

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2011 (6.00PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, H E Dyke, P Dyke, I Hardiman, F M Oborski, K H Prosser and M A Salter.

CAB.75 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.76 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.77 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th November 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.78 Call Ins

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

CAB.79 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

The Leader of the Council advised Members that as part of agenda item 8.1, the response regarding the Local Government settlement would also be considered.

CAB.80 Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council gave thanks to all district employees who had attended work in the recent bad weather. The new contingency plan had worked well and it had been pleasing to see that the town centre had been cleared of snow. All waste and recycling had been cleared by the New Year despite reports in the press of Councils having backlogs. Staff had worked very well in this connection. A follow up session would be held and the Leader asked Members to feed in any views that they may have.

Guidance on the Localism Bill had been produced and this had been sent to all Members. One of the proposals within the Bill was for matters to be dealt with at a local level. The Bill had been published before Christmas and a second reading was due during the week commencing 10th January 2011.

In response to a Member's question, the Leader of the Council stated that the Coalition Government had said that they would not support any additional unitary bids in their parliamentary term. As part of the meeting he had attended with the Government minister, it had been confirmed that District Councils would not be abolished. The government supported the work that local councils in delivering services. He did not think that the council going to a unitary authority was an option but this was something that would have to be considered at the relevant time.

CAB.81 Three Year Budget & Policy Framework 2011/2014

A report was considered from the Director of Resources on the Council's Three Year Budget and Policy Framework for 2011/2014.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team for the work that had been done on the budget. The budget process had been started earlier this and he was grateful for everyone's input.

Members were advised that the Council had found itself in a difficult position in that in 2011/12 reductions would have to be made of £13.4 million. The administration were content that council tax would be frozen for 2011/2012 as it was felt to be unfair for the Wyre Forest community to have an increase whilst services could alter. Worcestershire County Council would also be following a similar line to ensure that their council tax bills benefited their community.

A copy of a draft letter to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was tabled at the meeting which outlined the Council's response to the provisional local government settlement and which reflected points already raised in a meeting that the Leader of the Council and Member of Parliament had with Bob Neill MP just before Christmas 2010. Members were referred to the draft letter and they were advised that the reductions were not in line with inflation. Further, the Council needed to continue to reduce costs and included in the budget papers were savings to be made on single site. If any political party wished to present alternative budget proposals, they would have to ensure that these covered the £500,000 savings required.

The Leader gave thanks to the Chief Executive for the work he had done to date on getting the single site project to its current stage. He commented that the budget was challenging and he was pleased to say that staff and scrutiny had been involved in the process.

He also pointed out that additional monies would be spent on economic regeneration as it was important to try and get businesses into the town centres. It was also noted that rural parishes were suffering so the administration were proposing that grant aid to town and parish councils would continue but the Council would expect their support in return.

The Cabinet Member for Resources highlighted that the Council was entering into the most challenging period since the 1970's and the Council needed to play its part in the budget reductions. The settlement equating to a 29% reduction over 2 years was disappointing and that had an effect on how services would be provided and some services would no longer be run in the way there were currently. It was proposed that savings would be achieved through new working practices, increased income and reducing service outputs. Some of the examples he gave included reducing project performance costs, handing over the running of Stourport Community Centre and merging Streetscene and Civil Enforcement. The budget proposals contained a range of measures that the Council could meet to keep solvent in the medium to long term.

Members acknowledged that there would be opportunity to look at the budget proposals in the forthcoming budget scrutiny process and submit alternative proposals.

The Cabinet Member for Community & Partnership Services thanked the Leader and the local M.P. for the meeting they had with the government minister which had been important to the Council. She also asked if a sentence could be added to the draft letter to DCLG regarding extra man hours on the Big Society issue.

Decision:

Cabinet endorses and recommends for Scrutiny:-

- 1. The Council's updated Medium Term Finance Strategy.**
- 2. Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2011/2014 (Appendix 5 of the report to Cabinet).**
- 3. The level of net expenditure and resultant Council Tax for 2011/2014 as per paragraph 3.10 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 4. Income Service Options, including appropriate revision of fees and charges and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2011/14, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 5. The Cabinet approved the Council's response to the provisional Local Government settlement which reflected points already raised in a meeting that the Leader of the Council and Member of Parliament had with Bob Neill MP in December 2010.**

CAB.82 Capital Programme 2010/2011 Onwards

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that made recommendations on the Capital Programme 2010/2011 onwards.

Decision:

Cabinet endorses and recommends to Scrutiny:

- 1. The Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 2. The variations to the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule in accordance with the Council's Budget Process.**
- 3. The Director of Resources funds the Capital Programme including Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal by means of Capital Receipts, Grants or Prudential borrowing using delegated authority as appropriate.**
- 4. The Director of Resources funds short-term temporary borrowing pending the sale of assets, for Single Site funding, from Prudential Borrowing using delegated authority to determine the exact timing and source of such borrowing.**
- 5. The Cabinet notes that the Council has agreed to dispose of surplus assets in order to generate new usable capital receipts for the Single Site Project where this is proven to be economically viable in accordance with the Property Rationalisation Strategy**

CAB.83 Calculation of the Council Tax Base: 2011/2012

A report was considered from the Director of Resources which asked Cabinet to consider the Council Tax base for the Wyre Forest District as required under Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Decision: That pursuant to the report of the Director of Resources and in accordance with the above Act and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the Council Tax base for Wyre Forest District for the financial year 2011/12 shall be:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Upper Arley	345
Bewdley	3726
Broome	169
Chaddesley Corbett	738
Churchill and Blakedown	761

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Town of Kidderminster	18190
Kidderminster Foreign	390
Ribbesford	191
Rock	1205
Rushock	74
Stone	256
Stourport on Severn	7258
Wolverley and Cookley	1802
Tax Base for Wyre Forest District	35105

(Note: The Tax base for 2010/2011 was 34945)

CAB.84 Draft Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3: The Third Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked for Cabinet's retrospective approval of representations submitted to Worcestershire County Council on 'Draft

Decision: The comments and representations, as submitted, and set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet, be agreed as the District Council's formal response to the Draft Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 (October 2010).

CAB.85 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 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.86 Contract for the Provision of 2 x 24 Tonne Refuse Vehicles

A report was considered from the Director of Resources on the procurement of 2 x 24 Tonne Refuse Vehicles.

Members were informed that the Council only required to replace the recycling fleet as the refuse vehicles were covered by the capital programme.

Decision: Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to award the refuse truck contract following the application of the evaluation model in accordance with Rule 8.2 of the Contract Procedure Rules.

CAB.87 Provision of Telephone Switch, Associated Software and Devices

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that asked Cabinet to approve the short list of suppliers, Pre-Tender Evaluation and the Tender Evaluation Model.

Decision:

- 1. Approval be granted to the short list of suppliers, Pre-Tender Evaluation and the Tender Evaluation Model.**
- 2. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to award the Telephone Switch, Associated Software and Devices contract following the application of the evaluation model in accordance with Rule 18.2 of the Contract Procedure Rules.**

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.