

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 19th April 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.

188/05 **MS C. ARMOUR AND MR J. EDWARDS**

The Leader welcomed Ms C. Armour, Interim Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development to her first meeting of the Cabinet. He also welcomed Mr J. Edwards, who had recently taken over as Lead Official to the Authority.

189/05 **MINUTES**

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

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

190/05 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 20th March 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be noted.

191/05 **AUDIT BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Board held on 28th March 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that, subject to the amendment of the date in Minute 5/05 to read 30th November 2005, the Minutes be noted.

192/05 **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES BUDGET**

Consideration was given to a report on the financial implications of implementing the Members' Allowances Scheme during 2006/07. Thanks were also expressed to the volunteer members of the Independent Remuneration Panel who had carried out the detailed review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. Having noted the maximum potential cost of the Scheme it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Council be requested to approve the release of £38,573 from revenue balances in order to increase the budgetary provision for Members' Allowances for 2006/07 and thereby cover the anticipated costs.

193/05 **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2006-2009**

Consideration was given to the Council's proposed Capital Strategy for 2006-2009. The Strategy detailed how the Council intends to use its resources to achieve the key strategic policies and priorities agreed in the Recovery Plan, Annual Performance Plan, Community Plan and Corporate Plan. Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Capital Strategy for 2006-2009 be approved.

194/05 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2006/07**

The Cabinet considered the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/07 which included the Annual Investment Strategy. It was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy as detailed in the Report be approved;
- (b) that in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council set the authorised limit for borrowing at £6,000,000;
- (c) that the Council approve the maximum level of investment to be held within each organisation as detailed in the report at £3,000,000.

195/05 **HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY**

Having given consideration to a report on a Human Resources Strategy containing the vision and objectives for the Human Resources and Organisational Development department over the next two years, it was

RESOLVED: that the Human Resources Strategy and the resulting Action Plan for 2006-2008 be approved.

196/05 **EXPENDITURE OF ODPM HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUNDING FOR 2005/06 AND ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE FOR 2006/07**

Consideration was given to a report on the progress of schemes which provide support to the homeless or help to prevent homelessness funded during 2005/06 using ODPM homelessness grant funding and on the level of ODPM homelessness grant funding allocated for 2006/07 and 2007/08. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the update on the progress of the homelessness preventative and support schemes funded through the ODPM homelessness grant 2005/06 be noted;
- (b) that the level of ODPM homelessness grant funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08 be noted;
- (c) that the submissions for the funding of schemes recommended by the Bromsgrove Homelessness Steering Group from the 2006/07 homelessness grant be approved; and
- (d) that the Head of Strategic Housing, in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment, be authorised to approve recommendations made by the Homelessness Steering Group for the reallocation of any underspend or make further adjustments necessary to ensure full utilisation of the grant allocation for 2006/07 in support of existing or new schemes.

197/05 **CAR PARKING ORDER AMENDMENT**

Having considered a report on objections received to the revised Car Parking Order previously approved, and having taken into account the limited level of objections, it was

RESOLVED: that the Car Parking Order be implemented as planned from 1st May 2006.

198/05 **REVENUES AND BENEFITS – LONE WORKING POLICY, PROSECUTION POLICY AND AUTHORISED OFFICERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Consideration was given to a number of Benefit Fraud related policies attached as appendices to the report. It was

RESOLVED that the Lone Working Policy, the Prosecution Policy and the Authorised Officer Code of Conduct be approved.

199/05

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED: that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the items of business the subject of the following minutes on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
200/05	14
201/05	1

200/05

VERIFICATION FRAMEWORK ANTI-FRAUD POLICY, BENEFIT INVESTIGATIONS - INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, AND FRAUD STRATEGY AND TERMS OF REFERENCE 2006/07

Consideration was given to a number of Benefit Fraud related policies attached as appendices to the report. It was

RESOLVED: that the Verification Framework Anti-Fraud Policy, the Benefit Investigations - Intelligence Gathering, and the Fraud Strategy and Terms of Reference 2006/07 be approved.

(NOTE: the Fraud Investigations Business Plan was not considered at this meeting as it was due to be considered at the next meeting of the Performance Management Board.)

201/05

STAFFING MATTER

(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 Executive Leader referred to the need to bring to a conclusion an outstanding staffing issue. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Executive Leader, the Corporate Director (Resources) and the Interim Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, be authorised to finalise the issue; and
- (b) that due to the need to deal with this issue as soon as possible, the decision on this matter be not subject to the Council's call-in procedure.

The Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman