

Wyre Forest District Council
CABINET
Thursday 21st December 2006
Earl Baldwin Suite, Duke House, Kidderminster

PRESENT:

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

CAB.140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N J Desmond.

CAB.141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.142 MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 23rd November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.143 CALL INS

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

CAB.144 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.145 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Investors in People - Planning, Health and Environment Division

The Leader was pleased to announce that the Planning, Health and Environment Division had been successful in retaining the Investors in People status for a further 3 years. He thanked the Division for the work that had gone into achieving this.

2. South Housing Market Partnership

A successful bid had been made to the Department of Communities and Local Government for funding.

3. Quality Parish Status

Congratulations were offered to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council, which had been the first Parish Council in the Wyre Forest District to be awarded Quality Parish Status.

CAB.146 DRAFT BRAND STRATEGY FOR WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that sought the adoption of a brand strategy for Wyre Forest District Council. The development of a brand strategy would show the Council's commitment to continue to reach and respond to the needs of the local community and ensure that the District was promoted and marketed effectively.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The brand strategy for the Wyre Forest District 2006 be adopted.

CAB.147 BUDGET REPORTS

A number of reports were considered from the Head of Financial Services that outlined the Cabinet's proposals for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs stated that the Grant that the Council would receive from the Government would be an increase of 5.5% on that it received last year. Cabinet had budgeted on an increase of 1% in the Rate Support Grant as there had been real concerns that the level of public spending would decrease and the Cabinet had been prepared in case this should happen.

There would be opportunity for consultation on the proposed budget. It was proposed this year to write to Parish Council Chairmen asking them to attend the budget consultation meeting. As well a budget consultation meeting, statutory consultation would be held with local businesses.

He said that the Council's Asset Management Plan would need to be updated and would be assessed by the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM).

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The Cabinet's proposals as contained in the report to Cabinet (attached as Appendices 1 to 4 to these minutes) be agreed.

CAB.148 **THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE CANAL CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS, CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that outlined the boundary amendments draft Conservation Area Appraisal and draft Management Proposals for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Conservation Area and sought authority to undertake a public consultation exercise.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment commented that this report had been scrutinised by the Prosperity Panel at their meeting on the 6th December 2006.

DECISION:

The draft Conservation Area Appraisal, the draft Boundary Amendments, and the draft Management Proposals be supported and that officers be authorised to undertake a public consultation into the proposals before reporting back with a further recommendation

CAB.149 **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ADAPTATIONS**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to consider the North Worcestershire Code of Practice for Adaptations and make a recommendation for it to be formally adopted by the Council. Adoption of the Code would help to shape the working arrangements of partner organisations involved in providing disabled facilities grants in Wyre Forest.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The North Worcestershire Code of Practice for Adaptations be formally adopted.

CAB.150 **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH THE CAPITAL STRATEGY**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that proposed an amendment to the Council's bid evaluation report for Affordable Housing Grant through the Single Housing Capital Pot following the abolition of the Housing Corporation's Total Cost Indicators (TCI's).

The proposed new arrangements would enable decisions to be reached in respect of bids for financial support for affordable housing following the changes to the Housing Corporation's method of assessment of affordable housing bids requiring changes to be made to the Council's evaluation criteria. The new evaluation assessment would continue to benefit from the Housing Corporation's approach and ensure informed decisions were reached.

DECISION:

The amendment of the bid evaluation report be agreed.

CAB.151 WYRE FOREST REGISTERED SOCIAL LANDLORD – WYRE FOREST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT UPDATE

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought approval to the updated version of the Council's Registered Social Landlord Housing Partnership Agreement with its preferred partners.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment commented that the Agreement had last been updated in March 2003 but because of a number of policy changes had recently been updated.

DECISION:

The latest version of the Wyre Forest Registered Social Landlord Agreement (December 2006) be agreed.

CAB.152 SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought the Cabinet's endorsement of Officer representations submitted on the Issues and Options Consultation Paper for the South Staffordshire Core Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Health and Environment told the Cabinet that South Staffordshire had prepared a new Local Development Framework that replaced its existing Local Plan. As part of the process South Staffordshire had asked whether there were any road, rail or other transport projects that needed to be identified in the new Local Development Framework. A reply was sought by the 11th December 2006.

It had been considered that the Issues and Options paper for the South Staffordshire Core Strategy should include reference to the role of the Wolverhampton Business Airport and the production of a specific DPD in relation to the airport. Officers had therefore submitted representations on the paper accordingly.

DECISION:

The representations submitted by the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to South Staffordshire District Council, on the South Staffordshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper and the role of the Wolverhampton Business Airport be endorsed.

CAB.153 THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORIC INTEREST (THE LOCAL LIST) – ADDITIONS TO THE KIDDERMINSTER LIST

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to consider the responses arising from the public consultation and sought approval of the proposed additions to the List of Buildings of Local Interest (The Local List) for Kidderminster.

The Chairman of the Prosperity Panel told the Cabinet that this matter had been fully debated at the Panel's last meeting on 1st November 2006. She said that Members had been particularly concerned about Chanters Hollow, Whitehill Road, Kidderminster. Members had commented on what a beautiful house it was and that it would be a shame to knock it down to build three or four modern houses. It was perceived that the house was a good example of the Arts and Crafts Movement and that it should be included on the Local List.

DECISION:

The buildings as set out below be included on the Local List of Buildings of Local Architectural and or Historic Interest:

- **Buildings at Stourvale Mill complex, Green Street**
- **Boucher Textile Engineering Works, Green Street**
- **Campion House, Green Street**
- **Elgar House, Green Street**
- **Chanters Hollow, Whitehill Road**

CAB.154 ALLOCATION OF SECTION 106 MONIES FROM GREAT WESTERN WAY, STOURPORT

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought the agreement of the allocation of £20,000 from the Great Western Way Section 106 Agreement into the Capital Programme.

DECISION:

An allocation of £20,000 be made from the Section 106 money received from Great Western Way to the capital programme to be spent at Stourport Riverside.

CAB.155 HALF YEARLY APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2006 PERFORMANCE OF THE WYRE FOREST COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that reported on the half yearly April to September 2006 performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP) in reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Wyre Forest district.

DECISION:

The performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership for April to September 2006 in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District be noted.

CAB.156 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE) – FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that asked the Cabinet to consider adopting formal resolutions for the Council to undertake Decriminalisation of On-Street Parking Enforcement (DPE) within the Wyre Forest district.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services stated that this was a progress report to keep Members informed of developments with the scheme.

DECISION:

- 1. the Council will undertake the Decriminalisation of On-Street Parking in the district boundaries of Wyre Forest, Worcestershire.**
- 2. The Council adopts the Parking Charge Notice level of £60.00 per parking offence, discounted to £30.00 for payments received within 14 days and incremented to £90.00 for payments after the issue of a charge certificate, as reflected in the financial model and consultant report.**
- 3. The Council appoint an elected member and substitute elected member, to be its representative on The National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee, the Councillor to be appointed to be agreed at a later date by the Council.**
- 4. The Council gives delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to:**
 - a) enter into a National Parking Adjudication Service S.101 joint Committee Agreement (Local Authority Act 1972) and**
 - b) sign the Agency Agreement with Worcestershire County Council.**

CAB.157 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY PANELS

11.1 Recommendations from Prosperity Policy Panel 1st November and 6th December 2006

- (i) **The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Proposed Boundary Amendments, Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals**

DECISION:

See decision at 8.5. above.

- (ii) **The List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or historic interest (The Local List) – additions to the Kidderminster List.**

DECISION:

See decision at 8.6. above.

11.2 Recommendations from Service Policy Panel 21st November 2006

Internal Review of Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for Environmental Health and Licensing.

DECISION:

The recommendations from the Service Policy Panel as set out below be agreed:

The improvement plan be considered, particularly where there are budgetary implications for consideration as part of the 2007/08 budget setting process.

11.3 Recommendations from Efficiency Policy Panel 28th November 2006

The recommendations from the Funding of Neighbourhood Wardens Task and Finish Group as set out below be noted:

- 1) £60,000 from the £100,000 of Right to Buy receipts be applied to the existing Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme.**
- 2) £40,000 from the £100,000 of Right to Buy receipts be applied to any envisaged future expansion of the scheme.**

CAB.158 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

That under Section 100(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.159 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 had been made as 'exempt information' would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

CAB.160 MINUTES

DECISION:

The exempt minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 23rd November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**CAB.161 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE
27TH NOVEMBER 2006**

The Cabinet agreed recommendations from the Miscellaneous Functions Committee from its 27th November 2006 meeting regarding a supply contract to carry out hard landscape and installation works in Brinton Park, Kidderminster.

CAB.162 COUNCIL TAX WRITE OFF OF AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING

It was agreed that a sum be written off relating to outstanding Council Taxes and National Non-Domestic Rates.

The meeting finished at 6.25 pm