

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET  
HELD REMOTELY  
19TH MAY 2021 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

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

**Observers:**

Councillors: A Coleman, R H Coleman, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, M J Hart, F M Oborski MBE and C Rogers.

**CAB.01 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.02 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.03 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.04 Call Ins**

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

**CAB.05 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.06 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**CAB.07 Enterprise and Business Growth Strategy**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree the refreshed strategy that the Council would use to support local enterprise and business growth.

The Leader presented the report and reminded Members that one of the Council's priorities was to support a successful local economy and that the

report listed the initiatives where the Council had invested its own resources, showing how the Council was actively supporting local economic growth.

She informed Members that the original Enterprise and Business Growth Strategy was adopted in 2016 and this was the first refresh of that document. It remains the principal document to guide how the Council plans to encourage enterprise and business growth. This strategy was considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2021 at which time it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the Strategy be adopted, but with the inclusion of reference to the Green Growth Agenda within the Council's aspirations. The Strategy has been updated to reflect the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny committee.

The Leader proposed that the business and enterprise strategy be adopted and this was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M Hart, confirmed that matter had been well received by all Members of the Committee. He felt that the Growth ambitions were a good addition and endorsed the growth agenda with green business growth included.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1st April 2021 the Business Growth and Enterprise Strategy 2021-2026 be adopted by Cabinet.**

**CAB.08 Strategic Asset Management Plan**

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree the adoption of the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2021-2026 and associated Property Disposal Strategy.

The Leader presented the report giving background to the plan including the review that took place in 2014 where the Council reviewed its approach to using its assets to support the local economy via plans to regenerate key sites in the district. This included supporting local businesses to invest in their own plans for growth and as a result the Council adopted a new approach considering investing in the existing and new assets to support its Corporate priorities. Consequently, the Evergreen investment fund was established with the aim to use the Council's assets to generate capital receipts and/or improve revenue streams and contribute to regeneration. She informed Members that SAMP was the principal document to identify how the Council planned to manage its diverse portfolio of property and land assets and this portfolio was key to both the delivery of Council services and its corporate plan priorities. SAMP and the disposal strategy were considered by the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and the Committee recommended that the Cabinet adopt the SAMP with the addition that it is recognised that the Council hold some assets that are for community benefit rather than just financial gain.

The Leader confirmed that the SAMP had been amended to reflect these comments and formally proposed the adoption of Strategic Asset Management

Plan 2021 - 2026 and associated Property Disposal Strategy. The Cabinet Member for Operational Services seconded the proposal.

As there were no questions on the financial or commercial aspects of the report there was no need to exclude the press and public.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Members that both the open and exempt reports had received a 'thorough airing' with a number of Members having questions for Officers on minor parcels of land but the Committee agreed that, given the assets the Council owns, it was important that there was a strategic asset plan in place to make the best use of the assets.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1st April 2021, the Cabinet DECIDED to adopt the Strategic Assessment Management Plan 2021-2026 and Property Disposal Strategy 2021.**

**CAB.09 Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan**

Cabinet considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree the adoption of the Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan 2021-2026.

The Leader presented the report stating that the Facilities and Asset Management team were key to ensuring the Council's operational buildings and site portfolio were fit for purpose, accessible and well maintained. This plan was the principal document to identify how the Council planned to look after its operational sites and building portfolio. The report detailed occupancy of Wyre Forest House (WFH) and the commercial approach being taken by the District Council to market the space and income generating opportunities. She reminded Members that the administration had asked Officers to look at the future of WFH with regards to other opportunities to benefit the Council and its residents.

The Leader proposed to Cabinet that the Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan 2021-2026, including the Wyre Forest House Tenancy Management & Marketing Strategy be adopted. The Cabinet Member for Operational Services seconded the proposal.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Cabinet that it made perfect sense to have the Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan working alongside the Strategic Asset Management Plan that had already been agreed, and that the Committee had considered the report and unanimously supported the recommendation.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1st April 2021, Cabinet DECIDED to adopt the Strategic Facilities & Asset Management Plan 2021-2026, including the Wyre Forest House Tenancy Management & Marketing Strategy.**

**CAB.10 Kidderminster 2040 - A Town Centre Vision**

Cabinet considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree the adoption of the vision for the future of Kidderminster town centre 2040.

The Leader said that the District Council had a strong record of planning strategically for Kidderminster town centre dating to the adoption of the ReWyre initiative back in 2009 and successfully attracting funding from Worcestershire County Council for works in the town centre. In 2016 the Council adopted the vision that is now referred to as Lionfields and had looked at development of the former Glades Leisure Centre site. She said that work was undoubtedly a factor in the successful award under the Future High Streets Fund to enable the further enhancement of the town centre. In order to develop a vision for the long term development of the town centre a successful bid to the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) was made, which allowed the appointment of Hemingway design to develop a new town wide vision for Kidderminster over the next 20 years but that this vision was not set in stone and was open to change throughout the process. The Leader informed Cabinet that it was positive that just under 2000 responses were received during a public consultation and responses were received from all ages offering a range of views.

The Leader proposed the adoption of the vision for the future of Kidderminster town centre 2040 which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Cabinet that the report had been considered by the Committee, which felt that this was an exciting opportunity for regeneration of the town along with the other improvements that were already underway such as Churchfields, Silverwoods and the Crown House site. The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Leader discussed timescales and agreed that, although the expectation may be that things would move quickly, these developments would take time and it was important to remain patient whilst also keeping on top of timescales.

**Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 13th May 2021: Cabinet DECIDED to adopt the Kidderminster 2040 Vision for the Town Centre.**

**CAB.11 Recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 13th May 2021 - Health Action Plan 2021-2022**

The Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee informed Cabinet that the Health Action Plan had been considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and there was great discussion around resource, the difference between the County and District role and importance of collaborative working, mental health and the issues around social isolation. He was pleased to say that the Health Action Plan was unanimously supported by the Committee

with all Members agreeing to its importance.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Democratic Services thanked the Chairman and the Committee for recommending the plan and offered her thanks to Jenny Moreton and the Officers who worked to deliver it. She asked that it be noted that, on behalf of the Council, she offered thanks to the public because so many people came forward to support others in the community during the pandemic with many going above and beyond expectations.

**Decision: Cabinet APPROVED the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Health Action Plan 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

The Leader thanked Councillor M Hart and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their involvement in the reports considered by Cabinet during the meeting.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 6:23pm**