

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Leader), M. A. Sherrey (Deputy Leader),
D. W. P. Booth, M. A. Bullivant, C. B. Taylor and M. J. A. Webb

Observers: Councillor S. J. Baxter

Officers: Mr K. Dicks, Ms J. Pickering, Ms S Morgan, Mrs S. Sellers and
Ms R. Cole

89/13 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

90/13 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

91/13 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th February 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

92/13 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2014/2015 - 2016/2017**

The Cabinet considered the report on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017.

The Leader and the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) referred to the background to the Medium Term Financial Plan and to the challenges which the Authority faced.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) reminded Members of some of the cost pressures facing the Authority over the next few years including Reduction in the Government Grant Settlement and, cuts to funding received from the County Council.

Reference was made to the assumptions which had been made within the Medium Term Financial Plan, including the potential cost of a new Leisure Centre of £11.5m from 2014/2015. This would be subject to a formal Business Case being agreed by Members.

It was noted that Appendix 1 to the report contained revenue bids totalling £206,000. Members considered the potential benefit of the Small Business Saturday free parking bid of £6,000 as opposed to the use of that sum for general inward investment and economic development, particularly in view of the free parking days just a few weeks later.

There was discussion on the estimated value of grant included this year within the Government Settlement in relation to the impact on Parish Councils from the changes to the Council Tax Discount Scheme. The estimated value of the grant was £45,000. The Cabinet considered how this could best be utilised for the benefit of all areas of the District.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) referred to the current level of General Fund balances of £3,000,000. There was a need for officers to continue to review budgets to avoid the shortfall currently predicted over the 3 years and to mitigate the financial risk to the Council.

It was noted that it was a requirement under the Localism Act to produce a Pay Policy Statement for agreement by Council and that this was set out in Appendix 4 to the report. It was noted that the post "Head of Business Transformation" had now been amended to "Head of Transformation and Organisational Development".

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that in relation to the revenue bid for £6,000 for Small Business Saturday free parking, included in Appendix 1, this sum be allocated to fund general inward investment and economic development opportunities in the District;
- (b) that subject to (a) above, the revenue bids of £206,000, as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (c) that the following unavoidable pressures as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved:

2014/2015 - £369,000
2015/2016 - £210,000
2016/2017 - £232,000;
- (d) that the use of balances of £251,000 for 2014/2015 be approved;
- (e) that the savings as detailed in Appendix 3 be approved;
- (f) that the estimated value of grant of £45,000 as included in the Government's Settlement for 2014/2015 in relation to the impact on Parish Councils from the Council Tax discount Scheme, be allocated equally to Ward Councillors to spend within their Ward (calculation to be £45,000/39 x number of Members per Ward);

- (g) that the increase in Council Tax of 1.9% for 2014/2015 be approved;
and
- (h) that the Pay Policy as attached at Appendix 4 be approved.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.

Chairman