

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER  
22ND DECEMBER 2015 (6.00 PM)**

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**Present:**

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

**Observers:**

Councillors: N Knowles, T A Muir, F M Oborski MBE and J A Shaw.

**CAB.46 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.47 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.48 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.49 Call Ins**

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

**CAB.50 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.51 Leader's Announcements**

Following his update to Members at the December Council meeting, the Leader of the Council advised that a meeting of the seven Worcestershire Leaders was scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 regarding the Syrian Refugees relocation scheme. The Leader would provide a further update following the meeting.

**CAB.52 Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation Responses**

A report was considered from the Planning Policy Manager which informed Cabinet of the level and scope of the responses received in relation to the public consultation undertaken on the Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration advised that the consultation paper represented the first phase in the review of the District's Local Plan and had informed the preferred options development. He stressed the importance of the continuation of the preferred options development in line with the timescales set out in the Revised Local Development Scheme, to ensure that the District Council continued to have an up to date plan in place to guide future development.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Planning Policy Officers and Members of the Local Plans Review Panel for their hard work and was pleased with the high response to the consultation, 1631 comments had been received during the consultation period.

**Decision:**

- 1. The consultation responses received to the Issues and Options Paper be noted and taken into account appropriately when considering the development of the Local Plan Review preferred options.**
- 2. The Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation Statement as set out at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet be approved for publication on the District Council's website, with delegated authority to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to make any final changes to the formatting prior to publication.**
- 3. To note that the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place will arrange for the Table of Consultation Responses, as set out at Appendix 3 of the report to Cabinet, to be published on the website.**

**CAB.53 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016-19**

A comprehensive report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which provided Cabinet with financial information in order to make proposals for the Budget Strategy for the period 2016-19.

Members were taken through the report and the key issues were highlighted which included details of the Provisional Settlement received on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 which had confirmed an even more fiscally challenging time for District Councils than previously anticipated.

There was a proposal to commit £500,000 capital funding to act as match funding towards the delivery of the reintroduction of traffic into Worcester Street as part of the Council's commitment to the regeneration of Kidderminster Town Centre.

A proposal was made to create a single Parish Localism Fund of £50,000 to continue the good work undertaken so far with Parish and Town Councils and other local organisations, which would include a review of the Parish Support fund in 2016-17.

It was also proposed to retain the Community Leadership Fund of £1,000 per Member for 2016-17 and a further target for savings from the Wyre Forest Forward Efficiency Programme was included.

The Cabinet Member for Resources thanked the Corporate Leadership Team for their help and advice, and 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 2016.

**Decision:**

- 1. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 1 of the report to Cabinet be noted.**
- 2. The savings currently assumed within the report to Cabinet of up to £250,000 pa as a result of the partnership working with the new Kidderminster Town Council from 2016-17 be noted. This will be confirmed within the February budget report.**
- 3. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 2 of the report to Cabinet be approved.**

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

- 4. The Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
- 4.1 Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2016-19 (Appendix 3) including;**
  - a) Approval of £500,000 capital funding to act as match funding towards the delivery of the reintroduction of traffic into Worcester Street as part of the Council's commitment to the regeneration of Kidderminster Town Centre. This will represent a significant step forward in realising the redevelopment of the wider Eastern Gateway as well as continuing the Council's strategy of attracting external investment into the regeneration of the town centre. This is the next phase of the Council's commitment to revitalising Kidderminster Town Centre by investing additional funding to accelerate the improvements to Worcester Street; opening it up to one-way traffic from Coventry Street and providing on street parking, thus improving the profile of this part of the town and increasing footfall. This builds on the Council's delivery of £2m of public realm improvements to Vicar Street, High Street and Exchange Street. This significant investment will support the Council's vision for the future of Worcester Street.**

- b) **The creation of a single Localism Fund of £50k to continue the good work done so far with Parish and Town Councils and extend it to other organisations. There will continue to be flexibility around grant funding from this new fund to facilitate more clarity and easier access where appropriate, to pump prime the work of Parish Councils and Community Groups where it complements work and priorities of this Council and benefits local residents.**
  - c) **Approval for the Community Leadership Fund for 2016-17 of £33k.**
  - d) **Approval of increased targets for savings under the Wyre Forest Forward Programme in 2017-18 onwards (paras 4.21 and 7.2).**
- 4.2 **The level of net expenditure and resultant Council Tax for 2016-19 as per paragraph 7.3;**
  - 4.3 **The fees and charges in line with this strategy and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2016-19, as shown in Part 3 of Appendix 4;**
  - 4.4 **The Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewals Schedule as set out in Appendix 6, Appendices A and B;**
  - 4.5 **The variations to the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule in accordance with the Council's Budget Process.**

**CAB.54 Community Safety and Safeguarding Duties**

A report was considered from the Community Development Officer which advised Members of the Council's responsibilities regarding the Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-17 and its duties as specified in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, regarding the prevention of violent extremism.

Members were taken through the report and the key target areas for action as set out in the Strategy and Action Plan was highlighted.

A Member asked for the number of calls which had been made to Child Line from the Wyre Forest District to be provided.

**Decision:**

- 1. The Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan 2015-17 be endorsed.**
- 2. The Mandatory safeguarding training for all Members and staff in accordance with paragraph 4.6 of the report to Cabinet be implemented.**
- 3. The duties specified in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 be noted.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.58pm.