

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Wednesday, 16th 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, R. Hollingworth and P. J. Whittaker.

Present in relation to Notices of Motion referred from Council under Council Procedure Rule 10:

Councillors A. L. Deakin, P. M. McDonald, N. Psirides J.P., S. P. Shannon and C. J. K. Wilson.

Observers: Councillors G. N. Denaro, Mrs. K. M. Gall, C. J. Scurrrell and E. C. Tibby.

### 165/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Executive Cabinet held on 2nd February 2005 were submitted.

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

### 166/04 **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Member Development Working Group held on 27th January 2005 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes and the recommendation contained therein be approved and adopted.

### 167/04 **TENDERS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Tenders Committee held on 18th January 2005 and 31st January 2005 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes be adopted.

### 168/04 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Framework Working Party held on 8th February 2005 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes be approved and adopted.

### 169/04 **ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The recommendations made by the Housing and Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee were considered during discussion on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

170/04

**NOTICES OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10**

(a) King George Recreation Ground

Councillors A. L. Deakin and P. M. McDonald spoke in support of the motion to install a multi-surface facility in King George Recreation Ground. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that no immediate action be taken in respect of this proposal.

(b) Car Parking Provision adjacent to Post Office, New Road, Rubery

Councillors P. M. McDonald and C. J. K. Wilson spoke in support of the motion to improve car parking provision adjacent to the Post Office in New Road, Rubery. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that no action be taken at present by this Council but that it be noted that it would be appropriate for the proposer and seconder of the motion to raise with the County Council as the Highway Authority.

(c) Proposed Traffic Island at the Junction of New Road and Callowbridge Road, Rubery

Councillor P. M. McDonald agreed to withdraw his motion relating to the need for a traffic island at the junction of New Road and Callowbridge Road, Rubery and to raise the matter with the Highways Partnership. This was noted.

(d) Car Parking Provision adjacent to Shops at Windmill Avenue, Rubery

Councillors P. M. McDonald and C. J. K. Wilson spoke in support of the motion to extend the existing car parking provision adjacent to shops at Windmill Avenue, Rubery. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Officers be requested to investigate the options for improving car parking including the cost implications of such improvements and the possibility of the owner of the shops meeting part of the cost.

(e) Skateboard/BMX Facility – Charford Recreation Ground

Councillors S. P. Shannon and A. L. Deakin spoke in support of the motion relating to the installation of a skateboard/BMX facility on the Recreation Ground, Lyttleton Avenue, Charford. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that no action be taken at present but that the matter be considered when the new Play Facility Asset Management Framework and the method of prioritising the replacement/enhancement of play facilities has been completed.

(f) Operating Council Businesses as Charities

Councillor N. Psirides J.P., spoke in support of the motion to consider the benefits of operating all of the Council's "businesses" as Charities. It was stated that such a report was in the course of preparation by Officers and it was

**RESOLVED:** that consideration of this matter be deferred pending the receipt of a full report from Officers.

(g) Annual Capital Expenditure

Councillor N. Psirides J.P., spoke in support of the motion to restrict all annual Capital Expenditure to the interest income received from the Council's Capital Reserves. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that it be noted that it is the Council's intention to eventually limit Capital Expenditure to the level of interest income received but that it is necessary to move to this situation over a period of time.

(h) Concessionary Fares Scheme

Councillors P. M. McDonald and C. J. K. Wilson spoke in support of the motion to extend the Council's existing Concessionary Fares Scheme to include a County-wide bus pass. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that further consideration be deferred until the results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey are available.

171/04

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2005/06 to 2007/08. This included consideration of recommendations made by the Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee and the Housing and Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee. It was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the budget pressures identified as unavoidable and high in Appendix B of the report be included within the revenue budget;
- (b) that the "banked" savings identified in Appendix C of the report totalling £1,125,356 for 2005/06 be approved;
- (c) that the recommended potential savings identified for items 1-63 inclusive in Appendix D of the report totalling £514,798 for 2005/06 be approved;
- (d) that the use of balances to fund one-off expenditure as set out in section 4.10 of the report be approved;
- (e) that subject to the above, the Revenue Budget for 2005/06 be approved and the Medium Term Financial Plan be reviewed during 2005/06;
- (f) that the statutory resolutions (to be circulated following receipt of all Parish precepts requests), setting a Council Tax for 2005/06 of £156.45 for a Band D property be approved;
- (g) that the Corporate Director (Resources) be authorised to approve increases in fees and charges in agreement with the portfolio holder for finance and other portfolio holders as appropriate in each case;
- (h) that the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix F to the report be approved, subject to the following amendments:
  - (i) washing facilities for Depot vehicles – to be increased from £10,000 to £20,000;
  - (ii) Housing Renewal Grant – for 2005/06 the sum to be £80,000 (to be monitored);
  - (iii) RSL Grants - £200,000 to be transferred from 2005/06 to 2006/07;
  - (iv) in accordance with the recommendation from Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee, the ranking for CCTV Scheme 1 (Wythall/Drakes Cross) be amended to high priority. The cost of this (£90,000) to be met partly from the deletion of the Strand Conservation Project (£40,000) and the deletion of the capital receipt element of the Sanders Park Improvement Scheme (£30,000).
- (i) that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Resources) in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to release capital funds from within the Capital Programme subject to the provision of a robust business case;

- (j) that no action be taken in respect of the recommendation from the Housing and Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee that there should be no introduction of car parking charges for the disabled when the shopmobility scheme is up and running, in view of discussions which had subsequently taken place with groups representing disabled persons;
- (k) that, in accordance with the recommendation from the Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust be requested to contribute towards the cost of the provision of community wardens who patrol areas of land owned by the Trust;
- (l) that, in accordance with the recommendation received from the Policy and Strategy Scrutiny Committee, the budget for Concessionary Fares for 2005/06 be set at £408,000, to give a reduction of £40,000 on the base budget figure in accordance with the sum allowed for in "banked" savings.

172/04

#### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to the two grant applications received and to how any further grant applications received in 2004/05 should be dealt with. It was

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) that no action be taken in respect of the application from Hagley Parish Council Music Festival in view of the Parish Council's ability to raise money through their precept;
- (b) that consideration of the application from North Worcestershire Disability Information Advice Line be deferred and that discussions take place regarding other ways by which they may be assisted in the provision of their services;
- (c) that any further grant applications received in 2004/05 be dealt with under the current policy.

173/04

#### **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

Consideration was given to increasing the fares to be charged by Hackney Carriage owners following an annual review. It was

**RESOLVED:** that as from 1st April 2005 a revised table of fares be implemented based on the following:

For the first mile	£3.00
For each subsequent 114 yards	10p = £1.54 per mile approx.
Waiting time	10p for each period of 21 seconds

174/04

#### **PLANNING SERVICES – DELEGATED POWERS**

Consideration was given to the report on the twelve month trial period of the Planning Services delegated powers schedule. In view of the success of the new schedule during the trial period, it was

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the Standards Committee be recommended to approve the adoption of the new Planning Services delegated powers schedule on a permanent basis as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report, subject to an amendment requiring that Ward Members be informed in advance where refusal of an application is likely to be refused to provide an opportunity for discussion with the Case Officer;
- (b) that the starting time of the Planning Committee remains at 3.00 p.m.;
- (c) that the Director of Planning Services report further on the possible introduction of a provision for public speaking at Planning Committee Meetings.

175/04 **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2004-2005**

Consideration was given to the information relating to the Council's performance for the third quarter of 2004/05. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted.

176/04 **BROMSGROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE/DOLPHIN CENTRE PARKING**

There was detailed consideration of the report on car parking arrangements for customers and staff in respect of the Bromsgrove Customer Service Centre and Dolphin Centre. It was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the existing Dolphin Centre car park be upgraded to the standard of other car parks in the Town Centre at a cost of £40,000;
- (b) that the Dolphin Centre car park be included within the pay and display system, subject to (i) the grant of planning permission; (ii) the amendment of the Car Parking Order; and (iii) the submission of an appropriate business case to cover the additional cost of £4,500 in respect of an additional pay and display ticket machine on the Dolphin Centre car park (£3,000) and two "double ticket" machines (£1,500);
- (c) that car park spaces shown on Plan B adjoining the north boundary wall of the Dolphin Centre car park be made available for staff parking only and that this be facilitated by way of staff permits to cover working hours;
- (d) that the use of car park spaces shown on Plan B to be provided for customers and for people with disabilities in School Drive car park be limited to 20 minutes and that the spaces be excluded from the pay and display system;
- (e) that Service Centre staff be required to use car park spaces at the far eastern side of the School Drive car park subject to staff permits to cover working hours;
- (f) that a "double ticketing" arrangement be introduced to enable car park discounting by the Dolphin Centre;
- (g) that authority to agree the business case referred to in (b) above be delegated to the Corporate Director (Resources) in agreement with the Portfolio Holders for Finance and for Community Safety and Housing Strategy.

175/04 **CORPORATE PLAN 2005-08**

Consideration was given to the Draft Corporate Plan. A number of amendments to the wording and layout were discussed and it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that subject to the amendments put forward, the Draft Corporate Plan be approved for consultation purposes;
- (b) that thanks be expressed to all the Officers who have contributed to the Plan.

176/04 **WORCESTERSHIRE'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the report on the draft Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People which highlighted the implications of the Children Act in relation to District Councils. It was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that a joint Member/Officer Seminar be arranged to ensure awareness and understanding of the implications of the Children's Act;

- (b) that the implications of the Children's Act, insofar as they affect the District Council's responsibilities, be addressed within the Corporate Plan, the Business/Service Plans and working practices;
- (c) that this Council's representative with special responsibility for Children and Young People issues be Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths;
- (d) that the Bromsgrove Partnership (Bromsgrove LSP) be alerted to the implications of the Children's Act and the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership;
- (e) that the Worcestershire Draft Strategy for Children and Young People be noted and that comments on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership vision, aims and action plan be forwarded by 28th February 2005;
- (f) that the seven point plan suggested by SOLACE be noted.

177/04

**LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Local Air Quality Management Action Plan which had been produced in partnership with the County Council and the Highways Agency. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Local Air Quality Management Action Plan be approved and adopted.

178/04

**CONSULTATION PAPER : DRINKING RESPONSIBLY**

(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 the receipt of a Home Office Consultation Paper entitled "Drinking Responsibly" which sets out how the Government intends to tackle the problem of alcohol misuse. Comments on the Consultation Paper were required to be submitted by 28th February 2005. It was

**RESOLVED:** that authority to submit comments on behalf of the Council on the Consultation Paper be delegated to the Head of Administrative Services in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing Strategy.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman