

**Thursday, 18 November 2010,
County Hall, Worcester (10.00am)**

Minutes

Present:

Mrs M L Drinkwater (Chairman)	Mr A E Davies	Ms B A Nielsen
Mr R C Adams	Mrs P E Davey	Mrs F M Oborski
Mr M Ahmed	Mr N Desmond	Mr J Parish
Mr A T Amos	Mr A Ditta	Mr S R Peters
Mrs S Askin	Mrs E A Eyre	Mrs J A Potter
Mr R W Banks	Mr S E Geraghty	Mr D W Prodger
Mr T J Bean	Mr W P Gretton	Mr A Roberts
Mr A N Blagg	Mr A I Hardman	Mr C T Smith
Mrs S L Blagg	Mr M J Hart	Mr J H Smith
Mr M H Broomfield	Mrs A T Hingley	Mr T Spencer
Mr S Brown	Mrs L C Hodgson	Mr C B Taylor
Mrs J A Brunner	Mr C G Holt	Mr D F O Thain
Mr R A A Bullock	Mrs G F Hopkins	Mr J W R Thomas
Mr J M Cairns	Mr P M McDonald	Mrs E B Tucker
Mr J P Campion	Mrs E Moffett	Mr R M Udall
Mr B F Clayton	Mr W E Moore	Mr T A L Wells
Mr S J M Clee	Mrs P J M Morgan	Mr G C Yarranton

Available papers:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated)
- B. Fourteen questions submitted to the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated)
- C. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2010 (previously circulated).

(Copies of documents A and B are attached to the signed minutes).

1196. Apologies and declaration of interests (Agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Bunker, Mrs L R Duffy, Mr B P Gandy and Dr K Pollock.

Mr T J Bean declared a personal interest in Items 5 and 6 as his daughter was employed as a police officer.

Mr T Spencer declared a personal interest in Items 5 and 6 as his son was employed as a police officer.

Mr S R Peters declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a member of a boat owners' club.

Mrs P E Davey declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a member of Wychavon District Council

Mrs E A Eyre declared a personal interest in Item 14(b) as a Governor of Tudor Grange Academy, Worcester.

**1197. Public Participation
(Agenda item 2)**

Mr R M Udall declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14(a) and withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of that item.

Messrs A N Blagg, P M McDonald, S R Peters and C B Taylor declared a personal interest in Item 14 (a) due to their membership of Bromsgrove District Council.

One petition was presented.

Mr J Parish presented a petition on behalf of residents of Litchfield Street, Stourport on Severn concerning a road traffic issue in the area.

The Chairman received the petition and indicated that a response would be forthcoming.

**1198. Minutes
(Agenda item 3)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**1199. Appointment of
Leader of the
Council
(Agenda item 4)**

RESOLVED that Mr A I Hardman be elected Leader of the Council.

Mr Hardman thanked the Council and announced that he intended to combine the roles of Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance. He also announced that Mr S E Geraghty would serve as Deputy Leader.

**1200. Chairman's
Announcements
(Agenda item 5)**

- Chairman's Visits and Engagements attended
- Death of Mr Edward J Sheldon MBE
Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of Mr Ted Sheldon and then members made brief eulogies.
- Royal visits to the county – HRH Duke of Gloucester – 22 October 2010 and 4 November 2010
- MD of West Mercia Supplies – National Award
- Work on Sustainable Schools
- County Teachers Nominated for Teaching Awards 2010
- Fire and Rescue Service displays

**1201. Visit of the Chief
Constable
(Agenda item 6)**

The Chief Constable, Mr Paul West, was welcomed to the meeting and gave a short update on policing within Worcestershire and the West Mercia Police area. Mr West's presentation touched on key areas:

- the service's mission
- values
- strategic aims
- crime trends

- planning for the future, force restructuring and territorial policing
- borderless policing
- current and future challenges.

Mr West answered questions posed by members of the Council about operational and other police matters. These related to:

- future funding levels for the police. Mr West gave a comprehensive answer on the effects of reduced funding especially as that might relate to the "front line" service and how flexible approaches to staffing might mitigate the most extreme effects
- a specific concern about staffing levels in the Rubery area. Mr West answered with more details of how staffing and operational activity could be adapted to meet new demands
- Minors being detained in police cells overnight and when this situation might be rectified. Mr West said that secure accommodation was limited and it was now a national problem and recognised as such. With financial pressures on all areas of public spending this situation was unlikely to have a speedy resolution
- Firearms certificates being withdrawn in cases where a person was diagnosed with dementia. Mr West said this was a matter that raised possible questions about patient confidentiality but was under active consideration by the police
- CSOs having different powers within the West Mercia area. For example CSOs operating in the Warndon area did not have the power to detain people pending the arrival of a police officer. CSOs also did not have the power to issue fixed-penalty notices for low-grade anti-social behaviour in South Worcestershire, but they did in North Worcestershire. The questioner was told that this was a matter for the Superintendent in control of each Territorial Policing Unit but was another area which could be kept under review
- A member asked if the three graphs used in the Chief Constable's presentation (Total Crime, Domestic Burglary and Violent Crime all for 2003 – 2010) could be adapted to include a line showing the national figure and also a line for a comparator 'family' local authority. Mr West said he could provide these for members.

The Chairman thanked Mr West for his attendance. Mr West undertook to answer questions unable to be put at the meeting if they were submitted in writing to him.

**1202. West Mercia Police Authority
(Agenda item 7)**

The Council received the report of the West Mercia Police Authority.

Mrs Blagg answered questions relating to the work of the Police Authority, and Mr West answered further questions which related to operational police work.

Mrs Blagg reminded members that, given the detailed nature of some questions put to her, where she was unable to answer such questions at the meeting Councillors should subsequently address their questions to her in writing and she would endeavour to respond.

**1203. Visit of the Chief Fire Officer
(Agenda item 8)**

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Fire Officer, Mr Mark Yates, to the meeting. The Chief Fire Officer gave a short update on the work of the Fire and Rescue Service within Worcestershire. This presentation touched on the new challenges faced by a modern fire and rescue service, from planning and training for major events, search and rescue facilities, protection and safety of the public, protection and safety of firefighters and national co-ordination.

The Chief Fire Officer also drew attention to the role Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service played within the national context and the equipment it had available to do this.

Members then had an opportunity to question the Chief Fire Officer on his presentation and on wider operational issues affecting the Fire and Rescue Service. The Chief Fire Officer also reminded members that a selection of the Service's vehicles and equipment would visit the site during the morning to demonstrate some of the vital services they provided and the various displays would be available immediately after the Council's morning session.

**1204. Fire and Rescue Authority
(Agenda item 9)**

The Council received the report of the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority.

**1205. Review of Senior Management Structure
(Agenda item 10)**

The Council had before it a report prepared by the Chief Executive which proposed changes to the senior management structure of the Council.

The report set out that the Chief Executive, as the statutory Head of Paid Service, had responsibility for advising the Council on its staffing and organisation. Following the retirement of the Director of Financial Services she considered that there was an opportunity to reduce the number of Director posts and make consequent savings.

Members were reminded that at present the County Council had six Directorates⁽¹⁾ :

- Adult and Community Services
- Children's Services
- Corporate Services
- Environmental Services
- Financial Services
- Planning Economy and Performance

[⁽¹⁾ plus jointly appointed Director of Public Health, employed by PCT]

Following the retirement of the Director of Financial Services the Chief Executive had taken the opportunity to undertake a review of the Council's senior management structure. This was in line with her commitment to look at the Council's senior management resources as and when opportunities arose.

The report made it clear that whilst it was important to demonstrate that management posts were not immune from the financial pressures the Council faced, it was also important that the Council ensured that sufficient senior management capacity was retained to successfully reform services and lead the Council through a difficult period. However, against this background officers continued to scrutinise every vacancy that arose, including management posts.

The report set out that the main issues addressed by the structure review were :

- Should the vacant post of Director of Financial Services be filled or deleted?
- Was there a case for the creation of a 'Resources Directorate' by combining functions from Financial Services and Corporate Services?
- Was there a case for a wider review of senior structures at this time and possibly a more extensive reorganisation?
- Conversely, should there be a more cautious approach, with stability being the priority for the next two years or so?

The review process was supported by the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and included consultation with the Chief Officers' Management Board and members of Directorate Management Teams. The trade unions were also invited to submit any observations.

While the review was also informed by the (hugely varied) management structures in other County Councils, the Chief Executive's main priority was to determine what was right for Worcestershire County Council at this particular time.

The report set out that this Review had found widespread support for the deletion of the post of Director of Financial Services. The only caveat expressed was that consequent structural changes needed to recognise that strong financial management would be at a premium during the next few years. There was similar support for the creation of a 'Resources' Directorate, combining the present Financial Services functions and Corporate Services. However, it had also been generally recognised that this produced a very wide span of control for a single Director, with a consequent desirability to re-balance workload by transferring some Corporate Services functions elsewhere other than into a new Resources Directorate.

The report continued by stating that following discussion with Directors, the Chief Executive was proposing that an appropriate balance of responsibilities could be achieved by the transfer of the following four functions and staff from the existing Corporate Services Directorate to the Planning, Economy and Performance Directorate:

- Property Services
- HUB/Customer Services
- Consumer Complaints
- WETT (Worcestershire Enhanced Two-Tier programme).

Consequently the new Resources Directorate would be responsible for the following areas:

- Financial Services functions
- Human Resources and Organisational Development
- Legal and Democratic Services
- Information and Business Services
- Procurement
- BOLD Programme.

Both the Director of Planning, Economy and Performance and the current Director of Corporate Services and proposed Director of Resources, were content with such proposals. Given this the report suggested that it would be sensible for the Chief Executive to be authorised to settle the details of the revised officer structure and its implementation. The Chief Executive would keep the new

arrangements under review to ensure performance was satisfactory.

Although no other structural changes were proposed at this time, the report set out that the Chief Executive might bring forward further proposals, either when opportunities arose or when she was in a position to judge that further senior structural change would be beneficial.

The Appointments Etc. Panel, on behalf of the Council, had previously appointed Mr Patrick Birch as Interim Director of Financial Services and statutory Section 151 Financial Officer, in addition to his role as Director of Corporate Services. The report set out that Mr Birch was an experienced Director and was also a chartered accountant. Having previously held a number of senior positions within the Financial Services Directorate he was considered very well qualified for the proposed role of Director of Resources, including appointment as the Council's statutory Section 151 Financial Officer.

The report clarified that it was therefore proposed that, subject to the approval of the revised senior management structure, Mr Birch be appointed to the new post of Director of Resources. It was also set out that each local authority was required to appoint an officer with responsibility for the proper administration of its financial affairs. This was a statutory office required under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore often referred to as the 'Section 151 Officer'. It was proposed that Mr Birch be appointed to this role. As a legal consequence, his position as statutory Scrutiny Officer needed to be reallocated and it was proposed this role be taken by the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

Although the proposed changes would result in additional responsibilities falling upon the proposed Director of Resources and Director of Planning, Economy and performance, it was not proposed that there be any change to their remuneration in the new roles. This reflected the current financial environment and an obligation to set an example of pay restraint at a senior level.

The report concluded that a decision to delete these particular Director posts would in turn be likely to result in the net deletion of one Personal Assistant post and therefore deliver a full year saving in 2011/12 of about £166,000 including oncosts.

A discussion ensued during which the following principal points were made:

- the proposal was welcomed but it was queried whether the Council could go further
- that some of the reallocation of responsibilities between Directorates did not seem to be consistent with improving service delivery and might benefit from further review
- any opportunities should be explored to see if overall costs could be reduced.

RESOLVED that with effect from 1 December 2010:

(a) the posts of Director of Financial Services and Director of Corporate Services be deleted;

(b) a new post of Director of Resources be created;

(c) Mr Patrick Birch be appointed as the Director of Resources, with statutory Section 151 Officer responsibility;

(d) the reorganisation of functions between the new Resources Directorate and Planning, Economy and Performance Directorate as proposed in the report be approved;

(f) the new senior management structure as shown in the Appendix to these minutes be approved;

(g) the Chief Executive be authorised to settle the details of the officer structure and take any decisions associated with the implementation of the revised structure; and

(h) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, to reflect the Council's decisions.

1206. Report of Cabinet Members with Responsibility – Waste and Sustainability (Agenda item 11)

Mr Blagg presented his report which made reference to:

- municipal waste
- prevention of waste – the "love food - hate waste" campaign
- reuse
- recycling and composting
- EnviroSort
- pollution control
- sustainability and the actions being taken by the County Council to promote and achieve greater sustainability.

A discussion ensued during which the following principal points were made:

- a suggestion was made that members unfamiliar with the current waste contract could be briefed on the details. Mr Blagg said that this could be done
- a question was asked about under-sink waste disposal units and whether the County Council would continue to promote their purchase and use. Mr Blagg said there were conflicting views on the use of such units and it was considered that prevention of waste was better than any solution
- could figures be supplied to members showing take up rates for composting bin offers? Mr Blagg undertook to give a written response
- was the positioning of wind turbines on County Council land being encouraged? Mr Blagg responded that planning issues were involved which were beyond his control, Worcestershire was not the windiest area and this was a factor and alternative forms of generation were always being investigated
- was procurement being used to its fullest extent to meet green aims? Mr Blagg responded that no area of Council activity was being ignored.

The chairman thanked Mr Blagg for his report and Councillors for their questions and contributions.

**1207. Notices of Motion –
Notice of Motion 1
– Members'
Allowances and
Cabinet
(Agenda item 13)**

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mr T A L Wells, Mrs P J M Morgan, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr S Brown and Mrs S Askin.

"The Council resolves to cut members' allowances by 10 percent with effect from April 2011, (both basic and special responsibility allowances). We call on the Leader of the Council to reduce the number of Cabinet Members by at least 10 percent to achieve a further saving. We do this in recognition of the severity of the budget cuts that the Council must make and the consequences this will have for Council staff and for services to the public."

Following advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that the Council could not amend the Allowances Scheme without having regard to a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel, with the agreement of the signatories present at the meeting the motion was altered to read:

"The Council wishes to cut Members' allowances (i.e. Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance and

also those paid to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council) by 10% with effect from April 2011.

We also call on the Leader of the Council to reduce the number of Cabinet Members by at least 10% in order to achieve a further saving.

We do this in recognition of the severity of the budget cuts that the Council must make and the consequences this will have for Council staff and for services to the public. We therefore call for a speedy report from the Independent Remuneration Panel so its advice can be considered within this context and a formal decision taken."

The motion was moved and seconded and the Council agreed to deal with it on the day.

A discussion ensued during which the following principal points were raised:

- that members ought to share, and be seen to share, with staff and service users the results of the cuts being imposed in the public sector. Other members felt that scope already existed for the allowances bill to be reduced by individual members refusing to accept all or part of their allowance
- that a suggestion could be made to the IRP along the lines suggested in the motion. Other members claimed that this was not appropriate and did not follow previous practice
- further reductions could be made in the size of the Cabinet. It was pointed out that the new Leader had, in fact, just announced a reduction in Cabinet posts by 10%
- that a report from the IRP should be sought and that it could be considered by Council either in January, or more likely at the February meeting when the budget would be decided and any amendments to the Scheme could be considered.

On a named vote the Notice of Motion was lost.

Those voting in favour of the motion:

Mrs S Askin, Mr T J Bean, Mr S Brown, Mrs P J M Morgan, Ms B A Nielsen, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr C T Smith, Mrs E B Tucker and Mr T A L Wells (9).

Those voting against the motion:

Mrs M L Drinkwater, Mr R C Adams, Mr M Ahmed, Mr A T Amos, Mr R W Banks, Mr A N Blagg, Mrs S L Blagg, Mr M H Broomfield, Mrs J A Brunner, Mr R A A Bullock, Mr J M Cairns, Mr J P Campion, Mr B F Clayton, Mr S J M Clee, Mr A E Davies, Mrs P E Davey, Mr N Desmond, Mr A Ditta, Mrs E A Eyre, Mr S E Geraghty, Mr W P Gretton, Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Mrs A T Hingley, Mrs L C Hodgson, Mr C G Holt, Mrs G F Hopkins, Mr P M McDonald, Mr W E Moore, Mr J Parish, Mr S R Peters, Mrs J A Potter, Mr D W Prodder, Mr A Roberts, Mr J H Smith, Mr T Spencer, Mr C B Taylor, Mr D F O Thain, Mr J W R Thomas, Mr R M Udall, M G C Yarranton (41).

**1208. Notices of Motion –
Notice of Motion 2
– Alcohol at County
Hall (Agenda item
13)**

The Council had before it a Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mr C T Smith, Mrs S Askin, Mrs P J M Morgan, Mr S Brown, Mr T A L Wells, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr P M McDonald, Mr R M Udall, Mr A I Hardman, Mr A N Blagg, Mr S J M Clee, Mr D W Prodder and Mr W P Gretton.

"This Council determines that its elected members will accept the same restrictions on consumption of alcohol on the premises at County Hall as set out for employees in the staff handbook:

Members must not consume alcohol during office hours.

The only exception to this rule is where specific prior approval for alcohol to be consumed on special occasions has been given by the Chairman of Council or Chief Executive."

The Notice of Motion was moved and seconded and the Council agreed to deal with it on the day.

In the course of debate the motion was altered by agreement to remove the words "or Chief Executive" and add the words "or Vice-Chairman" for clarity.

Widespread support was expressed for the motion which was adopted unanimously.

RESOLVED that:

"This Council determines that its elected members will accept the same restrictions on consumption of alcohol on the premises at County Hall as set out for employees in the staff handbook:

1209. Reports of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision by Council – Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration Programme (Agenda item 14(a))

Members must not consume alcohol during office hours.

The only exception to this rule is where specific prior approval for alcohol to be consumed on special occasions has been given by the Chairman of Council or Vice-Chairman."

The Council had before it a report on a proposal to amend the Capital Programme to reflect investment in the Bromsgrove town regeneration.

The report set out that the Cabinet on 17 July 2008 had approved a project to rationalise property assets in Bromsgrove and in so doing support the regeneration of Bromsgrove town centre. The regeneration programme provided for a partnership working and integrated cross-functional approach to: the town centre environment and public realm; transport issues; economic development; and a 'Total Place' approach to the Public Estate.

The report suggested that further receipts were expected from future disposals of surplus property assets that were currently being identified in conjunction with the Area Action Plan (Strategic Town Planning Framework) for Bromsgrove.

The report highlighted that one of the critical areas of the regeneration of Bromsgrove was upgrading the run-down public realm in the High Street, for which the County Council acted as Highways Authority. Halcrow, the County Council's retained Highway Consultants, had estimated the cost of refurbishment at £2 million. Both the Director of Environmental Services and the Director of Policy, Economy and Performance welcomed such a scheme.

The report clarified that the High Street ran in four sections. The refurbishment of three of these sections would be facilitated by an investment of around £1.5 million through Bromsgrove District Council. This was as a result of Section 106 negotiations with developers and the reinvestment of their proceeds from the disposal of assets resulting from the rationalisation of the public estate. This would leave the High Street stretch immediately south of the centre of town requiring £0.5 million investment to complete the upgrade of the entire highway.

The Cabinet was therefore proposing that £0.5 million of the County Council's £1.016 million receipt from the Bromsgrove Property Rationalisation Programme so far be

reinvested into the Bromsgrove regeneration scheme to enable the completion of public realm works to the entire length of the High Street on a four-phase basis.

The report continued a summary of the funding of the scheme:

	£m
Bromsgrove District Council	0.5
Section 106 funding (Bromsgrove)	1.0
Worcestershire County Council (capital receipts)	0.5
Total	2.0

The report made clear that failure to resurface the section of pedestrianised High Street in question could adversely affect the investment proposition being created in Bromsgrove town centre in order to lever private funds for infrastructure improvements. Omitting a section of pedestrianised High Street would leave the area looking unattractive, potentially reducing footfall and spend in the area.

It was concluded that poor retail performance due to an unfinished or lower-end High Street renovation scheme may close existing shops and prevent new ones opening.

During debate a concern was raised over tying up this amount of money at this point. However, a number of members indicated support for the scheme and it was commented that Bromsgrove High Street was a high priority for the public.

RESOLVED that the Capital Programme be updated to reflect the £0.5m investment in Bromsgrove regeneration.

1210. Reports of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision by Council – Money Matters (Agenda item 14(a))

The Council had before it a report on various amendments to the Capital Programme and Directorate cash limits.

Capital Programme

The cessation of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme by the coalition Government on 5 July 2010 necessitated the removal of this project from the Capital Programme.

The Programme would therefore be reduced by the £124 million approved funding from BSF capital grant. The report reminded Members that the Council had previously earmarked £18 million of its own funding for the Wyre Forest Special School. This would remain within the approved Programme.

The Government had also announced that the following capital grants were being cut in 2010/11:

	£000
<u>Environmental Services</u>	
Integrated Transport	-1,330
Detrunking Roads (A449)	-430
Road Safety	-260
	£000
<u>Children's Services</u>	
Harnessing Technology	-1,020
Extended Schools	-226
Youth Capital	-122

A grant award of £300,000 had been made by Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands to the County Council to support its Total Capital and Asset Management Pathfinder Project. The award comprised £150,000 capital funding and £150,000 revenue funding and would support the development of a range of cross-agency property management solutions across the wider public sector in Worcestershire.

Additional Area Based Grant

The Government's Child Poverty Unit had notified the Council that they would be allocating additional Area Based Grant of £67,800 for 2010/11. This related to the Council's responsibility for leading the co-operation arrangements with partners and was in recognition of the costs of developing, consulting on, and publishing local child poverty needs assessments and strategies.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had also notified the Council that they would be allocating additional Area Based Grant of £10,000 for 2010/11 in respect of lead local flood authorities developing local flood risk management strategies and preliminary flood risk assessment reports.

The Cabinet proposed that the Children's Services Directorate and Environmental Services Directorate cash limits be increased by £67,800 and £10,000 respectively to reflect this additional funding. Area Based Grant would be accounted for as a single amount through Financial Services and its cash limit would be reduced by £77,800.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Capital Programme be updated to reflect the changes outlined in the report; and**

1211. Reports of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision by Council – Notice of Motion – Regional Development (Agenda item 14(a))

(b) Directorate cash limits be adjusted to reflect the additional Area Based Grant for 2010/11.

The Council had before it a report from Cabinet about a Notice of Motion referred from the June meeting of Council. The Cabinet's role was to advise Council on how to deal with the Notice of Motion.

The Cabinet report contained its recommendation that that in the light of Government's clear intention to abolish Regional Development Agencies, the Council does not adopt the motion and awaits the Government's response to the Council's Local Enterprise Partnership proposals.

The report set out that the following Notice of Motion standing in the names of Ms B A Nielsen, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr S Brown, Mrs P J M Morgan, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr T J Bean, Mrs S Askin, Mr T A L Wells and Mr C T Smith had been duly moved and seconded at Council on 24 June 2010 and stood referred to the Cabinet for advice before returning to Council:

"This Council recognises the strategic importance that AWM has played in delivering major investment opportunities for the region and Worcestershire in particular. We urge the Coalition Government to recognise the need for a strategic body to continue to bring together and champion economic development across all parts of the West Midlands.

In addition this Council identifies Warwickshire as a key partner for collaborative working, both in ensuring a strong voice for the south of the West Midlands and in developing the potential for joint service delivery."

The Cabinet had been provided with details of the significant role Advantage West Midlands (AWM) had played in supporting economic development and economic regeneration initiatives in Worcestershire. This included the provision of direct funding from the Agency as well as helping the Council to access European Union Regional Development funding (ERDF).

AWM funding and support had been provided through a variety of programmes including:

- Grants for Business Investment
- Selective Finance for Industry
- Central Technology Belt
- Tourism and Support for Destination Worcestershire

- Business Support through Business Link West Midlands
- Market Towns Programmes in Bewdley, Stourport, Evesham and Pershore
- Rural Regeneration Zone – support for projects through the Redundant Building Grant Scheme and Rural Enterprise Grants
- Support for the Worcestershire Rural Hub
- Support for the Worcestershire Property Pilot
- Skills Development and Strategic Business Support programmes delivered through the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce

Specific examples of major infrastructure projects funded in this period included:

- Worcester Joint Library and History Centre and new University Campus - £12 million
- Evesham High Street Refurbishment - £500,000
- Malvern Hills Science Park - £11.8 million
- The Motion Analysis Research and Rehabilitation Centre at the University of Worcester - £1.9 million
- National Pollen & Aerobiology Research Centre - £2.25 million
- Worcester Sixways Development - £2.7 million
- Droitwich Canals Restoration Project - £3 million
- Worcester Technology Park/Worcester Bosch Relocation £2 million (with Board approval for £16.75 million to deliver the project now being considered at national level by BIS)
- Severn Valley Railway - £500,000
- Flood Recovery Funding - £600,000
- Advanced Sensors Innovation Project with QinetiQ Malvern - £10 million
- Support for the Worcester City Vision - £30,000
- Support for the Wyre Forest Prospectus - £25,000

AWM was currently supporting the Evesham Multi User Facility development, based at the refurbished Regal cinema, and had recently submitted a £300,000 European Union bid for Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) funds to part fund this project. AWM was also working with the Council to access £440,000 of RDPE funding for the Three Counties Showground Extension to Severn Hall. This was a continuation to the Business Planning (an AWM funding contribution of £75,000) and Masterplanning (an AWM funding contribution of £25,000) work undertaken in the last 2 years. AWM had also established, with mixed success, economic delivery mechanisms through Clusters, Regeneration Zones and Technology Belts.

Some hoped-for AWM funding had now been lost, including the resources required in order to establish the Quantum Technology Partnership. Other AWM funding was being withdrawn, including £20,000 of Tourism support in 2010/11 and the two years of the Connections to Opportunities programme from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

Worcestershire had had to compete with other Local Authorities for economic development funding from AWM. In some cases this had been a matter of making the case for exclusive funding in the county, but on a number of occasions the Council had worked to put together sub-regional packages in order to secure funding opportunities, particularly in the case of European monies.

The Government had, however, set out its intention to abolish Regional Development Agencies. In their place it was proposed to establish Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Although LEPs would have defined boundaries, it was envisaged the Council would collaborate closely with other LEPs where it was in the Council's interest to do so. The Council submitted a proposal for a Worcestershire LEP in September 2010 but the Government had subsequently rejected that proposal.

In light of the report before Council that matters had moved on, with the agreement of the signatories present at the meeting the mover and seconder of the motion formally withdrew it.

1212. Reports of Committees – Audit and Governance Committee – Summary of Decisions Taken (Agenda item 15(a))

The Council received the report of the Audit and Governance Committee containing a summary of decisions taken.

1213. Reports of Committees – Planning and Regulatory Committee – Summary of Decisions Taken (Agenda item 15(b))

The Council received the report of the Planning and Regulatory Committee Containing a summary of decisions taken.

1214. Report of Cabinet – Summary of Decisions Taken (Agenda item 14(b))

The Leader of the Council reported and answered questions in relation to:

- proposals to create New Weekly Boarding Provision for the North of the County
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – Wyre forest and Tudor Grange Academy
- Worcestershire Partnership Restructure
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
- Carbon Management – 10:10 Campaign and Carbon Management Programme
- Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – First Draft Submission Report
- Scrutiny Report: "The Local Economy"
- The Future of the NHS and Public Health
- Scrutiny report: "Gritting: Winter Service Policy"
- BOLD Update
- Review of Fees and Charging
- Enhanced Two Tier Working – Expansion of Human Resources contract with Wyre Forest District Council
- Money Matters:
 - Budget Monitoring
 - National Indicator (NI) 179 Value for Money Gains
 - CLG consultation paper on Local government Finance Formula Grant Distribution
 - Consultation on School Funding 2011-12: Introducing a Pupil Premium
- Review of the Current Fairer Charging Policy in Adult and Social Care
- Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

1215. Question Time (Agenda item 12)

Fourteen questions had been received by the Director of Corporate Services and had been circulated for the meeting. Questions were asked (or taken as read) and answers were given or written answers promised (answers appended).

1216. Capital Programme (Agenda item 16)

This item was withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for luncheon between 12.55 p.m. and 1.45 p.m.

The meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman