

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet**

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 6.00 pm**  
**In Committee Room 2 at The Council House, Dudley**

**Present:**

**Cabinet Members**

Councillor Q Zada (Leader – Chair)  
Councillor J Foster (Deputy Leader – Vice-Chair)  
Councillors C Bayton, B Gentle, J Martin and S Ridney

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

Councillors P Harley, R Buttery, S Clark, I Kettle, A Lees, K Shakespeare,  
L Taylor and S Phipps

**Officers**

S Norman – Chief Executive, M Samuels - Strategic Director People,  
I Newman – Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services, D Harkins – Chief Officer  
Health and Wellbeing, M Rogers – Chief Officer Housing, V Marshall –  
Communications and Public Affairs Officer, K Jesson – Strategic Business  
Partner, S Griffiths – Democratic Services Manager, M Johal – Senior Democratic  
Services Officer and G Gray – Assistant Democratic Services Officer

56 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors K Ahmed,  
K Casey, P Lowe and G Partridge.

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57 **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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58 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019  
be approved as a correct record and signed.

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59 **Construction Charter**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted proposing the adoption of a Construction Charter in order to ensure the Council achieved the highest standards in respect of direct employment status, health and safety, standards of work, apprenticeship training and the implementation of appropriate nationally agreed terms and conditions of employment within construction contracts.

In response to a query relating to the grant of appropriate time and facilities to Trade Union representatives to carry out their responsibilities and costs associated with this, the Deputy Leader of the Council confirmed that there were no changes in this regard. Trade Union representatives would receive the same entitlement in accordance with current policies and procedures. The Leader of the Council reiterated that support would be provided to Trade Union representatives to undertake their role but there was no entitlement to any additional time off than currently allocated and the purpose of the Construction Charter was to ensure high standards were maintained.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Construction Charter, attached as Appendix A to the report submitted, be adopted.
- (2) That the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign the Construction Charter with Unite the Union on behalf of the Council.
- (3) That the Strategic Director Place and Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services be authorised to incorporate the Construction Charter into appropriate terms and conditions for all relevant construction and civil engineering contracts.

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60 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services was submitted on implementation of and proposed amendments to the Capital Programme.

**Resolved**

- (1) That progress with the 2018/19 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.
- (2) That expenditure to be funded from the 2019/20 Disabled Facilities Grant allocation and any future annual or in-year allocations be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

- (3) That the Heritage Wall restoration project at Wollescote Park be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
  - (4) That the Integrated Transport Funding 2019/20 allocation be noted and the associated expenditure together with expenditure to be funded from any future Integrated transport allocations, be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
  - (5) That the additional resource of £38,000 be added to the Bridges and Retaining Walls Capital Programme for 2019/20, and that the Strategic Director Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, be authorised to allocate the funding to a specific priority project in due course, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
  - (6) That the project to provide a new public reception area at the Corbyn Road building be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
  - (7) That the project to install a heat pump at the Crystal Leisure Centre be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
  - (8) That the additional 2018/19 Schools' Devolved Formula Capital allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure, together with expenditure to be funded from any future Devolved Formula Capital allocations, be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
  - (9) That the revised Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) allocation be noted and the associated expenditure, together with expenditure to be funded from any future SEND capital allocations, be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.
  - (10) That the scheme for enhancement and development at Sycamore Adventure to include soft play facilities be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.
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61 **Gender Pay Gap 2018 – Snap Shot Date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

A report of the Chief Officer Transformation and Performance was submitted on the Gender Pay Gap report 2018 for public disclosure by 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act, 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

## **Resolved**

That the proposed Gender Pay Gap report 2018 be approved for public disclosure, in accordance with the deadline date of 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2017 Regulations.

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### 62 **Dudley's Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Annual Review**

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted on the work of Dudley's Health and Wellbeing Board in the implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A significant amount of work had been taken forward over the last 18 months, all of which was monitored through the Health and Wellbeing Board. The report concentrated on some of the highlights.

The Opposition Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing referred to initiatives in the delivery plan for obesity prevention and that work was commended. Leisure Centres were considered to be an integral link to the ongoing approach in promoting healthy weight and an update was requested on proposed plans and designs relating to refurbishment of the facilities to include the new build together with timescales for the work. The Leader of the Council indicated that an update on Leisure Centres would be provided.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the progress made in implementing the Strategy be noted.
  - (2) That the requirement for all decisions to take account of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy goals and principles, be reaffirmed.
  - (3) That Members of the Cabinet act individually as champions and advocates for reducing loneliness and isolation, reducing the impact of poverty and promoting healthy weight.
  - (4) That the four principles setting out the new way of working, particularly working differently with our communities to enable strong, connected, resilient communities continue to be supported and advocated.
  - (5) That the Council's input to the Dudley Vision work be guided by the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
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### 63 **Annual Review of Equality 2018**

A report of the Strategic Director People was submitted on the Annual Review of Equality for 2018.

## **Resolved**

That the Annual Review of Equality 2018, be approved.

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### 64 **Update on Travellers Transit Site Provision in Dudley Borough**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted on progress on the provision of a permanent Travellers transit site within the Borough following a report to the Cabinet in February 2019.

The Leader of the Opposition Group indicated that three sites had been identified and referred to issues associated with each site. Other potential sites had been mentioned but no information or matrix had been forthcoming. Reference was also made to the resolution of the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 committing the Council to deliver a travellers site by the end of May 2019. The Opposition Spokesperson for Housing referred to a previous meeting that had been held where discussions had taken place on a “back-up” site and requested an update on the matter to include a copy of the full matrix containing all the information.

Several other issues were raised including security measures and the need for works to be undertaken within a certain budget; having a transit site was the only way forward to discourage travellers; a proposed size was not large enough and that it should ideally accommodate the size of an average encampment. It was again requested that a full matrix and assessment of all sites be provided to the Opposition Group.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged points made and indicated that discussions were ongoing with regard to the identified sites. A copy of the matrix would be submitted to the Opposition Group together with details of any sites that had been assessed.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Residents Welfare be authorised to progress delivery of a travellers’ transit site in line with powers already delegated within the Constitution (namely functions relating to traveller sites).
- (2) That the budget pressure as a result of the requirement for enhanced security measures be noted.
- (3) That the Leader, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, be authorised to work up the sites and costings for approval by full Council in April, 2019.

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL