

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

14 SEPTEMBER 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), G W Ballinger (Vice-Chairman) and M Rayner.

Observers:

Councillors: N J Desmond, M J Hart, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE and C Rogers.

CAB.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: N Martin and J W R Thomas.

CAB.26 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.27 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.28 Call Ins

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

CAB.29 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.30 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

CAB.31 Future High Streets Fund

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which reports on progress with the proposed delivery models for the commercial development sites which will be enabled through the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) works and on the future operation of the Former Magistrates' Court (FMC) building.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and formally moved the

recommendations for approval. She said the report provided evidence of the good progress that had been made with the initial arrangements for the delivery of the FHSF. She acknowledged that everyone wanted to see work happening on the ground, but the Cabinet were confident that all the initial hard work was needed and would contribute to the successful end project that everyone wants.

She drew members' attention to key issues outlined in the report with included items such as the submission of the planning application for the FMC building and the need to develop an operating model for the overall management of the creative hub.

The Leader thanked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M Hart, and the Committee for their thorough scrutiny of the report. She thanked Jon Elmer, Delivery Manager - NWEDR, for answering all the questions from the Committee in a knowledgeable and informative way.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hart presented the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He said the Committee were unanimous in their support for the proposal.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 2 September 2021:

Cabinet AGREED to delegate to the Corporate Director: Economic prosperity & Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning & Localism and the Corporate Director: Resources the appointment of Public Sector Plc (PSP Facilitating Ltd) to work in collaboration with the Council's officers to bring forward the business cases for the development sites at the Bullring and Worcester Street/Bromsgrove Street locations.

CAB.32 Local Lettings Plans and Rural Housing Policy 2021

A report was considered from the Head of Strategic Growth to recommend the adoption of the new Local Lettings Plans and Rural Housing Policy. This will align the policy with the Home Choice Plus Allocations Policy and the emerging Local Plan 2016 – 2036 policies and replaces the existing Wyre Forest District Council Local Connection Policy 2013.

The Leader presented the report and formally moved the recommendation for approval.

Councillor Hart presented the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which fully supported the recommendation.

The proposal was seconded by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 2 September 2021:

Cabinet DECIDED to adopt the Local Lettings Plans and Rural Housing Policy 2021.

CAB.33 Worcestershire’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2022

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree that the modified Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2022 is publicly consulted on in advance of adoption and the preparations for a new strategy for 2022. The current strategy has been amended to take into consideration the changes in dealing with homelessness, as a consequence of Covid 19.

Councillor Hart presented the recommendations from the Committee which fully supported the Cabinet proposals.

The Leader formally moved the recommendations for approval which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 2 September 2021:

Cabinet DECIDED to:

- 1.1 Agree the proposed amendments to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2022 are publicly consulted on from 20 September for 6 weeks.**
- 1.2 Delegate to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Democratic Services to determine the final form of amendments to the strategy following any changes arising as a consequence of the consultation and that the final amendments to the strategy no later than 31 December 2021.**
- 1.3 Agree that the final amendments to the strategy determined in accordance with 1.2 above be adopted by the Council as soon as they are finalised.**

CAB.34 Budget Monitoring First Quarter 2021-22

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Resources on the Council’s financial performance for quarter 1 ending 30 June 2021 and presented the current projected outturn position for the 2021-22 financial year. The report provided forecasts on the capital programme 2021-22 and the final capital outturn for 2020-21 against programme.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio gave a summary of the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that the quarter 1 forecast for the outturn position for 2021-22 showed a welcome saving of £305k compared to the original budget. She added that the Funding Gap Refresh showed improvement with an estimated overall gap of £2m in 2023-24, however there was no room for complacency; the funding gap remained a significant challenge that must and was being addressed.

She added that the report presented early estimates and the ongoing position would undoubtedly be different as there were many variables that the Cabinet will continue to monitor and report on.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

Decision: Cabinet

1.1 NOTED the projected budget variations and comments outlined within the report and appendices 2 to 5.

1.2 NOTED the proposal that a net neutral amendment is made to the revenue budget, for the additional funding in respect of the Levelling up fund of £125,000 as set out in paragraph 9.2.

CAB.35 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.36 Capital Portfolio Fund – Development Funding Proposal

A confidential report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree a business case to support the development of new temporary accommodation from the Capital Portfolio Fund and s106 funding.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and drew members' attention to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 9 September 2021.

The Leader formally moved the recommendations for approval, which were seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

Councillor Hart said that the Committee were unanimous in their support for the Cabinet proposals.

Decision: In line with the exempt recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 9 September 2021:

Cabinet AGREED:

- 1.1 The business case for the development of “the Land” as set out in the confidential report to be funded from a combination of the Capital Portfolio Fund, Evergreen Investment, Better Care Fund and s106 money.**
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place in consultation with the Corporate Director: Resources, the Solicitor to the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio to agree the appointment of the partner as set out in the confidential report, through an appropriate procurement framework, to enable project management and oversight of the delivery of the project.**
- 1.3 To delegate authority to the Head of Strategic Growth to take the steps under the legislation specified in the confidential report arising from the use of the site for the proposed development.**
- 1.4 To delegate authority to the Head of Strategic Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Services to take the steps under the legislation specified in the confidential report arising from the use of the site for the proposed development.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.37pm.