

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Wednesday, 20th July 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D. C. Norton (Executive Leader), Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor (Deputy Executive Leader), Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, R. Hollingworth and P. J. Whittaker.

Observers: Councillors M. H. Gill, P. M. McDonald, N. Psirides J.P. and S. P. Shannon.

### 40/05 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.F.S.M.

### 41/05 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 22nd June 2005 were submitted.

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

### 42/05 **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Minutes of the Member Development Working Group held on 28th June and 18th July 2005 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the Member Development Strategy be approved subject to the comments set out in Minute No. 16/05;
- (b) that the remainder of the minutes be noted.

### 43/05 **MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10**

(a) Pathway by ASDA

Councillors S. P. Shannon and P. M. McDonald spoke in support of the motion which referred to the risk of injury to pedestrians and employees of ASDA arising from the practice of using the pathway that ran alongside the entrance to ASDA for the loading and unloading of 44 tonne heavy goods vehicles, and which called upon the Council to form a cross party group to carry out an investigation into the matter.

An officer report in connection with the motion was submitted.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Strategic Housing referred to the barrier which had now been erected. He also advised that the practice of loading and unloading heavy goods vehicles on the car park had now ceased and that there had been no incidents where public safety had been compromised.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that in view of the steps already taken, no action be taken with regard to the proposal to set up a cross party group;
- (b) that the Head of Legal Services investigate the status of the pathway and confirm the outcome in writing to Councillor Shannon.

(b) Avoncroft Museum of Buildings

Councillors N. Psirides and M. H. Gill spoke in support of the motion which called upon the Council to reinstate the annual grant to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings. It was felt this would demonstrate the continued support of this Council for the significant contribution that the Avoncroft Museum continued to make as a tourist attraction in the District.

**RESOLVED:** that the matter be reconsidered alongside other priorities as part of the budget-making process.

(c) Losses accumulated prior to Transfer of Housing Stock

Councillors P. M. McDonald and S. P. Shannon spoke in support of the motion that "this Council calls upon the ODPM to carry out a Public Enquiry in to the massive losses accumulated prior to the transfer of the Council housing stock to B.D.H.T."

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that the total debt at the time of the transfer amounted to £715,000 which had built up over a period of six years, of which £55,000 had accumulated over the last three years. Officers were in the process of establishing the reasons behind the accumulation.

**RESOLVED:** that the Cabinet are satisfied that measures are being put in place to prevent the recurrence of a similar accumulation and that no action be taken with regard to the proposal for a Public Enquiry.

44/05

**POLICY RELATING TO RIDES AND AMUSEMENTS IN BROMSGROVE HIGH STREET**

In response to a request from the Licensing Committee, consideration was given to the Council's policy towards granting consent for the stationing of children's rides and amusements in Bromsgrove High Street. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the no change be made to the policy and delegation to the Head of Administrative Services currently in place.

45/05

**REDUNDANCY AND REDEPLOYMENT POLICY**

As part of a review of a number of the Council's Personnel policies, Members considered a revised Redeployment and Redundancy Policy. The Protection of Pay element had been reviewed and revised by the Cabinet earlier in the year. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the revised Redeployment and Redundancy Policy as set out in the Appendix to the report be approved.

46/05

**SECTION 106 MONIES**

The Cabinet considered a report on applications and projects for the use of Section 106 monies in connection with parks, open spaces, play areas and recreation areas. In total this would represent an investment of approximately £650,000 in new or refurbished open spaces and recreational facilities across the District which would rise to over £1.2 million when existing commitments were taken into account. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that the applications/projects for the use of Section 106 monies as set out in Appendix "1" be approved, subject to the references to Barnt Green being changed to Linthurst as appropriate;

- (b) that, subject to discussions with the Catshill 20:20 Committee, approval be given to the use of Section 106 monies as partnership funding in relation to the application that has been made by Catshill 20:20, with no requirement for match funding;
- (c) that no retrospective applications for funding be considered;
- (d) that the Director of Leisure Services be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Leisure and relevant Ward Councillors, to progress the approved applications/projects to a conclusion and to agree the level of any contributions to be made by applicants;
- (e) that the Director of Leisure Services be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to agree with third party organisations as may be necessary, appropriate Conditions of Grant including those set out in Appendix "2" of the report;

**RECOMMENDED:** that the agreed applications and projects be included in the Revised Capital Programme for 2005/06 and the Capital Programme for 2006/07 as appropriate.

47/05

**CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE PROGRESS REPORT AND CUSTOMER SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN**

The Cabinet considered a report on the progress of the Customer Service Centre which set out proposals to address the current staffing situation which was having an adverse impact on service delivery, together with the proposed Customer Services Centre Business Plan. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the progress with regard to the Customer Service Centre since it opened on 1st March 2005 be noted;
- (b) that three additional full time equivalent posts be created with immediate effect at a cost of £32,000 (£67,000 in a full year);
- (c) that the estimated increased costs of £32,000 for 2005/06 be met from the amount set aside for contingencies;
- (d) that the estimated increased costs of £67,000 for future years be incorporated within the revised medium term financial plan;
- (e) that the Customer Services Business Plan for 2005/06 be approved.

48/05

**HUNTERS HILL SCHOOL**

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

The Director of Leisure Services reported that Hunters Hill School in Blackwell had successfully obtained New Opportunities Funding towards the provision of new indoor sports facilities. However, the School was having difficulty securing the necessary partnership funding and had a shortfall of £129,500. The Cabinet was asked to consider the opportunity of investing the necessary funding, which would be tied to a 'Community Use Agreement' to ensure wide community access to the new sports facilities and to the School's Outdoor Education Centre which was the only facility of this nature in the District. This would not only benefit Blackwell but the whole of the District. Initial discussions had indicated that the School was willing to enter into such an agreement. The Council's support for the project would also contribute towards the objectives within the Corporate Plan.

If the Council was minded to support the project there were two funding options available, namely a capital grant or the provision of a loan repayable on terms to be agreed. A grant was the preferred option.

The decision was urgent as the School needed to raise the partnership funding by the end of July 2005.

Following consideration of the matter, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the investment opportunity presented by Hunters Hill School be approved in principle;
- (b) that the Head of Leisure Services in conjunction with the Head of Financial Services and Head of Legal Services and in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Leisure and Finance and the Ward Councillor be authorised to progress the project to a conclusion;
- (c) that the project be included in the revised Capital Programme for 2005/06/07

The Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman