

Open

Cabinet

Agenda

6.00pm
Tuesday, 23rd April 2013
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Cabinet

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities:-

Councillor J-P Campion	Leader of the Council
Councillor M J Hart	Deputy Leader, Environmental Services
Councillor N J Desmond	Resources and Transformation
Councillor I Hardiman	Community Well-Being
Councillor A Hingley	Place-Shaping

Scrutiny of Decisions of the Cabinet

The Council has one Scrutiny Committee that has power to investigate policy issues and question members of the Cabinet who have special responsibility for a particular area of the Council's activities. The Cabinet also considers recommendations from this Committee.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, and Standing Order 2.4 of Section 7, any item on this agenda may be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee if it is "called in" by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and any other three non-Cabinet members.

The deadline for "calling in" Cabinet decisions is 5pm on 9th May 2013.

Councillors wishing to "call in" a decision on this agenda should contact Sue Saunders, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster. Telephone: 01562 732733 or email susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Urgent Key Decisions

If the Cabinet needs to take an urgent key decision, the consent of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman must be obtained. If the Scrutiny Committee Chairman is unable to act the Chairman of the Council or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council, must give consent. Such decisions will not be the subject to the call in procedure.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

For further information

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Sue Saunders, Committee/Scrutiny Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732733 or email susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

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If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

Wyre Forest District Council

Cabinet

Tuesday, 23rd April 2013

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
3.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 th March 2013.	7
4.	CALL INS a verbal update will be given on any decisions which have been "called in" since the last meeting of the Cabinet.	
5.	Items Requiring Urgent Attention To consider any item which, in the opinion of the Chairman requires consideration at the meeting as a matter of urgency.	
6.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council/Cabinet, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 15 th April 2013. (See front cover for contact details).	
7.	Leader of the Council	
7.1	Leader's Announcements	

8. Securing the Economic Prosperity of the District		
	<i>Councillor John-Paul Campion</i>	
8.1	<p>State of the Area Debate 2013</p> <p>To consider a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asks for agreement of priorities for 2013/14 in support of the Council's priority for securing the Economic Prosperity of this District.</p>	11
8.2	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Councillor John-Paul Campion</i></p> <p>Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Delegation of functions to a Joint Committee (Local Transport Board)</p> <p>To consider a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asks Cabinet to agree appropriate delegations to enable the Council to participate in decision making through the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise partnership by way of a Joint committee or other such decision making body as may be established.</p>	17
9. Improving Community Well-Being		
	<i>Councillor Anne Hingley</i>	
9.1	<p>Green Deal</p> <p>To consider a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which provides Cabinet with information on the development of the Green Deal in Worcestershire and to agree a way forward for Wyre Forest District Council to participate. To also consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4th April 2013.</p>	23
10.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Community Assets & Localism before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

12.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Community Assets & Localism before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
26TH MARCH 2013 (6.00PM)**

Present:

Councillors: J-P Campion, N J Desmond, I Hardiman and M J Hart.

Observers:

Councillors H E Dyke, F M Oborski and J A Shaw.

CAB.77 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A T Hingley.

CAB.78 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.79 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19th February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.80 Call Ins

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

CAB.81 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring attention.

CAB.82 Leader's Announcements

There were no Leader's announcements.

CAB.83 Budget Monitoring Third Quarter 2012/2013

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.

Members were informed that the report had been revised for the third quarter to assist Members in their understanding in how the Council were performing. More illustrations had been included. The Corporate Management Team and officers were thanked for their work.

Members noted the adverse amount of £90,000 for Development Control. It was explained that the number of planning applications received had reduced and it was perceived this was due the financial situation that the country found itself in.

Decision: The projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report to Cabinet and appendices 2 to 5 be noted.

CAB.84 Worcestershire Infrastructure Strategy – Consultation Draft (January 2013)

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asked for approval to submit comments (attached as appendix 2 of the report) to Worcestershire County Council on the latest consultation document and to consider the recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14th March 2013.

Members were informed that a Member Working Group had been convened to enable further scrutiny of the recommendations. The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee also reported that she had sent a letter to Worcestershire County Council expressing the views of the Council. The Planning Policy Manager was thanked for her work.

Decision: Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place to submit representations, the principles of which are set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet, to Worcestershire County Council following feedback from a working group of Members to ensure a response in the strongest possible terms.

CAB.85 Recommissioning the Home Improvement Agency

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asked for Cabinet approval of the process and timetable for recommissioning of the Home Improvement Agency and to consider the recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14th March 2013.

Decision:

- 1. The process and timetable, for recommissioning the Home Improvement Agency be agreed.**

2. **Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place, in consultation with the Director of Resources, officers leading on the procurement process and the Cabinet Member for Place Shaping to agree the evaluation model for the appointment of a new contractor to deliver the Home Improvement Agency Service and to award the contract to the successful tenderer.**

CAB.86 Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 14th March 2013

Housing Assistance Policy

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Members that a robust debate had been held at the scrutiny meeting and questions had been asked on funding and vulnerable people.

Decision:

The Housing Assistance Policy be amended to incorporate the following amendments as detailed in paragraph 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the report to Overview and Scrutiny at its meeting on 14th March 2013.

- **To remove any reference to Kick-Start due to its closure, thus enabling the promotion of alternative provision.**
- **That loans are provided for essential repairs where the property owner has not been able to raise their own finance or they can be demonstrated to be on a low income with less than £150 a week available (following a financial assessment).**
- **Discretionary Adaptation Assistance would be payable, subject to conditions**

CAB.87 Recommendations from the Housing Review Panel 7th February 2013

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Members that the Housing Review Panel had received a presentation which had been well received and there was a possibility that the presentation could be on the agenda of a future meeting of the Members Forum. The Panel were nearing the completion of their work in what had been, to date, a successful review panel.

Decision:

1. **An affordable housing SPD to include more detailed guidance around thresholds, on and off site contributions, size of units, design (including parking) and encouraging the use of modern methods of construction be developed and to refer the document to the Local Development Framework panel for consideration.**

- 2. To include, in standard planning conditions, the ability to claw back (contingent deferred obligations) and similar mechanisms (reassessment of S106 contributions) where the Council agree to a lesser S106 contribution due to economic viability but the scheme does not immediately get built out.**
- 3. The Registered Provider Partnership Agreement and the list of Registered Providers with whom the Council support new housing development in light of changing funding regimes and markets be reviewed.**
- 4. The establishment of a Joint Venture or Local Housing Company approach to delivering housing and developing a revenue funding stream for the Council be explored further.**

The meeting closed at 6.24 pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23RD APRIL 2013

State of the Area Debate 2013

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Economic Success Shared by All
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Securing the Economic Prosperity of this District
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J-P Campion
DIRECTOR:	Director of Economic Prosperity and Place
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Parker, Ext. 2500 Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Progress of 2012/13 activities

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following the State of the Area Debate 2013, agree priorities for 2013/14 in support of the Council's priority for securing the Economic Prosperity of this District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the initiatives agreed at the 2012 State of the Area Debate the Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE**:

- 2.1 Through the Member Champion of the Third Sector in conjunction with the Member Champion for Skills to engage with Community Regeneration Organisations North Worcestershire (CROWN) to explore their contribution to skills development.
- 2.2 To continue to deliver an apprenticeship programme in 2013/14 through Kidderminster College, the details of which will be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Review Group.
- 2.3 To support the establishment of and engagement with the North Worcestershire Employment and Skills board.
- 2.4 To work in partnership with Worcestershire County council to deliver the Hoobrook Link Road in its entirety from Stourport Road to Worcester Road.
- 2.5 To work with Worcestershire County Council on the development of a programme for re-dualling the A449 and A456.
- 2.6 To delegate to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place authority to develop a policy and programme of support for the Business Incubator Units to be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Review Group.

- 2.7 To request the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to develop and implement a scheme of business rate relief support for businesses and linked to their growth and increase in job opportunities to be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Review Group.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2012 the Council held its first State of the Area Debate (SotAD) as part of a comprehensive period of public engagement to stimulate ideas and priorities to support local economic recovery. The process culminated in April 2012 with a report to Cabinet that agreed a series of activities the Council wished to see pursued during this 2012/13 year. A short summary of the action progress is attached at Appendix One to this report.
- 3.2 On 7th March 2013 the Council held a follow up SotAD, preceded by a Regeneration Fair, to consider progress against the activities, to celebrate our successes and to consider what issues still needed to be tackled.
- 3.3 As part of the budget of 2013/14 the Council has set aside a further £500k of capital and £50k of revenue to support this work on economic development and regeneration projects, having agreed £800k of capital and £200k of revenue with an ongoing £100k or revenue in the 2012/13 budget.
- 3.4 The Council still has a very active regeneration programme delivered through Rewyre and the projects currently prioritised as part of this initiative will continue to be progressed.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 Skills

- 4.1.1 One of the successes the Council has brought forward during 2012/13 has been the partnership with Kidderminster College in supporting apprenticeships, with £55k the Council has supported 19 new apprenticeships for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). In addition the Council has taken on two apprentices itself and intends to take on more during 2013/14. With the £50k revenue for this 2013/14 budget it is proposed to continue with the apprenticeships programme and to consider this year targeting some of the monies towards supporting level 3 apprenticeships.
- 4.1.2 One element of activity arising from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBS LEP) membership has been the establishment of a North Worcestershire Employment and Skills Board (ESB). By the time this Cabinet meeting takes place the inaugural meeting of the ESB will have taken place. The ESB will enable North Worcestershire collectively to lever in funding through the City Skills Fund. The GBS LEP has commissioned iC&GS – University of Derby to develop a comprehensive skills and delivery plan by the end of March 2013. Wyre Forest will be able to play a part in the delivery of the plan and more will need to be developed around this area during 2013/14.

The Council will also continue to play its part in delivering the skills agenda through the Worcestershire ESB under the Worcestershire LEP.

- 4.1.3 Reference has been made to the untapped potential of the community and voluntary sector in assisting skills development. It is recognised that this is an area where the Council needs to further develop a dialogue with the Third Sector and especially to investigate what assistance they may be able to give to supporting youngsters who may not fit the criteria for the traditional apprenticeship or college course route.

The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place has already begun discussions with Community Regeneration Organisations Worcestershire North (CROWN) as part of a discussion with Community Action Wyre Forest (CAWF) and this needs to be further developed.

4.2 Connectivity

- 4.2.1 Focus will continue to be on delivering the Hoobrook Link Road in its complete entirety from Stourport Road to Worcester Road. The outcome of the bid for Pinchpoint funding is still awaited at the time of writing this report but whether or not this is successful, the Council in partnership with the County Council will continue to pursue its delivery and alternative funding sources.
- 4.2.2 Another key focus and attention for access remains the re-dualling of the A449 and A456 to assist businesses to access to Worcester and Birmingham and the key motorway networks.
- 4.2.3 Although it also features under the 'centres' heading, the opening up of Worcester Street in Kidderminster to connect it through to Coventry Street/Blackwell Street appears to have been met with general support and this will be a focus of attention with the County Council as part of the Kidderminster Local Transport 3 package.
- 4.2.4 Digital connectivity remains an important issue for this district in support of superfast broadband to enable our businesses to function and grow to their maximum potential. The council will continue to work with the County Council as this Local Broadband Plan develops and a provider is procured to deliver it, to ensure the best opportunities for the district are developed.

4.3 Centres

- 4.3.1 As in 2012 this topic again generated most debate at the 2013 SotAD and the ability to deliver key improvements around the public realm, key regeneration sites such as Eastern Gateway in Kidderminster, opening up Worcester Street in Kidderminster to traffic and developing a vision around future uses on the peripheral edges of the town for diversification such as housing and leisure remain key to creating successful centres. There appeared to be widespread support for developing more housing in the town centres as a way to stimulate supporting retail activity.
- 4.3.2 Initiatives to bring empty shops back into use also continues to be a theme attracting widespread support.
- 4.3.3 The provision of CCTV in Comberton Hill was also mentioned and this needs to be considered in the light of the Taylor Young work in better connecting Comberton Hill and the railway station to the town centre.

4.4 Business

- 4.4.1 The development and delivery of the business incubator units within the district remains a top priority and is anticipated for later in 2013. Alongside the procurement of the unit will need to be the development of the supporting arrangements for the policy and criteria for managing the 'move on' of fledgling businesses through to the business mentoring and support that is necessary to ensure the businesses can grow and become commercially competitive.
- 4.4.2 There is still an unmet need to develop a means of supporting the growth of businesses directly and the issue of business rate relief is always a constant challenge. A proposal to develop a scheme of relief linked to business growth and jobs needs further investigation.
- 4.4.3 The continued development of tourism promotion outside the district is essential. The council is already in discussion with Shropshire about the concept of a Severn Valley corridor linking our offer to the wider Ironbridge offer. This needs to be pursued further as does the opportunity to link to another GBS LEP initiative involving Marketing Birmingham who are to develop the wider strategic tourism offer of the LEP under a Service Level Agreement.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has agreed funding to support economic development and regeneration activities as part of the 2013/14 budget and this will be used alongside the 2012/13 funding to support initiatives going forward.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal or policy implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Will be developed as required for initiatives being brought forward.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The risk associated with individual initiatives will be considered as they are brought forward.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Wyre Forest District Council already have a well established programme of regeneration projects that will continue to be developed through the Re-Wyre initiative. The SotAD initiatives will be developed alongside the Re-Wyre Programme.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Corporate Management Team.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Cabinet 17th April 2012.

2012/13 State of the Area Initiatives – Progress Report

Initiative	Progress
1. To establish a cross party Cabinet Review Group to oversee expenditure on projects funded in 2012/13.	The group has been established and will be expanded in 2013/14 to include an Independent Community Health Concern Member.
2. To establish a budget of £50k to support a programme of apprenticeships.	The fund of £55k was set aside for this purpose and supported 19 apprenticeships.
3. To develop a Kidderminster Town Centre Action Plan focused on public realm improvements.	Taylor Young Urban Designers have been commissioned and are producing a Public Realm Design Framework.
4. To bring forward public realm improvements in Bewdley and Stourport.	So far, in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council, works have been progressed in Bewdley.
5. To develop a Kidderminster Town Team.	In place and meeting regularly.
6. To develop an action plan for business incubator units.	Well advanced and at the point of securing suitable premises.
7. To develop a package of measures to support new and development of businesses.	This is still progressing having spent some time in discussion with Finance Birmingham reviewing options.
8. To work with the County Council on the Local Broadband Plan.	This is still ongoing and depends on the appointment of a broadband provider.
9. For the North Worcestershire Tourism Association body to promote this district in adjoining areas.	This is still progressing.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23RD APRIL 2013

**Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Delegation of functions
to a Joint Committee (Local Transport Board)**

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Economic Success Shared by All
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Securing the Economic Prosperity of this District
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J-P Campion
DIRECTOR:	Director of Economic Prosperity and Place
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Parker Ext 2500 Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Local Transport Board Terms of Reference

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree appropriate delegations to enable the Council to participate in decision making through the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise partnership by way of a Joint committee or other such decision making body as may be established.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet DECIDE:

- 2.1 To approve the creation of a Local Transport Board for Members of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership hosted by Birmingham City Council, to be established from April 2013 as a Joint Committee or similar governance body.
- 2.2 To agree the Leader of Wyre Forest District Council as the North Worcestershire representative on the Joint Committee or other similar governance body.
- 2.3 To delegate to the Local Transport Board functions relating to the approval of expenditure for transport schemes in the area of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 2.4 To delegate to the Leader of Council, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team the authority to agree the establishment of and powers to be delegated to any future Joint Committee or similar governance body established through the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership for the purpose of exercising its powers and/or agreeing expenditure that has been devolved to the Local Enterprise Partnership.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Wyre Forest district Council together with the Councils for Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District are all members of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise partnership (GBS LEP) (as well as members of the Worcestershire LEP).
- 3.2 The North Worcestershire partners already share responsibility for representing each other on the various Boards and Groups established through the GBS LEP at both Member and officer levels e.g. The Leader of Bromsgrove District Council is the representative on the GBS LEP Board; the Leader of Wyre Forest District Council is the representative in this Strategic Transport Group.
- 3.3 Until now however, none of these Boards or Groups have formally committed any of the member authorities to act in a particular way in exercising any of our statutory or discretionary powers or in relation to decisions of delegated expenditure.
- 3.4 In September 2012, following a period of consultation, the department for Transport (DfT) set out its proposals for the devolution of funding for Local Major Transport Schemes from 2015. Historically these monies (for schemes up to £5m) would have been passported directly to the appropriate local highway authority i.e. Worcestershire County Council for Worcestershire authorities.
- 3.5 In January 2013 the DfT set out more detail in terms of the actual allocations to be devolved to the LEPs. Despite the North Worcestershire representation during the consultation that our preference was for our respective allocations to be divided equally across the two LEPs that we are members of, DfT announced the following:
- Wyre Forest District Council 100% to Worcestershire LEP* £100,200.00
 - Redditch Borough Council 50% to Worcestershire LEP £ 43,250.00
 - Bromsgrove District Council 50% to Worcestershire LEP £ 48,500.00

 - Redditch Borough Council 50% to GBS LEP £ 43,250.00
 - Bromsgrove District Council 50% to GBS LEP £ 48,500.00

 - The Council has made representations to DfT regarding its preference to mirror the Redditch and Bromsgrove 50:50 split.
- 3.6 The GBS LEP has responded to DfT as required by the end of February 2013 with its proposals for the governance structure to oversee the expenditure of these monies via a Local Transport Board established as a formal Joint Committee.
- 3.7 The proposed Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee are shown at Appendix 1 to this report and Members will note that the North Worcestershire authorities will have one voting seat on the proposed Local Transport Board (LTB). The North Worcestershire Partners have agreed for continuity that the Leader of Wyre Forest District Council will be the representative on this LTB and each authority is now in the process of agreeing the necessary delegations to effect this representation.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Each of the three North Worcestershire councils needs to agree the necessary delegations to enable the Leader of Wyre Forest District Council to act on their behalf in making decisions on the Joint Committee.
- 4.2 However, this may not be the only occasion going forward that such delegations may be required. Members will be aware that the GBS LEP was recently the pilot LEP for Lord Heseltine to 'test' the recommendations of his 'No Stone Unturned' report of October 2012; this report set out some challenging new ideas to support local economic growth and the role of the Local Enterprise Partnerships and how more expenditure and decision making power could be devolved to them from Central Government. The Government's response published in March 2013 accepted in full or in part 81 of Lord Heseltine's 89 recommendations and in particular encouraged continued collaboration where authorities wished to work together. This and the agreement to establish a 'single pot' for monies devolved to LEPs from Whitehall departments is likely to lead to further joint governance arrangements emerging through the LEPs and to this end the Council may wish to have in place this necessary delegations to be able to respond quickly and effectively when such proposals come forth.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The devolved Local Major Transport Scheme Funding would ordinarily have been passported through to Worcestershire County Council so the fact that such monies are being devolved directly to the LEPs will have no impact on this districts' own finances.
- 5.2 Future decisions on funding streams that might be devolved to the district but might in future be devolved to the LEPs will have to be made at the appropriate time that any such proposals come forward. Clearly the Council will only be able to act without further authority when such proposals fall within the agreed Council budget.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has the ability to delegate authority to be exercised via the Joint Committee proposed for the Local Transport Body.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 If the Council decides not to take part in the new LTB it will risk not being part of key strategic transport decision making that it could benefit from along with its North Worcestershire partners.
- 7.2 The North Worcestershire economic development and regeneration shared service has a Client management Group (CMG) that oversees the service and makes joint key strategic decisions and through this means the North Worcestershire representative on the Joint Committee will be charged with effecting the vote for the collective North Worcestershire partners benefit.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An EIA is not necessary in this instance.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The GBS LEP proposes to establish a Local Transport Board with the Joint Committee structure to determine, in this first instance, expenditure across the LEP geography (including North Worcestershire) in respect of the DfT's devolved Local Major Transport Scheme funding. It is proposed that each of the three North Worcestershire authorities delegate as necessary to the North Worcestershire representative on this LTB to exercise decisions as part of the Joint Committee.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Corporate Management Team.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 The LTB Proposed Terms of Reference.

**GREATER BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL
LOCAL TRANSPORT BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE** Appendix 3

Strategic Objectives	Remit
<p>a) Ensure that value for money is achieved regarding the devolved local authority major scheme funding;</p> <p>b) Identify a prioritised list of investments within the available budget;</p> <p>c) Make decisions on individual scheme approval, investment decision making and release of funding, including scrutiny of individual scheme business cases;</p> <p>d) Monitor progress of scheme delivery and spend;</p> <p>e) Actively manage the devolved budget and programme to respond to changes in circumstances (for example scheme slippage, scheme alteration or cost increases);</p> <p>f) Engage government in dialogue to ensure resource is maximised and additional funding streams are coordinated; and</p> <p>g) Fully participate in the development of strategic cross boundary schemes.</p>	<p>1. To promote and, where appropriate, present a view on the transport priorities of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Sub-Region.</p> <p>2. To make decisions on devolved major transport schemes, in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Transport;</p> <p>3. To work across LEP Boundaries to ensure the development of strategic cross boundary schemes;</p> <p>4. To determine which major transport schemes should have resources allocated to them from any funding the Board controls or will control in the future;</p> <p>5. To maximise and co-ordinate additional funding streams;</p> <p>6. To have responsibility for ensuring value for money is achieved;</p> <p>7. To identify a prioritised list of investments within the available budget;</p> <p>8. To make decisions on individual scheme approvals, investment decision making and release of funding, including the scrutiny of individual scheme business cases;</p> <p>9. To monitor progress of scheme delivery and spend;</p> <p>10. To actively manage the devolved budget and programme to changed circumstances, including scheme slippage, alteration, cost variances, etc;</p> <p>11. To engage consultants, subjects to funds being available to assist the Board in scheme appraisal and additional work where needed;</p> <p>12. To consider any matter within these Terms of Reference referred to it by any constituent Council, any agency including Government Departments, The GBSLEP, the West Midlands Joint Committee and West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority and Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Council as member LTA's;</p> <p>13. To review, and where appropriate, respond to consultation on policy and frameworks; including Local Transport Plans of the GBS geography</p> <p>14. To promote best practice in all matters within these Terms of Reference.</p>
Membership	
As per appendix 1	

APPENDIX 1

GREATER BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL LOCAL TRANSPORT BOARD COMPOSITION (GBS LTB)

<p><u>FULL MEMBERS</u></p>	<p>GBSLEP 3x private sector members of the LEP Board (of which x1 will be the LEP Transport Lead Member)</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council (Highway Authority) Leader or nominated substitute x1</p>	<p>Solihull MBC (Highway Authority) Leader or nominated substitute x1</p>	<p>WM Integrated Transport Authority (Local Transport Authority for Birmingham & Solihull) Lead member representing the WMITA Or Substitute X1</p>	<p>GBSLEP Shire Districts X1 representative for North Worc districts And X 1 representative for southern staffs districts Leader or nominated substitute</p>	<p>County Council's X1 representative for Staffordshire X1 representative for Worcestershire (Local Transport Authority) Leader or nominated substitute</p>
<p>Also in attendance at the LTB will be Chair of the Strategic Transport Advisory Group (as the Accountable Body representative) as Technical Advisor as well as a representative from the Black Country LTB.</p>						
<p><u>STRATEGIC TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP</u></p> <p>1 representative for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham CC • Solihull MBC • Bromsgrove District Council • Cannock Chase District Council • East Staffordshire Borough Council • Lichfield District Council • Redditch Borough Council • Tamworth Borough Council • Wyre Forest District Council • LTB's – Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Stoke & Staffs, The Marches & Worcestershire • Staffordshire & Worcestershire County Council's. • Highways Agency • DFT • Centro/ITA • Network Rail • Birmingham Airport • Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group • Business Representatives <p><u>OBSERVER MEMBERS</u></p>						

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**CABINET**
23RD APRIL 2013**Green Deal**

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Improving Community Wellbeing
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor A T Hingley
DIRECTOR:	Director of Economic Prosperity and Place
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jenny Moreton, Ext. 2569 Jennifer.moreton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with information on the development of the Green Deal in Worcestershire and to agree a way forward for Wyre Forest District Council to participate.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Cabinet is recommended to DECIDE:**

- 2.2 **That the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping to make the final decision which Green Deal delivery model is most appropriate for the District Council to participate in and to make the necessary arrangements for the District Council to access the scheme.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Green Deal is a new national financing mechanism for energy efficiency improvements launched by the government on 28th January 2013. The Green Deal is aimed at both the domestic and the commercial building sectors. It is based on the principle that the energy saving, (reduction in energy bill), made after energy efficiency measures have been installed in the home or business premises, is used to pay back the cost of installing the energy efficiency measures.
- 3.2 Accompanying the Green Deal is the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for the domestic sector. This is funded by fuel utility companies. ECO is split into three strands, of which two provide fully funded energy efficiency measures for residents. These are; affordable warmth, (funding dependent on the resident's situation e.g. qualifying benefits), and Carbon Saving Communities (funding for Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the top 15% Index and Multiple Deprivation (IMD)). This will also include a rural element for settlements of less than 10,000 people.

The third strand would provide partial funding for projects such as solid wall insulation that would not meet the 'golden rule', (e.g. energy efficiency measures that do not achieve the savings needed to take on a Green Deal), without ECO top up.

- 3.3 There is an expectation that local authorities are to have an active role in the Green Deal as there is a statutory requirement to report on involvement to Central Government via the recently relaunched Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA).
- 3.4 Over the last year, the County and District Councils in Worcestershire have been working together on developing a county wide delivery model for the Green Deal.
- 3.5 Encraft consultants were appointed to assess the following delivery model options for Worcestershire, which had previously been approved by the Worcestershire Chief Executives Panel and Worcestershire Partnership Board~:
- A) Worcestershire as a Green Deal provider (i.e. to raise the finance and procure the Green Deal assessors and delivery contractors).
 - B1) Worcestershire Local Authorities partner with Birmingham City Council (BCC) as part of their Birmingham Energy Savers scheme. BCC has appointed Carillion to deliver this scheme. All West Midlands local authorities were invited to be named in BCC's Official Journal of the European Union (OJUE) tender for a Green Deal delivery partner including Wyre Forest District Council. Signing up to the OJUE did not commit councils to anything but offered the opportunity to use the delivery partner if desired.
 - B2) Worcestershire LAs partner with another national provider, which would provide finance and/or the Green Deal installations in the LA area.
 - C) Worcestershire LAs support a local agency to market the Green Deal via a panel of selected providers.

These options were explored through a series of workshops and interviews, as well as research carried out by Encraft.

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Green Deal proposal at its meeting of 4th April and recommendations will be available for this meeting.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The primary objectives for the delivery of the Green Deal in Worcestershire were identified by the Worcestershire group and partners as:

- **Delivering local jobs, business and social enterprise opportunities**
- **Addressing fuel poverty and the health impacts of cold homes**

whilst addressing as many of the following objectives as possible;

- Address rural areas' needs
- Include 'hard to treat' homes

- Maximise the take up within the county
- Provide training and apprenticeship opportunities
- Is inclusive of all tenures
- Unlock further private investment opportunities
- Is available for local SME's
- Provide added social benefits e.g. promote other benefits such as provision of benefit and health checks, links to other services.

4.2 The key outcomes from the Encraft report were:

Potential market for Worcestershire

- 4.2.1 The Green Deal and ECO have the potential to stimulate at least £145 million of investment potential in terms of energy efficient retrofit of Worcestershire's properties over the next 10 years. This is a conservative estimate based on limited initial take up.
- 4.2.2 The key market for the domestic sector is expected to be solid wall insulation. It is estimated that 41.6% of dwellings in Wyre Forest have un-insulated solid walls or hard to treat cavity walls. Over half of the expected non domestic market is expected to be for lighting improvements.
- 4.2.3 Access to ECO is fundamental to making the Green Deal work at any scale in the domestic sector. ECO is also the dominant mechanism in addressing fuel poverty and wider social and health benefits.

Expected benefits for Worcestershire

- 4.2.4 The level of investment above is expected to support around 200 skilled installation jobs and just under 1000 jobs in the supply chain over the next 10 years, for example, in manufacturing and distribution. All the key trades required are already operating within Worcestershire but there will be a need for re-training around solid wall insulation for specific insulation systems. There will also be need for specific Green Deal accreditation in some sectors.
- 4.2.5 The above investment should also lift more than 6000 homes across Worcestershire out of fuel poverty, (based on current conditions). It should be noted that the definition of fuel poverty is under review nationally. This could ultimately alter the figures at a later date.
- 4.2.6 Improved thermal comfort for residents will improve their quality of life, make energy bills more affordable, have added health benefits and will ultimately prevent hospital admissions from cold related illness.
- 4.2.7 By taking a proactive approach to the Green Deal and ECO, Worcestershire will have the best opportunity of accessing and improving upon this level of investment. Without input from Local Authorities, Worcestershire residents could lose out on access to fuel utility funding, as collectively we should be able to lever in significantly more funding rather than allowing the market to dictate to individual properties.

Delivery models

- 4.2.8 On completion of the research, Encraft recommended option C as the best delivery model for Worcestershire in the medium to long term, as providing the most control to Worcestershire LAs at least risk. Currently Encraft are testing models in Worcester City around Houses in Multiple Occupation as well as the B1 option and will report back their final recommendations. In the short term it was recommended that existing arrangements through the Warmer Worcestershire network be utilised for drawing down ECO funding for the fuel poor until a clearer picture of the workings of delivery models has been determined. This should be arrived at as final details of the Green Deal and ECO are confirmed by central Government along with the outcomes of pilot projects currently underway.
- 4.3 The Encraft report was presented to the Worcestershire Chief Executive's Panel in December 2012. The main outcome was the majority preferred option C, to deliver the Green Deal through a local agency, and this option is now being further explored by the Green Deal Project Group. Bromsgrove and Redditch are also considering option B1 to partner with Carillion via the Birmingham contract and are seeking further detail about options C and B1 before making a decision.
- 4.4 If B1 is pursued Wyre Forest has already signed up to the procurement process so no further procurement arrangements would be required. If Option C is pursued, the Local Authorities in the county will need to undertake a formal process for identifying a provider.
- 4.5 Until arrangements in Worcestershire are finalised, Act on Energy is to offer residents advice on the Green Deal/ ECO, as part of its existing service level agreements with each district council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial issues are being considered on an ongoing basis in the development of the Green Deal. The Council expects to cover any set up costs from the existing Regional Housing monies devolved through Decent Homes Funding and will aim for a model of cost recovery. Any financial implications arising from the final preferred scheme that extend beyond existing budgets will be reported back to Cabinet for further decision making.
- 5.2 Green Deal advice is currently being offered as part of existing service level agreement with Act on Energy.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a statutory requirement to report on involvement in the Green deal to Central Government via the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA).

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Failure to implement energy saving measures increases residents' vulnerability to future rises in energy and fuel costs.

- 7.2 The council is expected to lead by example in encouraging energy efficiency in order to tackle climate change and fuel poverty and is required to report on activity through HECA. Failure to provide local leadership on the Green Deal will undermine this area of work.
- 7.3 Significant ECO funding will be available to residents in Wyre Forest and Worcestershire. Failure to actively seek this funding will mean our residents could miss out.
- 7.4 The Green deal and ECO provide opportunities for the local economy. Failure to develop a delivery model which maximises these opportunities would again that the district misses out.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment has not been carried out at this stage. This will need to be undertaken when the delivery vehicle has been identified.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Work is continuing on the development of a Green Deal delivery model, although a final decision on the most appropriate model for the district council has not yet been finalised. Cabinet is asked to note the progress with the Green Deal and to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place with the Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping to agree the final details of a preferred scheme.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Worcestershire Green Deal Project group.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Not applicable.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23rd April 2013

Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4th April 2013

The Green Deal

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided Members with an update on the development of the Green Deal in Worcestershire.

Members were advised the Green Deal was a new national financing mechanism for energy efficiency improvement launched by the Government on 28th January 2013. It was based on the principle that the energy saving made after energy efficiency measures had been installed in the home or business premises, was used to pay back the cost of installing the energy efficiency measures.

Over the last year, the County and District Councils in Worcestershire had been working together on developing a county wide delivery model for the Green Deal.

Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. The final decision on the Green Deal delivery model is delegated to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.**
- 2. A briefing note be provided for Members when further information on the delivery model is known.**