

**The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick
on the 16th June, 2005**

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Alan Farnell (Chair) (Policy and Governance),
“ Alan Cockburn (Corporate Services),
“ Peter Fowler (Family Services),
“ Colin Hayfield (Adult and Community Services),
“ Martin Heatley (Environmental Services),
“ Richard Hobbs (Community Safety),
“ Chris Saint (Economic Development),
“ Izzi Seccombe (Childrens Services),
“ Bob Stevens (Performance Management),

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillors June Tandy, the Leader of the Labour Group,
Jill Dill-Russell (representing Jerry Roodhouse, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group).

Other Members:

Councillors David Booth, Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Josie Compton, John Haynes, Mick Jones, Helen McCarthy, Tim Naylor, Sid Tooth and John Wells.

1. General

(1) An Apology

was received from John Burton Cabinet Member for Schools.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in **Agenda Item 5 Amendment to Indicated Admission Number – Stratford High School** as a governor of the High School.

Councillor Alan Cockburn declared a personal interest in **Agenda Item 7 - SPARK** as a district councillor and also a prejudicial interest in view of the land ownership of a close relative.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th May, 2005 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 17th May 2005 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

(4) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th May, 2005 and Matters Arising.

(i) Minutes

In response to comments from Councillor Izzi Seccombe relating to Minute 3. Home to School Transport, it was agreed that the resolution should be amended by the inclusion of "proposal for consideration." after "...phased implementation."

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 26th May 2005 meeting be approved, as amended.

(ii) Matters Arising.

Minute 7 – School Funding Consultation

Councillor Izzi Seccombe reported that the Government had allocated funding of £4.5m to Warwickshire for the extended schools programme. This would be spread over three years and the County Education Officer would submit a report on the matter to a future Cabinet.

Members noted that, with regard to the Government's consultation on School Funding, the Council's response agreed at the last meeting had been submitted to the DfES. Further consideration to the Council's campaign for increased

funding for education was to be given by the education spokespersons. It was likely that schools would be asked to join the cross-party campaign. This was noted.

(5) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.

There were no requests.

2. Report of the Independent Chair on the Review of Older People's Services

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive relating to the report of Dame Yve Buckland, the independent chair of the Strategic Review of Older People's Services.

The County Council had undertaken similar reviews under Best Value principles. In consultation with members, the agreement in June 2004 was that the Review of Older People required a more strategic and cross cutting focus with independent scrutiny through an appointed independent Chair.

Whilst the review draws where appropriate, on best value principles, work across the County to engage a broader group of stakeholders has been an important feature of the work, creating a development agenda for Older People's Services and their carers in the community.

The report brought together the findings and recommendations from the interim reports already presented to the Employment and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Social Care and Welfare Overview Scrutiny Committee between November 2004 and February 2005.

Following an introduction from the Chair, members received a presentation from Dame Yve Buckland on the main aspects of her report.

During the discussion members complemented Dame Buckland on the review and noted that her action plan had been submitted to the Director of Social Care and Health. She indicated her intention to review progress with the implementation of the action plan.

During the discussion other points were raised including: _

- The need for the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services to be involved in the development of appropriate proposals for implementation.
- The need for the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider such proposals before a decision is taken by the Cabinet.
- 60% of Parishes had responded to the consultation.

The Chair thanked Dame Buckland for her stimulating and challenging report.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That Cabinet receives the first report from Dame Yve Buckland in relation to the Strategic Review of Older People's Services
- (2) That the Cabinet place on record its appreciation for the work undertaken by Dame Yve Buckland in the review.
- (3) That Cabinet asks the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services, to develop appropriate proposals for implementation which should be considered by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to decision by the Cabinet.

3. Best Value Performance Report 2005/06

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive.

The production of an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP), was a statutory requirement that had been relaxed for 'Good' and 'Excellent' councils who were able to submit their corporate plan in addition to providing a statutory performance report. The County Council had chosen to structure and integrate this as a report on performance in conjunction with its annual Corporate Business Plan, so that the two documents combined discharge its statutory duty to publish a BVPP.

The Cabinet was asked to approve the BVPP.

During the discussion comments were made about the apparent lack of regeneration projects in Rugby Borough and the omission of information about the Promoting Inclusion and Enterprise Programme for South Warwickshire and parallel projects.

Also, it was suggested that the chart on page 7 should be amended to reflect that the Council's performance had met the target.

It was then Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the attached Best Value Performance Report for 2005-2006 for publication on 30 June 2005.

4. Education Capital Issues

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Education Officer which sought approval to additions to the capital programme for Early Years provision in Leamington and Warwick.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Eric Wood, the County Education Officer reported that, with regard to the Warwick Nursery School proposal, both of the charities concerned had agreed to contribute £20,000.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the following amounts be added to the County's capital programme for 2005/06:

Sure Start Leamington projects	£1,000,000
Warwick Nursery School (subject to confirmation of grants)	£89,500
- (2) That the 2005/06 minor works budget be allocated a outlined in paragraph 2 of the County Education Officer's report.

5. Amendment to Indicated Admission Number- Stratford High School

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Education Officer.

Following publication of statutory notices, approval was sought to amending the Indicated Admission Number of Stratford High School.

Resolved:-

That the Indicated Admission Number of Stratford High School be increased to 240 pupils per year with effect from September 2006 admissions.

6. Whitnash Nursery School and Sure Start, Leamington – Capital Project

The Cabinet considered the report of the Sure Start Policy Panel.

The report outlined the capital proposal for the development at Whitnash Nursery School in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington, in order to develop into a Children's Centre.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler, it was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet endorse the outline proposals for capital build on the Whitnash Nursery School site in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington, and agree that the 2005/06 capital programme be increased by £190,500 with the funding to be met by grant of £125,500 and £65,000 from Whitnash Nursery.

7. 'SPARK' Annex E Major Scheme Bid

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy which outlined a proposal to submit an 'Annex E Major Scheme Bid' along side the Council's Local Transport Plan submission in July 2005.

The bid was for funding to support the implementation of an improved and fully integrated public transport network in Warwick, Leamington and Whitnash area. The scheme was known as 'SPARK' and would focus on the co-ordinated promotion and provision of heavy rail and bus services.

Councillor Alan Cockburn left the room for this item.

During the discussion David Clarke, the County Treasurer, confirmed that with regard to budget implications, at this point in time there was no definite information available about the availability of government grant for the project.

It was suggested that the diagrammatic map showing the routes should include a reference to Stratford for the westerly rail link.

It was then Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the submission of a public transport based Annex E Major Scheme Bid to the Department of Transport for funding to support the delivery of the 'SPARK' scheme outlined in the report.

8. Rail Skills and Investment Partnership

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

The report proposed a partnership to assist with the increase in the amount of rail related work undertaken by the department. Any rail projects undertaken by the County Council need active rail industry support and technical expertise. Creating a partnership with an organisation that had the relevant skills and who may be willing to invest in County Council sponsored rail projects would be of benefit to the County Council and the travelling public.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Martin Heatley, it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet approves the principle of a partnership with a specialist provider of rail based technical skills and investment and authorises the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy to use a competitive tender process to identify a suitable partner.
- (2) That a further report be brought to the Cabinet as soon as practicable regarding the outcome of the tender process and vying recommendations as to the advisability of proceeding with the partnership.

9. Design Services Partnering Contract

The report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy was considered.

The existing partnering arrangement with Arup expired in June 2006. The agreement to provide professional design and other services as required had been a success and therefore, it was intended to again procure the services of a partner when the current agreement expired. The Cabinet were invited to approve the principle of letting a new agreement.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the principle of letting a new partnering agreement with a consultant engineering firm to provide professional design

and other services, as required, and the use of a competitive tendering process to identify a suitable partner.

10. Library Refurbishment Programme

The report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards was considered.

The report proposed approval to additional expenditure incurred on the library refurbishment programme.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the planned additional expenditure of £96,000 on the Library Refurbishment programme as identified in the report.

11. RYOGENS Information System

The report of the Chief Executive and Head of Youth Offending Service was considered.

RYOGENS was an electronic information sharing system, enabling any agency using the system to identify and log concerns about children and young people. Warwickshire had operated as lead authority on this Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) funded project since May 2003. The ODPM was now offering ownership to Warwickshire County Council.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approve the recommendation for Warwickshire, subject to ODPM funding, to manage a process of transfer of the ownership of RYOGENS information sharing system from the ODPM to the software provider. This would require Warwickshire to take ownership of the product for a short, time limited period.

12. A Code for the Future

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was considered. .

The report advised the Cabinet of the Standards Board for England consultation on the Members Code of Conduct and suggested a possible response to the issues raised. It also set out the views of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the suggested response.

13. 2004/05 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement and Quality Crosscheck

The report of the County Treasurer was considered.

The report sought members approval to the 2004/2005 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Resolved:-

- (1) That Cabinet agree the 2004/2005 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2004/2005 as attached at Appendix A to the report (as updated).
- (2) That Cabinet notes the indicators chosen as the quality crosschecks for the authority as highlighted in Appendix B to the report (as updated).

14. Instrument of Government for new Kingsbury Primary School opening in September 2005

The report of the County Education Officer was considered.

The Cabinet was asked to approve the draft instrument of government for the new Kingsbury Primary School opening in September, 2005.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the draft instrument of government for Kingsbury Primary School as described in the County Education Officer's report.

15. Instrument of Government for New Federated Oak Wood Primary And Oak Wood Secondary Community Special Schools Opening In September 2005

The report of the County Education Officer was considered.

The Cabinet was asked to approve the draft instrument of government for the new federated Oak Wood Primary and Oak Wood Secondary Community Special Schools opening in Nuneaton in September, 2005.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approves the draft instrument of government for the new federated Oak Wood Primary and Oak Wood Secondary Community Special Schools in Nuneaton as described in the County Education Officer's report.

16. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

17. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved:

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential and exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

18. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26 May 2005 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26th May, 2005 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

19. Kenilworth: 39-45 Warwick Road – Lease Renewal

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Property Services which related to the renewal of a lease.

The Cabinet rose at 3.00 p.m.