

MEETING OF THE CABINET

Wednesday, 31st October, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Sparks (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
Councillor Ali (Deputy Leader)
Councillors K. Ahmed, Crumpton, Foster, Islam, Lowe, Partridge,
Waltho and Wood

together with the following Minority Group Members appointed to
attend meetings of the Cabinet

Councillors Blood, Harley, L. Jones, Mrs. Shakespeare, Vickers, Mrs.
Walker and Wright (Conservative Group)

OFFICERS:-

Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources, Director of
Children's Services, Director of the Urban Environment, Director of
Adult, Community and Housing Services, Director of Public Health,
Treasurer and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources),
together with other officers.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct.

32 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of comments made by
Councillor Mrs Shakespeare to the effect that information
received at the Environment Scrutiny Committee, in relation
to the report referred to in the second paragraph of the
preamble to minute 29 was different to that given at the
meeting of Cabinet, the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 12th September, 2012, be approved as a correct
record and signed.

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2013/14

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer was submitted on the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15-2015/16 and on spending and funding options for consultation.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted, a number of questions were asked and responded to. Questions raised for but not responded to by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture would be the subject of a written response.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended that 2012/13 budgets be amended as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report submitted.
- (2) That the preliminary strategy outlined in the report submitted be approved as a basis for further consultation.
- (3) That the various issues and risk which will need to be taken into account in finalising Budget proposals for 2013/14, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.

(this was a Key Decision with the Council and Cabinet being named as Decision Takers).

STAFFING ISSUES - BUDGET SAVINGS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted updating Cabinet with final figures relating to staff changes as a result of the budget savings process for year two (2012/13) and with learning that had taken place and outcomes from the learning put into place for the year two budget saving process together with proposals in relation to voluntary redundancies.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.
- (2) That the outline timetable for the next round of employee-related budget savings as set out in an appendix to the report submitted, be agreed.

- (3) That expressions of interest be sought by the Council in a voluntary redundancy process for 2013/14 savings to further support a reduction in compulsory redundancies and that the category of posts excluded at this stage, as listed in a further appendix to the report submitted, be noted.
- (4) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for HR, Law and Governance, be authorised to determine all applications for voluntary redundancy, including those where there are pension implications, up to a maximum of £3 million for direct redundancy costs and £1.5 million for the capitalised cost of pension strain.
- (5) That the Council be recommended to endorse the recommendations on staffing issues associated with the budget strategy for 2013/14, as appropriate.

35

LOCALISED COUNCIL-TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2013/14

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted, updating Cabinet on the Coalition Government's proposals for the new localised council tax reduction scheme from April, 2013 (previously referred to as council tax support scheme); on the results of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet at a meeting held on 20th June, 2012, and, following consideration of the consultation results and equality impact assessment, on the preferred option for the council's 2013/14 council tax reduction scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, after consideration of the outcomes of the consultation and the equality impact assessment, as set out in the Appendices to the report submitted, the Council's preferred option for the 2013/14 localised council tax reduction scheme be to match the eligibility rules and award levels of the existing council tax benefit scheme.
- (2) That the timescale issues relating to the passage of the legislation, the scheme approval deadline of 31st January, 2013, and the Cabinet and Full Council Meeting Schedule, be noted.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Treasurer was submitted on progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme and on proposed amendments to the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council be recommended:-
 - (a) That current progress with the 2012/13 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
 - (b) That the Capital Programme be amended in respect of the revised funding of the Priory Park Project, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report submitted.
 - (c) That expenditure to be funded from the Short Break grant be included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted.

(this was a Key Decision with the Council and the Cabinet being named as Decision Takers).

GAMBLING POLICY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the recommendation of the Licensing and Safety Committee concerning the responses to the consultation on the Council's Gambling Policy and to recommend approval of the policy to full Council.

Arising from a query as to the name of one of the consultees referred to in paragraph 6 of the report submitted, the Cabinet Member for HR, Law and Governance undertook to have the matter investigated and for a response to be sent to Councillor Jones.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended to approve the Gambling Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

(this was a Key Decision with the Council and Cabinet being named as Decision Takers).

38

ANNUAL REVIEW OF EQUALITY 2012

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the annual review of equality and diversity for 2012, a full copy of which was available in the Members' Room and electronically on the Council's Committee Management Information System.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the annual review of equality 2012.

39

PUBLICATION OF THE HALESOWEN AREA ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on progress on the Halesowen Area Action Plan and to seek approval for the Plan to be published for a final six week period of public consultation and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

Arising from a query raised by Councillor Wright, it was agreed that he be included in the process referred to in resolution (3) below.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the Publication of the Halesowen Area Action Plan for a statutory period of public consultation.
- (2) That the Council be recommended that following public consultation, the Halesowen Area Action Plan be submitted to the Secretary of State so that it may be subjected to a Public Examination.
- (3) That the Director of the Urban Environment ,in consultation with the Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the Opposition Spokesperson for Regeneration, be authorised to agree any minor recommended changes to the document prior to submission to the Secretary of State following consultation which concludes on 21st December, 2012, and that any such changes be notified to all Members of the Council.

(this was a Key Decision with the Council and Cabinet being named as Decision Takers).

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL - 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT POLICY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the outcome of a “stage 1” prioritisation process, identifying the top 10% of school entry points for further consideration for the potential introduction of 20 mph speed limits (zones) or other road safety treatments as appropriate.

Arising from consideration of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted, the Cabinet Member for Transportation reported that the information in Appendix 2 to the report would be shared with individual Ward Members and the schools concerned; that all schools would be looked at and that if there were concerns representations could be made; that no school where a real need could be demonstrated would be ignored and that the type of 20mph zone introduced would be dependant on the needs of the particular locality.

RESOLVED

- (1) That support be given to the “stage 1” prioritisation process as indicated in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to identify the top 10% of school entry points to be considered in greater detail.
- (2) That a programme of schemes be identified from within the top 10% of schemes, as indicated in Appendix 2 to the report submitted, and agreed with the Cabinet Member for transportation.
- (3) That the Ward Member consultation referred to at the meeting in respect of the introduction of 20mph speed limits be endorsed.

WELLBEING AT WORK: DEVELOPING THE DUDLEY APPROACH

A report of the Director of Public Health was submitted on proposals as to how the Council would create its own healthy workplace and then work with local employers to do the same, together with details of a structured programme for workplace health to be piloted in selected areas and then rolled out across other Council areas, schools and other employers, incorporating the learning from the pilot sites.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a Workplace Wellbeing programme, as set out in the report submitted, be established.

- (2) That the Council sign up to achieve the Workplace Well-being Charter.
- (3) That the recommended pilot sites, identified in paragraph 10 of the report submitted, be agreed, subject to implementation discussions.
- (4) That approval be given to the establishment of Healthy Workplace Champions and that HR staff involved in supporting sickness absence management be trained as healthy workplace champions.
- (5) That the proposed pilot scorecard metrics be endorsed.
- (6) That future work with schools, partner agencies and local business to encourage participation in Workplace Wellbeing, be endorsed.
- (7) That an Equality Impact Assessment report be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet as part of the pilot scheme review.

42

ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

No issues were reported under this item.

43

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

Description of Item	Relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
Directorate of the Urban Environment (DUE) Restructuring Proposals	1

**DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT (DUE)
RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS**

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on proposals for restructuring within his directorate.

Arising from a query, the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services undertook to pursue the point made about a possible transfer of directorate responsibility in respect of the property referred to at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the proposals outlined in paragraphs 5 to 11 of the report submitted regarding a restructuring within the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL