

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

23RD JUNE 2015 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), J-P Campion, S J Chambers, N J Desmond, S E Fearn and I Hardiman.

Observers:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, H E Dyke and F M Oborski MBE.

CAB.1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.2 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.3 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17th March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.4 Call Ins

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

CAB.5 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.6 Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council advised that he had made changes to the Cabinet for the new municipal year, and introduced his Cabinet colleagues. He gave thanks to Councillors H E Dyke and A Hingley for being part of last year's Cabinet. He also advised that following the elections in May and June, the new make-up of the Council had been determined.

CAB.7 Report on Provisional Final Accounts 2014-15

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which presented the provisional outturn position in relation to the Final Accounts for 2014-15.

The Cabinet Member for Resources was pleased to announce there was a positive variance of £510,800 compared to the revised budget, which will enable additional funds to be added to the Council's earmarked reserves.

Members of the Corporate Leadership Team, Service Area Managers and Staff were thanked on behalf of the Administration for achieving the savings through their prudent financial management.

Decision: To note that as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet:-

- 1. Following the creation of the additional earmarked reserves detailed below, savings compared to the revised budget of £260,800 have been generated from the 2014/15 surplus.**
- 2. That £100,000 from the 2014/15 savings has been used to create an earmarked reserve for Business Rate Funding shortfalls, further detail is provided in paragraph 4.2.**
- 3. That £150,000 from the 2014/15 savings has been used to increase the existing earmarked reserve for the Transformation Fund to continue to meet the costs of our challenging Wyre Forest Forward Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.6.**

CAB.8 Welfare Support Fund – consultation on potential changes to council tax reduction scheme for 2016-17 onwards

A report was considered from the Chief Executive on whether to consult on potential changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016-17 onwards.

Members were informed that Wyre Forest District Council had been at the forefront of introducing the scheme within Worcestershire in 2013, and it was an appropriate time to review the scheme following the introduction of schemes across three other Councils within the County.

Decision: The issuing of the consultation paper in appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet be approved.

CAB.9 Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Adoption

A report was considered from the Planning Policy Manager which updated Members on the responses received to the Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation and to agree the final version of the SPD for formal Adoption. The recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny at its meeting on 4th June 2015 were also considered.

Members were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the report and a full discussion had been held.

Decision:

- 1. The Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document as set out at Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet be adopted and that the Consultation Statement as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed for publication.**
- 2. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to make any final changes to the formatting and images of the Supplementary Planning Document.**

CAB.10 Extensions to Leases at Coppice Industrial Estate

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to agree to extend a number of leases on the Council owned Coppice Industrial Estate, Kidderminster.

Members were advised extending the leases of those tenants wishing to do so would support the Council's priority to enable growth in the local economy.

Decision:

- 1. To extend the leases of those tenants on the Coppice Industrial Estate indicating a desire to do so and to place the premiums in the Evergreen Investment Fund.**
- 2. To delegate to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, the authority to undertake all necessary legal and financial negotiations and administration required to complete the lease extensions.**
- 3. To delegate to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, the authority to continue to negotiate with those tenants not currently wishing to extend their leases and, if they wish to proceed at some future date, the authority to complete the necessary legal and financial negotiations and administration to complete them.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.31pm.