

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

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

22ND NOVEMBER 2011 (6.00 PM)

Present:

Councillors: J-P Campion, N J Desmond, M J Hart, T L Onslow and J Phillips.

Observers:

Councillors: H E Dyke, M B Kelly, F M Oborski, M A Salter and J A Shaw.

CAB.53 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.54 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.55 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.56 Call Ins

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

CAB.57 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.58 Leader's Announcements

Members were advised that the Director of Resources would be leaving the Council at the end of February 2012 to take up a position at Stratford-upon-Avon District Council. He was thanked for all the help and support he had given. Members were also informed that a Group Leaders' meeting would be held on 23rd November 2011 where a discussion would be held on the recruitment process.

CAB.59 Eastern Gateway: Concept Feasibility Report

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services which asked the Cabinet to endorse the Concept Feasibility Report and agree that it be used as evidence in support of the emerging Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan. In addition, the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd November 2011 were considered.

Members were advised that the report outlined the aspirations of the Council for the development and improvement of the Eastern Gateway of Kidderminster. The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services and his team were thanked for the work they had carried out.

Members agreed that the project was worthwhile as it was felt that Kidderminster Town Centre would benefit from the improvements.

The Leader of the Council advised Members that a new Town Centre Manager (covering all three towns in the district) was now in place.

Decision: The Eastern Gateway Concept Feasibility Report be adopted as informal planning guidance in support of the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan and the Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus / ReWyre Initiative. Cabinet also agreed that Officers develop a land assembly and disposal strategy.

CAB.60 Budget Monitoring Second Quarter 2011/12

A report was considered from the Director of Resources that outlined the monitoring of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.

The Corporate Management Team were thanked for their help in the savings achieved.

Decision: The projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report to Cabinet and contained in the appendices 2 to 6 to the report be noted.

CAB.61 Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Enforcement Policy

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services which asked Cabinet to agree the adoption of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy and to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd November 2011.

Members were advised that there would no loss to the powers the Council had if the policy was adopted, in that decisions would still be actioned by the Council.

Decision: The Worcestershire Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy be adopted.

CAB.62 Review of the Current Arrangements for the Collection of Waste and Recycling

A report was considered from the Director of Resources which asked Cabinet to recommend to Council that an amendment be made to the terms and conditions of the staff within the Waste and Recycling Service and to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd November 2011.

Decision:

- 1. The principle of a Four Day Waste Collection Service (Tuesday–Friday) be introduced utilizing the Route Optimisation Software.**
- 2. The Director of Resources be given delegated responsibility to undertake the review objectives in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services.**

Recommended to Council:

- 1. To support the amendment to the terms and conditions of the staff within the Waste and Recycling Service in respect of the introduction of a 4 day working week.**
- 2. On the grounds of improvements to the environment and the cost savings it would generate, the frequency of the collection of medical waste be amended to fortnightly, with additional capacity provided if required.**

CAB.63 South Worcestershire Development Plan Preferred Options Response

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services which asked Cabinet to agree that the Draft South Worcestershire Development Plan Response be submitted to the South Worcestershire Authorities as the District Council's representations on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Preferred Options Consultation and to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd November 2011.

Members were advised that Rock Parish Council would make their own representations on the potential site at Clows Top.

The Chairman of the Local Development Framework Review Panel informed Members that the review panel had concerns that approximately 40% of the social housing stock did not seem to be sustainable. It was also believed that the areas of Great Witley and Abberley Common relied on the services of Wyre District area as they were close to the boundary.

Decision: The representations set out at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet for submission to the South Worcestershire Authorities be approved.

CAB.64 Wyre Forest District Council Empty Property Strategy

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked Cabinet to adopt the Wyre Forest District Council Empty Property Strategy and to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6th October 2011.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed Members that although the committee had supported the Empty Property Strategy, concerns had been expressed that the Council did not always act on procedures promptly. It had been highlighted that there was one particular property in the district that had been empty for a number of years and it was felt that more robust legislation was required to give greater powers to local authorities in tackling privately owned empty properties. As a result of this, the Committee had agreed to send a letter to the local MP, Mark Garnier asking if he could act on the request.

In response to a Members' question, it was confirmed that the report covered both affordable and social housing.

Decision: The Wyre Forest District Council Empty Property Strategy be adopted.

CAB.65 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3rd November 2011

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed Members that there were currently four Community Safety Partnerships in Worcestershire and that there had been a good debate at the scrutiny meeting on how the future of the service could operate. The Committee had suggested that there be one strategic board with the proviso that local grass root works continued. Unfortunately the North and South authorities of Worcestershire did not agree with the suggestion. It was also stressed that work continued to be done at ground level to ensure that Wyre Forest was kept as safe as possible.

Future Community Safety Partnership Arrangements

Decision:

Recommended to Council

Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Wyre Forest District Council (as the responsible authority) agrees to the restructuring of the current CSP arrangements into one CSP for North Worcestershire, by merging with Redditch and Bromsgrove CSP's.

CAB.66 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.67 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting.

CAB.68 Review of Homeless Contract with Community Housing Group

A report was considered from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services which considered the review of the homelessness; housing advice and housing register contract (the contract) prior to the third year end and considered possible options for the future of the service delivery and to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd November 2011.

In response to a Member question, the Leader of the Council confirmed that there would be an item on the next meeting of the Group Leaders' agenda that feedback from outside bodies be reported on a regular basis.

Decision:

- 1. The existing Homelessness contract with the Community Housing Group (CHG) be extended for the further two year period (in accordance with the provisions of the existing contract) and that CHG assist the Council to deliver the contract savings set out in the Council's Financial Strategy.**
- 2. The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Director of Legal and Corporate Services undertake the necessary procurement exercise to commission a new contract to take effect from April 2014.**

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.