

## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

Wednesday, 4th June, 2003, at 6.00 p.m.

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Leader) (Chair)  
Councillors Evans, Fraser-Macnamara, Mrs Martin, Miller, Powell and J Woodall, together with the following Minority Group Members nominated to attend meetings of the Executive: Councillors Ali, G H Davies, Fletcher, Ms Foster, Sparks, Whitehouse (substitute for Councillor Sunter) and C L Woodall (Labour Group); Councillors Bramall and Burt (Liberal Democrat Group), together with the Chief Executive, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Director of Finance, Director of Housing, Director of Law and Property, Director of Social Services, Director of the Urban Environment, Head of Personnel and Support Services and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property).

### 1 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 19th March, 2003, be approved as a correct record and signed.

---

### 2 ATTENDANCE AT THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader announced that, following further consideration of the proportionality arrangements under the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, the nomination of 10 members of the Labour Group and 3 members of the Liberal Democrat Group to attend meetings of the Executive with a speaking entitlement would be applicable from the next meeting of the Executive.

---

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Personal Interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct was made by Councillor Caunt, on behalf of all members present, in respect of item 12 on the agenda (Members' Allowances).

Declarations of Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct were also made by the following members for the reasons indicated:

Councillor Fraser-Macnamara in strategic aim 2 of item 5 (Economic Strategy 2003/04) in view of his involvement with the Prince's Trust.

Councillors Ali and C L Woodall in all issues on the agenda relating to the Arc of Opportunity in view of their membership of the Board of the Black Country South-West Birmingham Regeneration Zone.

A Prejudicial Interest, in accordance with sections 5 and 7 of the Code of Conduct for Employees, was made by the Chief Executive on behalf of all Chief Officers present, including the Head of Personnel and Support Services, in relation to item 13 on the agenda (Senior Officers' Salary Review).

---

4                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Adams, Jones, Mrs Shakespeare and Sunter.

---

5                    UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted seeking consideration of an update of the Council's Capital Strategy. The draft Capital Strategy for 2003/2008 was appended to the report now submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended that, subject to consideration by Select Committees, the draft Capital Strategy, as attached to the report now submitted to the meeting, be approved.

---

6                    ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2003/04

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking consideration of the proposed Economic Strategy for 2003/04.

A copy of the draft Strategy had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Economic Strategy of the Council for 2003/04 as circulated in advance of the meeting, be approved.

---

DUDLEY CORONERSHIP

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted seeking consideration of the amalgamation of the Coroners' districts for the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley and Sandwell.

In the discussion on the issue, reference was made to the need for greater publicity to be given to the availability of the Police as an agency for the issue of death certificates.

RESOLVED

That an application be made to the Home Secretary for an Order amalgamating the two Coroners' districts for the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley and Sandwell to form a new Dudley and Sandwell Coroner's district, and that the Director of Law and Property be authorised to take all necessary action to implement this decision.

---

8

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2003/04

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted outlining the basis for the 2003/04 Best Value Performance Plan, which was to be produced by the end of June, 2003.

RESOLVED

That the information for the preparation of the 2003/04 Best Value Performance Plan as contained in the report now submitted by approved.

---

9

QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive setting out the fourth quarterly corporate performance report for 2002/03, relating to performance for the period from 1st January, 2003 to 31st March, 2003 was submitted.

RESOLVED

That the content and style of the Corporate Performance Report relating to the fourth quarter of 2002/03 as submitted to the meeting, be approved.

---

INCLUSION STRATEGY – RECOMMENDATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOOD HEALTH

A report of the Lead Officer to the Select Committee on Good Health was submitted on a recommendation of the Select Committee arising from its consideration of the Inclusion Strategy.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Select Committee on Good Health that the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, the Lead Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Select Committee, for the reasons detailed in the full resolution of the Committee, as appended to the report submitted to the meeting, that further investigation and analysis be undertaken of the Inclusion Strategy and the results provided for additional public consultation before any final policy decisions are taken, be approved and that the further resolution of the Select Committee that they would welcome the opportunity to further scrutinise the Inclusion Strategy 2002/3 to 7 prior to any final decision being taken by the Executive, be supported.

---

11 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

---

A report of the Chief Executive seeking consideration of the appointment of Council representatives to outside organisations for the 2003/04 municipal year was submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the determination of the appointments set out in part A of the appendix to the report submitted to the meeting be referred to the Council.
- (2) That the determination of the appointments set out in part B of the report submitted to the meeting be referred to the Area Committees indicated in part B of the appendix.

---

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

---

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act, in particular that paragraph of Part I of that Schedule indicated below:-

Description of Item

Relevant Paragraph of  
Part I of Schedule 12A

Dudley South NHS Primary Care Trust  
– Local Improvement Financial Trust

Members' Allowances

1

Senior Officers' Salary Review

1

13

DUDLEY SOUTH NHS PRIMARY CARE TRUST-LOCAL  
IMPROVEMENT FINANCIAL TRUST

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Social Services, Director of Finance and Director of Housing was submitted giving an update on the progress on these projects and seeking the necessary approvals to enter into the next stage of the programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That LIFTco accommodation for the Brierley Hill Social Services Area Team be taken up in a shared premises with the Dudley South Primary Care Trust with a clear and agreed financial cap on terms to be negotiated by the Director of Law and Property (with the appointment of Pinsent Curtis Biddle) subject to any lease entered into not counting against the Council's capital resources.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to continue to evaluate options for the inclusion of a Customer Service Centre in future joint use premises.
- (3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive on the impact of Metro on the area housing office.

14

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was submitted seeking consideration of draft recommendations from the Independent Panel which had been asked to advise on the level of Members' Allowances in the four Black Country Boroughs, in the light of the new regulations requiring all relevant authorities to implement a new Members' Allowances Scheme by 30th September, 2003, and recommending a process for finalising a new Scheme for Dudley.

RESOLVED

That the new scheme be drawn up on the basis that no change in the level of Members' Allowance be made.

15

### SENIOR OFFICERS' SALARY REVIEW

(At this juncture, in view of the Declaration of Prejudicial Interest made at the start of the meeting, the Chief Executive, all Directors and the Head of Personnel and Support Services left the meeting.)

A report of the Chief Executive seeking consideration of Senior Officers salaries, in order to address present inequalities, differentials and market comparabilities, was submitted.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That all Directors' salary levels be commensurate with that of the Directors of Social Services and the Urban Environment.
- (2) That the salary level of the Chief Executive approximate to 120% of the salary level of the Directors of Social Services and the urban Environment.
- (3) That the salary level of the Senior Assistant Director of Finance approximate to 75% of the salary level of the Directors of Social Services and the Urban Environment.
- (4) That the salary levels of all other Assistant Directors approximate to 67% of the salary level of the Directors of Social Services and the Urban Environment.
- (5) That the Head of Policy and the Head of Personnel and Support Services be regarded as Assistant Directors in so far as their salary levels are concerned.
- (6) That the resolutions above be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2003.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

LEADER OF COUNCIL

*Neevia Document Converter Pro V6.5*