

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD**

**THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY 2007**

PRESENT: Councillors Miss D. H. Campbell J.P. (Chairman), C. J. K. Wilson (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. J. M. Boswell, J. T. Duddy, W. R. Newnes, S. R. Peters, N. Psirides J.P., J. A. Ruck, S. P. Shannon and C. J. Tidmarsh

**Observers:** Councillors G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Mrs. K. M. Gall, G. H. Hulett, C. R. Scurrall, Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor and E. C. Tibby

**Officers:** Mr. K. Dicks, Mr. P. Street, Mr. H. Bennett, Mrs. C. Felton, Miss J. Pickering, Ms. J. Pitman, Mrs. S. Sellers and Miss D. McCarthy

99/06 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. J. Dent, Mrs. R. L. Dent and Mrs. A. E. Doyle.

100/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

In relation to item 4 on the agenda and specifically relating to the confidential Executive Cabinet report regarding the Dolphin Centre, Haybridge Sports Centre and Woodrush Sports Centre, the following interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
J. T. Duddy	Personal. Mother a Governor at Woodrush High School.
S. P. Shannon	Personal. Member of Worcestershire County Council.

No declarations of whipping arrangements were made.

101/06 **PRESENTATION BY POSTWATCH MIDLANDS**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mrs. Kathryn Davis, a Committee Member of Postwatch Midlands for the B postcode area, to the meeting. It was reiterated by the Chairman that Postwatch was an independent organisation, not attached to the Royal Mail Group or part of the Government.

Mrs. Davis gave a detailed presentation on the Post Office Network which covered issues such as why change was needed, Government proposals, the view taken by Postwatch and what individuals and organisations could do in response. Members asked several questions which were answered and all comments were noted by Mrs. Davis for her to report back.

Members were informed that at the time of the meeting, Postwatch Midlands did not have listings of rural post offices within Bromsgrove District due to them being recently redefined. However, Mrs. Davis agreed to provide a list of

all post offices in the District including those which were classed as rural under the old definition. When updated information became available, Mrs. Davis agreed to forward the new list.

The Department of Trading and Industry (DTI) consultation document relating to the Post Office Network was distributed to members. It was explained that the document contained a consultation response form which could be completed and sent to the DTI. It was confirmed that the deadline for responses was Thursday 8th March 2007.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked Mrs. Davis for attending and for providing members with the information requested.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that members individually complete a consultation response form and send it to the Committee Services Officer by Friday 2nd March 2007 or directly to DTI by Thursday 8th March 2007; and
- (ii) that the Corporate Director (Services) send a letter incorporating general comments of members to the DTI attaching all consultation response forms received from members before Thursday 8th March 2007.

102/06 **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 item of business the subject of the following minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part being as set out below:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
103/06	7

103/06 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Consideration was given to the confidential item for the Special Meeting of the Executive Cabinet on 21st February 2007 which related to the Dolphin Centre, Haybridge Sports Centre and Woodrush Sports Centre. Questions raised were answered by the Corporate Director (Services).

**RESOLVED:** that comments made in relation to this item be put forward to the Executive Cabinet.

104/06 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Consideration was given to all other items on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet. Members asked questions relating specifically to the budget papers.

**RESOLVED:** that, with the exception of comments made on the confidential item, no comments on any other item on the Agenda for the Executive Cabinet meeting on 21st February 2007 be put forward by this Board.

105/06 **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The Chairman agreed the Board could consider this as an urgent item.

The Head of Financial Services gave a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 to 2009/10 and the Capital Programme 2007/08 to 2009/10 and answered several questions put forward.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked the Head of Financial Services for her clear presentation.

**RESOLVED**: that the presentation be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman