

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER  
26TH MARCH 2019 (6PM)

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**Present:**

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

**Observers:**

Councillor: F M Oborski MBE.

**CAB.73 Apologies for Absence**

The Leader of the Council conveyed the apologies from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor H Dyke. He said that the recommendations from the Overview and Committee would be considered in the usual way, even though she was not able to provide input on this occasion.

**CAB.74 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.75 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.76 Call Ins**

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

**CAB.77 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.78 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**CAB.79 Re-commissioning the Home Improvement Agency Service**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which sought agreement to re-commission the Home Improvement Agency service.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the report which set out the arrangements for the Council to continue to participate in a Worcestershire county wide Home Improvement Agency Service. He said this was the most efficient and effective means by which the Council discharged its duties regarding home adaptations to ensure that people can remain in their homes longer when they have mobility or other impairments.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing said that the Council had been part of such a joined up service since 2009. He added that the most recent service was being provided by Fortis Living, having been re-commissioned in April 2015 and would come to an end in March 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing advised that the Council receives funding through the Better Care Fund amounting to around £1.2m per annum. Through the Home Improvement Agency arrangements the Council was able to use this to meet its mandatory duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants as well as a range of discretionary services.

He added that a project team across all six Worcestershire Districts and the County Council had been established to manage the procurement of a new service during the course of this year in readiness for commencement from April 2020. He formally moved the recommendations for approval and added that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the report and was in favour of the proposal.

The Leader of the Council seconded the recommendations. He said it was absolutely right that the Council worked jointly with the other districts to award a contract for this very important area of the Council's work to ensure that we promote independent living across the district. He added that it was a much more efficient use of tax payers' money by having a contract provider that would organise the work and activity on behalf of all six districts as opposed to having one provider in the north and another one in the south.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 7th March 2019:**

- 1.1 Approval be given to re-commission the Home Improvement Agency service.**
- 1.2. Authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director: Resources and Solicitor to the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health & Wellbeing to agree the process, timetable and evaluation model for the appointment of a new contractor to deliver the Home Improvement Agency service and to award the contract to the successful provider(s).**

**CAB.80 Budget Monitoring 2018-19 (Quarter 3)**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Resources which briefed Members on the Council's financial performance for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and presented the current projected outturn position for the

2018-19 financial year. The report also provided forecasts on revenue, the capital programme 2018-19 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The Cabinet Member for Resources led Members through the report. He said that the report clearly set out an underspend compared to the revised budget that was presented to full Council in February 2019. He added that the authority would continue to work hard to obtain efficiencies and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Leader of the Council seconded the proposal. He acknowledged the quarter 3 position and said he would wait with interest to see what the final position would be at the end of the financial year.

**Decision: The projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report and appendices 2 to 5 be noted.**

**CAB.81 Dedication of land for highway purposes at Churchfields & Clensmore Street**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which sought to agree the dedication of land at Churchfields, Horsefair and Clensmore Street (including part of St Mary's Car Park and subject to the prior advertisement of the removal of 10 parking spaces from St Mary's car park and consideration of any objections), Kidderminster as highways land that is required to facilitate part of the new highway infrastructure that is proposed to enable the residential redevelopment of the wider Churchfields site bounded by Clensmore Street, Churchfields and Broad Street.

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. He explained that the proposal would help the authority to progress the Churchfields urban village masterplan. He said this was an important brownfield site regeneration project in a sustainable location. He added that the much needed major road improvements would enable the development of approximately 300 homes, which includes a proportion of affordable housing. He added that with all major infrastructure projects there will be an element of disruption, and as a public body, the authority would work with St Mary's church and all other organisations affected to ensure that they are kept fully informed for the duration of the construction works.

The Leader of the Council seconded the recommendations and said that the regeneration of this part of Kidderminster was very good news. He added that the authority had worked in partnership to secure external funding for the project.

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services welcomed the proposal. She said the investment for the area was something that should be celebrated. The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Planning echoed the support for the regeneration project. Councillor F M Oborski MBE welcomed the proposal as it would be building housing on a brownfield site rather than in the green belt.

**Cabinet Decided:**

- 1.1 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place to advertise the proposed removal of 10 parking spaces shown on the plan numbered 1 at Appendix 1 to the report in St Mary's car park from the Wyre Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2018 ("the Parking Places Order") and in consultation with the Corporate Director: Community, Well Being and Environment, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Planning and Cabinet Member for Operational Services to consider any objections made as a result of the advertisement and following such consideration to decide whether the 10 parking spaces should be removed from the Parking Places Order;**
- 1.2 Subject to the removal of the parking spaces referred to in 1.1 from the parking Places Order to agree the dedication of the land identified as Area 'A' on the plan numbered 2 at Appendix 1 to the report for highways purposes to enable Worcestershire County Council as Highways Authority to implement the highway infrastructure necessary to enable the redevelopment of the Churchfields residential urban village;**
- 1.3 To agree the dedication of the land identified as Areas 'B' and 'C' on the plan numbered 2 and outlined in red on Plans 3 & 4 at Appendix 1 to the report for highways purposes to enable Worcestershire County Council as Highways Authority to implement the highway infrastructure necessary to enable the redevelopment of the Churchfields residential urban village.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.27pm.