

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

13TH JULY 2022 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: B Brookes, N J Desmond, I Hardiman, M J Hart and F M Oborski MBE.

Observed remotely: Councillors: C Edginton-White, K Henderson, S Miah and L Whitehouse

CAB.07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: N Martin.

CAB.08 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor J Thomas declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in respect of agenda item 7.1 Localism: Stourport Sports Club, that he was a Governor of a school that was part of the SAET Multi Academy Trust, and the school has use of the playing fields. He said he would remove himself from the meeting for the entirety of this item.

CAB.09 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the special Cabinet meeting held on 26 April 2022 and the minutes of the additional meeting held on 30 June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.10 Call Ins

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

CAB.11 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.12 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Councillor J Thomas left the meeting at this point, (6.03pm).

CAB.13 Localism: Stourport Sports Club

A report was considered from the Chief Executive to agree support for a proposal that the Severn Academies Educational Trust should assume responsibility for the Stourport Sports Club (SSC), a registered company in which the Council is involved, and, as part of that process, to agree disposal of the land specified in the report to the Trust.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Leader of the Council seconded the recommendations. She explained that the proposal for the Council to withdraw from its role in the SSC was discussed as part of the budget setting process and was included in the adopted medium term financial strategy (MTFS). She added that the proposal was in the early stages of the process and the transfer would only take place with the agreement of all the relevant clubs and parties involved in the management agreement.

Decision: Cabinet;

- 1.1 Agreed in respect of Wyre Forest District Council that the management agreement for Stourport Sports Club should be terminated and the rights and liabilities of the Club should be transferred to the Severn Academies Educational Trust.**
- 1.2 Agreed the transfer of the freehold of the land set out in the maps in Appendices 2 and 3, which comprises a total of five registered titles as set out in paragraph 3.5, to Severn Academies Educational Trust, for £1 consideration each. This recommendation is subject to:**
 - a) the parties involved in the management agreement agreeing that it should be terminated and that the lease of WFDC land should be surrendered;**
 - b) the Stourport Hockey Club agreeing to transfer its interest in land registered as WR46725 to the Severn Academies Educational Trust;**
 - c) the consent of the British Cycling Federation being obtained in respect of the land comprising the cycle track.**

Councillor J Thomas re-joined the meeting at 6.19pm.

CAB.14 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan 2022-25

A report was considered from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR) to approve the investment plan prior to its submission to Government.

The Leader presented the report and gave a summary of the background and key issues. She explained that Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) was the lead local authority for the “core” UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the

district, and the allocation for 2022-25 was £3.155m. She said that the ReWyre Board was acting as the local partnership group for the UKSPF and the terms of reference for the Board had been amended to allow them to carry out this advisory role.

She further explained that the ReWyre Board had met in May and June to consider the approach that should be taken, and they would meet again in late July to provide final advice on which projects they feel should be included within the plan.

The Leader added that the UKSPF prospectus highlighted three investment priorities for the fund, namely: Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses, and People and Skills. She said no match funding was required to unlock funding, however, to make the WFDC allocation go further, it would be desirable to seek match funding where possible.

She explained that there was a very short timeline to develop the investment plan as the prospectus and financial allocations were only announced in April this year. She added that already thirty proposals had been submitted and the total grant applied for was over £7m, which was over twice the amount of funds available over the 3 years. She said, unfortunately, this meant that it would not be possible to include all the projects within the submitted plan.

The Leader said that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had discussed the item at their meeting on 7 July 2022 and invited the Chairman of the Committee Councillor M Hart to present the recommendations.

Councillor Hart said that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were unanimous in supporting the recommendations and thanked the Head of NWedR for his clear and thorough presentation.

The Leader thanked Councillor Hart and his committee for their views and comments, and formally moved the recommendations as set out in the report for approval.

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

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 7 July 2022, Cabinet;

- 1.1 Approved submission of the investment plan to Government.**
- 1.2 Delegated finalisation of the investment plan including the projects included within it to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism and in light of advice from the ReWyre Board.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.27pm