

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER
24TH JANUARY 2008 (6.00PM)**

PRESENT:

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

OBSERVERS:

Councillors: G W Ballinger and Mrs F M Oborski.

CAB.154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.155 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.156 MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.157 CALL INS

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

CAB.158 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.159 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public had asked to participate at this meeting of the Cabinet.

CAB.160 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Flooding

Flooding had again affected the district. The Leader expressed his appreciation to the Head of Property and Operational Services and his team who had responded to the traditional type of river flooding. He commended the actions that had been taken by staff and was pleased that the flood barriers had prevented significant flooding and damage across the district.

2. Post Flood Recovery

The Leader informed Members that the flood waters were now receding. Local agencies were working hard to help those affected by the flooding.

3. Collapsed Wall, Mill Street, Kidderminster

A wall in Mill Street, Kidderminster, that had been of concern had duly collapsed. However due to the diligence of Council officers, properties had been evacuated prior to it collapsing and a serious incident had therefore been averted. He congratulated officers for being proactive in this connection.

4. Community Contracts

The Minister for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, had announced this week that Oldington and Foley Park had been awarded pilot status as part of a community contract scheme. Details of the scheme were scant at present but had nonetheless been launched in Parliament with Richard Taylor, MP. He commended the Ward Member who was involved in the scheme and commented it was good that the excellent work that had been carried out in this connection had been recognised.

CAB.161 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Leader of the Council gave a presentation on the Cabinet's budget proposals. He drew attention to the new priority areas for the Council - namely new services, efficiencies, sustainability. The administration hoped to reduce operational costs and thereby make smarter use of Council resources.

Two members of the public were in attendance for the presentation but declined to comment on the proposals.

DECISION:

The presentation by the Leader on the Cabinet's budget proposals to stakeholders and members of the public be noted.

CAB.162 CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that proposed that the updated Procurement Strategy be approved by the Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The updated Corporate Procurement Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet, be approved.

CAB.163 KIDDERMINSTER REGENERATION PROSPECTUS : SCOPING PAPER

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that advised Members on the purpose and scope of the 'Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus' and sought agreement for the preliminary public consultation proposals as set out in the 'Connecting Kidderminster' scoping paper.

The Cabinet also considered the recommendation of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee from the meeting held on the 9th January 2008. The recommendation, as set out below was agreed:

DECISION:

The 'Kidderminster Prospectus Connecting : Connecting Kidderminster Scoping Paper' contained at Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved as the basis for public consultation; and the programme and proposed public consultation arrangements set out at Sections 7 to 9 of Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved

CAB.164 HARVINGTON CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to consider the results of the public consultation on the draft Character Appraisal for the Harvington Conservation Area and sought agreement for the final document.

The Cabinet also considered the recommendations of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee which were agreed as follows:

DECISION:

The 'Kidderminster Prospectus Connecting : Connecting Kidderminster Scoping Paper' contained at Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved as the basis for public consultation; and the programme and proposed public consultation arrangements set out at Sections 7 to 9 of Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved

**CAB.165 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK :
SCOPING FOR SITE ALLOCATIONS AND KIDDERMINSTER CENTRAL
AREA ACTION PLAN DOCUMENTS**

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought the Cabinet's endorsement of the purpose, scope and timetable for the preparation of the Site Allocations and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (KCSSP) Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Prosperity commented that as part of an exercise for the Local Development Framework the Council had looked at sites for housing and during this exercise they were now identifying sites for industrial and business units in the district.

The Cabinet also considered the recommendations of the Community and Regeneration Committee from the meeting held on 9th January 2008 which were agreed as follows:

DECISION:

- 1. Approval be given to the scoping paper attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet, to form the basis for the timetabling and preparation of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.**
- 2. Approval be given to the scoping paper attached at Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet, to form the basis for the timetabling and preparation of the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan Development Plan Document.**

**CAB.166 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK : CORE
STRATEGY REVISED ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER**

A report was considered from the head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought the Cabinet's endorsement of the Core Strategy : Revised Issues and Options Paper for the purposes of consultation. The Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Prosperity informed the Cabinet that as part of the Local Development Framework consultation a document had been sent to Government Office setting out the Councils intentions. However Government Office had contacted the Council and asked it to revise its proposals and this had now been done.

The Cabinet also considered recommendations from the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee which were agreed as follows:

DECISION:

Approval be given to the Revised Issues and options paper attached at Appendix 2 to the report for Cabinet, for the purposes of consultation on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Issues and Options, in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

CAB.167 BEWDLEY MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Cabinet considered the Annual Report of the Bewdley Museum Management Committee for the year ending 31st March 2007. The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services stated that he was delighted to introduce the report. The Museum had enjoyed a fantastic year and went from strength to strength. He commented that admission numbers had increased and the number of workshops available had been increased, as had exhibitions and events. He was pleased to announce that the Museum had secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop its services. He would be writing to the managers of the Museum to thank them for their hard work in obtaining the grant.

DECISION:

A letter of thanks be written to the Museum Management Committee congratulating them on their hard work and recent success in gaining £480,000 Heritage Lottery funding.

CAB.168 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 9TH JANUARY 2008

See decisions at CAB. 163/164/165 and 166 above.

CAB.169 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.170 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.171 MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 3rd January 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CAB.172 ADDITIONAL BUDGET FOR PROSECUTION - ENFORCEMENT

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that informed Members of the continuing prosecution of a property owner under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Additional funding was sought for this financial year to pursue the prosecution through Crown Court.

CAB.173 CENTRALISED OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Recommendations were considered from the Single Site Project Board from its meeting held on 17th January 2008 these related to provision of centralised office accommodation for the Council.

The meeting closed at 6.47 pm.