

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6.00 P.M.

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

Observers: Councillor C. R. Scurrall

Officers: Ms. S. Hanley, Ms. J. Pickering, Ms. A. Heighway, Ms. R. Bamford, Mr. G. Revans, Ms. J. Willis, Mrs. S. Sellers and Ms. R. Cole.

61/11 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

62/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

63/11 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 27th September 2011 and 5th October 2011 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record in each case.

64/11 **WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 29th September 2011 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted

RECOMMENDED that in accordance with the recommendation contained at minute 16/11, the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy be adopted.

65/11 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 12th October 2011 were submitted.

There was discussion with regard to minute 50/11 relating to the Planning Policy Task Group and the possibility of a separate investigation being

undertaken by the Labour Group. It was noted that the issue of demands on officer time would need to be a consideration at a later stage.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

66/11 **VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE LEADER AND/OR OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON ANY RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED IN AN EX-OFFICIO CAPACITY**

Cabinet Members referred to a number of events they had attended in their capacity as Portfolio Holders.

67/11 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 - 2014/15**

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources gave a presentation on the latest situation regarding the Authority's financial position 2012/13 – 2014/15.

Reference was made to:

- (a) the national situation including possible legislative changes which would impact on all Authorities, such as Business Rates arrangements and the introduction of a system of Universal Credit;
- (b) the local picture including the impact of the reduction in grant funding and the savings achieved from Shared Services programme;
- (c) the assumptions made in producing the Medium Term Financial Plan such as the rate of inflation and increases in utility costs; and
- (d) the actions being undertaken by officers to make further savings and efficiencies in order to address any budget gap for 2012/13.

RESOLVED that the current position be noted and that a further report be considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

68/11 **FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT CORE STRATEGY**

Members considered the report on the responses received to the consultation on the Draft Core Strategy 2.

It was reported that following an extensive consultation process, over 3,300 responses from residents, companies and organisations had been received and that officers had commented on all responses. Clearly the current uncertainty regarding future changes to the planning system had had an impact on both the responses and the resulting officer comments. It was noted that the policies which had attracted the most responses had been in relation to site allocations.

It was reported that the responses to the consultation would inform the revised version of the Core Strategy/Local Plan which it was anticipated would be available for consideration by Members during the middle of 2012.

RESOLVED that the report and the publication of the Draft Core Strategy 2 consultation responses be noted.

69/11 **CORPORATE DATA BACKUP**

Members considered the report on the need to address an issue relating to the backup of storage of electronic data and to increase the amount of electronic storage available.

It was noted that the funding requirement could be met from existing budgets within the IT service.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the increase in the Capital Programme for 2011/12 of £55,000, in respect of a user back up device and an additional electronic storage device be approved; and
- (b) that the cost be met from ICT reserves (£10,000) and current revenue underspend in the IT service (£45,000).

70/11 **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report on the proposed adoption of an updated corporate policy and procedure in relation to the Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. It was noted this would replace the existing corporate Child Protection Policy approved in 2009.

RESOLVED that the Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedure as contained in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

71/11 **PROPOSED MERGER OF NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS**

The Cabinet considered the report on the proposed merger of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership (BCSP), Redditch Community Safety Partnership (RCSP) and Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP) to create a single North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP).

It was noted that the proposal did not involve a merger of the Community Safety Partnerships at operational level and would not produce cashable savings but would release officer capacity to allow operational staff additional time to deliver community based initiatives and projects.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the merger of BCSP with RCSP and WFCSP to create a NWCSP be approved;

- (b) that subject to the approval of the merger by each of the Responsible Authorities, authority be delegated to the appropriate officers to take the necessary steps to implement the merger, including the establishment of governance arrangements and entering into any agreements and that this also be subject to endorsement by the relevant Community Safety Partnerships;
- (c) that the continuation of locality based operational and responsive partnership working through the Operational Tasking Group and its Theme Groups be noted; and
- (d) that the intention to review the Countywide partnership arrangements by 2014 be noted.

72/11 **BROMSGROVE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**

The Cabinet considered the Bromsgrove Partnership's Annual Report 2010/2011 which detailed the work of the Partnership over the past twelve months.

Members felt the report was in a very clear and "readable" form.

RESOLVED that the Bromsgrove Partnership's Annual Report 2011/12 be approved.

73/11 **SINGLE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE**

Members considered the new countywide Sustainable Community Strategy which included a section relating to Bromsgrove District. It was noted that whilst the Bromsgrove section was the final version, the County and other District sections may be subject to minor amendment.

RECOMMENDED that the Single Community Strategy for Worcestershire, including the section on Bromsgrove District, be approved.

74/11 **FINANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2011/12**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Council's financial position for the period April to September 2011. It was noted that at present there was a predicted underspend of £309,000.

Issues were raised in relation to the car park income level and the Portfolio Holder Councillor M. J. A. Webb confirmed he was discussing this with the relevant officers with a view to mitigating the impact of this.

It was noted that in relation to the Planning section, the need for additional staffing resources on a temporary basis was being addressed. The Portfolio Holder Councillor C. B. Taylor also raised the issue of potential costs arising from planning appeals and officers undertook to consider this further.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the current financial position in relation to revenue and capital budgets as detailed in the report be noted;
- (b) that the budget virements between £15,000 and £100,00 as contained in appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- (c) that the financial position and movements on the earmarked reserves as detailed reserves as contained in appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (d) that the expenditure of grant income of £40,000 from Worcestershire County Council for use in funding an insulation scheme for people over the age of 60 be approved; and
- (e) that £1,000,000 in respect of the repaving of the town centre be carried forward into 2012/13 .

75/11 **UPDATE ON WASTE AND STREET SCENE PUBLICITY PLAN**

Members considered a report giving an update on the position regarding the Waste and Street Scene Publicity Plan.

It was noted that it would be of assistance to officers to amend the wording of the recommendation previously agreed in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices, in order to give more flexibility. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that whenever possible and when considered appropriate, Fixed Penalty Notices be issued for all dog fouling and littering offences during campaign periods when an environmental enforcement officer is present. If it is considered that the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice is inappropriate, then the environmental enforcement officer shall take an appropriate level of action in accordance with the guidance contained in the Joint Environmental Enforcement Strategy.

76/11 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

That under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item of business the subject of the following minute on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act the relevant paragraphs of that part being as set out below and that it is in the public interest to do so.

<u>Minute No</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
77/11	3

77/11 **DISPOSAL OF RECREATION ROAD NORTH CAR PARK**

The Cabinet considered a report on the disposal of Recreation Road North Car Park to facilitate the inclusion of the land in the potential redevelopment of an Extra Care Village. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the sale of the Recreation Road North Car Park as part of the development process selected by the Recreation Road Consortium be approved; and
- (b) that the net proceeds from the sale be ring fenced for reinvestment into the Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration Programme.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman