

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 22nd March 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.

179/05 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 22nd February 2006 were submitted.

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

180/05 **TENDERS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Tenders Committee held on 21st February 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be noted.

181/05 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Performance Management Board held on 17th February and 20th February 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in the Minutes be approved and adopted.

182/05 **2006/2007 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN**

Having considered a report on the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2006/07 and having noted the issues which had impacted on the work of the Internal Audit Section during the current year, it was

RESOLVED: that the 2006/07 Internal Audit Plan be noted and approved.

183/05 **MONITORING OF THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2005/06**

The Cabinet considered a report which monitored the position of the Revenue Budget for the period April to December 2005. The report also referred to the progress made on capital schemes, together with the variances as at December 2005, and the position regarding the expenditure of funds made available for work in connection with the Recovery Plan. Having noted the proposed monitoring improvements to be implemented during 2006/07, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the net revenue underspend of £164,000 for the period April 2005 to December 2005 be noted;
- (b) that the capital underspend of £727,000 against the Revised Capital Programme at December 2005 be noted;
- (c) that the progress made on capital schemes to date be noted.

184/05

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report on a proposed Communications Strategy entitled 'A Strong Voice for Bromsgrove District' which set out seven priorities for improving internal and external communication, together with a series of planned actions and targets dates for implementation. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Communications Strategy, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

185/05

CUSTOMER FIRST STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a proposed Customer First Strategy which sought to improve customer service and embed a new customer culture across the Council through a series of planned actions based on twelve key themes over a period of around three years. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the Customer First Strategy, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

186/05

TASK GROUPS OF THE CABINET

The Leader referred to the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Cabinet to establish a Town Centre Development Sub-Committee and a Planning Policy Sub-Committees of the Cabinet and to the subsequent report which proposed revised arrangements.

Having given the matter further consideration, it was now proposed that instead of establishing Sub-Committees or Member Task Groups, these particular subject areas would be considered by officer groups to be monitored by a cross party Advisory Group of Members to be established by the relevant Portfolio Holder. In addition, the Portfolio Holder for Street Scene and Waste Management wished to establish a cross party Member/Officer Advisory Group to reviews services provided by the Street Scene and Waste Management Department. Reports arising from these respective reviews would be reported formally to the Cabinet in due course.

RESOLVED: that the proposals be approved.

187/05

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Cabinet received a report on proposed revisions to the Council's Constitution which had arisen following a major review of the Constitution. This had been undertaken as a requirement of the Recovery Plan with the assistance of Wright Hassall solicitors. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the changes to the Constitution recommended by Messrs. Wright Hassall be approved as draft recommendations;
- (b) that the Leader convene a group of Members to consider the draft recommendations in detail with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, with a view to making final recommendations to the Standards Committee and Council;
- (c) that the Standards Committee be requested to recommend to the Council that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Constitution as appropriate.

188/05

MS. D. POOLE AND MR. C. MORRISON

The Leader welcomed Ms. D. Poole, Head of E-Government and Customer Services to her first meeting of the Cabinet. He also paid tribute to the efforts and contribution made by Mr. C. Morrison, Interim Head of E-Government and Customer Services over the past six months.

The Meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

Chairman