

CABINET

14th February 2017

Present: Councillor Gregson in the Chair

Councillors Berry, L. Denham, J. Squires
and G. Williams

Also in Attendance:

Councillors Bayliss, P. Denham, Johnson
and Mackay

89 Councillor Riaz - Resignation

The Leader announced that Councillor Riaz, the Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services, has resigned from the Cabinet for personal reasons. He expressed thanks to Councillor Riaz for his work as the Portfolio Holder. His responsibilities would be distributed among the remaining Cabinet Members and details would be announced shortly.

90 Declarations of Interest

None.

91 Public Participation

None.

92 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

93 Scrutiny Call-In Of Cabinet Decision of 17th January 2017 Relating to the Creation of a Small Projects Development Fund

The Cabinet considered the report from the Chairman of the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee, requesting that Cabinet reconsider its decision of 17th January 2017. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources responded to the comments of the Committee and stated that she accepted all the points raised. She would ask Officers to agree the details of the scheme with Group Leaders, following which information would be given to all Members.

Having reconsidered the decision it was proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet agree to implement the decision taken on 17th January 2017.

94 Proposed Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 - 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18 and the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the next five year period.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources presented the report and set out the key issues, including Council Tax implications, business rate income, the implications for the Council of the business rate revaluation, car park charges, the adoption of the Small Projects Development Fund, additional assurances in respect of proposed additions to the counterparty list, and a summary of how standards and performance monitoring would feed into the new Committee system.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the recommendations arising from the two January 2017 meetings of the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee and highlighted those matters with a potential impact on the proposed budget and MTFP. All these recommendations were considered reasonable and the report set out details of how it was proposed to fund any consequent changes.

Other Cabinet Members commented and expressed support for the proposals, which provided a balanced budget not only for 2017/18 but for the whole of the MTFP period 2017-2022, and supported delivery of the City Plan.

The Portfolio Holder responded to questions from other Members present on specific aspects of the proposals.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. agree to endorse the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18 and the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the next five year period 2017/18 – 2021/22, and recommend its approval to Full Council on 21 February 2017. In particular:-**
 - a. The Budget Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2017/18 at £10.504m;**
 - b. The Council Tax Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2017/18 at £5.457m; and**
 - c. The Band D Council Tax for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) at £175.24; and**
- 2. recommend to Council approval of the extension of the Council's counterparty list to enable more flexibility when placing monies in the market.**

95 Achieving Excellence Business Plan 2017 - 2020

The Cabinet received an update from the Managing Director on progress to create a Business Plan and the work to be undertaken to achieve the Excellence standard. The Plan had been developed by the wider management team following engagement with staff through staff conferences and focussed groups.

Under the proposed committee system, overall progress on the delivery of the Plan was likely to be reported to a Policy and Resources Committee. Progress on individual projects would be reported to the relevant committee as appropriate.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet note progress with the Achieving Excellence initiative and the Achieving Excellence Business Plan.

96 Worcestershire County Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) - City Council Consultation Response

The Cabinet considered details of proposed City Council Responses to the Worcestershire County Council Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth presented the report and explained that the proposed responses had been developed from the discussions at two Councillor consultation meetings in 2016 and 2017.

Other Cabinet Members spoke in support of the proposed responses, which would underpin any refreshed City Master Plan, the City One Town Review and the City Plan.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to:

- 1. approve the proposed 11 City Council responses to the draft LTP4 as set out in full at Appendix 2 and in summary at paragraphs 3.1 – 3.11 of this report; and**
- 2. note that the proposed responses has been developed through the discussions from two councillor consultation meetings in 2016 and 2017.**

97 Busking Best Practice Policy

The Cabinet considered a new Code of Best Practice, which updated the existing code. The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth highlighted the main points.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the Code, which had been prepared taking into account feedback from a variety of representatives, stakeholders and the public. The code supported the City Plan and its themes of "A Prosperous City" and a "Healthy and Active City."

Other Members present commented and in response the Portfolio Holder explained that City Council Officers would work in partnership to promote and manage the implementation of the Code.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to approve the implementation of an updated Code of Best Practice for Busking in Worcester City Centre.

98 Investment in Gull Control

The Cabinet considered proposals for an additional £15k support to supplement the existing egg replacement programme. The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources summarised the proposals. The work would be carried out during the 2017 season and reviewed at the end of that period.

Other Cabinet Members expressed support for the proposals, which would be funded from the Service Improvement Reserve, in accordance with the decision of Council on 29th September 2016.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to:

1. approve an additional budget of £15k to support action to mitigate adverse effects of Gulls in the City as proposed within this report;
2. delegate authority to agree the detailed implementation of the proposals to the Deputy Director, Cleaner and Greener Service Delivery; and
3. recommend that officers report progress to Members via the proposed Environment Committee.

99 Any Other Business

None.

100 Item Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.

101 Minutes (Exempt Items)

RESOLVED: That the minutes (exempt items) of the meeting held on 17th January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.05p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
21st March 2017