



Cabinet Meeting

Minutes – 22 January 2014

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Roger Lawrence (chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Elias Mattu
Cllr Philip Page
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Paul Sweet

Employees

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Simon Warren | Chief Executive |
| Keith Ireland | Strategic Director - Delivery |
| Tim Johnson | Strategic Director - Education and Enterprise |
| Sarah Norman | Strategic Director - Community |
| Mark Taylor | Assistant Director - Finance |
| Wendy Trainor | Interim Chief Legal Officer |
| Dereck Francis | Democratic Support Officer |

Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item Title
No.

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

2. Declarations of interests

Cllr Samuels declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 (Voluntary Sector Community Initiatives Grant Funding 2014/15 and 2015/16) insofar as she is on the management committees for Heath Town Senior Citizens Club and the Gazebo Theatre in Education.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (8 January 2014)**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

DECISION ITEM (Amber – delegated to the Cabinet)

6. **Voluntary Sector Community Initiatives Grant Funding 2014/15 and 2015/16**

The Leader thanked the organisations and individuals who had submitted comments on the proposals. He announced that the proposals were very difficult for him and they were fundamentally against what the Cabinet want to do; they are also difficult for the organisations that are all doing work at community and individual levels.

As elected Councillors the Cabinet need more time to consider the feedback received and to allow Councillors more time to understand the Equality Analysis.

He therefore proposed, that the report be deferred for further individual Councillor consideration of the Equality Analysis and to allow employees time to discuss the feedback received from those organisations who had commented. He also announced that the report would come back to a future Cabinet meeting and all interested parties would be given proper notice of the meeting.

Resolved:

That the report 'Voluntary Sector Community Initiatives Grant Funding 2014/15 and 2015/16' be deferred for further individual Councillor consideration of the Equality Analysis and to allow employees time to discuss the feedback received from those organisations who had commented. The report to come back to a future Cabinet meeting and all interested parties be given proper notice of the meeting.

DECISION ITEM (Red – for decision by the Council)

5 **2014/15 Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget and Rent Levels**

Cllr Bilson presented the report on an updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan which included proposed rents and service charges to take effect from 7 April 2014 and the proposed HRA capital programme for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. He placed on record his thanks to all those involved in the consultations on the 2014/15 budget which had been carried out by Wolverhampton Homes on behalf the Council. He reported on the feedback from tenants on the proposed rent increase. He also informed Cabinet that the proposals for service charges sought to recover the full cost of providing the service in question.

Resolved:-

That Full Council be recommended to:

1. Adopt the business plan set out at appendix A to the report as the approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan, including:
 - (a) The revenue budget for 2014/15 set out in the plan;
 - (b) The capital programme for 2013/2014 to 2017/18 set out in the plan.
2. Approve an increase in rents for HRA dwellings of an average of 6.23%, and in accordance with the Government's rent restructuring formula (including its constraints on individual rent increases), with effect from 7 April 2014.
3. Increase rents for HRA garages by 6.23%, with effect from 1 April 2014.
4. Approve that HRA service charges and district heating charges are set at the levels detailed in appendix B3 to the report, with effect from 1 April 2014.
5. Approve that Hostel and Carelink rents and charges are set at the levels detailed in appendix B4 to the report, with effect from 1 April 2014.
6. Note the charges to be levied on tenants and leaseholders by Wolverhampton Homes set out in appendix B5 to the report are noted.
7. Note that the Council places on record its sincere thanks to all those tenants' representatives and all other stakeholders and partners who put forward views and comments during the consultation process.

DECISION ITEMS (Amber – delegated to the Cabinet)

7. Warstones Community Service Hub

Cllr Mattu reported on feedback from the community stakeholder engagement process on proposals relating to the transformation of Warstones resource centre into a community hub service alongside a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioned service to offer around 26 intermediate care beds. He informed Cabinet that the proposal had been well received at the consultation meetings and it was hoped that the continued discussions with the CCG on the proposal would be fruitful as the proposal would be good news for the city as well as the local ward area.

Resolved:

1. That the continuation of formal negotiations with the Clinical Commissioning Group to provide up to 26 step-down beds within Warstones Community Service Hub be approved.
2. That the decision of the CCG Governing Board to go out to tender for intermediate care services be endorsed.
3. That the continued development of a formal business case/plan with detailed cost and benefits analysis on the requirements of the CCG and the outcomes of the community stakeholder engagement process be approved.

4. That a further report be presented to Cabinet in Spring 2014 on the outcomes of the discussions on the proposal and the completed business case/plan.
5. That it be noted that in the spring 2014 report it would be recommended that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities in consultation with the Assistant Director for Older People and Personalisation to approve the final arrangements.

8. **Comments from Scrutiny on the Five Year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19**

The Leader placed on record his thanks to the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels for their detailed analysis of a difficult financial situation.

Cllr Johnson also thanked the Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Board for the collective and earnest consideration they had given to the draft budget proposals. He noted that a lot of the scrutiny feedback was requesting further information and he trusted that the information would be supplied to them in a format they could use to understand fully the implications of the budget proposals. He also reported that there was feedback that Cabinet would need to give due consideration to and he highlighted a few areas, namely:

- Reduction of the Neighbourhood Warden Service.
- Move Shopmobility to be more commercially supported.
- Reduction in the Christmas decoration installation – maintenance budget
- Optimise the use of the Winter Service Gritting Fleet
- Looked After Children

Resolved:

That the comments from Scrutiny Board and Panels in relation to the draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19 be received and noted.

9. **Council Tax Base and NNDR (Business Rates) Net Rate Yield 2014/15**

Cllr Johnson sought approval to set the estimates for the Wolverhampton Collection Fund for 2014/15, which the Council managed on behalf of local precepting bodies and Central Government.

Resolved:

1. That the Collection Fund Council Tax Base for 2014/15 be set at 56,299.12 Band D equivalents.
2. That the Collection Fund NNDR (Business Rates) Net Rate Yield for 2014/15 be set at £74.4 million.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance to approve amendments to:
 - (a) the final NNDR1 as required as a result of changes to the NNDR1 form by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG);

- (b) the Council Tax Base as a result of any data revisions and changes in projections.

10. **All Age Disability Strategy**

Cllr Val Gibson presented the report on the outcome of consultation on a draft All Age Disability Strategy. The strategy aimed to ensure that all disabled children, young people and adults are able to live full and fulfilling lives. It was also about making sure that disabled people and their families are in control and supported in the way that they choose to achieve their own goals. For those disabled people who need it, the strategy covered the provision of specialist care and support to access education, employment, housing, and health care, and it also considered the needs of parents and carers.

Resolved:

That the revised All Age Disability Strategy be approved and an implementation plan be developed.