

Meeting of the Cabinet

Minutes - 13 September 2017

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet

Cllr Roger Lawrence (Chair)
Cllr Peter Bilson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE

Employees

Mark Taylor	Strategic Director - People
Kevin O'Keefe	Director of Governance
Ross Cook	Service Director - City Environment
Alison Shannon	Deputy Section 151 Officer
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Greg Bickerdike	Democratic Services Officer
Oliver Bhurru	Media Communications Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Sweet and Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal. |
| 2 | Declaration of interests
There were no declarations of interest. |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2017 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. |

5 **Wolverhampton Interchange Programme**

Councillor John Reynolds presented the Wolverhampton Interchange Programme report for recommendation to Council. The report provided an update on the Interchange Programme and sought approval for a revised funding strategy.

Resolved:

1. That Council be recommended to approve the utilisation of the existing borrowing provision to support the Interchange Programme.
2. That the submission of funding applications to the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Black Country LEP to support the Interchange Programme be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Director of Finance to accept any grants awarded.

6 **Business Rates Discretionary Relief**

Councillor Andrew Johnson presented the Business Rates Discretionary Relief report, which proposed an extension to the Council's local scheme for business rate discretionary relief. Councillor Johnson thanked the Head of Revenue and Benefits for the work undertaken. The scheme was also aligned with the principles of other local schemes in the region and welcomed by the businesses impacted by the change.

Resolved:

1. That an extension to the local business rates discretionary relief policy be approved.
2. That it be noted the scheme would need to be reviewed and revised each year in line with the funding be noted.

7 **Scrutiny Review of the City's Apprenticeship Offer**

Councillor John Reynolds presented the report on behalf of Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal, the Chair of the Scrutiny Review. The report presented the findings of the scrutiny review of the City's apprenticeships offer and requested the approval of the recommendations, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, to improve the City's offer.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

8 **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme**

Councillor Steve Evans presented the supplementary report on Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme for recommendation to Council. Councillor Evans thanked the employees involved in producing the report for the work undertaken. The report requested that Cabinet recommends that Council approves the receipt of a grant from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and for that grant to be transferred to a private delivery partner in due course.

Resolved:

1. That Council be recommended to approve the receipt of grant for £478,000 awarded by the Office for Ultra Low Emissions to the Council to install 24 electric vehicle charge points in the City.
2. That Council be recommended to approve the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to transfer the full grant to the preferred private partner, once identified.
3. That Council be recommended to reduce the Capital Programme budget for Smart and Accessible City against which this programme was assigned to £478,000 to reflect the grant allocation.

9 **Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy**

Councillor Peter Bilson presented the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy. The report sought to amend the existing policy, as detailed in the recommendations of the report and that the policy programmes would be delivered through Wolverhampton Homes. The revised policy would continue to be delivered within existing budgetary provision.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed amendments to the Housing Assistance Policy be approved and published as required by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 for the purposes of:
 - i. to amend the policy to allow a wider range of adaptations to be undertaken including:
 - All stairlifts, modular ramps and ceiling track hoists – up to £8,000, including the provision of stairlift maintenance contracts
 - Bathroom adaptations to enable safe access to bathing and toileting facilities – up to £5,000
 - ii. to provide a more comprehensive approach to assisting vulnerable households by considering “whole home” solutions rather than addressing issues on a piecemeal basis by enabling a single housing assistance proposal to be delivered under a streamlined grant/loan process.
2. That the delivery of the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy programmes through Wolverhampton Homes be approved.

10 **Memorandum of Understanding - Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Plan**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the Memorandum of Understanding – Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The report advised Cabinet of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which had been developed to support the ongoing partnership of the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership. Following a discussion, Cabinet requested an amendment to the recommendations to specify that associate member status would be pursued.

Resolved:

1. That the Council pursue Associate Member status of the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.
2. That the response to the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached as Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
3. That the process and content of development of the Black Country and West Birmingham STP and the MoU attached as Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

11

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2016-17

Councillor Andrew Johnson presented the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2016-17 on behalf of Councillor Paul Sweet. Councillor Johnson thanked the Head of Community Safety for the work undertaken. The report provided a summary of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership progress during 2016-17 and sought support for identified areas of future development. Councillor Johnson proposed an amendment to the recommendations, which was agreed as detailed in recommendation 2, as a result of the successful collaborative work that had been accomplished in other areas, such as child sex exploitation.

Resolved:

1. That the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2016-2017 be endorsed and identified areas be supported for development.
2. That further dialogue be sought with partners regarding how to respond to issues of concern and areas for further collaboration in light of potential regional changes to safer partnership arrangements.

12

Reorganisation of Educational Provision - Whitgreave Infant and Whitgreave Junior Schools

Councillor Claire Darke presented the report on the Reorganisation of Educational Provision relating to Whitgreave Infant and Whitgreave Junior Schools. The report requested the commencement of a period of informal consultation on the proposal to merge the infant and junior schools. Cabinet was informed that the governing bodies of both schools were in support of the proposal.

Resolved:

1. That the commencement of informal consultation on the proposed merger of Whitgreave Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education, in consultation with the Assistant Director - School Standards, to consider the outcome of informal consultation on the proposed merger of Whitgreave Infant School with Whitgreave Junior School and to determine whether or not to proceed to formal consultation.

At this point, Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE made the Chair aware that she had a pecuniary interest in item 6 (Business Rates Discretionary Relief) as she was the owner of a business in the City.

13 **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 items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual, information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual and/or information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14 **City of Wolverhampton College**

Councillor Andrew Johnson presented the report that was exempt as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 3.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.

15 **Improving Pedestrian Safety**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the report that was exempt as it contained information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 7.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.

16 **School Expansion Programmes**

Councillor Claire Darke presented the report that was exempt as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 3.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.

17 **Procurement - award of contracts for works, goods and services**

Councillor Andrew Johnson presented the report that was exempt as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 3.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations as detailed in the exempt report be approved.