

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
13TH SEPTEMBER 2016 (6:00 PM)**

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S J Chambers, N J Desmond, S E Fearn, I Hardiman and T L Onslow.

Observers:

Councillors: H E Dyke, N Knowles 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 12th July 2016 and 10th August 2016 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 Revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which updated Members on the responses received to the Revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation.

Councillor J Shaw entered the meeting at 6.05 pm.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration led the Cabinet through the report. She recalled that work on the SPD review commenced in 2015 in the form of an Early Engagement consultation and a stakeholder workshop, the feedback from which helped to develop the Draft Planning Obligations SPD.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration explained that the consultation received a total of 233 representations, all of which were comprehensively considered when the final version of the SPD was developed. She added that the majority were in favour of the SPD. Many comments related to affordable housing, which had been removed from the SPD due to changing legislation. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration confirmed that the SPD sets out Wyre Forest District Council's approach to securing planning obligations and developer contributions, and is intended as a guide for land owners, developers and residents alike.

The Leader of the Council echoed the comments of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration and added that he was pleased so many representations had been received by statutory partners and members of the public

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the SPD had been thoroughly discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was content that it had been fully scrutinised, with a recommendation to the Cabinet that it should adopt the document.

Decision:

In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, September 8th 2016:

- **The Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet be adopted.**

CAB.33 Budget Monitoring First Quarter 2016-17

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which asked Cabinet to note the projected variances detailed in the report to Cabinet, inform Cabinet of the Housing Benefit Overpayment debt position and the Sundry/Property debt position as at 30th June 2016.

The Cabinet Member for Resources led the Cabinet through the report and stated that it was an important report that set the tone for the forthcoming financial year. He emphasised the excellent news that the projected outturn at 31st March 2017 is an under spend of £233,000, and referred to the main variances detailed in the report to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Resources drew attention in particular to the increase in the recovery of benefit overpayments and council tax recovery fees, which totalled £110,000. He commented on the excellent work that had been carried out on income generation, which had been discussed at the Financial Strategy Advisory Panel, and that an income of almost £30,000 had been generated from external contracts for Parks and Open Spaces, and a variance of £15,000 due to an increase in Green Waste collections.

The Cabinet Member for Resources emphasised the hard work that the Director of Community Well-being and Environment and her team had carried out in terms of the increased income generation at Bewdley Museum and Tourist Information Centre.

He recalled that in December 2015 the Government offered Councils a multi year settlement, the deadline for acceptance being October 4th 2016. He confirmed that Wyre Forest District Council was looking to accept as it offered greater financial certainty over the next few years.

The Leader of the Council commented that it was pleasing to see a number of favourable outturns and stressed that, with regards to income generation, Wyre Forest District Council is changing the way it grows its business and income so that it can continue to provide important services.

A Member asked a question regarding how future information on the change of funding of Local Authorities would be received by Members. The Cabinet Member for Resources confirmed that there are five meetings of the Financial Strategy Advisory Panel which served to report the latest financial situation. All Members were welcome to attend.

Decision:

- 1. The projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report to Cabinet and appendices 2 to 6 be noted.**
- 2. Cabinet note and endorse that the Government's offer of a multi year settlement is to be accepted and that the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Efficiency Plan based on Wyre Forest Forward as approved by February Council and other supporting documentation as appropriate is to be submitted by the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources**

CAB.34 Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 8th September 2016.

- **Health and Well-being Action Plan 2016-20**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that a great deal of hard work had been carried out on the plan, and more work was still required to meet local and national targets. Members were happy to recommend to Cabinet that the plan is accepted. The Cabinet Member for Health, Well-being and Housing thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for all of their hard work.

Decision:

The Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan 2016-20, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

- **Climate Change Action Plan 2016-17**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that the Climate Change Action Plan was discussed in depth at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Members were happy to recommend to Cabinet that the plan is accepted.

Decision:

The Climate Change Action Plan 2016-17 as set out at Appendix 2 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:28 pm.