

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

7 MAY 2024 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: L Carroll and F M Oborski MBE.

Observed remotely: Councillor: H E Dyke

CAB.81 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.82 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.83 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.84 Future High Streets Fund project

A report was considered from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) that sought Cabinet approval to vary the works contract on the Kidderminster Creative Hub (former Magistrates' Court) project, as part of the Future High Streets Fund programme, including a recommendation to Council to amend the capital programme.

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

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the confidential report.

He explained that further delays to the project increased the risk in respect of

the grant condition that required the grant to be spent by 31 March 2025. He added that the consequences of failing to meet this grant condition may result in the authority losing the Government funding not spent by the deadline.

The Leader seconded the proposals. He said the revised project timeline and milestones were key to the delivery of this important project and thanked the Head of NWedR and his team for securing the external grant funding.

Decision: The Cabinet:

- 1.1 APPROVED the variation to the works contract and the associated increase to the approved contract sum required to deliver the project and DELEGATED to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, the Head of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning & the Green Agenda authority to implement the agreed variations.**
- 1.2 RECOMMEND to Council that the capital programme allocation for the Future High Streets Fund is amended by the amount as set out in the confidential report in respect of additional project works and costs, on the basis of the funding arrangements set out in section 5 and with authority delegated to the Head of Resources to decide on any temporary financing arrangements that may be necessary. The total additional allocation of as set out in the confidential report is to be funded from grants arising from the former Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.**

CAB.85 Piano Building works contractor procurement

A report was considered from the Head of NWedR that sought Cabinet agreement to proceed with the procurement of a contractor for the refurbishment and repurposing works at the Piano Building, which is part of the Kidderminster Levelling Up Fund (LUF) programme.

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

The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the confidential report.

He explained the delivery of the project faced a challenging timescale as the Government grant funding must be spent by 31 March 2025. He drew members' attention to the risks that remained, and the mitigating measures being put in place to address them.

The Leader seconded the recommendations. He said the appointment of the right main works contractor was key to the completion of the project. He welcomed the necessary logical steps, as detailed in the confidential report, to progress this important project within the agreed terms of the Government grant funding conditions

Decision: The Cabinet:

- 1.1 APPROVED the use of the Constructing West Midlands (CWM) Framework to procure the main works contractor for the refurbishment and repurposing of the Piano Building via a direct award, as set out in the confidential report.**
- 1.2 DELEGATED to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, in agreement with both the Solicitor to the Council and the S151 Officer and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda, authority to finalise and enter contract, as set out in the confidential report.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.28pm.