

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 19th January 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D. C. Norton (Executive Leader), Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor (Deputy Executive Leader), B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., R. Hollingworth and P. J. Whittaker.

Observers: Councillors G. N. Denaro, N. Psirides J.P. and G. G. Selway.

143/04 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths.

144/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 15th December 2004 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the Council's Tax Base figure included in Minute No. 130/04 to read 34,982.18 and the correction of resolution (a) to Minute No. 133/04 to read "that the existing vacant post of Principal Benefits Officer (Post T94) be regraded to SCP 39-43".

145/04 **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Minutes of the Member Development Working Group held on 21st December 2004 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and adopted.

146/04 **ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

FORWARD PLAN

Members considered a recommendation made by the Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee requesting the Cabinet to ensure that the decision dates listed in the Forward Plan were realistic in order to prevent the expected dates for decisions from slipping from one meeting to another. It was

RESOLVED: that the request be approved.

147/04 **CONSTITUTION**

In the light of some suggested changes to the Council's Constitution which had been made at the last meeting of the Standards Committee, Members considered whether a cross-party Committee of the Cabinet should be established to carry out a comprehensive review of the Constitution. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that approval be given to the establishment of a cross-party Committee of the Cabinet to review and make recommendations on the Constitution;
- (b) that the composition of the Committee be determined at a later date.

148/04 **LICENSING ACT 2003 – ESTABLISHING A LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

In the light of the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003, consideration was given to a proposal to establish a Sub-Committee of the Licensing Committee to deal with the range of functions set out in the report. Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that approval be given to the establishment of a Sub-Committee of the Licensing Committee comprising on each occasion three Members from the Licensing Committee to be selected in rotation, and that its meetings take place during the day.

149/04 **CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSALS TO ALTER SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a proposed delegation of powers in relation to dealing with the Council's response to consultations regarding proposals to carry out alterations to schools. It was

RESOLVED: that the Standards Committee be requested to agree that delegated authority be given to the Head of Administrative Services, in consultation with appropriate Ward Members, to respond to consultations by the County Council in respect of proposals to carry out alterations to schools in the District and nearby.

150/04 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – UPDATE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report which provided base budget information with regard to the Council's Revenue Budget for 2005/06 to 2007/08, together with an update on the progress on the formulation of the medium term financial plan.

RESOLVED:
(a) that the report be noted;
(b) that the Cabinet record its thanks to the Corporate Director (Resources) and the Financial Services Team for their efforts in preparing the Budget and the details of the Capital Programme.

151/04 **MONITORING OF THE REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05**

The Cabinet considered a report which monitored the position of the revised Capital Programme for 2004/05 as at the end of November 2004. The report set out the variance for each scheme together with explanatory comments from budget holders.

RESOLVED:
(a) that the underspend of £0.074m at November 2004 and the forecast underspend of £0.722m at the end of the 2004/05 financial year be noted;
(b) that the progress made on capital schemes to date as set out in the report be noted.

152/04 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Having considered the merit of the grant application, it was

RESOLVED: that the application from Headway North Worcestershire be deferred for further information.

153/04 **IEG4 AND THE PRIORITY SERVICES AND TRANSFORMATION OUTCOMES**

The Cabinet considered a report which presented the position with regard to the Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) 4 Statement, together with information about "Priority Services" and details of proposed projects arising from the previous IEG3 submission. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the IEG3 grant (£350,000) be released to fund the projects listed in the report, that the need to progress these schemes with some urgency be noted, and that before the schemes are started, a business case be agreed with the Member e-champion and the Portfolder Holder for Finance;
- (b) that the "Priority Services" document set out in Appendix "A" to the report be noted;
- (c) that a "Priority Services" workshop event be arranged for all Members early in 2005;
- (d) that the content of the IEG4 submission as set out in Appendix "B" to the report be noted, this having been agreed by the Corporate Director (Resources) in consultation with the Member e-champion and the Portfolio Holder for Finance prior to submission to the ODPM by its deadline of 20th December 2004.

154/04

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Cabinet considered a report which advised that the Planning Inspectorate, through the Government Office for the West Midlands, had recommended a change to the timetable for the Council's proposed Local Development Scheme. It was also noted that there was a statutory requirement for the full Council to formally adopt the Scheme from a specified date. Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the revised timetable for the production of the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document as referred to in the report be approved;
- (b) that the Local Development Scheme be submitted to the Council meeting on 25th January 2005 with a view to being adopted with effect from 26th January 2005;
- (c) that the Director of Planning Services be given delegated authority to sign on behalf of the Council, the agreement with the Inspectorate, and any future agreements based on dates already approved by Members and contained within the Council's Local Development Scheme.

155/04

RURAL RIDES BID

Having considered an application from WRVS Bromsgrove Rural Rides for grant funding in 2004/05, together with the organisation's updated Business Plan, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that approval be given to a grant of £8,000 to WRVS Bromsgrove Rural Rides in 2004/05 to be funded from the concessionary fares budget;
- (b) that officers conduct an annual evaluation/assessment of the Rural Rides operation;
- (c) that the WRVS be informed that future bids will be considered on the basis of an annual evaluation/assessment of the operation;
- (d) that officers investigate the possibility of further partnership working with WRVS Bromsgrove Rural rides in an attempt to aid and support the service, particularly with regard to the relocation of the operation to Bromsgrove.

156/04

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2002/05

Having considered a report which provided a position statement on the Community Safety Strategy 2002/05 as at January 2005, it was

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

157/04

ARTRIX FUNDING REQUEST

Consideration was given to a request received from the Chairman of the Arts Centre Trust for the Section 106 monies received in relation to the Gallagher's development at The Oakalls to be used to assist the purchase of essential equipment associated

with the operation of the facility. It was noted that the Section 106 agreement in relation to this matter contained provision for the payment of £50,000 towards the enhancement of community and arts facilities within Bromsgrove, with the proviso that such provision should be capable of benefiting the development land in question. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that approval be given to the use of the Section 106 monies of £50,000 related to the Gallagher's development at The Oakalls for the provision of cinema equipment at the Arts Centre, with any remaining balance being used to purchase other arts related equipment considered to have a positive impact on the Centre's income potential;
- (b) that the Director of Leisure Services be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio holders for Finance and Leisure, to determine how the £50,000 sum be allocated.

(NOTE: Councillors R. Hollingworth and D. C. Norton declared a personal interest in this item as members of the Arts Centre Operating Trust).

158/04

PROCUREMENT PARTNERSHIP FOR SMALL REFUSE VEHICLES

(The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency as a decision was required thereon before the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet).

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health reported on the need to purchase small refuse vehicles for use in rural areas and narrow lanes. In view of the timescale for the completion of the introduction of the modernised refuse/recycling service it had been necessary to explore the alternative procurement options available. It had come to light that Dudley MBC was purchasing the same vehicles and it was therefore suggested that the Council should formally approach Dudley to pursue negotiations with a view to agreeing a procurement partnership whereby Bromsgrove District Council could "piggy back" onto the Dudley contract. It was also noted that a response was awaited from the Regional Centre for Excellence in Procurement on the matter.

Having considered the matter, it was

RESOLVED: that subject to the response received from the Regional Centre for Excellence in Procurement, the Chief Executive be authorised to formally approach Dudley MBC on the basis as set out above;

RECOMMENDED: that in view of the urgent need for the refuse vehicles, an exception be made to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

159/04

REDGROVE SPECIAL SCHOOL

(The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency as a decision was required thereon before the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet).

The Head of Administrative Services referred to a consultation letter received from the County Council regarding a proposal to close and re-open Redgrove Special School in Redditch. Any response needed to be submitted by 11th February 2005. Having considered the matter, it was

RESOLVED: that the Head of Administrative Services be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, to respond on behalf of the Council.

The Meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman