

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER  
16TH JULY 2019 (6PM)**

---

**Present:**

Councillors: G W Ballinger (Chairman), F M Oborski MBE (Vice-Chairman),  
H E Dyke, N Martin and J W R Thomas.

**Observers:**

Councillors: N J Desmond, I Hardiman, M J Hart and L Whitehouse.

**CAB.08 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.09 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.10 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19th June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.11 Call Ins**

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

**CAB.12 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.13 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**CAB.14 Local Plan Pre-Submission Consultation**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which sought to agree the documentation for re-opening the Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication consultation, referred to as the Regulation 19 Consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval, which were seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments said that, by approving the Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication Document, the Council was accepting the request from Worcestershire County Council that we revisit the transport evidence on Blakedown Station and the A450 corridor.

She explained that the consultation proposed the removal of Yew Tree Walk Stourport, which had also been incorrectly included on the Brownfield sites list. She said that Cabinet Members would have seen representations on behalf of the land owner and these would be considered as part of the consultation process.

She added that within the recommendations she took on board the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M Hart, presented the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He said that there had been a considerable debate on the item and thanked the Cabinet Member for taking on the comments from the Committee.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4th July 2019:**

- a) The Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication documentation for the re-opened public consultation (Regulation 19) (as shown in appendix 1 to 3 of the Cabinet report) be approved;**
- b) The technical evidence base studies (in appendix 4) as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan be agreed; and**
- c) Delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments to make any necessary amendments to the consultation documentation up to the launch of the consultation that may arise from the receipt of additional information following the Cabinet meeting.**

#### **CAB.15 Asset Management Strategy**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which sought agreement of the adoption of an Asset Management Strategy, as part of the Capital Strategy, to guide the Council in the overall management of assets within its developing portfolio of assets acquired through the Capital Portfolio Fund.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments presented the report. She said that it was essential that the authority manages those assets within its developing portfolio in the most appropriate way. In order to assist with this and build in capacity and experience, the authority had appointed consultants to manage both the properties and the portfolio.

She explained that the Council's Capital Portfolio Strategy makes clear its purposes behind using these funds to support the economic growth of the District. She added it was important that the Asset Management Strategy was also clear about the Council's aims and Part 1 of the Strategy set out the Council's economic aims of the portfolio, and was in line with government guidance within which the Council operates.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments was happy to take on board the views from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and formally moved the recommendations for approval. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services seconded the proposal.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee said that it was right and sensible for the Council to have an Asset Management Strategy and said the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the adoption of the Strategy.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4th July 2019:**

**The Asset Management Strategy be approved and recommend to Council that it be adopted as part of the Capital Strategy 2019-22.**

#### **CAB.16 Write-off of Amounts Outstanding Report**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Resources which enabled the Cabinet to give consideration to writing off the sum of £71,989.90 in respect of debts that cannot be collected.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and advised that the amounts presented for write off are a last resort after all recovery avenues have been fully explored.

The Corporate Director: Resources explained that all efforts had been made to recover the debts and, even after write off, her team continue to monitor activity and lodge claims where appropriate to pursue the debts.

The Leader moved the recommendation for approval which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments.

**Decision: The total of £71,989.90 as detailed in the Appendix to the Cabinet report, be written off; £57,404.33 for National Non Domestic Rates and £14,585.57 for Council Tax.**

#### **CAB.17 Appointment of Honorary Alderman**

The Leader of the Council presented a report from the Chief Executive to consider a recommendation to Council in respect of appointment of an Honorary Alderman.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments said that she and Councillor M Hart had nominated former Councillor Stephen Williams to the position of Honorary Alderman of the District. She said that he had given exceptional service to the Council since he was first elected in 1999 and was pleased to move the recommendation for approval.

Councillor M Hart said he was grateful that the nomination had been accepted and that former Councillor Williams had held the office of Chairman of the Council on four occasions during his 20 years' loyal service and justly deserved the title of Honorary Alderman conferred on him.

The proposal was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection and was unanimously agreed by Cabinet.

**Decision: Recommend to Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Councillor Stephen Williams in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

**CAB.18 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.19 Disposal of Land in Stourport**

A confidential report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree a disposal of land.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services said he was happy to support the proposals and looked forward to the outcome of the planning permission application.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and said there was unanimous support for the proposal.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4th July 2019:**

**Cabinet decided:**

- 1.1 To dispose of the land in Stourport as shown on the plan at Appendix 1 of the confidential Cabinet report, subject to:**

- a) **The advertisement of the Council's intention to dispose of land and the consideration of any representations arising from this advertisement;**
  - b) **The grant of planning permission for the proposed use;**
  - c) **The inclusion of appropriate provision in the disposal documentation to ensure that the land is developed for the intended use as detailed in the confidential report to Cabinet.**
- 1.2 Delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place to advertise the intended disposal of land in accordance with the statutory requirements identified in the report and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments consider any objections made as a result of the advertisement and following such consideration to decide whether the land should be disposed of.**
- 1.3 Delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments to agree the wording of any provisions in the disposal to ensure that the land disposed of is developed for the intended purposes as detailed in the confidential report to Cabinet.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.29pm.