

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**  
**THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,**  
**KIDDERMINSTER**  
**30TH MARCH 2006 (6PM)**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillors: M J Hart (Vice-Chairman), J-P Campion, N J Desmond,  
Mrs A T Hingley.

**OBSERVERS:**

Councillors: G W Ballinger, M A W Hazlewood, M B Kelly and C D Nicholls.

**CAB.220 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S J M Clee (Chairman)  
and J W Dudley.

**CAB.221 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.222 MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th February 2006 be  
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.223 CALL INS**

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

**CAB.224 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

There were not items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.225 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader gave the following  
announcements:-

1. Surveys To Improve The Transport Network

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Worcestershire County Council's Transport Planning Unit would be carrying out surveys on passing motorists in the Wyre Forest area. The surveys would aim to identify the pressures that the transport network will face as a result of future developments.

2. Affordable Housing Schemes

The Deputy Leader was pleased to announce that Wyre Forest Community Housing was supporting new affordable housing schemes in Wyre Forest over the next two years. Six million pounds would be available for 170 new units for shared or rented accommodation.

3. Weavers' Cottages, 20, 21 And 22 Horsefair, Kidderminster

A press release would be issued following the meeting regarding plans for the Weavers' Cottages at 20 - 22 Horsefair, Kidderminster. It was noted that these cottages were the subject of a report at item 15.1. in the exempt part of the agenda.

4. Councillor J W Dudley, Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration

The Deputy Leader was pleased to announce that Councillor Dudley was making a speedy recovery following his recent spell in hospital. He would be out of action for a few weeks but he was making good progress in recovering from his recent illness.

**CAB.226 STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2006 - 2009**

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that sought approval of the Internal Audit - Strategic Audit Plan 2006 - 2009.

The report outlined the services that would be audited over the next two years. It was noted that the plan allowed for some flexibility as issues could arise during the currency of the plan which would divert Internal Audit away from planned work. The Plan summarised the work to be undertaken and provided the overall direction for the Internal Audit section.

**DECISION:**

**The Internal Audit - Strategic Audit Plan 2006 - 2009, attached as Appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet be approved.**

**CAB.227 DIVISIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS PLANS 2006 - 2007**

A report was considered from the Corporate Performance Advisor regarding the Service Business Plans for each of the Council's six Divisions.

**DECISION:**

**The Divisional Service Business Plans for 2006 - 2007 be approved.**

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**CAB.228 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

A report was considered from the Corporate Performance Advisor that reviewed the Council's Corporate Governance Framework.

**DECISION:**

1. **The updated Corporate Governance Framework (CGF) in Appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet be agreed.**
2. **Action taken in accordance with the CGF during 2005/06 contained in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet be noted.**
3. **Proposed action to be taken in 2006/07, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report to Cabinet be agreed.**

**CAB.229 DRAFT AIR QUALITY STRATEGY**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that advised Members of the completion of the Draft Air Quality Strategy public consultation exercise.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Rural Affairs commented that this was a high level strategy that linked into transport planning and economic regeneration.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

**The Draft Air Quality Strategy, as contained in the separate appendix to the report to Cabinet be adopted.**

**CAB.230 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY 2006**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that set out the background to the Housing Act 2004 and put forward policy proposals as to how the Council could meet the requirements placed upon it by the new Act. This included changes as to how private sector housing standards were assessed by the Council and how the Council's grant and assistance arrangements were to be carried out.

It was noted that the Housing Act 2004 was a key piece of legislation which aimed to assist vulnerable households by improving housing conditions and trying to meet Government targets on Decent Homes.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

**The Wyre Forest Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy 2006, as set out in the Appendix to the report to Cabinet be adopted.**

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**CAB.231 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought the approval of Cabinet to the submission of a Revised Local Development Scheme for the District.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member due to ill health, the Head of Planning, Health and Environment outlined the reasons for revising the Local Development Scheme. It was an appropriate time to submit a revised scheme which reflected the revised Regional Spatial Strategy review timetable and it provided an overview of the Local Development Framework documents to be prepared during the next three years and beyond. It provided a realistic programme to deliver the Council's aims and objectives for the sustainable development of the district.

**DECISION:**

- 1. The Local Development Scheme for Wyre Forest District be revised as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report and the revised scheme be submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands.**
- 2. Subject to not receiving any notification from the Secretary of State, under Regulation 11 (3b or 3c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, the submitted revised Local Development Scheme shall have effect from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006.**

**CAB.232 REVIEW OF WEIGHBRIDGE SERVICES AT CULTURAL, LEISURE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES, GREEN STREET, KIDDERMINSTER**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought the approval of Cabinet to a change of the operating hours of the Public Weighbridge at Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services in Green Street, Kidderminster.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services commented that currently the weighbridge operated between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. However it was proposed to change the hours of service and operate from 8 am to 2 pm.

A review of usage had demonstrated that the demand for the service had declined over the past two years following the opening of weighbridges by local hauliers and weight transfer operators at their own depots within the district. This resulted in some three hundred weighs per month, the bulk of which were undertaken between 8 am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday.

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**DECISION:**

1. **The operating hours of the Weighbridge at Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services in Green Street, Kidderminster be amended following the transfer of Customer Services and Hub Service to Kidderminster Town Hall.**
2. **The revised operating hours be from 8.00 am until 2.00 pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory and Bank Holidays.**

**CAB.233 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANELS**

**Recommendations from Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**DECISION:**

**Due to the absence of the Chairman of the Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel, the Panel's recommendations were not considered.**

**Recommendations from Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**DECISION:**

**Due to the absence of the Chairman of the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel, the Panel's recommendation was not considered.**

**CAB.234 EXCLUSION OF 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 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**CAB.235 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 has been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.**

(1) Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 16th February 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

(2) 20, 21 and 22 Horsefair (Weavers' Cottages)

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment on the future of these Grade II listed cottages.

(3) Proposed Change in Donations Arrangements for Bewdley Museum

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that proposed a change in the collection arrangements for the donations of Bewdley Museum.

(4) Bid for Affordable Housing Grant

A decision made by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Rural Affairs regarding a bid for affordable housing through the Capital Strategy was noted.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.