

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

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

18TH OCTOBER 2011 (6 PM)

Present:

Councillors: N J Desmond, M J Hart (Chairman), T L Onslow, and J Phillips.

Observers:

Councillor's G Ballinger, H Dyke, F Oborski, J Holden, M Salter, J Shaw and D Sheppard.

CAB.39 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Campion.

CAB.40 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.41 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.42 Call Ins

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

CAB.43 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.44 Leader's Announcements

In the Leaders absence, no announcements were made.

CAB.45 Proposed North Worcestershire Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Shared Service.

A report was received from the Director of Community and Partnership Services, which asked Cabinet to agree the proposal for a North Worcestershire Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Shared Service with Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council from April 1st 2012.

Cabinet noted that this would deliver a cost saving whilst enhancing the emergency and business continuity service within the District. Cabinet welcomed the opportunity to host a shared service and the opportunity to work with District Council colleagues in North Worcestershire.

Decision:

- 1. Wyre Forest District Council host the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Shared Service and delegated authority be given to the Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Resources to progress the implementation of the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Shared Service and the terms of any necessary agreements, in conjunction with Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils and to conclude such agreements.**
- 2. The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being be given delegated authority in consultation with Group Leaders to appoint the Council's representative to a joint management group which will be set up under the arrangements.**
- 3. That upon completion of the agreement referred to in paragraph 1, the delegations from Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council of their Emergency Planning and Business Continuity functions be accepted from 1st April 2012.**

CAB.46 Review of Safeguarding Children Policy

A report was received from the Director of Community and Partnership Services, the purpose of which was to update the Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. Members were advised that there had been minor alterations to the circulated report and an amended report was tabled.

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being outlined the report advising Members that as the District Council was a partner in the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children and Adults Board, the policy had been revised to ensure that it was aligned to Worcestershire County Council policies, thus ensuring consistency in approach. Further, that the policy covered employees and contractors and delivered a comprehensive policy with regards to the protection of the young and vulnerable.

Decision:

- 1. The Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults be approved.**

The Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 2. The Safeguarding Children Policy be adopted**
- 3. The Constitution and Employee Code of Conduct be amended as outlined in 4.8 of the report to Cabinet.**

CAB.47 Future Arrangements for the Management of Sports and Leisure Centres

A report was received from the Director of Community and Partnership Services which asked the Cabinet to make some in principle decisions so further work could be progressed prior to a decision on the future arrangements for the management of the sports and leisure centres at a Cabinet Meeting in January 2012. The report also detailed the results of the customer consultation exercise that had been carried out during July – September 2011 which would be used to shape the final decision.

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being detailed the content of the report and advised Members of the key issues. Members were advised that maintaining the status quo was not an option and that the Council now needed to look at adding value to the leisure centre provision without added costs. Further, that the consultation responses, whilst valuable, were not representative of the demographic of Wyre Forest. Further that work was being undertaken to consider a Community Asset Transfer for the wet and dry facilities at Stourport and Bewdley Leisure Centres and an extension to the current DC Leisure contract was needed whilst the future arrangements were being considered.

Members were advised that a new build leisure centre in Kidderminster was the preferred option; however it was not possible at this point to comment on locations. It was agreed that an exempt appendix detailing the sites, which should have been included with the original report would be circulated following the meeting.

The Cabinet Member also wished to thank the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Officers for the work to date on the Sports and Leisure Centres Review. Further debate ensued and clarification was given on the scheme of delegation and the ability of Cabinet to make future decisions on the Leisure Centres'.

Decision:

- 1. The facility mix and associated affordable capital costs as listed in section 4.25 of the report to Cabinet be noted.**
- 2. The Director of Community and Partnership Services, Director of Resources, the Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services be given delegated authority to work on an affordable new build option or options in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well being. The option/s will be reported back to Cabinet for a final decision in January 2012.**
- 3. An extension to the management contract with DC Leisure be negotiated for a period of 2 years from April 2013 with an option to terminate at 6 months notice on either side.**

4. **The Director of Community and Partnership Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Well being be given delegated authority to progress a negotiated withdrawal from Bewdley Leisure Centre from April 2013 or soonest available date thereafter.**
5. **The ongoing discussions regarding Community Asset Transfers (CAT) for Stourport Sports Centre be concluded by January 2012 and the outcome be reported back to Cabinet.**
6. **The options to close (without a new build) or refurbish the sports and leisure centres be put on hold until further detailed work has been progressed on a new build facility which is affordable and will meet the needs of the District in terms of leisure centre provision (pursuant to the decision in paragraph 2 above).**

CAB.48 Green Street Conservation Area Designation and Draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan

A report was received from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that advised Members on the proposals to designate Green Street as a Conservation Area, to update Members on the content of the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan and to seek approval to go out for public consultation on the draft documents.

The Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping outlined the content of the report and advised that the next stage of the conservation area designation was to begin a consultation exercise.

Members agreed that this was an important area of Kidderminster and should be secured as part of the area's local history. The recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were noted.

Decision:

1. **Consultation be undertaken on the proposal to designate a Green Street Conservation Area.**
2. **Consultation be undertaken on the:**
 - **Proposed Conservation Area Designation: Green Street Area of Kidderminster: Volume 1: Draft Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan: October 2011.**
 - **Proposed Conservation Area Designation: Green Street Area of Kidderminster: Volume 2: Maps and Photographs: October 2011.**
3. **The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services be given delegated authority to determine the final format and presentation of the papers.**

CAB.49 The Civic Centre and Civic Hall Stourport on Severn

A report was received from the Director of Legal and Corporate Services that asked the Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Project Board – Stourport on Severn Facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping advised Members of the content of the report explaining that the asset would be transferred at nil cost with provision for a £500,000 launch fund. This would be made up of £450,000/ £50,000 capital/revenue split as detailed in the business case in the appendix to the report.

Members were advised that the current business case was the outcome of nearly 12 months of partnership work by the Stourport Facilities Project where Councillors and Officers of Wyre Forest District Council, Worcestershire County Council and Stourport Town Council are working together with Stourport Forward, a small team of consultants and latterly members of the recently formed inter-arts group “The Civic” to develop an innovative partnership project proposals. Moreover, the business case “Stourport Live” has the potential to support the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspirations of the Stourport community.

Members discussed the revised value of the Civic Centre and were advised that the value of the building had been updated and that it was an allocated sum contained within the capital programme and contained within the budget and the disposal strategy.

The Chairman of the Project Board Stourport on Severn Facilities addressed the Cabinet and expressed his thanks for all the work carried out by the Board, Officers and volunteers involved in ‘The Civic’.

The recommendations of the Project Board – Stourport on Severn Facilities were noted.

Decision:

- 1. To provide in principle, agreement to the Community Asset Transfer of Stourport Civic Centre and Civic Hall to the Stourport Holding Body following the vacation of the site by the District Council in 2012. The transfer to be at nil cost with provision of a £500,000 launch fund (£450,000/ £50,000 capital/revenue split as per the business case in the appendix to the report to Cabinet).**
- 2. To note the Leader’s intention to delegate to the Cabinet Member for Place Shaping the decision to make the community asset transfer and provide appropriate funding subject to the necessary commitments from appropriate partners and after consultation with the Director of Resources and Director of Legal and Corporate Services.**

CAB.50 National Non-Domestic Rates Write Off of Amounts Outstanding.
Cabinet received a report from the Director of Resources asking that £36,714.51 be written off in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates.

Decision: That the total of £36,714.51 relating in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates, also detailed in the Appendix to the report to Cabinet be written off.

CAB.51 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny committee 6th October 2011.

Cabinet received the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 6th October 2011 regarding the Draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation response.

Decision: The recommendations be noted.

18:52 Councillor Ballinger and Councillor Sheppard leave the meeting.

CAB.52 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 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

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.53 National Non-Domestic Rates Write Off of Amounts Outstanding.

The exempt appendix to the National Non Domestic Rates Write Off report was considered.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.53