

Minutes of the Cabinet

Thursday, 24th March, 2022 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:

Cabinet Members

Councillor P Harley (Leader - Chair)
Councillors N Barlow, R Buttery, S Clark, S Keasey, I Kettle, K Shakespeare and
L Taylor-Childs

Opposition Group Members Nominated to attend the Cabinet

Councillors C Bayton, J Foster, P Lowe, S Ridney and P Sahota

Observer

Councillor P Bradley

Officers

K O'Keefe (Chief Executive), M Bowsher (Director of Adult Social Care - via Microsoft Teams), C Driscoll (Director of Children's Services), H Martin (Director of Regeneration and Enterprise), I Newman (Director of Finance and Legal), J Branch (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), D Brennan (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager), F Parrett (Head of Commercial), C Howes (Senior Account Manager) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager).

7 Members of the public.

62 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, C Barnett, S Phipps and Q Zada.

63 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.

64 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

65 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Legal on progress and proposed amendments in respect of the Capital Programme.

In response to a question from Councillor C Bayton concerning the Dudley Town Hall and Former Museum project, the Leader indicated that a briefing could be provided to the St. James's Ward Councillors.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That progress with the 2021/22 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.
 - (2) That the amendment to the Capital Programme relating to Red House Glass Cone Hot Glass Studio, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report, be approved.
-

66 **Gender Pay Gap Report 2021 - Snap Shot Date 31st March, 2021**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the Gender Pay Gap Report for 2021. The report would be published by 30th March, 2022 in line with legislative requirements.

It was noted that in future, it was intended to bring this report to the Cabinet meeting for consideration alongside the Pay Policy Statement. Members commented on the progress made and the need for effective ongoing monitoring.

Resolved

- (1) That the Gender Pay Gap report 2021, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for public disclosure.
- (2) That the report be published and data reported to the Government before 30th March, 2022 to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

67 **Equality Strategy 2022 – 2025**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy for the three-year period from April 2022 to March, 2025.

Members welcomed the proposed referral of the action plan to the Future Council Scrutiny Committee to include key performance indicators. Links were made between the strategy and the item referred to in Minute No. 66 above. Reference was also made to the importance of further training and development for Members on EDI and Scrutiny.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to advice and support from the Local Government Association and ongoing engagement with employee representative groups through the Corporate Equalities Board. It was important that the strategy, together with specific actions, were fully reflected in all Directorate service plans.

The Leader and the Chief Executive affirmed the Council's commitment to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and employees would receive appropriate support to participate in the Corporate Equalities Board and the employee representative groups.

Resolved

That the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2025 be approved and that the action plan for delivery against the strategy be referred to the Future Council Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

68 **Scale of Fees and Expenses for Borough Council Elections**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive on the scale of fees and expenses for Borough Council elections.



Resolved

That the scale of fees and expenses, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved with effect for all local elections held after 1st April, 2022.

69 **Extra Care Provision/ Development in Dudley**

A report of the Director of Adult Social Care was submitted on the programme of work undertaken from January 2021 to February 2022 in relation to the development of the Extra Care scheme in Brierley Hill following approval by the Cabinet in December 2020. The report provided details of the options considered and positive changes in the structure of the arrangement with E5 for the Council and the wider Borough.

Resolved

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) To enter into a long-term lease arrangement with E5 on the basis that the financial and legal obligations are offset by way of an underlease to a reputable housing association and to include the project in the Capital Programme; the arrangement with E5 being conditional on the ability to match the head lease with the under-lease following a procurement process.
 - (2) To delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Legal, the Director of Housing and Community Services and the relevant Cabinet Members, to implement the programme of work needed to ensure successful delivery.
-

70 **Update on the Towns Fund Bid**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise on the proposed use of compulsory purchase powers for the acquisition of land necessary for the development of the site currently occupied by K2 Security and Castle Hill Banqueting Suite to enable the building of a higher education institute at Castle Hill, Dudley.

Members were advised of the intention to use Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to override the restrictive covenants on the site occupied by the former Hippodrome and the Plaza Cinema, Titles SF23236 and SF87425 ('the Land'), and to approve the submission of a further report providing evidence to appropriate the Land for Planning purposes.



Delegated authority was sought for the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise, to agree Heads of Terms for a lease agreement for the completed Health Innovation Dudley building to be granted upon its completion.

Resolved

- (1) That a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) be made under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the acquisition of land and rights within the area edged red on the Draft Order Map for the purposes of facilitating development, redevelopment, and improvement of the Order Land and, where necessary, acquisition of new rights under Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and appropriation pursuant to Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- (2) That the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise, be authorised to affect the making, confirmation, and implementation of the CPO and to take all necessary steps to give effect to the CPO in respect of the Order as set out in the report.
- (3) That the intention to appropriate the site of the former Hippodrome and Cinema site for the intended purpose, as set out in the report, be noted; in order to make a proper, lawful decision under Subsection 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to appropriate both sites for the proposed planning purposes (i.e. in order to facilitate the redevelopment of both sites as part of the site for the proposed development), the Council will need to consider and determine certain factors, as set out in advice obtained from leading Counsel, and that the evidence for this be included in a future report to the Cabinet.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to agree Heads of Terms for the lease agreement for the completed Health Innovation Dudley building, to be granted upon its completion, and that it be noted that negotiations have commenced with Dudley College as the Council's chosen partner to become a long leaseholder for the building.

71 **Issues arising from Scrutiny Committees**

No issues were reported under this agenda item.



72 **Questions to the Leader under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.5**

No questions had been submitted under this agenda item.

73 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

74 **Dudley's Temporary Workforce Project**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Digital, Commercial and Customer Services on Dudley's temporary workforce project.

Resolved

That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved and referred to the Council for consideration.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

