

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,

KIDDERMINSTER

TUESDAY 20TH APRIL 2010 (6:00PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: H E Dyke, J Greener and F M Oborski.

CAB.199 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.200 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hart declared an interest in agenda item no. 12 relating to land in Wolverley. He stated that after considering the report, if he was subsequently elected to serve on the Planning Committee for the new municipal year, he would consider quite separately the planning matters taking into account all the planning considerations.

CAB.201 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.202 Call Ins

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

CAB.203 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items that required urgent attention.

CAB.204 Leader's Announcements

The Leader drew Members' attention to the fact that Parliament had been dissolved and the writ for the Parliamentary Election had been issued. Members were advised that nominations had closed on 20th April 2010 for the Parliamentary Election and there were 6 candidates standing. With regard to the district elections, there were 14 wards to be contested with 4 councillors not seeking re-election. He highlighted that the count for the Parliamentary Election would be conducted on the evening of 6th May 2010 and the count for the District would take place on the morning of Friday 7th May 2010.

He gave his thanks to the Chief Executive and his Officer team for the hard work that was done, in advance of Cabinet meetings. There had been no call ins for the past 6 years and this was down to the professional and continued support from Members of the opposition and the Scrutiny Chairmen. He commended the team effort and commented that he had enjoyed working with everyone.

CAB.205 Single Site Office

A report was considered from the Chief Executive regarding the award of contract for Project Management and the Design Team for the Council's proposed Single Site.

The Leader of the Council advised the Cabinet that purchasing the Single Site was nearing completion.

The Chief Executive confirmed that 11 tenders had been received and these would be evaluated over the next few days with the top 3 being interviewed during the week commencing 26th April 2010.

In response to a Member's question, the Chief Executive replied that it was appropriate to have extra points for the methodology and programme criteria in the evaluation model as it was important to have an experienced team to deliver the project. Also a high percentage of marks would be allocated to the environmental management element.

Decision:

- 1. The arrangements that have been made to seek tenders for the project management and design team and the evaluation criteria set out in appendix to the report to Cabinet be noted.**
- 2. The award of the contract for the project management team and design team be delegated to the Corporate Management Team in agreement with the Leader of the Council.**

CAB.206 Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier – Regulatory Services Statement of Service Requirements

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that provided Cabinet with information on the Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier (WETT) Regulatory Services Statement of Service Requirements.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Director of Planning & Regulatory Services and his team for the progress that had been made on the project.

Members were informed that Worcester City Council had yet to take the proposals to their Cabinet but the legal agreement was still scheduled to be signed on 1st June 2010.

Decision: The proposals for the Regulatory Services Statement of Service Requirement be noted.

CAB.207 Directorate Business Plans 2010/11

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that recommended to Council that the Directorate Business Plans be approved.

Recommended to Council: The Directorate Business Plans as set out in Appendices 1 – 4 of the report to Cabinet be adopted.

CAB.208 Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 Refresh of Priorities for 2010/11

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that recommended to Council that the Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 be adopted.

The Leader of the Council informed the Cabinet this was the final year for the existing Corporate Plan and a new plan was required for next year. A similar process to that previously followed would be used in establishing the next plan.

Recommended to Council: The revised Corporate Plan adopted.

CAB.209 Economic Regeneration and Development in North Worcestershire

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services on the way forward for the development of an Economic Regeneration and Development Strategy for North Worcestershire.

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration informed the Cabinet that the Council had planned a joint service with Bromsgrove District Council & Redditch Borough Council with Wyre Forest District Council taking the lead for the North of Worcestershire. Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council were keen to join the project and it would make it easier to apply for regeneration funding for three Councils rather than doing so as individual Councils.

The Leader of the Council stated that the Directorate of Planning & Regulatory Services should be proud to host the new service. Members perceived that this was an exciting opportunity for the Council and felt it was important to be the lead authority.

Recommended to Council:

- 1. The four principal recommendations from the Inspira report 'Review of Economic Regeneration & Development – Strategy & Arrangements' be agreed.**

2. **An Implementation Plan be agreed between the three Councils to effect the implementation of the joint service. Such Implementation Plan to be agreed with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration. The Implementation Plan to deal with those matters set out in paragraph 4.26 of this report.**
3. **The Chief Executive be given delegated authority to undertake any necessary action relating to employee and union matters regarding the TUPE transfer of staff from Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils to Wyre Forest, including any temporary arrangements under s113 of the Local Government Act 1972; and, in conjunction with the Director of Planning & Regulatory Services, to make any necessary residual staffing arrangements in relation to the Planning Policy team within the Council.**
4. **The Director of Planning & Regulatory Services progress the preparation of a North Worcestershire Economic Regeneration & Development Strategy with a view to its adoption by Cabinet and Council at future meetings.**

CAB.210 Recommendations from Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee re: Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel

The Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee presented recommendations regarding the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel. Members were informed that members of the review panel had worked well and had agreed to meet at the end of 2010 to enable a better assessment of how the Clinics had worked.

Decision: Cabinet approved the following recommendations from the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee:

1. **The Chief Executive to remain as Chairman of the Corporate Performance Clinics.**
2. **The timing of all future meetings of the Corporate Performance Clinic to commence at 4pm.**
3. **Progress on items raised at the Clinics should be reviewed after six months and reported back to the Corporate Performance Clinic.**
4. **The Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel to reconvene in December 2010 time to review the situation.**
5. **All information presented to the Corporate Performance Clinics to be communicated to staff through team briefings and Wyred Weekly.**
6. **All information presented to the Corporate Performance Clinics be communicated to Members through the Members' Information Bulletin.**

CAB.211 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.212 Land in Wolverley

A report was considered from the Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that sought Members' approval for the freehold disposal of a parcel of land in Wolverley to one of the Council's Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Partners for affordable housing purposes.

Members were pleased that this site had been identified for the progress of affordable housing.

Decision: Delegated authority be given to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services to dispose of the freehold land, edged red on the plan attached to the report to Cabinet to the Community Housing Group in order to facilitate the construction of affordable housing and in accordance with the Council's Corporate Plan Priority.

CAB.213 Housing Benefit Write Off of Amounts Outstanding

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked the Cabinet to give consideration to write off a sum in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayment Debts.

Decision: The sum in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayment Debts be written off.

CAB.214 Write Off of Amounts Outstanding – Property Debt

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked the Cabinet to give consideration to write off a sum in respect of Property Debt for 2009/10.

Decision: The sum in respect of Property Debt be written off.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.