

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 26th October 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (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

Observer: Councillor N. Psirides

103/05 **MINUTES**

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

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

104/05 **TENDERS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Tenders Committee held on 4th October 2005 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be noted.

105/05 **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Member Development Working Group held on 24th October 2005 were submitted. Reference was made to the need to nominate a Member of the Executive Cabinet to attend the IDeA Leadership Academy Programme on the basis that a free place was available.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and adopted.

106/05 **FEEDBACK FROM SCRUTINY SEMINAR**

This item was withdrawn as the review of the scrutiny process had now been referred to the Scrutiny Committees for consideration in the first instance.

107/05 **REVISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2003/2004**

Consideration was given to the revised Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2004. A number of adjustments had been made to the accounts following the audit examination. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2004 as amended following examination by the external auditor be noted and approved.

108/05 **SINGLE STATUS AND JOB EVALUATION**

Consideration was given to the report on the background to the 1997 Single Status Agreement and the implications for the Authority. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

(a) that the NJC Computerised Job Evaluation Scheme be used as the method for implementing Job Evaluation at the Authority; and

- (b) that a Joint Single Status Working Party, with equal officer and trade union representation be formed to implement Single Status and Job Evaluation across the Authority.

109/05 **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2005/2006**

The report setting out the financial implications of the Member Development Programme for the period 1st October 2005 to 31st March 2006 was considered. It was

RESOLVED: that the Member Development Programme as detailed in the report be approved.

110/05 **BROMSGROVE TECHNOLOGY PARK - DESIGN GUIDE**

The Cabinet received a report on the Design Guide for the new Bromsgrove Technology Park which had been prepared by the Council, Advantage West Midlands and Central Technology Belt. The Cabinet acknowledged the importance of the document which would help to encourage and promote the evolution of a high status, technology based business park. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the Design Guide be approved as a material consideration when considering development proposals on the site and that all applications be judged against the principles of design and layout indicated within the Guide.

111/05 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The Cabinet considered a report on the issue of whether the Council's table of Hackney Carriage Fares should continue to be regarded as a table of fixed fares, or a table of maximum fares. A consultation had taken place with all Hackney Carriage owners. It was

RESOLVED: that in view of the result of the consultation with Hackney Carriage owners, the existing policy of regarding the Council's table of Hackney Carriage Fares as a table of fixed fares be re-affirmed.

112/05 **CONCESSIONARY FARES - COUNTYWIDE SCHEME PROPOSAL**

Consideration was given to a report on a proposal from Worcestershire County Council for the introduction of a Countywide Concessionary Fares Scheme which would also include free travel on journeys outside the County from 1st April 2006. Whilst the benefits of a Countywide Scheme were recognised, Members were concerned that the County Council appeared to require a commitment by all six Worcestershire Districts by 31st October 2005 despite the significant budgetary implications and the lack of information regarding the procurement and introduction of smart cards. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the costs of the scheme be explored to enable the proposals to be fully costed and considered as part of the budget process for 2006/07; and
(b) that the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to Worcestershire County Council expressing this Council's concern over the timescale set for responses to the proposal and the failure to provide sufficient financial and project management information in a timely manner which would have enabled earlier consideration of the proposed scheme.

(NOTE:

- (i) Councillor B. L. Fuller declared a personal interest in this item as a holder of a concessionary travel pass.
(ii) Councillor Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor declared a personal interest in this item as her husband was a holder of a concessionary travel pass.)

113/05

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(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.)

It was reported that at the Meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party on 25th October 2005, consideration had been given to the need to amend the existing Local Development Scheme by including an Area Action Plan for the former Rover site at Longbridge, together with changes to the timetable for the submission of key documents. It was necessary for the changes to be approved by Cabinet and by Council prior to submission to the Government Office for approval. Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Local Development Scheme be amended to include an Area Action Plan for Longbridge and an alteration to the timetable for the submission of certain key documents to the Government Office.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.

Chairman