

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

22ND SEPTEMBER 2022 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: I Hardiman, M J Hart, F M Oborski MBE, C Rogers and D Ross.

Observed remotely: Councillors: R H Coleman, C Edginton-White and L Whitehouse.

CAB.15 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.16 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor J Thomas declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in respect of agenda item 4 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.17 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor J Thomas left the meeting at 6.01pm

CAB.18 Call Ins

A report was considered from the Chief Executive on the Localism: Stourport Sports Club decision which had been "called in" since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety presented the report. He thanked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M Hart, and his committee for considering the item at its meeting on 1 September 2022.

Having re-considered the decision in light of the concerns raised, the Cabinet

Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety proposed a change to the decision of 13 July. The proposal was to have a pre-emption agreement in favour of the Council instead of the overage agreement.

The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council.

Decision: The Cabinet re-confirmed the decision of 13 July 2022 with the following change:

That the terms of disposal of land to the Severn Academies Educational Trust shall include a pre-emption agreement in favour of Wyre Forest District Council, in the event of a proposed sale or change of use in the period of twenty years following the disposal.

Councillor J Thomas re-joined the meeting at this point (6.09pm).

CAB.19 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.20 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

CAB.21 Budget and Performance Monitoring First Quarter 2022-23

A report was considered from the Head of Resources on the Council's financial and other performance at the end of Quarter 1 ending 30 June 2022. The report also set out the current projected outturn position for the 2022-23 financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. She explained that this was the first combined quarterly financial and performance monitoring report. She said that the revised format followed the recommendation in the Auditors Annual Report received in April 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio gave a summary of the key issues. She explained that the report detailed the early position of new and emerging budget pressures, cost savings and income growth. She said the capital forecast spend was currently in line with the programme. However the outturn projections would undoubtedly change as more information became available.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio further explained that the report gave an update on the current progress against the savings and efficient targets being delivered by the Wyre Forest Forward Programme and the Localism Partnership agenda. She added that the report now also provided a Treasury Management update and was happy to confirm that there were no breaches of policies during the quarter to report.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio said the

current forecast for the outturn position for 2022-23 was a significant overspend of almost £1m compared to the approved budget. The final position would undoubtedly be different as there were many variables. She thanked Councillor Hart and his committee for considering the item at their last meeting.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1 September 2022, Cabinet NOTED;

- 1.1 The projected budget variations and comments within the report and appendices 1 to 4.**
- 1.2 The performance against measures and actions as set out in the report and appendix 5.**

CAB.22 Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2025

A report was considered from the Head of Strategic Growth to agree that the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2022-25) was publicly consulted on in advance of adoption.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. She explained that Local Authorities had a duty to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy every five years. She added that the strategy must include the plans for the prevention of homelessness and for ensuring that sufficient accommodation and support are or will be available for people who become homeless or who are at risk of becoming so.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services further explained that the costs of adopting and delivering the strategy would be met by a combination of existing financial resources and external grants.

She thanked the Head of Strategic Growth and her team for the excellent work they do in this area and the hard work they put into securing external funding.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services invited Councillor Hart to present the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny and thanked the Committee for supporting the proposals.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1 September 2022, Cabinet;

- 1.1 AGREED the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - 25 are publicly consulted on from October for 6 weeks.**

- 1.2 **DELEGATED** to the Head of Strategic Growth, 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.
- 1.3 **AGREED** 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.23 Report on the progress around the Top Ten Actions in the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan

A report was considered from the Head of Strategic Growth which provided an update on action to tackle climate change, including an update on the 'Top Ten Actions' of the Green Advisory Panel.

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

Councillor Hart presented the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services seconded the proposal.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 1 September 2022, Cabinet;

Considered the update of the Green Advisory Panels top ten actions and APPROVED the Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2023

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.35pm.