

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER
28TH SEPTEMBER 2006 (6.00PM)

PRESENT:

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

OBSERVERS:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, Mrs F M Oborski and J A Shaw.

CAB.69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Andrew Dickens, Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 16.1. relating to the indoor netball facility at Stourport Sports Club as he is the Council's appointed director to the Sports Club.

Councillor Mrs F M Oborski declared a personal interest in agenda item number 9.2. relating to the proposal for the introduction of a choice based lettings scheme, as she is Chairman of the Wyre Forest Community Housing Board.

CAB.71 MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th August 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.72 CALL INS

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

CAB.73 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.74 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Worcestershire Hub

There would be an opportunity for Members of the Council to view the Hub on the 12th October 2006. Invitations would be sent to all Members from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services. The viewing would take place on the 12th October 2006 at 7 pm following the Leisure Services meeting.

The Hub would be opened to the public on 14th November 2006. It was proposed that the Cabinet meeting to be held on 23rd November 2006 would be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

2. Bid for Funding from English Heritage and British Waterways

The Leader was pleased to announce that the Council had been successful in obtaining in principle funding from English Heritage under the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas Project for a 3-year period in Association with Stourport First. The money would be used to improve frontages and listed buildings in and around the Bridge Street area in Stourport on Severn.

3. Funding from the Food Standards Agency

Wyre Forest District Council, Redditch and Worcester City Councils had been successful in applying for money from the Food Standards Agency to educate shopkeepers and employers within the District on health and safety issues regarding catering arrangements.

CAB.75 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE)

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that reported on the progress and appointments to achieve the decriminalisation of on street parking enforcement (DPE) within the Wyre Forest District.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services stated that the decriminalisation of on street parking was a key project for the Council. Worcestershire County Council had encouraged all District Councils within the County to consider implementation of such a scheme. Wychavon and Worcester City had already implemented DPE schemes.

He advised that the implementation of a DPE scheme by Wyre Forest District Council was progressing well but there was a lot of work to be completed before the scheme was ready to be implemented in 2007. Further reports to Cabinet on the progress of the scheme would be made.

DECISION:

1. **Approval be given to the project timetable, in principle, with a Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement 'go live' date of September 2007.**
2. **The outcome of negotiations with Wychavon District Council (WDC) be noted and the intention to appoint WDC to the project team with the expenditure met from the existing budget for the project.**
3. **It be noted that WFDC intends to enter into a service supply contract with WDC to carry out surveying, mapping and data entry, TRO survey comparison and query listing, modifications, consolidation orders and project planning and that WDC will in turn appoint RTA Associates Ltd to undertake the work.**
4. **The planned expenditure of £57,367 be noted relating to the direct appointment of WDC including the cost of appointment of RTA Associates Ltd.**

CAB.76 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IMPROVEMENT WORKS

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that outlined proposals for the next phase of improvements to the provision of public conveniences in Wyre Forest.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services commented that this was the second report this year that Cabinet had considered on improvement works to public conveniences.

He explained that the proposals for improvement works had come as a result of recommendations from a Task and Finish Group that had been set up to consider public conveniences by the former Commercial Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel.

A Member expressed disappointment that some of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group would not be implemented. In particular the Task Group had made recommendations for large-scale improvement to the flag ship facilities in Brinton Park. Although Stourport Riverside had a large influx of tourists in the summer, Brinton Park was the venue that people visited on a regular basis throughout the year. Comment was also made about the condition of the toilets in the Rowland Hill Centre and the need for improvements in this block of toilets.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services explained that it would not be appropriate to finance large-scale improvements to the toilets in the Rowland Hill Centre at this time as it was possible that the new owners of the Centre might give consideration to moving the toilets from their current location.

Another Member commented that she had attended a meeting of the Visitor Economy Task and Finish Group and at that meeting members and representatives of interested groups had commented that their priority for Stourport would not be to spend money on the Riverside toilet block but to relocate the superloo to somewhere more prominent in the town centre. The meeting had discussed the need for appropriate toilet facilities within the Basin area which was currently being developed.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services responded that the relocation of the superloo had been discussed and it had been suggested that it should be located by the bus shelter outside the Wyre Forest Community Housing Office. However this location was not thought to be appropriate and consideration was being given to locating it in the area around Mr Clean Calls.

With regard to toilet provision within the basin area, he had liased with the Head of Planning, Health and Environment and discussed the possibility of the developer providing toilet facilities. However at the present time it was noted that there had been no indication from the developer that such facilities would be made available.

DECISION:

The following approvals be made (Phase II) from the £120,000 contingency in 2006/2007 and £30,000 per annum thereafter:-

- 1. The ladies part of the existing Stourport Riverside Toilet Block be extended at a Capital Cost of £90,530.**
- 2. Improvement works to the main Brinton Park Toilets be executed at a Capital cost of £5,600.**
- 3. The details of a third phase of improvements be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.**

CAB.77 REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2005/2006

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that outlined the Annual Treasury Report and the Prudential Indicators for 2005/2006.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs commented that the Efficiency Panel had received a full and detailed presentation from the Head of Financial Services on these items.

DECISION:

- 1. The actual 2005/06 Prudential Indicators detailed within the report and summarised in Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved.**
- 2. Improvement works to the Main Brinton Park Toilets is executed at a Capital cost of £5,600.**
- 3. The revised Counterparty List for Investment purposes be approved as detailed in paragraph 3.9.3. of the report to Cabinet.**

CAB.78 DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME 2006 - 2009

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that outlined the Draft Disability Equality Scheme, 2006-2009.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs commented that the Scheme was both wide and varied. It was intended that there should be full consultation with appropriate groups. He stated that disability equality was very much part of the Government's agenda and that of Local Government. It was essential that the Council was seen to be promoting disability equality.

DECISION:

The Disability Equality Scheme including the Action Plan be endorsed and it be the subject of consultation with Disability Action Wyre Forest and other interested and/or appropriate groups.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1. Subject to consultation, the Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan be approved and published on the Council's website.**
- 2. The appointment of a Diversity and Equality Officer be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Chief Management Team.**

**CAB.79 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
DRAFT PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that informed Cabinet Members of the Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document and sought approval of this as a basis for public consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Rural Affairs commented that it was intended to hold a public consultation on the document from 12th October 2006 to 23rd November 2006.

DECISION:

- 1. The Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document set out at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report (Appendix 2) be agreed (subject to an amendment to include bat surveys), as the basis for public consultation commencing on the 12th October and closing on the 23rd November 2006.**
- 2. The Head of Planning, Health and Environment be authorised to finalise the public consultation arrangements as outlined at Appendix 4 of the report.**

**CAB.80 PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHOICE BASED LETTINGS
SCHEME FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PROPERTIES FROM THE
HOUSING REGISTER**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that provided Members with a full appreciation of the history and context of choice based lettings schemes. Approval was sought from Cabinet for the development of a choice based lettings scheme model for the allocation of properties from the housing register.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment stated that it was the Government's intention that all local authorities would have a Choice Based Lettings system in place by 2010. The West Midlands South Housing Market Area Partnership (SHMAP) was currently working to develop a bid for funding to establish a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme. If the bid were successful it would enable the constituent local authorities to work to implement a sub-regional CBL scheme during 2007/08 at a subsidised cost as the bid would be for 60% of the costs with the partners contributing the remaining 40% of the costs.

She explained that in terms of expertise and cost there would be some financial implications, which included the Council's contribution to the scheme. Work would be ongoing and a further report would be made to the Cabinet in due course.

A Member commented that she was not sure that all District Councils within Worcestershire would want to sign up to the scheme but nonetheless it was an exciting scheme. The current scheme that the Housing Group operated would fit in quite well with the proposed new scheme.

The Leader of the Council was of the view that a more sympathetic look should be given to the rural weighting policy for people living in rural areas.

DECISION:

- 1. A South Housing Market Area Partnership (SHMAP) bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government for grant funding to develop a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme and the principle of working to develop a Choice Based Lettings Model, as detailed in the report to Cabinet be supported.**
- 2. A letter be sent to the Chairman of Wyre Forest Community Housing requesting that consideration be given to look at a rural weighting policy that looks more sympathetically at people living in rural areas.**

CAB.81 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE 4TH SEPTEMBER 2006

The Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Licensing and Environmental Committee from its meeting on the 4th September 2006 regarding the Officers' Licensing Code of Good Practice.

The Code of Good Practice would determine how officers would act whilst administering the licensing system. It mirrored the guidance in place for Development Control.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The Officers' Licensing Code of Good Practice be approved for use by officers when dealing with licensing issues.

CAB.82 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROSPERITY PANEL - 6TH**
SEPTEMBER 2006

Re : Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

(see decision at item number 9.1. above)

CAB.83 **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 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.84 **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.

CAB.85 **MINUTES**

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 24th August 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CAB.86 **SALE OF LAND AT BARNETTS CLOSE, KIDDERMINSTER**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services regarding the sale of a piece of land at Barnetts Close, Kidderminster. After deliberation, the Cabinet agreed in principle to the sale of the land in principle.

CAB.87 **INDOOR NETBALL FACILITY AT STOURPORT SPORTS CLUB**

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services regarding a new indoor netball facility at Stourport Sports Club/Stourport High School. After deliberation, the Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that capital be allocated as a contribution towards the new facility.

CAB.88 **COUNCIL MOTION - BRIDGE STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN -
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROSPERITY PANEL 6TH
SEPTEMBER 2006**

The Cabinet considered recommendations from the Prosperity Panel meeting held on 6th September 2006 regarding a Council Motion on Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn. A further report would be made to Cabinet regarding the site.

The meeting closed at 6.36 pm.