

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
21ST JANUARY 2014 (6.00 PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: H E Dyke, M Price and J A Shaw.

Before the meeting commenced the Leader of the Council asked for a period of silence in memory of the late Honorary Alderman Elizabeth Mills.

CAB.47 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.48 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor M J Hart declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item no. 8.1 - Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax Setting 2014-15 as he had rental properties that might fall within the Class C category of the Council Tax Discount Scheme but would remain in the meeting.

Councillor N J Desmond Declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item no. 8.1 - Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax Setting 2014-15 as he had rental properties that might fall within the Class C category of the Council Tax Discount Scheme but would remain in the meeting.

CAB.49 Minutes

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

CAB.50 Call Ins

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

CAB.51 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.52 Leader's Announcements

There were no Leader's Announcements.

CAB.53 Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax Setting 2014-15

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which updated the strategy following the funding announcements together with updates for the position in relation to New Homes Bonus, the Council Tax Base, the Pensions Actuarial Revaluation and other areas where further information is now available.

Members were taken through the report and advised that the recommendations would be sent to the Strategic Review Committee for their consideration and there would be an opportunity at that meeting for alternative budgets from other parties to be discussed. A final decision on the budget process would be made at the Council meeting in February 2014.

Members were also advised that the Council were currently conducting a Council Tax consultation asking for feedback.

Decision:

The following recommendations be endorsed and recommended to the Strategic Review Committee for consideration.

- 1. The updates to the Medium Term Finance Strategy as considered by Council in November, as set out in paragraphs 4.4, 5.1, 6.1, 7.6 and 8.2 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 2. The level of net expenditure and resultant Council Tax for 2014/17 as set out in paragraph 10 of the report to Cabinet.**
- 3. The Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as set out in Appendix 1, Appendices A and B of the report to be Cabinet.**
- 4. The variations to the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule in accordance with the Council's Budget Process.**
- 5. The first £338,000 of the Right to Buy (RTB) receipts in 2014/15 be allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants (to a maximum Capital budget of £800,000) any subsequent RTB Capital Receipts be allocated to general capital reserves. The allocation of future years' RTB receipts, will be considered in future budget setting processes.**
- 6. The initial £1m funding allocated for the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme be removed from the Capital Programme given the launch of the Government's Help to Buy Scheme and withdrawal of the Lloyds Banking Group from this initiative.**

7. **The discount for dwellings in Class C prescribed by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwelling) (England) Regulations 2003 No 3011 shall, with effect from 1 April 2014, be one hundred per cent for the first 31 days only and zero per cent thereafter as set out in paragraph 9 of the report to Cabinet.**

CAB.54 Recommendations from Committees

Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 9th January 2014

Home Choice Plus Allocation Policy Review

Members had concerns that a social landlord was to withdraw from the system the Council operated and felt it could make life difficult for residents in the future.

Decision:

- **Approval be given to the Strategic Housing Services Team to consult on the proposed allocations policy changes.**
- **The Home Choice Plus questionnaire as attached at Appendix 2 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved as the appropriate means to undertake the consultation.**
- **The results of the consultation be brought back to a further meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval of the final policy.**

The meeting closed at 6.19 pm.