

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
14TH JUNE 2017 (6PM)**

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chair), N J Desmond, I Hardiman, C Rogers, J D Smith and R J Vale.

Observers:

Councillor F M Oborski MBE.

CAB.12 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.13 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor R Vale declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in the Local Plan Review as it affects an item listed on her register of interests.

CAB.14 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.15 Call Ins

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

CAB.16 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.17 The Proposed Introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place of Dog Control Orders

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Community Well-being and Environment which sought authority to progress a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the District to positively support the Council's corporate priority 'to keep the place safe, clean and looking good', using its powers to take positive action in response to local concern.

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services led Members through the report and explained that a PSPO allows Local Authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour in areas where it has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of

those in the locality. She emphasised that the PSPO would encourage dog owners to act responsibly, as dog faeces on pavements and parks is unpleasant and the cost of cleaning is passed on to tax payers.

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services added that since January 2014 only eight penalty notices have been issued for dog fouling. Thus the Council needed to be more proactive. It was proposed that the PSPO would cover fouling on all publically accessible land in the administrative area of the Council and would exclude dogs from closed off areas such as play areas in parks. She clarified that the powers would be carried out by the Council's Community Environment and Protection team. As the PSPO is proposed for the whole District, an online consultation was proposed over 10 weeks, which would begin on 19th June 2017.

The Leader of the Council commented that the PSPO would give a clear and consistent approach to dog fouling and added that the Council must not shy away from taking robust action to determine a prosecution.

Decision:

- 1.1 Delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director - Community Wellbeing and Environment in consultation with Councillor Rebecca Vale, Cabinet Member for Operational Services to undertake a 10 week public consultation exercise, commencing on 19 June 2017, about introducing a District wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in October 2017.**
- 1.2 The results of the consultation will be reported to a Cabinet meeting in September 2017 to determine whether a PSPO be made.**

CAB.18 Strategies for the Capital Portfolio Fund and Loans to Third Parties

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place and the Corporate Member for Resources which considered strategies to set out the details of how the Council would operate the capital portfolio fund and loans to third parties.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration led Members through the report. He explained that, in February 2017, Council had approved the allocation of up to £35m in 2017-18, funded by borrowing, for investment in a capital portfolio fund and loans to third parties. He acknowledged that the strategies that were set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet provided clarity for the Council and third parties on the priorities and approach that would be followed.

The Cabinet Member for Resources added that he was delighted to support the report, which was an exciting project for the District in terms of improving economic regeneration and helping local businesses. He highlighted the importance of generating extra income for the Council and emphasised that the report sets out clear criteria and each project would be judged on a case by

case basis. He explained that the net yields were relatively low and that first and foremost the money would be spent in the Wyre Forest area but the Council would look further afield within the geography of the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) as set out in the report to Cabinet.

The Leader of the Council emphasised that there was a very strong commitment to involve the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the decision making process and ensure that timely decisions can be made for commercial transactions. He agreed that fundamentally the Council wanted to invest in the Wyre Forest area and re-iterated that Cabinet would also look to the two LEP area, as a significant part of the rationale would be to provide a yield and income generation so that the Council could continue to provide services.

Decision:

In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1st June 2017:

The strategies set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet be adopted.

CAB.19 Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which sought to agree that the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Wyre Forest District following the referendum which was held on Thursday 4th May 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration led Members through the report and outlined the background to the Neighbourhood Plan. He explained that Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council successfully applied for Churchill and Blakedown Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area which was designated on 2nd April 2013. Wyre Forest District Council instructed an independent examiner, who concluded in February 2017 that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum. This was held on 4th May 2017; the results of which concluded that 87.8% of residents who voted supported the plan. He added that Neighbourhood Planning was part of the Government's Localism agenda and allows communities to have more control over the development of local areas. He confirmed that the Plan had been considered and supported by the Overview and Scrutiny committee at their meeting on 1st June 2017.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged the tremendous amount of work carried out by Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council, together with Council Officers to prepare the Plan for formal consultation. He added that support for the Plan was great news for Localism.

Decision:

In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1st June 2017:

Recommended to Council:

That the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Development Plan for Wyre Forest District Council.

Councillor R Vale left the meeting at 6:26 PM

CAB.20 Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review (2016-2034): Preferred Options Consultation

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which sought the Cabinet's endorsement of the consultation papers for the Local Plan Review Preferred Options, and asked Cabinet to agree the accompanying Consultation Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration led Members through the report. He advised that it is essential to have an up to date Local Plan in order to successfully plan for development and to enable the Council to make good decisions on planning applications. He explained that the consultation would run from 15th June 2017 to 14th August 2017 and consultation events would be held across the District.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration further explained that although the current plan had served the District well in directing development in a sustainable pattern it was now necessary to undertake a review of the Local Plan. He noted that the proposal was for a complete Local Plan, intended to replace all of the currently adopted development plan documents. The Preferred option proposed a spatial strategy for where new developments should be built, how much development and what type of development is required. This would be subjected to a full consultation whereby residents, local business and other stakeholders could express their views.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration further noted that the Local Plans Review Panel had considered the Preferred Options Consultation paper in detail in a number of meetings and the Overview and Scrutiny on 1st June 2017 supported approval of the Preferred Options consultation document.

The Leader of the Council commented that it was absolutely right that the Council embarked on a consultation and stated that previous adopted Local Plans have been able to cope with growth by using solely brown field land but regrettably this is no longer an option and a strategic release of green belt land is required.

He added that it was right that there would be a properly adopted Local Plan to direct housing development and employment development to where the Council and residents want it as opposed to where developers want it. He stressed that it was important and vital to have a 5 year land supply in order to avoid hostile development. The Leader of the Council emphasised that this

was a genuine consultation and encouraged residents to comment on the process.

The Cabinet Member for Resources echoed the importance of the Consultation process. He stated that it was regrettable that a strategic release of approximately 2% of green belt land was required and highlighted that no decision had been made at this stage. He urged people to respond to the consultation as this was a major decision for the Authority and would have repercussions for many years to come.

The Chair of the Local Plans Review Panel thanked Members of the Panel, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Officers for their hard work and support. She added that the Council was a victim of its own success as it had successfully rejuvenated Brownfield sites and therefore acknowledged that the Green Belt boundaries now had to be looked at. She urged members of the public to respond to the questions in the Consultation and urged people to attend the Exhibitions which would be held at public locations during the eight week consultation period.

Decision:

In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1st June 2017:

- 1.1 The Local Plan Review Preferred Options Consultation Paper be approved for the purposes of consultation in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.**
- 1.2 The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place be given delegated power in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration to determine the final format and presentation of the papers.**
- 1.3 The public consultation on the Preferred Options Consultation be undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Plan attached at Appendix 2 to the report to Cabinet.**

Councillor R Vale returned to the meeting at 6:48 PM

CAB.20 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 paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.21 Bewdley Medical Centre and Library – Redevelopment

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity

and Place which updated Members on the progress with the redevelopment of the former Bewdley Medical Centre and sought to agree to tender the works for the laying out of the new car park.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration led Members through the confidential report to Cabinet . He advised Members of the background to the redevelopment and explained the current position.

Decision:

- 1.1 To engage Six Consulting to prepare a pack of drawings and associated specification to enable the tendering of the construction of the car park and associated works to be undertaken and to retain Six Consulting to assist in the project management of the construction of the car park;**
- 1.2 That the Council undertakes a procurement exercise for the construction of a car park and associated works at the site of the former Bewdley Medical Centre and Library and that the evaluation criteria at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet are agreed;**
- 1.3 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place in consultation with the Corporate Director: Community & Well-being & Environment and the Cabinet Members for Planning & Economic Regeneration and Operational Services to award the contract for works to the successful tenderer after applying the agreed evaluation criteria and subject to Council agreeing a further amendment to the capital programme (if required).**

In the event that the pre tender cost estimate is above the currently approved Capital Programme the Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council:

- 1.4 That the Capital Programme is amended to accommodate the gross additional estimated costs associated with the overall project;**
- 1.5 That the financial value of the proposed amendment to the Capital Programme should be notified to all Members of Council by the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place in consultation with the Corporate Director: Resources, following receipt of the pre-tender cost estimate.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.57 pm