

The Cabinet

**17th July 2019 at 3.30pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Y Davies (Leader of the Council);
Councillors Ali, Crompton, Hadley, Lloyd, Shaeen,
Taylor and Underhill.

In attendance: Councillors E M Giles and Rollins.

Apologies: Councillors L Giles, Khatun, Moore and Singh.

82/19 **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Lloyd declared an interest in declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 88/19 (Recommendations arising from Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board) on the basis that he was Chair of Litterwatch, who received funding from the Council and Serco, and subsequently left the room during consideration of this matter.

83/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June, 2019 be approved.

84/19 **Sandwell Residential Education Centres: Charges for the period 1st August 2020-31st July 2021**

Approval was sought to increase charges for Sandwell Residential Education Centres to Sandwell schools and Sandwell Academy schools with effect from 1st August 2020. This would provide a sustainable, accessible service.

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The proposed charges included a 2% increase to Sandwell schools and academy schools in line with inflation and a 3% increase for non-Sandwell schools, with a resulting overall 2.4% increase in term-time income in 2020/21.

The Residential Education Service operated in a competitive market, with a zero-revenue budget since April 2017.

Centres had to generate sufficient income to cover all revenue costs of approximately £2 million, including meeting pay awards.

Charges during school holidays and weekends, to generate additional income and support Sandwell school courses, would continue to be set at a rate determined by the Service Manager with centre heads.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life confirmed that the 2% increase in charges was less for Sandwell schools and academies so that they were not disadvantaged. Non-Sandwell charges had increased by 3%. The increases were necessary as these facilities were ran as a business and needed to be self-sufficient. Occupancy rates continued to be high due to rigorous marketing and promotion of the service.

Resolved that the Director - Education, Skills and Employment implement term-time charges for Sandwell Residential Education Centres for the period 1st August 2020-31st July 2021 as shown in Appendix A.

85/19

Supply Agreements for the Council's Electricity and Gas Provider

It was reported that in 2011, the energy frameworks provided by Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs) were reviewed by the Council's Corporate Procurement Service and approval was provided to participate in the agreements offered by Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO). Since this time, the Council had participated in the ESPO energy frameworks and had a representative on their stakeholder governance panel that established and reviewed the effectiveness of price risk strategy and purchasing performance.

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The Council currently had 1,126 electricity supply points and 241 gas supply points that were included in the ESPO energy framework arrangements.

ESPO had recently undertaken European Union compliant tendering exercises for both electricity and gas on behalf of over 100 local authorities, schools, Housing Associations and charities with a combined total of 26,000 supply points. Following the evaluation of returned tenders, the bids submitted by Total Gas & Power were the most competitive. Approval was now sought to appoint Total Gas & Power Ltd as the Council's Electricity provider until 30th September 2024 and Gas provider until 31st March 2023.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Core Services confirmed that the prices were competitive and value for money. With more efficient street lighting savings of £120,000 per year were being achieved.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the use of Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation Frameworks 191 and 192 to appoint Total Gas & Power Ltd as the Council's Electricity provider until 30th September 2024 and Gas provider until 31st March 2023 be approved;
- (2) that the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer execute any documents necessary to give effect to the Resolution (1) above.

86/19

Annual Gas Safety Inspections and Servicing of Gas Appliances to Council Owned Properties

Approval was sought to award the contract to undertake annual gas safety inspections and servicing of gas appliances to Council owned properties in Tipton and Wednesbury towns.

The Council was obliged by statute to undertake gas safety inspections and servicing to its properties as a Landlord.

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The contract for the provision of gas safety checks was awarded to Liberty Gas Group, Vinshire Plumbing and Heating Limited and Phoenix Gas Servicing commencing on 1st August 2018 with a contract period of three years.

From 29th March 2019, Liberty Gas Group had not delivered the services contained within the contract following a deed of variation being agreed.

From 29th March 2019 to the commencement of the contract, Vinshire Plumbing and Heating Limited and Phoenix Gas Servicing Limited had been issued with a variation to their existing contract to deliver services in Area 1 – Tipton and Wednesbury.

In response to a question, the Cabinet Member for Homes confirmed that compliance in undertaking annual gas checks was at 99.37%.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director – Housing and Communities award the contract to undertake annual gas safety checks to Council owned properties in Tipton and Wednesbury to Vinshire Plumbing and Heating Limited for a contract period of 23 months, from 1st September 2019 to 31st July 2021;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, the Director – Law and Governance enter into an appropriate contract with Vinshire Plumbing and Heating Limited.

87/19

Transfer of Dormant Trust Funds to Heart of England Community Foundation phase 2

Approval was sought for the Council to resign as trustee for a number of trusts to be replaced by the Heart of England Community Foundation and to transfer funds to the most appropriate body in order to ensure that this money was put to effective use.

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The Council was the trustee for a number of trust funds. However, a number of these trusts had now become dormant and no awards had been made for some time. In August 2017, the Heart of England Community Foundation (HoECF) approached the Council and offered to take over any dormant trusts and turn them into a single, active Community Fund for Sandwell. In May 2018, Cabinet agreed to transfer 21 dormant trusts to the HoECF for the purpose of establishing the Sandwell Community Fund. In December 2018, the transfer of the funds was completed.

It is now proposed to transfer the following trusts that were not included in phase 1 of the transfer:

Former Warley Secondary Schools (registered charity 529071)
Sir W W Butler (registered charity 529000)
Mary May Sheward
Richards Bequest
Councillor Arthur Smith (registered charity 509010).

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life confirmed that funds would be accessed through groups to help young people. Young people would be required to demonstrate their need for help with items such as course materials, etc. and the funds would be awarded through the firms who had contracts in place to access the funding.

Resolved:-

- (1) that, in respect of the following trusts, the council resign as trustee and be replaced by the Heart of England Community Foundation:

Former Warley Secondary Schools (registered charity 529071)
Sir W W Butler (registered charity 529000)
Mary May Sheward;

- (2) that the funds linked to the trusts named in Resolution (1) be transferred to the Heart of England Community Foundation for the purpose of investing those funds in the Sandwell Community Fund;

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- (3) that the JP Morgan investment fund “Education Trust Funds” client reference 184590 be transferred from Sandwell Council to Heart of England Community Foundation for the purpose of investing those funds in the Sandwell Community Fund;
- (4) that the funds related to the Richards Bequest be transferred to Sandwell Museums Service to be used towards the annual running cost of Wednesbury Art Gallery and the trust wound up;
- (5) that the Councillor Arthur Smith Trust (registered charity 509010) be closed and the funds transferred to Hanbury Primary School, Hanbury Road, West Bromwich for the purpose of pupil awards and an outdoor learning area.

88/19

Recommendations arising from Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

The Chair of the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board presented the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board in March 2019.

Consideration was now given to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Board.

The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities welcomed the report and advised that officers would continue to look at ways to achieve desired outcomes.

The Leader wished to place on record her thanks to the Scrutiny Chair and Committee for their hard work.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the recommendations of the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board in relation to food waste recycling be received;

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- (2) that the Director - Housing and Communities be requested to consider:
 - a. an options appraisal relating to the future for food waste recycling in Sandwell;
 - b. the requirements of the EU amending Directive 2008/98/EC (Circular Economy) in relation to food waste;
 - c. options on how to encourage residents to reduce food waste;
 - d. the focus for future food waste campaigns in Sandwell to 'reduce first and recycle last';
- (3) that in connection with (2) above, a further report be submitted to the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board on the findings;
- (4) that a further report be submitted to the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board on 27th September 2019 relating to how Sandwell is responding to 'Our Waste Our Resources – A Strategy for England'.

(Meeting ended at 3.47pm)

This meeting was webcast live and is available to view on the Council's website (<http://sandwell.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>).

<p>Contact Officer: Suky Suthi-Nagra Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3479</p>

Appendix A

TERM TIME RESIDENTIAL PRICE LIST ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20 and **PROPOSED 2020/21**



SANDWELL SCHOOLS	Edgmond Hall		Frank Chapman		Ingestre Arts		Plas Gwynant	
	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights
September 1 st to November 30 th	190 194	100 102	190 194	100 102	190 194	100 102	220 225	on request
December 1 st to January 31 st	180 184	95 97	180 184	95 97	180 184	95 97	210 215	on request
February 1 st to March 31 st	190 194	100 102	190 194	100 102	190 194	100 102	220 225	on request
April 1 st to July 31 st	210 215	110 113	210 215	110 113	210 215	N/A	240 245	on request

SANDWELL ACADEMIES	Edgmond Hall		Frank Chapman		Ingestre Arts		Plas Gwynant	
	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights
September 1 st to November 30 th	220 225	120 123	220 225	120 123	220 225	120 123	250 255	on request
December 1 st to January 31 st	210 215	115 118	210 215	115 118	210 215	115 118	240 245	on request
February 1 st to March 31 st	220 225	120 123	220 225	120 123	220 225	120 123	250 255	on request
April 1 st to July 31 st	240 245	130 133	240 245	130 133	240 245	N/A	270 275	on request

NON-SANDWELL	Edgmond Hall		Frank Chapman		Ingestre Arts		Plas Gwynant	
	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights	4 nights	2 nights
September 1 st to November 30 th	275 285	150 155	275 285	150 155	285 295	155 160	310 320	on request
December 1 st to January 31 st	265 270	140 145	265 270	140 145	275 285	145 150	297 305	on request
February 1 st to March 31 st	275 285	150 155	275 285	150 155	285 295	155 160	310 320	on request
April 1 st to July 31 st	290 300	165 170	290 300	165 170	300 310	N/A	340 350	on request

NOTES:

- Sandwell Looked After Children on term-time residential visits with their school attend free of charge.
- Proposed increase to Sandwell Schools and Sandwell Academies approximately 2%.
- Proposed increase to non-Sandwell schools approximately 3%.
- Overall potential revenue increase of **2.4%** on term time programmes.