

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 2nd February 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., Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillors Mrs. S. J. Baxter, G. N. Denaro, N. Psirides JP and G. G. Selway

160/04 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. Hollingworth.

161/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 19th January 2005 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

162/04 **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF TOWN CENTRE ACCESS – MILL LANE**

Consideration was given to the outcome of a consultation exercise regarding three alternative options for improvements to the Mill Lane access to Bromsgrove Town Centre. During the consultation process new information had come to light in relation to the access requirements of certain properties in the area, which had compromised the health and safety aspects of the original options. This had led to a new modified option as the preferred way forward (Option F). Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that Option F be adopted as the approved scheme for the provision of a safe route for pedestrians accessing the Town Centre from Market Street West via Mill Lane;
- (b) that all Consultees engaged in the original consultation exercise be informed of alternative scheme Option F and the reasons as to why this option is now being adopted;
- (c) that the Head of Community Safety and Engineering in partnership with the Highways Partnership Unit in Bromsgrove be authorised to execute the project in line with the time frame set out in the report;
- (d) that the funding currently available for this project within the 2004/2005 Capital Programme be transferred to the Capital Programme for 2005/2006.

163/04 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report which provided information with regard to the Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2005/2006 to 2007/2008, together with details of budget pressures and options for addressing the budget shortfall. It was noted that the report would also be considered at the forthcoming round of Scrutiny Committee meetings. Any comments made at these meetings would be reported back to the Cabinet at its meeting on 16th February 2005 when the final recommendations with regard to the budgets would be agreed. The Corporate Director (Resources) drew Members' attention to some minor errors in the "Banked Savings" set out in Appendix C of the report and indicated that the budget pressure for Shared Services for 2005/2006 as set out in Appendix B should be £20,000 not £10,000.

He also advised that with regard to Capital schemes, the Senior Management Team now wished to recommend that Discretionary Home Repair Assistance and Housing Renewal Grants (private sector only) should be categorised as high priority rather than medium. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that for the purposes of consultation with the Council's Scrutiny Committees and representatives of the business community
- the information contained in Appendix A of the report with regard to the base Revenue Budget for 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 be noted;
 - the budget pressures identified as unavoidable and high in Appendix B of the report be included within the Revenue Budget, subject to the Shared Services item being increased to £20,000;
 - the "banked" savings identified in Appendix C of the report totalling £1,125,336 for 2005/2006 be approved;
 - the recommended potential savings identified in items 1-63 inclusive in Appendix D of the report totalling £514,798 for 2005/2006 be approved;
 - approval be given to the use of balances to fund one-off expenditure as set out in section 8.10 of the report;
 - the schemes categorised as high priority in Appendix E of the report be approved for inclusion within the Capital Programme, together with the scheme in relation to Discretionary Home Repair Assistance and Housing Renewal Grants (private sector only);
- (b) that final recommendations on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme be formulated at the Cabinet's meeting on 16th February 2005, following the receipt of comments from the Scrutiny Committees and representatives of the business community;
- (c) that the medium term financial plan be reviewed during 2005/2006.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.

Chairman