

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER
23RD APRIL 2009 (6:00 PM)**

PRESENT:

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

Observers:

Councillors: J Baker, G W Ballinger, Mrs H E Dyke, P B Harrison, H J Martin, Mrs F M Oborski, and D R Sheppard.

CAB.241 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.242 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S J M Clee declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.3. relating to the Section 136 Grant for Bewdley Town Council as he is a member of the Town Council.

CAB.243 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26th March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.244 Call Ins

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

CAB.245 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no matters requiring urgent attention.

CAB.246 Public Participation

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

CAB.247 Leader's Announcements

Two dates were drawn to Members' attention, namely:

Relaunch of Bewdley Museum

During the Bank Holiday weekend commencing Saturday 2nd May 2009, the Bewdley Museum which had been refurbished with Lottery funding, would be relaunched. It was noted that the relaunch would be linked into other events occurring in Bewdley during the Bank Holiday weekend.

Opening of the rebuilt Stourport on Severn Sports Club

Members were informed that the Stourport on Severn Sports Club would be reopened on Saturday 16th May 2009 following completion of the £1.7 million rebuilding programme.

CAB.248 Treasury Management Update

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that outlined the current position in relation to the Council's investments with the three banks with Icelandic connections and other associated issues.

The Leader of the Council informed Members that a dividend would be payable from Heritage and a significant percentage of the Council's money would be recovered. An interim payment was anticipated in the summer.

With regard to Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, further information was anticipated shortly. However the position with regard to Landsbanki remained unchanged namely that negotiation for the return of the Council's money continued.

DECISION:

- 1. The current position in relation to the recovery of funds from the three banks with which the Council has investments be noted.**
- 2. The recent reports in relation to this issue from the Audit Commission and The House of Commons Treasury Committee be noted.**
- 3. Approval be given to the revised lending list attached to the report to Cabinet at Appendix 1.**

CAB.249 Section 136 Report Grant Aid to Bewdley Town Council

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked the Cabinet to consider a request from Bewdley Town Council for Section 136 Grant Aid for 2009/2010.

The Leader explained to Members that Bewdley Town Council had submitted a breakdown of how they intended to spend the grant monies. However, contained within the breakdown was an allocation of £2,110 to allow Wyre Hill Play Area to be maintained for 6 months then as the Town Council did not consider it could justify maintenance payments for more than 6 months they wished to revert responsibility for the play area to Wyre Forest District Council. However, in the budget process this had not been highlighted to the Council and it was not until a letter had been received on the 16th March 2009 that the District Council was aware of the Town Council's proposal.

The Leader commented that the proposal would create a further drain on the Council's resources and was one that had not been anticipated. It was therefore recommended in the report to Cabinet that the application for Section 136 grant monies be rejected and that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Town Council to explain that the Council was not trying to prevent the Council from receiving its Section 136 money but that it must be used for fair and equitable projects. It was therefore suggested that Bewdley Town Council withdraw the request for funding for the play area and resubmit its application minus grant funding for the play area. This would then allow the Council 12 months to look at options for funding maintenance of the play area.

DECISION: That given the conditions that Bewdley Town Council are applying to the Section 136 Grant Aid application, this should not be approved.

CAB.250 Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009/10

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that recommended that Council give consideration to adopting the Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and 2009/10 Action Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Rural Affairs told Members that the report outlined the framework for delivery of the Strategy and details of the Action Plan which would meet the targets as set out in the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement. Members were informed that the Strategy dovetailed into the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy with overarching aims of raising awareness of issues surrounding climate change reduction of gas emission and how to plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Chairman of the Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee stated that the Strategy and Action Plan had been considered at a meeting of the scrutiny committee last night. Members of the Scrutiny Committee had considered it would be useful to include a mailshot to Council Tax Payers with their Council Tax bills detailing easy ways of reducing their carbon footprint and how to deal with surface water issues.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1. The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and 2009/10 Action Plan be adopted.**
- 2. A guide be produced for householders in the district on ways to reduce their carbon footprint and surface water flooding.**

CAB.251 Playbuilder Funding

A report was considered from the Director of Community and Partnership Services that outlined potential applications for year 2 funding from the Worcestershire Play Partnership for Wyre Forest for Playbuilder funding.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure Services commented that two projects had been earmarked to receive playbuilder funding and these were for the QE2 Gardens woodland area where play sculptures and a timber made draughts board were planned and the Woodbury Road Project in Kidderminster where a natural play area was planned.

The Leader of the Council complimented the Director of Community and Partnership Services on these innovative projects.

DECISION: Approval be given to submit applications to the Worcestershire Play Partnership commissioning group as detailed in the report to Cabinet.

CAB.252 Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework: Consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that informed the Cabinet of the level and scope of the responses received in relation to the public consultation undertaken on the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper and outlined how these would be taken forward to inform the Submission Core Strategy Document.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise commented that the Council had written to 584 consultees and had received a good response. The Council had also held roadshows to publicise the consultation and members of the public had shown a lot of interest in these.

The Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee had also considered the consultation and the Cabinet Member was happy to accept the recommendations that they had made.

DECISION: Approval be given to the Director of Planning & Regulatory Services' recommendations in relation to the consultation responses received on the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper as set out at Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet.

CAB.253 Kidderminster Town Centre Manager's Annual Update Report

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that advised Cabinet of the progress, achievements and challenges of the Kidderminster Town Centre Management role in the inaugural year 2008/09.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise commented that the report contained a snapshot of activities that the Town Centre Manager undertook. He endorsed the work that the Town Centre Manager had undertaken.

DECISION: The Kidderminster Town Centre Manager's Annual Report 2008/09 be endorsed.

CAB.254 Recommendations from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee 8th April 2009 re : Alcohol and Substance Misuse Review Panel

The Cabinet considered recommendations from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee relating to the Substance Misuse element of the Alcohol and Substance Review Panel.

The Chairman of the Review Panel presented the recommendations and commented that the Panel had been meeting since September 2008 and that the review had now been concluded. He commented that the Panel was able to make more recommendations regarding the alcohol element of the review than it had been able to on the substance misuse element.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services put on record his gratitude to the Chairman and the panel for the work they had undertaken.

The Chairman of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee commented that the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) had been reorganised and was very conscious of working with local districts. She commented that in the future figures from the County would be broken down to illustrate district levels as well.

DECISION:

The following recommendations regarding the substance misuse element of the review be AGREED:

- 1. The ongoing work of partners be supported.**
- 2. The competing demands on police time with regard to substance misuse be recognised. Community leaders will identify community needs in relation to dealing and drug supply and will encourage policy to deal with local issues.**

- 1. The Members Briefing Session receive a presentation from SMAT annually to keep Members informed.**
- 2. If an issue arises from SMAT before the annual presentation, it be reported in the Members Information Bulletin.**

CAB.255 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.256 Exempt Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 26th March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.