

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER
21ST JULY 2009 (6:00PM)**

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, Mrs H E Dyke, H J Martin, D J Millis, and
Mrs F M Oborski.

CAB.31 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: S J M Clee,
Mrs T L Onslow.

CAB.32 Declarations of Interest

Councillor M J Hart declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item
number 7.2. relating to the Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier Programme as
he had already voted on this matter as a Cabinet Member in another place.

CAB.33 Minutes

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd June 2009 be
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

CAB.34 Call Ins

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

CAB.35 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.36 Public Participation

No one had registered to speak under the Council's Public Participation
scheme.

CAB.37 Leader's Announcements

Transformational Change

The Leader informed Members that he had received a report from QEDIS (consultants to the Council) regarding the Council's proposed transformational change. All Members would be briefed on the report at a meeting the next day and the Officer Communication Group would also receive a presentation. Further details would be reported to Council at its meeting on 29th July 2009.

CAB.38 Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier Programme (WETT)

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that reported on the progress of the newly formed Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier (WETT) Programme Management Group. It was noted that this Group examined the opportunities for enhanced two tier working between Worcestershire County Council and the other District Councils in Worcestershire.

This initiative had been started as a result of Worcestershire County Council not pursuing Unitary status. Members were informed that the County Council had received £350,000 which would be used to identify areas where joint working would be beneficial.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1 To re-affirm its commitment, along with other councils in Worcestershire, to continue to look at ways of working closely together to improve services to the public and businesses and to make efficiency savings**
- 2. To approve Regulatory Services as a priority for the development of a Detailed Business Case by the end of September, 2009 with participation in Internal Audit and Property Services Detailed Business Cases as time, resources and capacity permits.**
- 3. To approve continuation of discussions with the County Council on Joint Working Arrangements, outside WETT, in relation to Human Resources and Property Services.**
- 4. To delegate responsibility to the Cabinet to make a final decision on the Regulatory Services Detailed Business Case and other relevant Detailed Business Cases including governance and hosting arrangements taking into account the Council's approved Shared Service Strategy.**

CAB.39 Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 – Value for Money Efficiency Gains Achieved in 2008/09

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that informed Members of the actual total net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains for 2008/09 and further efficiency gains required under the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07).

The Cabinet Member for Resources was delighted to report that the Council had exceeded its target for efficiency gains. He praised the accountancy section for achieving these efficiency gains in a difficult economic climate.

In response to a Member's request for a detailed breakdown of how the savings were achieved, the Director of Resources commented that he would be pleased to give any member a detailed breakdown.

DECISION:

- 1. To endorse the actual net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains achieved in 2008/09.**
- 2. To note the increased efficiency target for English Councils from 3% to 4% for 2010/11.**

CAB.40 Consultation Paper – Future Administration of Concessionary Travel

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked the Cabinet to approve the Council's response to the consultation paper from the Department of Transport in relation to potential changes to the future administration of concessionary travel.

The Cabinet Member for Resources informed Members that the District Council administered the scheme. However it was proposed that Worcestershire County Council should administer the scheme. The District Council wished to continue to administer the scheme as it was the best system for choice and accountability. It was also the Council's understanding that the County Council was in agreement that the current arrangements should continue.

With regard to a query concerning the amount of money that bus operators charged the Council for each journey, the Director of Resources commented that he would look into this matter.

DECISION:

The proposed consultation response to the Department for Transport in relation to proposed changes in the administration of Concessionary Travel as detailed in Appendix A of the report to Cabinet be approved.

CAB.41 Treasury Management Update

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that proposed amendments to the Council's current lending list to increase the number of Counterparties with whom the Council were able to place investments.

The Cabinet Member for Resources commented that the lending list had been amended earlier in 2009 to ensure that the list was sufficiently flexible to enable the Council to manage its investments. The current list however was considered to be inadequate to provide for the Council's requirements due to reductions in interest rates which meant that currently the Council could only use one bank and one building society. Therefore, at present, the Council was investing with Debt Management on a 0.3% return. This course of low investment return was considered to be untenable and was likely to result in a deficit in the budget. It was therefore necessary for the Council to amend its strategy. It was proposed that there should be a slight change in the investment criteria. It was also proposed that the limit on the end of day balance at the Co-Operative Bank should be increased to £1m for operational purposes.

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel commented that the report had been considered by the Review Panel and they had agreed unanimously that the proposals were the most prudent way forward. The Leader of the Council wished to record his grateful thanks for the Panel's endorsement of the proposed recommendations.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL :

The revised lending criteria detailed in paragraphs 3.12 and 3.13 and the revised Counterparty List attached at Appendix C of the report to Cabinet be approved.

CAB.42 Section 136 Grant Aid to Stourport-on-Severn Town Council 2009/2010

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked the Cabinet to consider a request by Stourport-on-Severn Town Council for payment of their 136 Grant Aid for 2009/2010.

DECISION:

That the Grant Aid application be approved.

CAB.43 Holiday and Touring Caravan Sites Model Conditions

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that presented Members with recommended model holiday and touring caravan site licence conditions for caravan sites for adoption and application to the holiday and touring sites in the District.

The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services presented the report in the absence of the Cabinet Member. He reminded Members that in October 2008, the Council had refreshed its model conditions for two residential sites following the receipt of guidance.

He commented that this report asked the Cabinet to refresh the model conditions as they were overdue for a refresh. By refreshing the conditions it would bring all the district's caravan sites up to model conditions.

DECISION:

- 1. To Adopt the Wyre Forest District Council Holiday Caravan Site Licence Model Conditions 2009 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 2. To Adopt the Wyre Forest District Council Touring Caravan Site Licence Model Conditions 2009 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet.**

CAB.44 Air Quality Management Consultation

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that outlined the results of the consultation on the proposed air quality management declarations, following the completion of a detailed air quality assessment in Radford Avenue/Coventry Street, Kidderminster and recommended a management proposal.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

To consider the outcome of the consultation exercise and to agree the designation of the Air Quality Management Areas set out in the appendix of the report to Cabinet.

CAB.45 Department for Communities for Local Government (DCLG) funding for the Prevention of Mortgage and Landlord Repossession

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that provided details on the additional funding allocated to Wyre Forest District Council by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for the purpose of presenting mortgage and landlord repossession and requested agreement to the proposed expenditure of the grant.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services commented that that £48,000 of windfall money had been made available from central government to spend on mortgage and landlord repossession cases. The Council worked in this area with partners and was recommending that it continued to support the Citizens Advice Bureau work on debt counselling so that the service could be extended from its current 2 days per week to cover 5 days a week. It was proposed that the remainder of the money would be spent on fixed term housing as this would help interpret the plethora of government initiatives. It was therefore proposed that should an externally funded post become vacant before the end of its fixed term period, the remaining funding should be combined with this new direct funding to recruit a Private Sector Initiatives Officer.

DECISION:

- 1. Approval be given to the addition of funding to existing budgets and the proposed expenditure of the grant.**
- 2. To approve the delegated authority to Director of Planning & Regulatory Services to implement and monitor the proposal, which includes the Initiatives Officer appointment on a full time basis, period of employment to be determined by funding received.**
- 3. If required, approval be given to any savings which may arise from vacant posts within the section being used in conjunction with DCLG funding.**

CAB.46 Proposed Bewdley Town Market

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Cabinet to give authority to Bewdley Development Trust to grant permission to hold a weekly market on the Quayside, Bewdley.

Members were informed that a market had been operated by a private operator but this had now ceased. The Council had now been approached to consider allowing a market to be held in a more visible area.

The Council proposed delegating powers to Bewdley Development Trust to host and monitor the market in order to achieve local accountability. The Trust had also requested that they be given greater flexibility to hold more than five market stalls and it was agreed that the recommendation be amended to include this request.

The Leader of the Council commented that a market would bring some vibrancy to Bewdley and he was happy that the Development Trust was championing services for local people. He also perceived that the market would be a service that people really wanted.

DECISION:

Bewdley Development Trust be authorised to grant permission (subject to conditions) to persons to hold a market on a weekly basis (Saturday) for a period of 12 months from the date of grant on the land shown in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet.

CAB.47 Proposal to Launch Wyre Forest Community Forums

A report was considered from the Director of Community and Partnership Services that proposed the launch of a series of Wyre Forest Community Forums.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Partnership Services commented that the recent Place Survey had shown that local residents wished to become more engaged with the Council. It was therefore proposed to hold a series of Forums whereby residents would be able to attend a question time format with a panel. This would ensure more effective two way communication with the public in order to build trust in local government.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: The Council takes forward the proposal to launch Wyre Forest Community Forums.

CAB.48 The List of Buildings for Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (The Local List) – Wolverley and Cookley Parish

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Cabinet to consider the responses arising from the public consultation and sought approval of the proposed List of Buildings of Local Interest (The Local List) for Wolverley and Cookley.

DECISION: The buildings as set out in Appendix 4 of the report to Cabinet be included on the Local List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest.

CAB.49 Recommendations from the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 13th July 2009 re: The List of Buildings of Local Architectural and/or Historic Interest (The Local List) – Consultation Results ion the Draft Proposals for Wolverley and Cookley Parish

DECISION: The recommendation be agreed as set out in CAB.48 above.

CAB.50 Recommendations from the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee Thursday 9th July 2009

Re : Annual Report 2008/09

The Chairman of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee commented that a lot of work had gone into the Annual Report and he commended it to the Cabinet as a worthy document.

DECISION: The content of the Annual Report 2008/09 be approved.

Re : Directorate Business Plans 2009/2010

The Chairman of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee commented that his Committee had allocated responsibility for each Directorate to members of the committee. Thus there would be two or three members focusing on each Directorate. These members would have a responsibility to advise the committee how the business plans were developing.

The Leader welcomed such engagement in the scrutiny process.

DECISION: The Directorate Business Plans for 2009/2010 be approved.

CAB.51 Recommendations from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 18th June 2009 re: Hurcott Road Local Lettings Policy

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendation to the Cabinet. She commented that the Committee had held a lively discussion on the matter and it was felt that as a result of the Lettings Policy there had been improvement in some areas and the policy had a positive effect on public reassurance and local tenants.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

Approval be given to the continuation of a Local Lettings Plan for a period of three years (or until the redevelopment of the estate if a shorter period) as outlined in the report to the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and that the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services, finalise the necessary policy and procedural changes for the continuation of the Local Lettings Plan for the Hurcott Road Estate.

CAB.52 Recommendation from the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 13th July 2009 re : Cultural Strategy and Action Plan

The Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendations regarding the Cultural Strategy and Action Plan. She commented that one of the Members of the Committee perceived that young people should be consulted and it had been suggested that the consultation be sent to the Youth Forum.

DECISION:

The list of partners the action plan be sent to is as follows:

Community Housing Group
PCT
Youth Support Service
County Sports Partnership
Extended Schools
Wyre Forest Arts Forum
Youth Forum

The outcome of the consultation responses would then be brought back to the next appropriate meeting of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

CAB.53 Recommendations from the Audit Committee 29th June 2009 re : Annual Report from the Section 151 Officer 2008/2009

The Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Audit Committee regarding the Annual Report of the Section 151 Officer for 2008/2009.

DECISION:

The Annual report from the Section 151 Officer for 2008/2009 as attached in the appendix to the Audit committee on the 29th June be approved.

CAB.54 Recommendations from the Licensing and Environmental Committee 17th July 2009 re :Implementation Report on Taxi Deregulation

The Cabinet considered recommendations from the Licensing and Environmental Committee regarding the Implementation Report on Taxi Deregulation.

DECISION:

1. To note the progress with the implementation of the Taxi Deregulation Plan.
2. To agree the responses to the current 'Taxi – Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance' consultation as set out at paragraph 5.2. Of the report to the Licensing and Environmental Committee.

CAB.55 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.56 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.57 Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on 23rd June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CAB.58 Divisional Management Restructuring – Transformational Change – Interim Report

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that informed Members of the progress following approval of the restructuring report in February 2009.

CAB.59 Single Site

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that made recommendations regarding a single site for the Council.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.