

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 22nd February 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

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

OBSERVER: Councillor N. Psirides J.P.

162/05 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 18th January 2006 were submitted.

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

163/05 **TENDERS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Tenders Committee held on 18th January 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be noted.

164/05 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, the Chairman of the Performance Management Board, Councillor B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., presented the Minutes of the Performance Management Board held on 24th January 2006 and referred to draft Minutes of the Performance Management Board held on 17th and 20th February 2006 which would be formally submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Councillor Fuller drew attention to and expanded upon the recommendations set out in the Minutes and following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th January 2006 be approved and adopted; and
- (b) that the recommendations set out in the draft Minutes of the Meetings held on 17th and 20th February 2006 be noted and endorsed and that the Minutes be formally submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet.

165/05 **2006/2007 BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Reference was made to the report on the results of a recent budget consultation exercise. It was felt that whilst the exercise had been useful and the findings had been taken into account during discussion on the budget, additional consultations were required in other areas of the District. It was

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and that a further report be submitted when consultations have been undertaken in other areas of the District.

166/05

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – 2006/07 TO 2008/09

Consideration was given to the Medium Term Financial Plan (revenue and capital budgets) for 2006/07 to 2008/09. The Corporate Director (Resources) referred to an amendment to the savings in relation to the pest control service to £11,000 per annum. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the budget pressures identified as unavoidable and high in Appendix B to the report be included within the Medium Term Financial Plan as follows:
- 2006/07 - £1,697,964
 - 2007/08 - £1,832,325
 - 2008/09 - £1,437,261
- (b) that the initial savings/additional income generation identified in Appendix C to the report be included within the Medium Term Financial Plan as follows:
- 2006/07 - £297,963
 - 2007/08 - £345,891
 - 2008/09 - £445,582
- (c) that the recommended potential savings identified in Appendix D of the report be included within the Medium Term Financial Plan as follows:
- 2006/07 - £814,658
 - 2007/08 - £1,443,188
 - 2008/09 - £1,509,851
- (d) that the use of balances as set out in section 11.5 of the report be approved as follows:
- 2006/07 - £333,786
 - 2007/08 - £513,942
 - 2008/09 - £(19,455)
- (e) that other than the implementation of improvements to street cleansing as detailed in the Street Scene Strategy no further implementation of that strategy be undertaken at this time;
- (f) that a review of services be undertaken during the summer of 2006 as set out in section 11.8 of the report to explore alternative savings/additional income;
- (g) that the statutory resolutions (to be circulated following receipt of all precept notifications), setting a Council Tax for 2006/07 of £164.26 for a Band D property be approved;
- (h) that the fees and charges as set out in Appendix J be approved;
- (i) that the Corporate Director (Resources) be authorised to approve any further increases in fees and charges in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for finance and other Portfolio Holders as appropriate to the circumstances;
- (j) that the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix F (existing schemes) and Appendix G (new schemes) of the report be approved;
- (k) that the Corporate Director (Resources), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for finance be authorised to release capital funds subject to a robust business case.

167/05

CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to update the Council's Corporate Procurement Processes as required by the Council's Procurement Strategy. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Standards Committee be requested to recommend to the Council:
- (i) that the revised spending limits as set out in paragraph 3.1 (sections 1 to 5) of the report be approved; and
 - (ii) that the revised Contract Procedure Rules attached as Appendix 1 to the report and now incorporating the revised spending limits and provision to allow quotations and tenders to be received by email, be approved;

- (b) that it be noted that further reports will be submitted in relation to:
 - (i) updates to Official Journal of the European Union procurement limits or required procedures;
 - (ii) further revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules as appropriate;
- (c) that it be noted that the revisions to Contract Procedure Rules will mean that whilst the involvement of the Portfolio Holders in tender opening is still required, the need for a Tenders Committee is removed as awarded tenders will be reported direct to Cabinet.

168/05 **ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered a report on a revised Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy which would assist in embedding an effective anti fraud and corruption culture within the Authority. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the revised Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy be approved.

169/05 **PROCEDURE RULES OF AUDIT BOARD, SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING BOARD**

Consideration was given to Procedure Rules for the Audit Board, Scrutiny Steering Board and the Performance Management Board. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Standards Committee be requested to recommend to the Council that the Procedure Rules for the Audit Board, Scrutiny Steering Board and the Performance Management Board be approved and incorporated into the Constitution, subject to the amendment of section 15 of the Audit Board Rules to allow either the Corporate Director (Resources) or the Head of Financial Services, together with the Audit Services Manager, to attend each Board meeting.

170/05 **FOOTPATH DIVERSION ORDER – STOURBRIDGE ROAD, BROMSGROVE**

Consideration was given to a report on two applications for the diversion/stopping up of Footpath 597 (formerly Footpath 121) Bromsgrove to enable the construction of a new First/Middle School with associated sports areas at Stourbridge Road, Bromsgrove. Following discussion and consideration of representations submitted, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that a Stopping Up Order be made under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of "Option B" (the proposed alternative route to the South); and
- (b) that in view of the urgency of the matter and to minimise the possible delay to the carrying out of the development, the Cabinet's decision be not subject to the Council's call-in procedure.

171/05 **BYELAW – COSMETIC PIERCING AND SKIN COLOURING**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the report which requested that a byelaw be implemented to regulate businesses undertaking cosmetic piercing and skin colouring. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Council adopts a byelaw under Section 120 and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2003 for the regulation of cosmetic piercing and skin colouring businesses.

172/06

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Consideration was given to a report on a review of Hackney Carriage Fares which proposed the revision of the extra charges set out in the Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages relating to hirings between 12 midnight and 6.00 a.m. Following discussion and in view of the consultation responses and charges levied by other Authorities, it was

RESOLVED: that the extra charges outlined on the Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages relating to hirings started between 12 midnight and 6.00 a.m., as outlined below be approved with effect from 1st April 2006 and that the remaining fares stay the same:-

- £1.00 - For hirings begun between Midnight and 2.00 a.m. on days other than those specified.
- £2.00 - For hirings begun between 2.00 a.m. and 4.00 a.m. on days other than those specified.
- £3.00 - For hirings begun between 4.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. on days other than those specified.

173/06

INSTALLATION OF A WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM WITHIN BROMSGROVE CCTV CONTROL ROOM

Consideration was given to a report on a request from West Mercia Police that they be permitted to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment within the Bromsgrove CCTV Control Room. The installation would also involve the CCTV Operators in monitoring the system. It was reported that it had recently come to light that there was a possibility that additional costs to this Council may be involved and this was now being investigated further.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the installation and operation of ANPR equipment within the CCTV Control Room, including the linking of dedicated West Mercia Police cameras to the existing CCTV system be approved;
- (b) that the use of CCTV operatives to monitor and respond, where practical, to vehicles targeted locally or nationally by the ANPR system be approved;
- (c) that the Head of Culture and Community Services be authorised to agree the installation of all ANPR equipment, establish written operating protocols and guidelines for its operation in conjunction with the Police and to ensure that all operatives are provided with the necessary training via West Mercia Police; and
- (d) that the Head of Culture and Community Services in consultation with the Executive Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Community Services be authorised to give consideration to any financial implications for this Council which may emerge and, if necessary, to refer the issue back to Cabinet.

174/06

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

Consideration was given to the report on issues relating to the Supporting People programme including consultation responses received from interested parties on the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010, the changes to the governance arrangements for the Supporting People Programme and details of the government consultation regarding future financial arrangements.

Concern was expressed regarding the proposal from the ODPM to move away from the current distribution formula and the detrimental effect the proposed formula would have on funding for Worcestershire and Bromsgrove. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the consultation responses and the resulting changes to the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 be noted and the final Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 be adopted;
- (b) that the changes to the Supporting People governance arrangements be noted;
- (c) that in relation to changes to the funding distribution formula, in addition to the response to be submitted by Worcestershire Supporting People, a further response be submitted to the ODPM on behalf of this Council strongly opposing the changes proposed and pointing out the weaknesses in this approach. The response should also recommend adoption of the alternative option which dampens the full effect of the formula and request that the pace of change be elongated to prevent widespread instability in housing related support within Worcestershire; and
- (d) that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment Services be requested to approach the local M.P. for her support on this issue.

175/06

HOUSING STRATEGY 2006-2011

The Cabinet considered a report on the Housing Strategy which included comments received from the Government Office West Midlands and consultation responses. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the comments received from the Government Office West Midlands and the consultation responses to the Housing Strategy 2005-2010 be noted;
- (b) that the Housing Strategy Document, as set out in Appendix III to the report, be approved for formal submission to the Government Office West Midlands.

176/06

PARKING OPERATION OVERVIEW

Consideration was given to the report on a proposed Parking Strategy for the District together with proposed enhancements to the current car parking operation. Proposals relating to the future operation of car parks in the District had been under consideration for some time and following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the draft Parking Strategy as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved;
- (b) that the cost of an excess charge notice be increased to £60, but reduced to £30 should payment be received by the Council within the 14 days following the issue of the excess charge and that the Car Parking Order be amended to reflect this change;
- (c) that an administration charge of £30 be made for the issue of any concessionary permit for those aged 60 or over and that the terms and conditions of use as set out in Schedule 3 of Appendix B be approved;
- (d) that the charge for annual and quarterly permits be increased to £300 (£75 per quarter), with a reduced charge of £200 (£50 per quarter) being made for permits issued for use on the Stourbridge Road car park and that the terms and conditions of use set out in Schedule 4 of Appendix B be approved;
- (e) that staff permits be included in the Car Parking Order and that the terms and conditions of use set out in Schedule 5 of Appendix B be approved;
- (f) that the revised Car Parking Order as set out in Appendix B be approved;
- (g) that the proposed tariff set out in Section 11.3 of the report be approved; and
- (h) that resolutions (b) to (g) above be implemented as from 1st May 2006.

(NOTE: The following Members declared a personal interest in this item as holders of concessionary car park permits; Councillors Miss D. H. Campbell J.P., Mrs. J. M. L. A.Griffiths, R. Hollingworth, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J.P., Mrs. C. J. Spencer and Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor.)

177/06

CABINET SUB-COMMITTEES

(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 Chairman reported that there was a need to establish Sub-Committees of the Cabinet to consider Town Centre Development and to review Planning Policies. It was also intended to establish a Sub-Committee to consider Waste Management issues and this would be the subject of a report to the next Cabinet meeting. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that two Sub-Committees of the Cabinet be established to consider Town Centre Development and to review Planning Policies.

178/06

MR. S. McGOWAN AND MR. P. ALLEN

The Chairman referred to the fact that both Mr. S. McGowan, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, and Mr. P. Allen, Interim Head of Planning and Environment Services, would shortly be leaving the Authority. He paid tribute to the work both Officers had undertaken and thanked them for their contribution to the Recovery process.

The Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman