



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Minutes – 17 December 2013

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Cllr Andrew Johnson (Chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Phillip Page
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Paul Sweet

In Attendance

Cllr Val Gibson

Employees

Keith Ireland	Strategic Director – Delivery
Tim Johnson	Strategic Director – Education and Enterprise
Sarah Norman	Strategic Director - Community
Wendy Trainor	Interim Chief Legal Officer
Peter Oakeshott	Head of Procurement
Martyn Sargeant	Head of Democratic Services
Matthew Vins	Graduate Management Trainee

There were no apologies for absence.

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

2. **Declarations of interests**

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (26 November 2013)**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 26 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

DECISION ITEM – (Red Item - Reserved to the Council)

5. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2014/15 Onwards

Resolved:

1. To review the consultation feedback and equality analysis.
2. That the Local Council Tax Discretionary Discount Policy be approved.
3. That Council be recommended to:
 - (a) Note the feedback from consultation.
 - (b) Note the Equality analysis
 - (c) Approve the following revision to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme:
 - (i) The basis on which support is calculated is revised from 91.5% of net liability to 88% of gross liability.
 - (ii) The rate at which support is withdrawn as income increases (the taper) is revised from 20% to 23%.
 - (iii) Support is restricted to the level of a band C property.
 - (iv) Entitlement to second adult rebate is removed.
 - (v) The capital cut-off limit is revised from £16,000 to £6,000.
 - (vi) The rate of non-dependent deduction is increased by 5% above the Government uprating of the Prescribed Scheme for 2014/15.
 - (vii) Entitlement to backdated awards is limited to one month.
 - (viii) The disregard of child benefit income is limited to the rate for the first child.
 - (d) Approve the full text of the revised scheme which is to be adopted from 1 April 2014.
 - (e) Authorise the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Strategic Director for Delivery, to make any consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution.

DECISION ITEMS (Amber – Delegated to the Cabinet)

6. Quarter 2 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Cllr Johnson presented a report in regard to Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/14. He explained that each portfolio holder and relevant officer would take action to look into the variations contained in Appendix B. He highlighted the January round of budget meetings would consider the findings.

Resolved:

1. That £163,000 from the Efficiency Reserve be used to fund a review of the alternative delivery models for care services currently provided in house, and to procure the services of an external provider to design and deliver a bespoke leadership and management development programme.
2. That the write off of business rates debts that individually exceed £5,000, amounting to a total of £683,793, be approved.
3. That virements totalling £8.6 million be approved.

4. To note the projected outturn for the General Fund which will be a net over spend of £6.8 million in the event that the action being taken to address this does not deliver savings in the appropriate timescale.
5. That the action being taken to reduce this projected over spend be noted.

7. **Fixed Penalty Review**

Resolved:

1. That the introduction of revised fixed penalties as detailed in the table below be approved.

Penalty	Current	Proposed
Nuisance parking	£75	No change
Vehicle abandonment	£120	£120 plus costs
Litter	£50	No change
(Street) litter control	£60	£100
Unauthorised literature distribution	£50	£75
Graffiti and flyposting	£50	£50 per poster up to five then one additional FPN for every ten posters there after
Failure to produce waste transfer notes	£180	£300
Failure to produce waste carrier registration documents	£180	£300
Offences in relation to waste receptacles	£60	£100
Offences under dog control orders	£50	£75
Failure to nominate key-holder (within an alarm notification area)	£50	£50
Noise from dwellings	£60	£60
Noise from licensed premises	£500	£500
Failure to display no smoking signs	£200 reduced to £150 if paid in 15 days	£200
Smoking in a smoke free environment	£50 reduced to £30 if paid in 15 days	£50
Supply of alcohol by a club to a person under 18	Not yet formalised in Wolverhampton	To discuss with West Midlands Police. If agreed will adhere to their level of FPN fines.
Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18		
Buys alcohol on behalf of person under 18		
Buys alcohol for consumption on relevant premises for person under 18		
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18		

2. To approve the extension of fixed penalty provision introduced by new legislation, namely in respect of the production of energy performance certificates and underage sales of alcohol.
3. To note that various Acts under which fixed penalties are issued enable local

authorities to use their fixed penalty receipts only to help meet the cost of certain specified functions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. **Changes to Employee Establishment**

Resolved:

1. That the changes made to the employee establishment be noted.

9. **Schedule of Green Decisions**

Resolved:

1. That the summary of open and exempt green decisions approved by Cabinet Members, following consultation with the appropriate employee, be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act set out below:

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Applicable paragraph</i>
11	Corporate procurement - award of contracts for works, goods and services	3
12	Surplus Properties and Disposal Methods	3
13	Progression of Section 77	3
14	Provision of Hired School Transport	3
15	Block 10 and 11	3
16	Changes to Employee Establishment	1

Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

11. **Corporate Procurement – Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services**

Resolved:

1. That the variation of the existing banking agreement with the Co-operative Bank be authorised.
2. That the variation of the existing agreement for the support of the FutureWorks programme be authorised.
3. That the extension of the existing agreement for the provision of an advocacy service for two additional years be authorised.
4. That the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Performance, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Delivery, for the award of a contract to provide independent legal support for participants in the voluntary redundancy programme be authorised.
5. That an exemption to the competition processes of the Constitution be authorised.

12. **Surplus Properties**

Resolved:

1. To declare land and property surplus to requirements and agree to its disposal.
2. That the agreed terms for the disposal of sites through an independent decision delegated to the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity be approved.

13. **Progression of Section 77**

Resolved:

1. That submission of an application under Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, in order to seek Secretary of State approval for the disposal of playing fields on ex-school sites, which have already been identified as surplus to requirements be endorsed.
2. That sanction of the statutory consultation required as part of an application under Section 77 be commenced.
3. That authority is delegated to the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, to review and agree the submission of the Section 77 application to the Secretary of State in March 2013 based on the consultation results be agreed.

14. **Provision of Hired School Transport**

Resolved:

1. That the acceptance of tenders for the 2013/14 academic year be confirmed.
2. That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to complete and execute the required legal documentation with each successful tender.

15.

Blocks 10 and 11

Cllr Bilson presented a report about Blocks 10 and 11. He highlighted that an updated report had been circulated to Councillors with the additional assurance that before the development of Block 10, all the preconditions would have been satisfied.

Cllr Johnson tabled an amended recommendation for Item 15.

Cllr Bilson moved the amended recommendations for Item 15.

Resolved:

1. To approve the revocation of Recommendation 5 (for action or decision) in the 18 September 2013 report to Cabinet (Item 4 – Exempt – Blocks 10 and 11, Wolverhampton Interchange) noting that these previously delegated decisions will now be taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel
2. That the appointment of Neptune Projects Limited as Development Manager be approved.
3. To approve the exchanging of a Funding and Phase Agreement with Neptune Projects Limited for the construction of Block 10 and an Agreement for Lease and Lease with a potential tenant for part of the ground floor of Block 10, noting that the Phase Agreement will contain pre-conditions relating to:
 - (a) An Agreement for Lease and Lease being exchanged for part of the ground floor of Block 10.
 - (b) A satisfactory and unchallengeable planning permission being granted.
4. That subject to the satisfactory execution of recommendations 3) and 4) above, and as previously reported to Cabinet on 18 September 2013, the:-
 - (a) Issuing of instructions to Neptune to procure and appoint a contractor to build Block 10 be approved.
 - (b) Delegation of authority in respect of lettings for Blocks 10 and 11 to the portfolio holders for Resources and Economic Regeneration and Prosperity in consultation with the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise and the Assistant Director for Finance, be approved
 - (c) Application for, and granting of relevant licenses to enable the construction of Block 10 be approved.
 - (d) Procurement and appointment of a managing and/or letting agent for Blocks 10 and 11 be approved.
 - (e) Acceptance of an offer from HM Treasury for access to lower interest rate borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board for this purpose.
 - (f) Acceptance of capital and/or revenue support under the Growing Places Fund be approved.
5. To note that any financial commitments arising from the recommendation in this report shall be restricted to the previously approached capital programme allocations.

16. **Changes to Employee Establishment**

Resolved:

1. That the employee establishment changes be noted.