



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a MEETING of BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL to be held in the Council Chamber at The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 24th April, 2007, when the business referred to below will be brought under consideration:-

The meeting will be opened with a prayer.

1. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th March 2007

2. **To receive apologies for absence**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **To receive any announcements from the Chairman and/or Head of Paid Service**

5. **To receive any announcements from the Leader**

6. **Questions on Notice**

To deal with any questions on notice from Members of the Council, in the order in which they have been received.

7. **Recommendations from the Executive Cabinet** (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive any recommendations made by the Executive Cabinet at its meetings held on 4th April 2007 and 24th April 2007 (attached)

8. **Recommendations from the Standards Committee** (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive any recommendations made by the Standards Committee at its meeting held on 5th April 2007

9. **Recommendations from the Appointments Committee** (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive any recommendations made by the Appointments Committee at its meeting held on 20th April 2007 (attached)

10. **Motion**

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor P. M. McDonald:-

“Bromsgrove District Council has spent an unbelievable £681,459 on consultants, £641,505 on temporary/agency staff and £194,626 on casual payments. This was in spite of a scrutiny exercise carried out recently to control the expenditure on such items. The efforts of the scrutiny task group failed with finances now getting out of control and residents not receiving value for money. Such expenditure has contributed to Bromsgrove increasing the council tax to the highest level permitted without being capped and services being cut.

The total figure of exceptional payments is now a staggering £1.517.590, this cannot continue and every effort must be made to restrict such expenditure and ensure residents of Bromsgrove receive value for money.

To ensure that the finances of the Council are kept under control and that residents do receive value for money: that in future all proposed expenditure on consultants, temporary/agency and casuals payments will be placed on the agenda of all Full council Meetings for Council approval. This will ensure that in future all councillors of Bromsgrove will not only know what is going on with the Council's finances, but will have a direct say in such expenditure.”

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 2007 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors C. B. Lanham (Chairman), Mrs. J. M. Boswell (Vice-Chairman), A. N. Blagg, Miss D. H. Campbell JP, A. L. Deakin, G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., B. L. Fuller C.B.E. Q.F.S.M., Mrs. K. M. Gall, M. H. Gill, Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, D. Hancox, R. Hollingworth, G. H. R. Hulett, Ms. J. A. Marshall, P. M. McDonald, D. McGrath, S. R. Peters, N. Psirides JP, J. A. Ruck, C. R. Scurrall, G. G. Selway, S. P. Shannon, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor, E. C. Tibby, C. J. Tidmarsh and P. J. Whittaker

101/06 **PRAYER**

At the request of the Chairman, the Reverend Wendy Moore opened the meeting with a prayer.

102/06 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. J. Baxter, Miss S. L. Bushby, A. J. Dent, Mrs. R. L. Dent, J. T. Duddy, Mrs. A. E. Doyle, Mrs. J. D. Luck, W. R. Newnes and C. J. K. Wilson.

104/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared interests as set out below.

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Miss D. H. Campbell	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Operating Trust

J. T. Duddy	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Operating Trust (declared on his behalf by the Chairman)
Mrs. K. M. Gall	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove United Charities
Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Operating Trust and Member of Bromsgrove United Charities
C. B. Lanham	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Operating Trust
Ms. J. A. Marshall	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Holding Trust
D. McGrath	8 Outside Bodies	Personal - Member of Bromsgrove Arts Centre Holding Trust
N. Psirides	1 Minutes (93/05 Future of Bromsgrove Museum)	Personal – Member of Avoncroft Museum Trust
G. G. Selway	8 Outside Bodies	Personal – Member of Avoncroft Museum Trust
S. P. Shannon	1 Minutes (93/05 Future of Bromsgrove Museum)	Personal – Member of Avoncroft Museum Board
S. P. Shannon	8 Outside Bodies	Personal – Member of Bromsgrove Festival Committee
Mrs. C. J. Spencer	8 Outside Bodies	Personal – Member of Avoncroft Museum Board

Mr. K. Dicks declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 “Recommendations from the Appointments Committee”.

105/06 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

- (a) The Chairman thanked all those who had attended and contributed to the Treorchy Male Voice Choir event on 24th March 2007, with particular thanks to Councillor B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.S.F.M. The event had raised £2406.97 for the Chairman's Charities.
- (b) The Chairman reminded Members of the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Civic Dinner Dance to be held on 27th April 2007.
- (c) The Chairman referred to the forthcoming 60th wedding anniversary of Councillor C. J. Tidmarsh and conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Council.

106/06 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader made no announcements.

107/06 **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

No questions had been submitted.

108/06 **RECOMMENDATION BY THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING ON 21ST MARCH 2007**

RESOLVED that Mr. K. Dicks be offered the post of Chief Executive and that he be appointed to the post of Chief Executive and be designated as Head of Paid Service with immediate effect.

(Note: Having declared a prejudicial interest Mr. K. Dicks left the meeting during consideration of this matter).

109/06 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED that the appointment of a representative to fill the vacancy on each of the following outside bodies be deferred until after the Local Elections:

- (i) Bromsgrove Arts Centre – Operating Trust;
- (ii) Bromsgrove United Charities;
- (iii) Bromsgrove Festival Committee;
- (iv) Worcestershire Highways Partnership.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm

Chairman

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EXECUTIVE CABINET

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

4TH APRIL 2007

1. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2007 – 2010

The Cabinet has given consideration to the report on the updated Capital Strategy for 2007 – 2010.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED

That the Capital Strategy for 2007 – 2010 be approved.

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EXECUTIVE CABINET

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

24TH APRIL 2007

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Cabinet has given consideration to a report on a review of the Council's Constitution.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that

1. The Constitution be amended in accordance with the drafts appended to the report to take effect from 4 May 2007, subject to the following amendments:

(i) In relation to the Standards Committee:

The Articles be amended as follows:

Paragraph 10.2 a. (i) (**page 19**) be amended to read as follows:

“three District Councillors (other than the Leader) two of whom will be members of the controlling political group and one of whom will not be a member of the controlling political group.”

Paragraph 10.3 m. (**page 20**) be deleted.

Paragraph 15.1 (**page 28**) be amended as follows:

“The Monitoring Officer will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.”

(ii) In relation to the consideration of Scrutiny Steering Board reports the following wording be included in the Cabinet Procedure Rules as para 9.11 – 12 (**page 56**) and to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules as para 15.2 – 4 (**page 64**).

“* The Cabinet will consider all reports and recommendations presented by the Scrutiny Steering Board and will provide the Scrutiny Steering Board with a response.

* A Scrutiny Steering Board report which includes one or more proposals which would require a departure from the Budget and Policy Framework will be considered in the first instance by the Cabinet. The Cabinet will decide whether to recommend to the

Council that those proposals be implemented. If the Cabinet decides not to recommend to Council that those proposals be implemented, its decision, together with the reasons for that decision, shall be reported back to the Scrutiny Steering Board.

- * The Scrutiny Steering Board may then request the Chief Executive to include the report and those proposals which would require a departure from the Budget and Policy Framework on the agenda for the next available Council meeting.”
- (iii) In relation to Article 7.6 b (**page 17**), the wording be amended as follows:
- “When a decision regarding a Cabinet function requires attention as a matter of such urgency that formal reporting to Cabinet is not possible, the Leader may take that decision in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.”
2. Authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to correct typographical and/or cross-referencing errors in order to give effect to the Council’s intentions.
 3. There be a further review of the Constitution within 12 months.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 5TH APRIL 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Following the recent Ethical Governance Health Check undertaken by the IDeA, together with the current review of the Constitution, the Standards Committee has considered a report from the Monitoring Officer on proposed changes to the role and composition of that Committee.

The Committee resolved:

(a) that those matters set out in the report which were proposed should be referred to the Standards Committee be noted, and

(b) that, notwithstanding that it was the majority decision of the Committee to retain the number of District Councillors at five, as there were no “operational” suggestions proffered that would actually work (other than by political balance), this matter be deferred for further consideration at the first available meeting in the new municipal year once the political make-up of the Council was known.

It also RECOMMENDED

(a) that, subject to the proviso set out in (b) below, no substitutes be allowed to serve on the Standards Committee;

(b) that, on the question of Parish Council representation, this should remain at one, but that a Deputy Parish representative be appointed (with full necessary training), who would be allowed to substitute, and

(c) that, as it was a statutory requirement that at least 25% of the Committee should be made up of Independent Members, their number should remain at three.

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APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE - 20TH APRIL 2007

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Following the recent resignation of one of the Independent Members serving on the Council's Standards Committee due to work commitments, the Committee has interviewed a short list of three applicants for the post.

It is RECOMMENDED

that Mr. Noel A. Burke be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Standards Committee, and that, in order to retain a uniform "end date" for all of the Independent Members on the Committee, his term of office should expire in November 2011.

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