

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER  
30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

**Present:** Councillors: J-P Campion, M J Hart, S J M Clee, J  
Holden, N J Desmond and Mrs A T Hingley.

**Observers:** Councillors: J Aston, G W Ballinger, Mrs H E Dyke, P  
Dyke and Mrs F M Oborski.

**CAB.50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.52 MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

**The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.53 CALL INS**

No items had been called in since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

**CAB.54 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.55 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Allocation of Flood Relief Monies**

The Leader informed Members that the Government had allocated Wyre Forest District Council a further £200,000 for the second incident of flooding that had occurred in July 2007 that had affected 600 properties. It was proposed to extend the grant scheme that the Council had set up following the first flooding incident to cover those affected in the second incident. He had held discussions with the Chief Executive of the Council to consider allocating a small amount of money to Parish Councils to use at their discretion to prepare for future protection from flood and storm water. He informed the Cabinet that the first cheques had been issued from the Flood Grant Scheme and the second batch were currently being processed.

**CAB.56 SUMMER FLOODS 2007 - WYRE FOREST INTERIM REPORT**

A report was considered from the Chief Executive and the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that updated Members on the Council's role and response to the recent flooding emergencies in the Wyre Forest area.

The Leader commented that the Chief Executive had analysed the Council's response to the flood and was looking at options to review the response for emergency flooding. Plans needed to be in place to deal with any future floods and any recommendations made would be referred to the County Council's scrutiny review.

**DECISION:**

- 1. To continue to promote joint working with partners and consider ways of reducing the future impact of floods through effective management of flood events and flood losses especially from “non-main rivers” (critical and ordinary watercourses) and highway drainage.**
- 2. To submit a further report to the next Cabinet meeting including a summary of the learning from the summer flooding and the necessary actions being taken at District, County, West Midlands and National levels.**
- 3. To review and update the Council's:**
  - (i) Flood Emergency Response, and**
  - (ii) Policy Statement on Flood Defence (September 2003) including future watercourse management schemes for Bewdley and Wolverley.**

4. **To confirm the Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services actions in making free “bulky collections” available from flood affected properties until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.**
5. **To participate in local, regional and national reviews having regard to the Terms of Reference for the DEFRA “Lessons Learnt Review” and Objectives set out in Appendix 3.**
6. **To authorise the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:**
  - (i) **Engage additional expertise and resources if appropriate, to ensure implementation of the above recommendations.**
  - (ii) **Determine hardship relief in respect of National Non Domestic Rates (business rates) on a case by case basis.**
  - (iii) **Determine a suitable payment scheme for the distribution of disruption and hardship grants in relation to the July floods.**

**CAB.57 COUNCIL TAX – LOCAL DISCOUNT FOR FLOODING**

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that advised the Cabinet of an urgent decision made by the Leader of the Council in accordance with Rule 6 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

The Leader commented that he had consulted the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman before taking the decision. The decision allowed anyone whose private property could not be enjoyed to get a three month discount from paying rates.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

1. **That the decision of the Leader of the Council made on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007 be noted in accordance with Rule 6 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.**

- 2. A local Council Tax discount be created to be used in the event where a dwelling is damaged by severe weather floods and the occupier does not vacate but continues to reside in the unaffected parts, whilst the required major repair works are undertaken. The discount to be 100% of the Council Tax due on that property for a maximum period of three months on any one occasion.**

#### **CAB.58 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that asked the Cabinet to consider a request by the Riddings Brook Flood Committee for a grant to assist with setting up expenses of a new organisation.

The Leader said that a small pump priming grant was available for small voluntary organisations. Jill Holland from the Bewdley Flood Committee had been helpful to affected residents in Wribbenhall and had helped to start the Riddings Brook Flood committee. He wished to place on record the Cabinet's thanks to Jill Holland for the support she had given to residents in Wribbenhall. He had written a letter thanking her for her work and commented that it was nice to see local people power in action.

#### **DECISION:**

**A grant of £300 be made to the Riddings Brook Flood Committee.**

#### **CAB.59 REPORT ON BUDGET MONITORING – FIRST QUARTER 2007/2008**

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services on the monitoring of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The Leader commented that there were no significant unexpected variations within the report.

#### **DECISION:**

- 1. The projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report to Cabinet noted. Any overspends or projected loss of income be considered as supplementary estimates later in the financial year when the Cabinet considers the revised Budget prior to onward approval by Council;**

2. **The Income Generation Projection Report be noted;**
3. **Heads of Service continue to monitor closely the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme;**
4. **The updated Capital Programme and Vehicle and Equipment Renewal Schedule 2007/2008, brought about by slippage and reassessment, be noted;**
5. **The revised Prudential Indicators 2007/2010 be noted;**
6. **The revised Budget risk Management Matrix be noted; and**
7. **The supplementary Estimate/Virement report be noted.**

**CAB.60 REPORT ON STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO CONTRACTS - UPDATE**

A report was considered from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that recommended to Council that the updated Standing Orders relating to contracts be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution and replace the existing Standing orders Relating to Contracts.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

**The updated Standing Orders relating to Contracts as set out in the appendix of the report to Cabinet, be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution and replace the existing Standing Orders relating to Contracts.**

**CAB.61 BUILDING CONTROL MARKETING STRATEGY 2007 - 2010**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought Members' approval of the Building Control Marketing Strategy 2007 - 2010.

**DECISION:**

**The Building Control Marketing Strategy 2007 – 2010 be adopted.**

## **CAB.62 PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2007/08**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that advised the Cabinet of the Planning Delivery Grant Award for 2007/08 and sought agreement to its expenditure.

The Cabinet member for Planning Regeneration and Property commented that this was the final time that the Council would be in receipt of this grant. The Council had benefited from previous grants but the Government was now looking to cease the allocation of such Grants.

### **DECISION:**

1. **The 2007/08 Planning Delivery Grant award be noted and its use within the Planning, Health & Environment Division be agreed within the following areas:**
  - **IT Projects - Temporary Additional Officer Resource**
  - **Extension of Conservation Assistant Post - Miscellaneous**
  - **IT Consultant**
2. **Expenditure of the previous years' Planning Delivery Grant be noted.**
3. **The Head of Planning, Health & Environment, in conjunction with the Cabinet member for Planning, Regeneration & Prosperity, be given delegated authority to vary monies between the areas of expenditure if necessary.**

### **8.1(1) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2007**

### **PARK AND RIDE TASK AND FINISH GROUP -**

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee presented the Task and Finish Group's recommendations and commented that a thorough scrutiny exercise had been undertaken. It had been discovered that less than 50 residents were using the facility at the cost to the Council in excess of £40,000. The Committee considered that in view of the small number of residents using the facility that the contract with the provider should be terminated as soon as possible.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Operational Services thanked the committee for the work that had been undertaken and suggested that the park and ride facility be considered as part of the budget process. He perceived the advent of the decriminalisation of on street parking would have an effect on the Park and Ride scheme.

#### **DECISION:**

**The recommendation as detailed below, be noted:**

**Due to the Park and Ride Service losing money each year, the facility be terminated as soon as possible.**

### **8.1(2) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2007**

#### **YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW PANEL -**

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee stated that the Review Panel had done some good work in looking at the youth facilities that were provided locally. It had been interesting to note that the District Council provided more facilities than the County Council which had a statutory youth function. She commented that the recommendations did not have big cost implications.

The Leader stated that he felt that anything that could be done to get young people involved in making representations on facilities provided by the Council was important as he felt their voice should be heard. He suggested that possibility of co-option onto scrutiny committees might be a way forward.

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure Services was grateful for the excellent and informative piece of work that the Review Panel had done. He agreed to take on board the majority of the recommendations that had been put forward.

**DECISION:**

**Recommendations 1 - 3 as printed below be agreed.**

**Recommendation 4 as printed below be considered as part of the wider budget process**

**Recommendation 5 as printed below agreed and work will be done with the new Head of Service to progress this recommendation.**

**Recommendation 6 as printed below be agreed.**

- 1. The perceived limitations of the Youth Service in dealing with only a small percentage of young people and only with an educational remit be noted.**
- 2. The Committee be asked to recommend that this issue and the issue of a joined up approach in working with young people be addressed by the Youth Strategy Group in their preparation of a Youth Strategy for the District and representation be made to Central Government.**
- 3. The Children and Young People Plan be adopted and Officers from the Children's Services Division of Worcestershire County Council be invited to give a presentation regarding the plan to the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.**
- 4. The findings from the consultation are that a high percentage of young people desire locations where they can 'hang out' in places where they would want to hang out. Youth shelters have been particularly successful where there has been a high degree of participation of young people and local residents and interaction between the two, encouraging mutual respect. The Committee be asked to recommend that a Youth Shelter be provided in each of the three towns in the District and the location to be agreed with Ward Councillors and young people, the cost being £10,000 each (Total cost £30,000).**
- 5. The Group noted that within Wyre Forest there are no democratic structures for young people to comment and be consulted about issues that affect them. The Group suggest that a Youth Cabinet or possibly more locally based Youth Forum be set up so that this would represent very local views.**
- 6. The Council note the projects that are being put forward to the Big Lottery Fund including the Play Ranger project and the Layman Walk project.**



8.1(3) **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2007**

**ICE RINK REVIEW PANEL -**

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee presented the Ice Rink Review Panel's recommendations. She commented that the Panel had been formed following receipt of a petition. Councillor Holden had led the exercise. It had been disappointing that what had sounded initially as an exciting opportunity had not proved to be commercially viable as the proposed operators had wanted the council to provide a building in which to build the ice rink.

The Leader of the Council commented that the project had been put on hold and the operator's details would be held on file in case the project could be advanced. Unfortunately the Council was not in a position to heavily subsidise the project. He asked that a letter be sent to Chloe Worley who had started the petition to explain why the Council would not be taking forward the project.

**DECISION:**

1. **The recommendation as set out below be AGREED**

**Having considered all options available, it be recommended that for the time being, the ice-rink project be put on hold. However, details of the proposed operator would be held on file to be passed to any relevant landowner in the event of any significant redevelopment proposals in the District where such a facility may be incorporated.**

2. **A letter be sent to Chloe Worley who arranged the petition, outlining the proposed course of action.**

**8.1(4) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2007**

**MINI MOTORCYCLES REVIEW PANEL**

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee presented the Mini Motorcycles Review Panel recommendations. She commented that the review panel had been set up in 2006. However there had been differences in opinion between the members of the Review Panel as some perceived a club should be set up and some did not.

One of the main problems that the Panel found was that if a club was set up it had to be set up through the ACU and most of the mini motorcyclists who caused problems in the district used illegal bikes that would not be permitted in a club environment.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services stated that he was happy to accept all the recommendations made by the Panel. Whilst he was aware of the issues of the police being involved in the running of a club he felt that the key issue was the educational side. If parents were made aware that it was illegal to ride minimotos on the streets it might prevent them from buying them for their children. A minimoto epidemic appeared to have occurred within the district and the problems associated with them were raised regularly at PACT meetings. He commented that he would arrange to get an article on the Council's website about educating parents about minimotos. He also planned to write to Jim Baker and would be talking to the new Head of Service to see how the various issues raised could be addressed.

**DECISION:**

**The recommendations as set out below be agreed:**

- 1. The Council be asked to seek funding up to a maximum of £500 through the Community Chest to produce detailed educational leaflets regarding mini motorcycles.**
- 2. The Council publish an article in its Christmas edition of Newsywe detailing the risks involved with mini motorcycles.**
- 3. The Council formally write to the police to ask them to initiate a Mini Motorcycle Club and give what support they can.**

- 4. Should the police agree to initiate a mini motorcycle club, through newspaper and potential editorial coverage through the local media, the Police invite interested volunteers to run such a club.**
- 5. The club, should it be set up, is to run on guidelines agreed with the police and the Auto Cycle Union.**

The meeting finished at 6.50 pm.