

Wyre Forest District Council
THE CABINET
17th March 2005
Earl Baldwin Suite, Duke House, Kidderminster

PRESENT:

Councillors: M J Hart (Vice-Chairman), J-P Champion, J W Dudley, N J Desmond.

OBSERVERS:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, C D Nicholls, Mrs F M Oborski, and J C Simmonds

CM.843 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M B Aston and S J M Clee.

CM.844 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J-P Champion declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.3., regarding Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre, as he is a tenant of a building owned by Wyre Forest District Council in close proximity to these units.

Councillor N J Desmond declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.3., regarding Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre as he is a tenant of a building owned by Wyre Forest District Council in close proximity to these units. He also declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.1. regarding Wyre Forest Community Housing - Homelessness Contract as he is a member of the Board of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

CM.845 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 17th February and the 22nd February 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CM.846 CALL INS

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

CM.847 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

The Deputy Leader informed the meeting that he had been notified of an urgent report entitled 'Wyre Forest Community Housing - Pension Admission Agreement and Novation Warranties - Sheltered Housing.' In accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant Government Legislation he had agreed that this could be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances, these were that the decision could not wait until the next meeting of the Cabinet in April 2005. (Item 7.4. refers).

An Observer also asked that an item be considered under item 13 Urgent Business.

CM.848 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Leader commented that Members may have read about proposed industrial action by Council staff on Wednesday 23rd March 2005. Unison had balloted members over proposed strike action in response to changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme and a strike had been called for the 23rd March 2005. A press briefing note had been sent out and hard copies of it were available for Members. At this stage it was not known what impact the proposed industrial action would have on services provided by the authority. An article had been placed in the Kidderminster Shuttle to advise members of the public of the proposed industrial action.

CM.849 INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL PLAN - 2005/2006

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that informed Members of the Internal Audit - Annual Audit Plan 2005-2006.

DECISION : the Internal Audit - Annual Audit Plan 2005 - 2006 attached as an appendix to the report be approved.

CM.850 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that reviewed the Council's Governance Framework and outlined the action to be taken during 2005/2006.

DECISION:

1. The action taken to implement the Corporate Governance Framework since the last report to the (then) Executive on 18th March 2004, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

2. The proposed action to implement the Corporate Government Framework in 2005/2006 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

CM.851 UNITS 8, 9 AND 21 HOOBROOK ENTERPRISE CENTRE

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought approval to accept surrenders of the tenancies of Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre. The report also proposed that the Scheme of Delegation be widened to allow the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services to accept surrenders of leases and tenancies where advantageous to the Council.

It was noted that the tenant of Unit 21, EMP Static Guarding, intended to move to larger premises off the Estate. However the tenant of Units 8 and 9, Contract Auto Engineering Limited wished also to move to larger premises and had agreed to take a lease on Unit 21. The tenancy would start on the date that their existing tenancy of Units 8 and 9 was surrendered.

DECISION:

- 1. The surrender of Contract Auto Engineering Limited's tenancy of Unit 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre be accepted.**
- 2. The surrender of EMP Static Guarding's tenancy of Units 8 and 9 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre upon their completing a tenancy of Unit 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre be accepted.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to give the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services authority to accept surrenders of leases and tenancies where advantageous to the Council.

CM.852 WYRE FOREST COMMUNITY HOUSING - PENSION ADMISSION AGREEMENT AND NOVATION OF WARRANTIES - SHELTERED HOUSING

A report was considered from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that asked the Cabinet to approve the admission of the Community Housing Group Limited and Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited to enable pensionable employees within the Companies to participate or continue to participate in the Pension Scheme. The report also asked to give consideration to agreeing that the warranties given by the District Council to Wyre Forest Community Housing in respect of the condition of the sheltered housing transferred to them benefit Wyre Forest Sheltered Housing Limited.

DECISION:

1. The existing Admission Agreement to Pensions be amended so that the Community Housing Group Limited and Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited be admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to enter into any documentation necessary to give effect to this.

2. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to conclude agreements so that the warranties given in respect of the condition of the sheltered housing transferred by the District Council in 2000 to Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited benefit Wyre Forest Sheltered Housing Limited in place of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

CM.853 BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2005-2008

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to agree the Building Control Business Plan 2005 - 2008.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration stressed the importance of the Building Control Section having an up to date and discreet Business Plan to ensure that the service remained competitive in the market place against approved inspectors.

DECISION: The Building Control Business Plan 2005-2008, as set out in the separate appendix to the report be agreed.

CM.854 HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE 'SOCIAL ENTERPRISE' SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that informed the Cabinet of the development of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire 'Social Enterprise' Support Partnership.

Social Enterprises were legally constituted businesses whose primary objectives were socially based, as opposed to the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners. Any financial surpluses were principally reinvested for social purposes in the business or in the community.

Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council had been working with 'Community First' to develop an individual Partnership in response to the need for a more effective and co-ordinated approach to developing and supporting social enterprises in the two counties.

DECISION:

The development of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire 'Social Enterprise' Support Partnership, as detailed in the report, be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That the Council sign up to the principles set out in the draft 'Memorandum of Understanding', as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

CM.855 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTERNAL FUNDING STRATEGY

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that advised the Cabinet of the completion of the Council's External Funding Strategy.

Due to the Council's increasing dependence on securing funding from sources other than its own budgets to meet priorities, a Strategy was required that would establish protocol. The Strategy would also allow officers, stakeholders and partner organisations that work with the District Council on externally funded projects to be aware of their roles and responsibilities.

DECISION : the District Council's External Funding Strategy be approved.

CM.856 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANELS

No recommendations had been received from the Policy and Scrutiny Panels.

CM.857 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

"That 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, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CM.858 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.

Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on the 17th February were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Wyre Forest Community Housing - Homelessness Contract

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to give agreement to the final Service Level Agreements relating to the provision of the Council's homelessness waiting list and housing advice functions by Wyre Forest Community Housing and to agree the final contract value.

The meeting closed at 6.14 pm.

