

**Wyre Forest District Council
CABINET
Thursday 14th April 2005
Areley Kings Village Hall
Areley Kings
Stourport on Severn**

PRESENT: Councillors: S J M Clee (Chairman), M J Hart (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M B Aston, J-P Campion, N J Desmond and J W Dudley

OBSERVERS: Councillors: J W Ballinger, Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, M A W Hazlewood , Mrs F M Oborski and M J Shellie.

CM.914 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

CM.915 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CM.916 MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 17th March 2005 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the venue of the meeting being altered to Stourport High School, and be signed by the Chairman.

CM.917 CALL INS

No decisions had been called in since the last Cabinet meeting.

CM.918 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CM.919 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**1. Norman Broome**

The Leader stated that a minute's silence would be held in memory of Norman Broome at the Council meeting on the 20th April 2005.

2. Warehouse Cinema

The Leader informed Cabinet Members that the Warehouse Cinema in Green Street, Kidderminster would be opening on Friday 15th April 2005.

3. Taxi Trade Survey

The Leader and the Chief Executive had met with some members of the Taxi Trade this week to discuss the Taxi Trade Survey. As a result of this meeting there would be a change to the recommendation to Council on the 20th April 2005. The Leader would brief Group Leaders before the Council meeting on the outcome of the meeting with the Taxi Trade.

4. KTC3

The Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services Section had erected a display regarding the plans for KTC3. These plans would also be displayed at the Council meeting on the 20th April 2005.

5. Investors in People

The Leader gave congratulations on behalf of the Cabinet to the Human Resources and I.T. Section being re-awarded their Investors in People Status.

CM.920 DELIVERING EFFICIENCY SAVINGS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT - ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENTS

A report was considered from the Chief Executive and Head of Financial Services that outlined the Council's approach for delivering annual efficiency savings as required by the Officer of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

The Leader commented that this Council was required to find 2.5% efficiency savings for the next three years which would not have an adverse effect on service performance. This equated to £530,000 for the next 3 years.

DECISION:

- 1. The requirements and timetable for submission of the Annual Efficiency Statements be noted.**

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2. **The approach for delivering efficiency gains be endorsed and the 2005/06 forward looking Annual Efficiency Statement submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister be approved.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

3. **Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs, to submit future Annual Efficiency Statements.**

CM.921 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005-2008 AND DIVISIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS PLANS 2005/2006

A report was considered from the Corporate Performance Advisor that asked the Cabinet to approve the Council's Improvement Plan for the period 2005-2008 and the Divisional Service Business Plans for 2005/06.

The Improvement Plan had been broken down into a number of improvement projects to be undertaken over the next three years (2005-2008).

Divisional Service Business Plans were produced annually and provided an overview of each Division's role, structure and targets for service delivery.

DECISION:

1. **The Council's Improvement Plan for the period 2005-2008, as set out in a separate appendix to the report, be approved.**
2. **The Divisional Service Business Plans for 2005/06, as set out in a separate appendix to the report, be approved.**

CM.922 SUPPORTING PEOPLE - PROGRESS REPORT AND FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

A report was considered that provided a progress report on the implementation of the Supporting People regime and sought approval to the draft 5 year Strategy prior to it going out to Countywide consultation.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. **The latest position regarding service reviews and the financial position of the Supporting People Service, as detailed in the report, be noted.**
 2. **The Draft 5 Year Strategy, as circulated separately to the report, prior to the three month consultation process be approved.**
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CM.923 KIDDERMINSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION STRATEGY

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that asked the Cabinet to approve the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy.

The Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy would enable the District Council to seek support from key regional agencies in order to bring forward its Vision and Strategic Objectives. In addition it would enable required regeneration projects to have a strategic focus endorsed by Wyre Forest District Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy, as detailed in the report, be approved.

CM.924 WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 (LTP2) 2006/2011 CONSULTATION DRAFT FEBRUARY 2005

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that informed Members of the content of the Local Transport Plan 2 Draft Consultation Document and the key issues relating to the Wyre Forest District. The report set out comments and representations received for submission to Worcestershire County Council.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration commented that the main issues in Wyre Forest related to air quality in Kidderminster and Bewdley and traffic issues in Bewdley. The Council was under some pressure to consider ways of linking in with the strategic industrial corridor by road development. This would link in with the Council's economic regeneration plan.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Panel referred to the detailed recommendations made by her scrutiny panel.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration commented that he took on board the recommendations raised by the Environment and economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel and agreed that these should be added to those already listed in the report that were to be forwarded to Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1. The comments set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Cabinet on 14th April 2005, together with the comments from the Environment, Economic and Regeneration Policy Scrutiny Panel (as listed below) be approved as the District Council's response to the Draft Local Transport Plan 2, for submission to Worcestershire County Council.**
 - (a) There is concern about the need for Stourport Relief Road including the second river crossing at Stourport on Severn;**
 - (b) Under the Market Towns Strategy reference should be made to the agreed District Council funding towards the provision of the Vale Road pedestrian crossing.**
 - (c) Evening bus services - some areas are now very well served, especially Areley Kings, but other areas including Lickhill and Burlish, Stourport on Severn and certain urban areas of Kidderminster still do not have a satisfactory evening bus service;**
 - (d) Consideration should be given to submitting an Urban Bus Challenge bid to improve services in parts of the District not covered by the existing Rural Bus Challenge project.**
 - (e) Real time information on buses should be implemented as soon as practicable;**
 - (f) There is a need for the Highways Partnership Unit to progress the revised improvement proposals for Blackwell St/ Coventry St. Kidderminster.**
 - (g) Consideration of Kidderminster Parkway railway station is felt to be premature, and consideration should be given to enhancing Blakedown railway station;**
 - (h) The Formula by which highways maintenance funding is distributed by the County Council to District Councils should be reviewed by Worcestershire County Council to give more weight to those authorities with heavily used urban roads as opposed to large areas of rural roads which have very light usage.**
- 2. That the Head of Planning, Health and Environment be authorised to submit Wyre Forest District Council's representations on the Consultation Draft Local Transport Plan 2 to Worcestershire County Council by 29th April 2005.**

PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2005/06

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that advised the Cabinet on the Planning Delivery Grant for 2005/06 and how the grant was spent in its first and second years.

The Planning Delivery Grant commenced in July 2002 when the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister announced the introduction of investment in Local Authorities planning resources through a new Planning Delivery Grant. The Grant was originally intended to make £350 million available to Local Authorities between the years 2003 and 2006 to improve the delivery and performance of planning services but had now been increased and would be resourced until 2008.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration commented that the Grant would be used for improvements within the Planning Division. It had therefore been decided to use the grant in the following areas: Forward Planning Resources, electronic service delivery, support services resources, funding new posts for housing and conservation, consultancy work, training, Housing Needs Survey and support for work by external partners.

DECISION:

1. **The 2005/06 Planning Delivery Grant award be noted and it be agreed that it can be used within the Planning, Health and Environment Division within the following areas:**

Forward Planning Resources	>	Consultants Work
Electronic Service Delivery	>	Training
Support Service Delivery	>	Housing Needs Survey
Funding new posts for Housing and conservation	>	Support for work by external partners

2. **The expenditure for years one and two of the Planning Delivery Grant be noted.**
3. **The Head of Planning, Health and Environment, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration, be given delegated authority to vire monies between the areas of expenditure if necessary.**

CM.926 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

A report was considered that informed Members of the background to the development of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), its content and the proposals to take it forward for a 6 week consultation period commencing on Thursday 28th April 2005.

It was noted that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, required the Council to produce a Statement of Community Involvement which would set out the Council's policy for involving the community in the planning process through the preparation and revision of local development documents and for consulting on planning applications.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1. The Draft Statement of Community Involvement, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for the purposes of pre-submission public participation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.**
- 2. That the Head of Planning, Health and Environment be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to publish the Draft Statement of Community Involvement for a 6 week consultation period commencing on 28th April 2005.**

CM.927 ANNUAL EXTERNAL FUNDING REPORT

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that advised the Cabinet of the funding that had been brought into the district in the financial year 2004/05. It was noted that a total of £5,714,336 had been received in 2004/05.

DECISION: the report be noted.

CM.928 DRAFT WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (2005 TO 2008)

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that sought the Cabinet's approval of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's draft Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008.

It was noted that every three years the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory responsibility on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a local Strategy to tackle crime and disorder. This Council would be publishing a new Community Safety Strategy during April 2005. The strategic priorities for the Strategy were: Anti Social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol, Public Perception of Crime and Violent Crime. The Council would be responsible for supporting the delivery of the Strategy and would lead on the public perception of crime strategic priority. The third Community Safety Strategy for the district would help to support the continued reduction in crime, disorder and anti social behaviour.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's draft Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008 as circulated as a separate appendix to the report to Cabinet be approved.

CM.929 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL ON PROMOTING THE EVENING ECONOMY

The Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel presented the recommendations of the Panel on Promoting the Evening Economy. She commented that the scrutiny exercise was available as a detailed document. The Panel had undertaken a lot of hard work in compiling their recommendations. She was grateful to her colleagues who took part in the investigatory activities and also to members of the public and trade from whom evidence was taken. She asked that an additional recommendation be included - that the full report on the scrutiny exercise be published on the Council's website.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration thanked the Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel for her presentation of the Panel's recommendations. He was pleased and impressed with the amount of work undertaken on the scrutiny exercise. He noted that this Council was one of the few Councils in the country that had undertaken a scrutiny exercise on the evening economy. He stated that this Council would like an evening economy that was family friendly, protected and secure.

A lengthy discussed ensued where Members discussed toilet provision during extended opening hours and they also discussed the possibility of holding an evening street market was also discussed.

DECISION :

the following recommendations from the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel be agreed:

- 1. Regular meetings be held with the Council's Strategic Community Safety Officer, appropriate operational Council Officers and the relevant Police representatives to develop even closer working relationships.**
- 2. The Primary Care Trust's action on promoting sensible drinking guidelines be endorsed and it be established which schools are included in its promotion.**
- 3. Consideration be given to the appropriateness of designating areas within the District suitable for a drinking ban, and to the promotion of them as alcohol restriction zones, if applicable.**
- 4. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager work with licensees of premises who hold Public Entertainment Licenses, relevant Police officers, the Licensed Victuallers' Association and the locally based representative from the British Beer and Pub Association to:-**
 - a) Ask Wyre Forest Licensing Forum to monitor standards of behaviour for people using licensed premises particularly with regard to alcohol related problems and to agree common policies on dealing with people who ignore those standards of behaviour.**
 - b) Monitor local compliance with the Private Security Act 2000, under which door staff are registered, and request West Mercia Police to encourage the employment of properly qualified door supervisors at late night opening establishments.**
 - c) Whilst not a requirement of the 2003 Licensing Act, ask night clubs to consider serving hot food/sandwiches.**
- 5. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager report back to the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel on a quarterly basis, on matters detailed in 4. above.**
- 6. Non-alcohol and family orientated activities within the District, including the Warehouse Cinema, be commended and encouraged.**
- 7. The development of a major cinema within the Kidderminster Town Centre development (KTC3) be actively encouraged by the Council and the Cabinet be urged to take relevant steps to ensure its completion.**

8. **The Bus Quality Partnership be recommended to work with local bus and taxi companies to try and establish late night transport provision to help develop the night culture.**
9. **The Bus Quality Partnership be recommended to work with relevant local transport companies to undertake a survey into the District's evening transport services and its potential requirements.**
10. **Consideration be given to the incorporation of 24-hour accessible toilets within any proposed development of car park in New Road, Kidderminster.**
11. **The Highway Authority at Worcestershire County Council be requested to consider provision of pavement barriers in New Road, Kidderminster (above Tesco's, by the mini-island at the Corporation Street junction).**
12. **The Highway Authority at Worcestershire County Council be requested to consider provision of an additional Taxi Rank in New Road, Kidderminster (above the junction with Corporation Street).**
13. **A full report on the scrutiny exercise to be published on the Council's website.**
14. **The possibility of holding an evening street market to be explored by the Cultural Leisure and Commercial Services Section. (Possibly on the evening when the Christmas lights are switched on).**

CM.930 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL ON STREET CLEANSING

The Chairman of the Commercial Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance to present the recommendations from his Panel on street cleansing. He commented that a questionnaire had been sent to all Stourport councillors and 10 replies had been received. The respondents had basically agreed that street cleansing in Stourport had generally improved under the zoning scheme.

The Leader stated that the 'hot spots' that had previously been identified had been improved. Concern was expressed about the culture of eating takeaway food in the street and throwing down the containers onto the street after the food had been consumed. Whilst enforcement action could be taken on people who threw down litter, it was felt that it would be helpful to educate young people in schools not to adopt this type of behaviour.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services wished to record his thanks to the Commercial Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel for their work on street cleansing and he accepted the recommendations made. However with regard to the comments made during the debate about enforcement of littering he wished to clarify that there were approximately 12 officers who dealt with enforcement issues. He concurred with the view that it was necessary to educate school children not to litter. He also stressed the importance of recycling materials. He noted the vast improvement in street cleansing in Stourport and the appointment of 3 extra cleansing staff had aided this.

DECISION: the following recommendations from the Commercial Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on street cleansing be agreed:-

1. **The Council adopt a Zoning Plan for the delivery of the Street Cleansing service in accordance with cleansing best practice.**
2. **The Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services be authorised to revise the details of the Zoning Plan in consultation with the Cabinet member for Commercial Services.**
3. **The Council continue to treat litter and the general cleansing services as high priority services, that performance standards/public satisfaction are monitored and a log of litter hotspots maintained.**
4. **The Zoning Plan for the District be included on the Council's Internet site.**
5. **The outcome of the Zoning approach to service delivery be scrutinised by the Panel at their October, 2005 meeting or at a suitable meeting thereafter.**

CM.931 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs 7 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CM.932 SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items have been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

(i) Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 17th March 2005 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

(ii) Future of Rushock Trading Estate

1. The recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 15th March 2005 were considered.
2. A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought a decision on the future of the Council's interest in Rushock Trading Estate.

(iii) Council Tax Write Off of Amounts Outstanding

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that asked the Cabinet to consider writing off sums in respect of Council Tax.

(iv) Redevelopment Site Worcester Street, Kidderminster - KTC3

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that asked the Cabinet to consider options for a design brief and marketing of the Worcester Street development site known in the Local Plan as KTC3.

(v) Land and Premises at Bridge Street, Stourport on Severn - Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan Policy Site STC4

A report was considered from the Chief Executive and Head of Planning, Health and Environment regarding the future plans for this site.

(vi) Sports and Leisure Centres - Request to Spend Contingency

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that requested authority to spend money from the contingency for the Sport and Leisure Centres management contract.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm