

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
16TH DECEMBER 2014 (6.00PM)**

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), J-P Campion, N J Desmond, H E Dyke and A T Hingley.

Observers:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, F M Oborski and J A Shaw.

CAB.27 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.28 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.29 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.30 Call Ins

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

CAB.31 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.32 Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council advised that the Local Government settlement announcement was still awaited.

CAB.33 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-18

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which provided Cabinet with financial information in order to make proposals for the Budget Strategy for period 2015-18.

Members were taken through the report and the key issues were highlighted which included a joint saving of £1m of moving into Wyre Forest House and moving to one location for the new leisure centre.

There was a proposal to commit to parish councils to take over community assets and a fund of £50K would be created.

A proposal was made to increase fees and charges which would generate income and hopefully protect front line services.

It was also proposed that the Town Centre Manager role would be funded for a further three years. The current post holder had done some excellent work across the towns in the Wyre Forest area and it was hoped this would continue.

The Corporate Leadership Team were thanked for their help and advice and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Transformation stated he looked forward to working with the other political parties to achieve a consensus on the budget before it was finalised at the Council meeting in February 2015.

A Member asked for information relating to the proposed £1m left in reserves compared to the previous four years and this would be provided.

Decision:

- 1. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 1 of the report to Cabinet be noted.**
- 2. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 2 of the report to Cabinet be approved and delegated authority be granted to the relevant officer in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet member that all other future decisions on fees and charges in respect of what are currently executive functions (other than car parking charges).**

The following be endorsed and recommended to the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel for scrutiny:

- 3. The Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
 - 3.1. Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2015-18 (Appendix 3) including;**
 - a) The creation of two new Localism Funds of £25k each. One fund would be for Parish Councils and the second for a wider range of local community groups; this would continue and extend the good work done so far with Parish and Town Councils;**
 - b) Funding for town centre manager post (growth item). The cost of this over the three years of the Strategy is £100,880;**

c) **Approval for the Members' Fund for 2016-17 of £33k.**

- 3.2 The level of net expenditure and resultant Council Tax for 2015-18 as per paragraph 8.2;**
- 3.3 The fees and charges in line with this strategy and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2015-18, as shown in Part 3 of Appendix 4, including Cabinet Proposals to increase external income by agreeing new charges for some services, included in Appendix 3;**
- 3.4 The Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as set out in Appendix 6, Appendices A and B;**
- 3.5 The variations to the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule in accordance with the Council's Budget Process;**
- 3.6 The first £244,000 of Right to Buy (RTB) receipts in 2015-16 and subsequent years be allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants (to a maximum Capital budget of £800,000) and any extra RTB Capital Receipts be allocated to general capital reserves.**

CAB.34 National Non-Domestic Rates Write-off of Amounts Outstanding

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which asked Cabinet to give consideration to the writing off of £85,612.87 in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates.

Members were informed that every effort had been made to collect the outstanding sum of money but despite rigorous work, it had not been possible to do so.

Decision: The total of £85,612.87 relating to outstanding National Non-Domestic Rates, as detailed in the Appendix of the report to Cabinet, be written off.

CAB.35 Kidderminster's Music Heritage Trail

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place that asked for approval of the Music Heritage Trail. The recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4th December 2014 were also considered.

Members were taken through the report and informed that Kidderminster had developed strong links with music and arts in the town going back to 1885. The consultation would run for 6 weeks and a final report would be presented in Spring 2015.

Decision: The Music Heritage Trail (attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet) be approved for consultation.

CAB.36 Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 214 – Consideration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Kidderminster Town Centre

A report was considered from the Director of Community, Wellbeing & Environment which asked for authority to be given to undertake a consultation for the implementation of a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre and subject to that consultation for a PSPO to be granted.

Members received a comprehensive report and advised they were pleased that the Council were progressing with the consultation as there had been issues in the town centre previously. It was also agreed that Father Lamb be added to the list of consultees.

Decision:

- 1. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Community Wellbeing and Environment to undertake consultation for a period of 28 days, commencing 5th January 2015, on the implementation of a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre such order to be for a period of 3 years from the date it is made.**
- 2. The results of the consultation process to be reported to the March 2015 Cabinet with a recommendation on whether or not to proceed to make the Order for a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre.**

Councillor G W Ballinger left the meeting at this point, (6.43pm).

CAB.37 ReWyre – A Strategic Action Plan for the Next 5 Years

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which advised Cabinet of the key outcomes of the ReWyre Renewed 2014 Autumn Conference held in October 2014, to agree priorities for the ReWyre initiative for the period 2015-2019 and additional activities in support of the Council's priority to contribute to a successful local economy.

Members were taken through the report and the key achievements delivered by ReWyre and the State of the Area Debate were gone through in detail. Members stated that all the hard work that had been carried out would benefit the businesses and residents of Wyre Forest and hopefully would generate more jobs in the town of Kidderminster.

In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that the Weavers Cottages had been the subject of lottery funding and an agreed plan was in place.

A Member referred to the businesses in Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster and asked if there would be any grant money available for the owners. In response, Members were advised that the private developer was dealing with this.

Decision:

1. **The outcomes of the ReWyre Project over the last five years be noted.**
2. **The ReWyre Action Areas 2015-19 as set out at paragraph 4.8 of the report to Cabinet be agreed.**

CAB.38 Recommendations from Committees

Overview & Scrutiny, 6th November 2014

- **Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report**

Decision: The Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report be noted.

CAB.39 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.40 Disposal of Land

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place on disposal of land.

Decision:

1. **Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Operational Services to:**
 - a. **Agree terms for and dispose of land referred to in the confidential report to Cabinet for a capital receipt that will be made available for the Evergreen Investment Fund.**
 - b. **Take the other consequential steps identified in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the confidential report to Cabinet.**

The meeting closed at 19.21 pm.