Arising from some debate it was agreed that the Strategic Director and Group Leaders would meet to discuss concerns raised about the reduction in spending on adult social care together with potential Multi-Specialty Community Provider and Sustainability Transformation Plan funding issues.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account outturns for 2017/18, be noted;
 - (2) That the effect of the General Fund outturn on General Balances at 31st March, 2018, be noted;
 - (3) That the position on General Fund earmarked reserves at 31st March 2018, be noted.
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5 **Black Country Core Strategy Review Update**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted providing an analysis and initial response to representations made during the Issues and Options consultation for the Black Country Core Strategy and to seek approval to move on to the next stages of plan production including the commissioning of any necessary evidence in conjunction with neighbouring Black Country Authorities.

Resolved

- (1) That the report highlighting the matters raised during the Public Consultation on the Issues and Options report for the Core Strategy Review, be noted.
- (2) That the Core Strategy process requires Council's to ensure that all possible opportunities to meet the objectively assessed need for new housing and employment land within the existing urban area are fully utilised in order to protect Green Belt, be noted.
- (3) That progress by officers onto the next stage in the production of the Black Country Core Strategy including the commissioning of any evidence to support the development of the Strategy in conjunction with neighbouring Black Country Authorities, be confirmed.

6 **Tree Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director Place on the Council's Tree Management Strategy in respect of nuisance trees and the options available for taking account of local need.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report regarding management of the Council's trees, be noted;
- (2) That a refresh of the Council's Tree Strategy, be supported;
- (3) That the principles of the tree risk management approach currently in place for consideration of works on Council trees, be noted;
- (4) That feasibility work currently taking place with Housing to seek to further enhance tree works on Council Housing land, be supported;
- (5) That better use of educational and tree works information to Community Forums, be supported.
- (6) That the use of the Tree Decision Sheet process for Nuisance Trees and the promotion of the Public Pays Policy, where appropriate, be confirmed.

7 **Corporate Energy Strategy 2018-2021**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted on the draft Corporate Energy Strategy.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the Corporate Energy Strategy be endorsed for onward communication and implementation.

8 **Stourbridge Business Improvement District (BID)**

A joint report of the Strategic Director Place and the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services was submitted on the Stourbridge Business Improvement District (BID) proposal and timeline.

Resolved

That the Stourbridge Business Improvement District proposal and timeline, be approved.

9 **Food and Feed Service Plan 2018/19**

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted on the Food and Feed Service Plan 2018/19.

Resolved

That the Food and Feed Service Plan 2018/19 be endorsed and referred to Council for approval.

10 **Children's Services Ofsted Update**

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted on the actions and progress made to date with regard to the Children's Services Improvement Programme, setting out the next steps in terms of preparation for the full Ofsted inspection expected in October 2018.

Reference was made to national challenges faced in the recruitment and retention of social work staff and it was queried what benefits Dudley offered over and above other Local Authorities to attract and retain staff. The Strategic Director People undertook to respond in writing.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be endorsed.
 - (2) That the Children's Services Improvement Programme be supported.
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11 **Appointment of Council Representatives to Other Bodies**

A report of the Lead for Law and Governance was submitted on the appointment of Council representatives to other bodies.

Resolved

That the appointment of Council representatives to other bodies be noted.

12 **West Midlands Combined Authority – The Second Devolution Deal and Action Plan**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the Second Devolution Deal between the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Government. The report outlines the proposed approach to the implementation of the Deal and further devolution discussions with Government together with details on the proposed Devolution Action plan and “phase three” of devolution and information on the ways in which the WMCA intends to build on the commitments made in the Devolution Deal.

The Leader undertook to ensure a full briefing note was provided to the Opposition Group Leader to include details on Dudley being one of the first pilots.

Resolved

- (1) To approve the second Devolution Deal agreement and the proposed approach to implementation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted;
- (2) To approve the high level Action Plan and further work with the Government on devolution with the coverage and portfolio leadership, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL