

The Cabinet

Wednesday 8 July 2020 at 15:30 at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

- Present:** Councillor Y Davies (Chair);
Councillors Ali, Crompton, Hadley, Millard, Shaeen,
Taylor and Underhill.
- In attendance:** Councillors E M Giles, L Giles, S Jones, Padda, Rollins
and Singh.
- Officers:** David Stevens (Chief Executive), Alan Caddick (Housing
and Communities), Neil Cox (Director – Prevention and
Protection), Lesley Hagger (Executive Director –
Children’s Services), Stuart Lackenby (Director – Adult
Social Care), Lisa McNally (Director – Public Health),
Elaine Newsome (Service Manager – Democracy),
Tammy Stokes (Interim Director – Regeneration and
Growth), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services
Manager), Surjit Tour (Director of Law and Governance
and Monitoring Officer) and Chris Ward (Director –
Education, Skills and Employment).

46/20 **Apology for absence**

Members noted the apology of Councillor Moore, Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

47/20 **Minutes of Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

48/20 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests declared at the meeting.

49/20 **Additional Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.



50/20

Sandwell Residential Education Centres: Charges for the period 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022

Approval was sought to introducing charges to residential education centres for the period 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022. This would enable sufficient income to be generated to provide a high-quality service at zero revenue cost to the Council. Despite charges, there would continue to be subsidised places for Sandwell children and make access to the centres more affordable at certain times of the year in anticipation of a post Covid-19 recession.

Making no change to charges would result in empty weeks in low season, with a loss of uptake and opportunity and income. Reducing charges in high season would risk reducing overall income and not meeting income budget targets. An increase in charges in all seasons would risk reducing attendance and overall income.

Agreed that the Director - Education, Skills and Employment implement term-time charges for Sandwell Residential Education Centres for the period 1 August 2021 - 31 July 2022.

51/20

Appropriation of Heath Lane Cemetery Lodge, West Bromwich to the Housing Revenue Account

Approval was sought to declare the Heath Lane Cemetery Lodge, West Bromwich surplus to the requirements of Sandwell Council Bereavement Services and to appropriate the land and premises from the general fund to housing revenue account for the purposes bringing back the property into economic beneficial use, supporting the increasing demand for council housing in Sandwell.

Not appropriating the property would incur additional expenditure for the Council to look after a vacant property. Selling and disposing of the property was not deemed viable options as the lodge was sensitively located at the entrance of the cemetery and would reduce the ability of the Council to respond to any possible management issues post sale. This option would mean the council would lose the opportunity to add to the council's housing stock.

Agreed:-

- (1) that Heath Lane Cemetery Lodge, West Bromwich be declared surplus to the requirements of Sandwell Council Bereavement Services as identified on site plan identification reference SAM/23400/006;
- (2) that subject to Resolution (1) above, the Director – Regeneration and Growth appropriate the land and premises shown for identification purposes as Appendix A from the general fund to housing revenue account;

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- (3) that in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, the Director – Housing and Communities manage and let the premises as part of the Council's housing stock and the Section 151 Officer adjust the accounts accordingly

52/20

Leader's Announcement

The Leader addressed the Cabinet to announce that she would be stepping down as Leader of the Council with immediate effect.

The Council's Statutory Deputy Leader, Councillor Crompton, would be acting in the absence of the Leader until such time as the appointment of Leader of the Council was approved by Full Council.

Meeting ended at 16:00

This meeting was webcast live and is available to view on

<ps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7BjyyuVEts>