

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), I Hardiman (Vice-Chairman), B Brookes, D Morehead, T L Onslow and D Ross.

Observers:

Councillors: L Carroll, F M Oborski MBE and A Sutton.

Observed remotely: Councillors: J F Byng, K Henderson and M Rayner.

CAB.25 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.26 Declarations of Interests by Members

As recorded later in the minutes, in respect of agenda item 9.2 Localism Strategy - Councillor F M Oborski MBE declared that she was a trustee of the HELP Charity, who were currently in negotiations with Age UK regarding the lease of the Tulip Tree Centre, Kidderminster.

CAB.27 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2023 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 Corporate plan, 2023 – 2027

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that invited the Cabinet to recommend the Corporate Plan to full Council for adoption.

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

The Leader gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report. He explained that the Corporate Plan was a strategic document that set out the priorities of the administration and listed the top line actions that the Council were going to seek to deliver on over the course of the Corporate Plan lifetime. He added that the Corporate Plan was aligned with the four-year cycle of District Council elections.

He further explained that the cross-party Cabinet Advisory Panel had met twice during the preparation of the Plan. The Panel considered the results of the consultation exercises and provided a clear recommendation for Cabinet. The Leader thanked the members of the Panel for their contributions.

Councillor I Hardiman seconded the proposal.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Cabinet Advisory Panel from its meeting on 6 September 2023:

Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that it adopts the Corporate Plan in appendix 1 of the report.

CAB.32 Budget and Performance Monitoring First Quarter 2023-24

A report was considered from the Head of Resources and Section 151 Officer that summarised the Council's financial and service performance for the quarter 1 ending 30 June 2023. The report also presented the current projected outturn position for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. He thanked the Head of Resources and Section 151 Officer for providing the very comprehensive report.

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report. With reference to the revenue budget, he explained that after the application of reserves the forecasted year end outturn was an adverse variance of £215k against the 2023-2026 medium term financial strategy (MTFS). He said the decisions taken to increase the Capital Programme for the connectivity project and the creative hub at the former magistrates' court by £5.738m had impacted on the budget. He further explained that funding for the projects included £2.95m direct revenue financing that had been met by transfers from earmarked reserves.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the risks to the capital programme caused by delays, supply issues and inflationary pressures, and outlined some of the new and emerging cost pressures as set out in the report.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member advised that the MTFS built in savings to be achieved through Localism by transferring assets to Town and Parish Councils. He explained that the administration supported Localism but from a

different starting position. He said that they wished to retain assets and work collaboratively with Town and Parish Councils, whilst at the same time exploring opportunities for commercial income and ensuring that everybody was working efficiently across the whole of the Council.

The Leader seconded the recommendations.

The Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor F Oborski MBE, presented the recommendations from its meeting on 4 September 2023.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4 September 2023:

Cabinet NOTED:

- 1.1 The projected budget variations and comments within the report and appendices 1 to 5.**
- 1.2 The performance against measures and actions as set out in the report and appendix 6.**

CAB.33 Review of Public Space Protection Orders and Results of the Consultation Process

A report was considered from the Head of Community and Environmental Services that asked the Cabinet to approve the making of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in respect of control of dogs and alcohol consumption following the consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety presented the report and outlined the key issues. She explained that the authority currently operated three PSPOs that restricted the consumption of alcohol in the three town centres, and one dog control PSPO. She added that the dog control PSPO applied to the whole of the Wyre Forest district and any publicly assessable land unless the landowners had stated otherwise.

The Cabinet Member further explained that, for efficiency, it was decided in 2020 to review all of the PSPOs at the same time. Therefore if approved, they would be set for implementation on 1 October 2023 for a further 3-year period.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member gave a summary of the consultation responses and outlined her reasons for recommending no change to the maximum number of dogs that one person can have under their control. She thanked all those that had responded to the consultation, and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Leader seconded the recommendations.

Decision: Cabinet DECIDED that:

- 1.1 A Public Space Protection Order regarding dog controls, within**

the specified area, outlined in Appendix Five, is implemented.

- 1.2 **A Public Space Protection Order to restrict the consumption of alcohol within the specified area of Bewdley, outlined in Appendix Five is implemented.**
- 1.3 **A Public Space Protection Order to restrict the consumption of alcohol within the specified area of Kidderminster, outlined in Appendix Five, is implemented.**
- 1.4 **A Public Space Protection Order to restrict the consumption of alcohol within the specified area of Stourport-on-Severn, outlined in Appendix Five, is implemented.**

CAB.34 Localism Strategy

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that invited the Cabinet to adopt a revised localism strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety presented the report and outlined the key issues. She explained that the current strategy was adopted in 2019 and focused on a desire to reduce or eliminate costs for the Council by transferring assets and services to other organisations. She further explained that the revised strategy was based on working collaboratively with other organisations to safeguard services.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member said that, in addition to the authority approaching organisations, proposals would be welcomed from active groups within the community that would be interested in taking on smaller services such as mowing the grass or weeding small pockets of land. She said that the strategy had been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and formally moved the recommendation for approval.

The Leader seconded the recommendations.

Councillor F Oborski MBE declared her interest at this point (6.52pm) and, in her capacity of Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the recommendations from its meeting on 4 September 2023.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4 September 2023:

Cabinet AGREED to ADOPT the Localism strategy in appendix 1 of the report.

CAB.35 Environmental Enforcement Policy

A report was considered from the Head of Community and Environmental Services that asked the Cabinet to adopt the Environmental Enforcement Policy and to approve increases to fixed penalty charges for littering and other environmental offences.

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report. He explained that the Environmental Enforcement Policy updated and replaced the current Environmental, Education and Enforcement Strategy January 2007. He added that the new Policy enabled the Council to become tougher on environmental crime by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) with higher penalty amounts.

The Cabinet Member outlined the proposed penalty amounts as set out in the report. He stated that cracking down on environmental crime was a key priority of the administration. He added that setting such high maximum FPN limits should act as a deterrent for any would be offenders. Where the deterrent does not work, the Council's enforcement team, who do a fantastic job in tackling these issues, would ensure those responsible for committing the offences are made accountable for their actions.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

The Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendations from its meeting on 4 September 2023.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4 September 2023:

Cabinet AGREED to:

- 1.1 ADOPT the Environmental Enforcement Policy in Appendix One of the report.**
- 1.2 ADOPT the increases in penalty charges outlined in Table One at paragraph 5 with effect from 13 September 2023.**

CAB.36 Procurement of Electric Vehicle Charge Points

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that sought approval to enter a procurement exercise via the CCS framework - Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Solutions - RM6213 to appoint an operator who will install, maintain and operate electric vehicle charge points at a number of public car parks and other locations in the ownership of the Council.

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

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report. He explained that the previous attempt to procure electric vehicle charge points for public car parks was not successful. He said that procurement was predicated on the basis that the Council would have to pay for equipment to be installed. While proposals that were compliant with the tender documentation were received, they would not have secured sufficient

coverage within the budget allocated.

He further explained that, since the previous tendering approach was devised, a number of operators were offering a fresh model for implementation under which the operator meets the cost of installation, maintenance and operation.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member advised that the proposed approach was expected to generate an income for the Council during the period of an agreement with an operator. He added that implementation of electric vehicle charging points supported the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 and would assist in supporting use of electric vehicles in the district, and therefore reducing emissions in accordance with the Council's duty to monitor and improve air quality under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and other relevant legislation.

Councillor K Henderson left the meeting at 7.17pm

The Leader seconded the recommendations.

Decision: Cabinet:

- 1.1 APPROVED the procurement exercise, timetable and the evaluation model contained in Section 4 of the report;**
- 1.2 DELEGATED authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Head of Resources and s151 officer and the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda to evaluate the submissions received from the tender process and to enter licences in respect of land and other contractual documents as appropriate;**
- 1.3 DELEGATED authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to vary the Wyre Forest District Council Off Street Parking Places Order 2023 as necessary in light of the outcome of procurement, to specify spaces that are allocated only for use by vehicles connected to a charger for the purpose of charging and to permit the issuing of a penalty notice for any vehicle that is parked in a designated space but is not connected to a charger. The delegation includes considering and dealing with any objections to the variations to the order.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.23pm.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website
<https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>