

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
23RD APRIL 2013 (6.00PM)**

Present:

Councillors: J-P Champion, N J Desmond, I Hardiman, M J Hart and A T Hingley.

Observers:

Councillors H E Dyke and F M Oborski.

CAB.88 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.89 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.90 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26th March 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.91 Call Ins

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

CAB.92 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.93 Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council informed Members that the Government were proposing to make amendments to the Planning legislation and this was currently being progressed through the House of Lords. The Council had made representations to the Local Government Association.

CAB.94 State of the Area Debate 2013

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which asked for agreement of priorities for 2013/14 in support of the Council's priority for securing the Economic Prosperity of this District.

Members were taken through the report and informed that the Hoobrook Link Road would be the biggest infrastructure in the district since the building of the Bewdley by-pass. They were also advised that it was hoped that the first Business Incubator Unit would be ready for use by September 2013.

Members agreed that the apprenticeship scheme had been a success and noted that further money would be available for continuation of the scheme.

Members of the Cabinet Review Group were thanked for their continued work and for the debates that had been held. The State of the Area debate has been well received.

Members all agreed that the recommendations were robust and all supported the local economy.

Decision:

In addition to the initiatives agreed at the 2012 State of the Area Debate, the following be agreed:

- 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. 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.**
- 3. The establishment of and engagement with the North Worcestershire Employment and Skills board be supported.**
- 4. To work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council to deliver the Hoobrook Link Road in its entirety from Stourport Road to Worcester Road.**
- 5. To work with Worcestershire County Council on the development of a programme for re-dualling the A449 and A456.**
- 6. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to develop a policy and programme of support for the Business Incubator Units to be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Review Group.**
- 7. The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be requested 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.**

CAB.95 Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Delegation of functions to a Joint Committee (Local Transport Board)

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place and Place which asked Cabinet to agree appropriate delegations to enable the Council to participate in decision making through the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise partnership by way of a Joint Committee or other such decision making body as may be established.

Decision:

- 1. 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 be approved.**
- 2. The Leader of Wyre Forest District Council as the North Worcestershire representative on the Joint Committee or other similar governance body be agreed.**
- 3. Delegated authority be granted 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.**
- 4. Delegated authority be granted to the Leader of Council, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team 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.**

CAB.96 Green Deal

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which provided 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.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Members that the report had been received well and there had been lots of questions asked. Further information had been asked to be provided at a future scrutiny meeting once details were known on the Green Deal delivery model.

Decision: Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place 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.

Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4th April 2013

Decision:

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

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm.