

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the **Cabinet** held on **Wednesday 27 September 2017** at **6.44 pm** in the **Council Chamber, District Offices**, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman James Waters
Vice Chairman Robin Millar

David Bowman
Andy Drummond

Stephen Edwards
Lance Stanbury

355. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

356. Open Forum

No non-Cabinet Members in attendance wished to speak under this item.

357. Public Participation

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

358. A Single Council for West Suffolk: Business Case (Report No: CAB/FH/17/045)

The Cabinet received this report which principally sought endorsement of a decision made by Council in relation to approval of the business case for a Single Council for West Suffolk.

At the meeting of Council held earlier the same evening, the recommendation for the final business case for a Single Council for West Suffolk to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Local Government, was considered and approved.

However, the Department for Communities and Local Government had confirmed that it would not accept the business case unless it was accompanied with an executive decision. Further, failure to do so could increase the risk of challenge. Thus, the Cabinet was asked to independently assess the business case and determine whether it supported and approved the submission of the business case to the Secretary of State.

Delegated authority was also sought to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to the making of minor amendments to the

business case, as requested by the Secretary of State to obtain his support to the proposal.

It was proposed, seconded and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The decision of the Council meeting of 27 September 2017 to submit the business case for a single Council for West Suffolk to the Secretary of State for consideration, as contained in Report No: COU/FH/17/026, be endorsed.
2. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments to the business case as requested by the Secretary of State to obtain his support to the proposal.

(Section 14.4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules of the Constitution states that:

'A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or public interest.'

This decision was considered to be urgent and in accordance with the aforementioned rules, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had both agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency, and therefore should be exempt from call-in. This matter had already been reported to Council (see Report No: COU/FH/17/026), together with the reasons for the urgency, which in summary related to the tight timeframe that was being worked to)

The Meeting concluded at 6.46 pm

Signed by:

Chairman
