

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

1ST NOVEMBER 2017, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors G. N. Denaro (Leader), K.J. May (Deputy Leader),
B. T. Cooper, M. A. Sherrey, C. B. Taylor and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillors M. Glass and M. Thompson

Officers: Mr K. Dicks, Mrs C. Felton, Mr P. Field, Mr M. Austin, Ms C.
Welsh and Ms R. Cole

51/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

52/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

53/17 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th October 2017
were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th
October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

54/17 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on
18th September 2017 were submitted.

It was noted that in relation to minute 41/17 (Centres Strategy) the
Overview and Scrutiny Board had subsequently given further
consideration and support to the Strategy at their next meeting on 30th
October 2017. The final Centres Strategy was on the Cabinet agenda for
this evening.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held
on 18th September 2017 be noted.

55/17

WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD

The minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Board held on 5th October 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Board held on 5th October be approved.

56/17

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SOCIAL MEDIA TASK GROUP REPORT

The Leader welcomed Councillor R. J. Laight to the Cabinet meeting and invited him to present the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Social Media Task Group.

Councillor Laight referred to the successful cross party working of the Task Group and expressed his thanks to Councillor M. Thompson for his contribution to the work of the Group and the support he had provided.

In addition Councillor Laight thanked the officers who had worked with the Task Group, in particular Anne Marie Harley the Council's Communications Manager and Amanda Scarce the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Councillor Laight spoke about the recommendations from the Task Group report which he felt would be of benefit to individual Members and to the Council as a whole and would help to improve engagement with residents. It was proposed to offer training to Members to facilitate this and to encourage effective and appropriate use of social media.

The Cabinet welcomed the recommendations of the Task Group. The Leader thanked Councillor Laight for his attendance.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Social Media task Group be approved:

Recommendation 1

That the Council should promote its meetings through social media in order to engage with residents.

Recommendation 2

That the Council should consider a trial of the live streaming of particular items/meetings of interest to residents through Facebook.

Recommendation 3

- (a) that the Council's Social Media Policy be reviewed with the emphasis on providing guidance for officer use;

- (b) that a separate section be included which is dedicated to guidance for Members' use of social media; and
- (c) that Members of the Task Group assist with the section in respect of guidance for Members' use.

Recommendation 4

That an area be created on the Measures Dashboard dedicated to data in respect of access to the Council's social media accounts in order to measure its usage.

Recommendation 5

That as part of the member Induction Programme a workshop type training session be provided for Members, covering the following areas:

- (a) an introduction to Social Media on an iPad; and
- (b) any legal implications of Members' use of social media and how to keep safe.

57/17

JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ADDENDUM

Cabinet considered a report on an Addendum to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The Strategy which covered 2004 to 2034 had been adopted in 2009 by the six District Councils in Worcestershire together with Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council. The Policy had been reviewed in 2011 and as a result of this it was proposed that an Addendum be adopted to reflect subsequent changes in national policy, local provision and projections for future demand. This would ensure the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy remained relevant and fit for purpose.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Addendum to the Joint Municipal Waste management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2004 – 2034 be adopted.

58/17

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Members considered the Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2021 which had been developed by the Connecting Families Strategic Group. It was reported that the Plan had been developed in partnership by a number of public and voluntary and community sector partners and was not a report of Worcestershire County Council.

The Plan had been adopted by the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and was being considered by District Councils in the County.

It was noted that both the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive were members of the Connecting Families Strategic Group and that the Head of Community Services was also very closely involved in developing a detailed action plan in order to support the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The Plan aimed to set out the vision and values to "put children and young people at the heart of everything we do".

Attention was drawn to Appendix 4 to the report which set out the wide ranging ways in which Bromsgrove District Council was contributing to the Children and Young People's Plan and included actions which could support the delivery of the Plan's key objectives.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the new Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan 2017 – 2021 be endorsed; and
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services, in so far as it is within the Council's remit to work with Worcestershire County Council and all other relevant agencies and organisations to contribute to the drawing up of an action plan to put the CYPP into effect.

59/17

ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE APPLICATION - METHODIST CHURCH HALL, GREENHILL, BLACKWELL

Cabinet considered the application from Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council to list The Methodist Church Hall, Blackwell, Bromsgrove as an Asset of Community Value.

Members considered the application and in particular the test set out section 3.8 of the report. Members were of the opinion that the use of the premises met that test in that the premises were well used by various groups and organisations which furthered the social well-being and social interests of the community.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the listing of The Methodist Church Hall, Blackwell as an Asset of Community Value be supported.

60/17

CENTRES STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered a report proposing the adoption of a Bromsgrove Centres Management Strategy 2017-2020. The focus of the Strategy was to set out the vision and proposals for maintaining and growing the economy of the centres by enabling and encouraging new retail, housing, leisure and commercial opportunities to come forward.

It was noted that it was intended to review the remit of the Centres Management function over the next twelve months with the possibility of including other centres within the District. The Centres Manager would be helping to drive projects and to work with communities across the District.

Members welcomed the Strategy and it was

RESOLVED that the Bromsgrove Centres Strategy 2017-2020 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

61/17

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - 2018/18 - 2021/22 - BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Members considered a report setting out the proposed budget assumptions to be used in preparing the detailed 2018/19 budget and provisional budgets for 2019/20 – 2021/22.

Officers drew Members' attention to paragraph 3.4 of the report which set out the proposed budget assumptions in respect of key elements of the Council's Revenue budget:

- Council Tax – there was an assumption of an increase in Council Tax for 2018/19 – 2021/2022 of £5;
- Pay Award – there was an assumption of a 2% pay award over the period;
- Superannuation Rates – details were set out in full in paragraph 3.4 in particular savings had been achieved by making an advanced payment of pension contributions to Worcestershire County Council;
- Price Inflation – there was an assumption of 0% over the majority of non-pay expenditure with utilities costs assumed to increase by 6% and Business Rates increase of 3.9%;
- Discretionary Fees and Charges - the increase to be 2.8% with any reduction in this to be included as a budget pressure. Any increase above this to be justified and evidenced by officers.

In addition it was noted that Heads of Service were currently undertaking a full review of the Capital Programme taking into account the reduction in Capital Resources and the limited Revenue funding available for capital schemes. A report would be coming to Cabinet in January.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED that the revenue assumptions set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report be incorporated into the budget setting process for 2018/2019- 2021/2022.

62/17

ROSEMARY COLE

The Leader referred to this being the last Cabinet meeting to be attended by Rosemary Cole one of the Council's Democratic Services Officers. The Leader and Chief Executive thanked Ms Cole for her work on behalf of the Authority in supporting Members and officers and expressed good wishes for the future.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

Chairman