

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER
11 JUNE 2024 (6.00 PM)**

Present:

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

Observers:

Councillors: F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, A Sutton.

CAB.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Morehead.

CAB.02 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.03 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 9 April 2024 and 7 May 2024 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.04 Call Ins

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

CAB.05 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.06 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

**CAB.07 Budget and Performance Monitoring Fourth Quarter 2023-24
(PROVISIONAL OUTTURN)**

A report was considered from the Head of Resources and s151 Officer that briefed members on the Council's financial and other performance at the end of quarter 4, ending 31 March 2024. The report also presented the provisional draft (pre audit) outturn position of the 2023-24 financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio 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. With reference to revenue, he advised that after application of risk and contingency reserves, the year-end outturn position is £343k better than the position forecast in the 2024-27 Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This being further improvement upon the projected outturn position (£152k) estimated at the end of quarter 3, largely due to the release of a provision.

He advised the saving in the cost of services after funding variations, but before the level of reserves and balances is considered was £145k, with an additional £198k being released from a balance sheet provision. The saving will be used to increase the working balance in line with price inflation (September 2023) (£110k), with the remainder (£233k) being transferred to General Reserves.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member advised that the report provided a strategic overview of the performance for quarter four (1st January to 31st March 2024) and focusses on the activities and achievements that support the priorities in the Corporate Plan, advising that progress against the 2023-27 Corporate Plan priorities and strategic actions were summarised in 12.5 to 12.9 of the report.

The Leader of the Council seconded the proposals. He thanked the Head of Resources and s151 Officer and her team, and all of Wyre Forest District Council staff, for all their hard work.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor F Oborski, presented the recommendations from its meeting on 6 June 2024.

Decision: In line with the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 6 June 2024:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 NOTED the budget virements and comments within the report and appendices 1 to 5.**
- 1.2 NOTED the performance against measures and actions as set out in the report and appendix 6, the Annual Complaints summary as set out in appendix 7, and the key achievements for 2023-24 as set out in appendix 8.**
- 1.3 NOTED the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 6th June.**

CAB.08 Recommissioning the Home Improvement Agency Service

A report was considered from the Head of Strategic Growth that sought agreement to re-commission the Home Improvement Agency service which

delivers adaptations to homes in Worcestershire.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health & Wellbeing presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Head of Strategic Growth for preparing the report and he gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report. He advised that the Council has a mandatory duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants to eligible residents and may provide other discretionary assistance through its Housing Assistance Policy. He explained that in 2024-25 the Council will receive £1,592,384 of BCF funding for the service. The amount of capital likely to be passported through to the service provider is approximately £1.145m and the remainder of the BCF capital is retained by the Council and committed to projects delivered by the Private Sector Housing Team.

In conclusion he advised that the service has a positive impact on health and wellbeing of disabled persons receiving adaptations to their homes and their families. It also has a positive impact on health and wellbeing of other grant and financial assistance recipients to enable them to live in warmer, safer homes and he advised the Council would enter into a contractual arrangement with the selected provider(s) commencing April 2025.

The Leader of the Council seconded the proposals.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor F Oborski, presented the recommendations from its meeting on 6 June 2024.

Decision: In line with the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 6 June 2024:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 **APPROVED the recommissioning of the Home Improvement Agency service.**
- 1.2 **APPROVED authority is delegated to the Head of Strategic Growth, in consultation with the Head of Resources and s151 officer, the Solicitor to the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health & Wellbeing to agree the final process, timetable, and evaluation model for the appointment of a new contractor to deliver the Home Improvement Agency service.
AND**
- 1.3 **APPROVED the award of the contract to the successful Provider(s).**

CAB.09 Corporate Peer Challenge 2024: Action Plan

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that updated Cabinet on the Corporate Peer Challenge that the Council commissioned in March this year and the resulting action plan that had arisen from it.

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

The Leader of the Council welcomed the Corporate Peer Challenge review, advising that the last one had been in 2017. He advised that Wyre Forest had been praised and that our partners felt we were a recognised and a good brand. He advised that page 58 of the report sets out the feedback.

In conclusion he advised the Cabinet would be ensuring the action plan was delivered, and that a date for the progress review visit would be in December 2024. He also thanked Marta Starostina and Milan Campion for their hard work on the Corporate Peer Challenge and organising all the focus groups.

The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the proposal.

Decision: The Cabinet:

- 1.1 APPROVED the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan as set out in appendix 2 of the report.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.