

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 17th November, 2005.

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Alan Farnell (Chair) (Policy and Governance),

“ John Burton (Schools),

“ Alan Cockburn (Corporate Services),

“ Peter Fowler (Family Services),

“ Colin Hayfield (Adult and Community Services),

“ Richard Hobbs (Community Safety),

“ Martin Heatley (Environment),

“ Chris Saint (Economic Development),

“ Izzi Seccombe (Children's Services),

“ Bob Stevens (Performance Management).

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group,

“ Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Other Members:

Councillors David Booth, Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Anne Forwood, Richard Grant, John Haynes, Marion Haywood, Frank McCarney, Tim Naylor, Raj Randev, Sid Tooth, John Vereker and John Wells.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

None

Following comments from the Chair regarding Councillor Barry Longden's illness, members requested that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be passed to Councillor Barry Longden.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Councillor Sid Tooth disclosed a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Fair Access to Care Services, because a relative received services from the Social Services Departments.

Councillor David Booth disclosed a personal interest in Agenda Item 21 (exempt) - Talisman Square, Kenilworth in view of a share holding, which was below the threshold.

Councillor John Burton disclosed a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 23 (exempt) - 1a Weddington Terrace, Nuneaton.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse disclosed a personal interest in any matter affecting the Rugby Borough Council as a member of that Council.

Councillors David Booth, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe and Bob Stevens disclosed personal interests in any matters affecting the Stratford on Avon District Council as members of that Council.

Councillor Alan Cockburn disclosed a personal interest in any matter affecting the Warwick District Council as a member of that Council.

In response to comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, David Carter, the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, agreed to examine the possibility of disclosures of personal interests from members who were also members of district councils, being submitted automatically.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th October 2005 and Matters Arising.

Councillor Chris Saint referred to the details under Disclosure of Interests and indicated that he and other councillors, who were also members of district councils, had declared personal interests at the last meeting in any matters affecting their respective councils but that this had not been recorded. This was agreed.

Councillor Martin Heatley requested that, with regard to Minutes 8 - Municipal Waste Management Strategy, the word "Clauses" in the resolution should be amended to "changes".

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 20th October, 2005 meeting, as amended, be approved.

(4) Request for Discussion of En Bloc Item.

It was agreed that items 8 and 9 would be discussed before decisions were taken.

2. Half Year Composite Performance Report 2005/06 (April – September 2005) and Key Messages from Public Consultation.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive.

The report provided a high level summary of the Council's performance for the first 6 months of 2005/06 (April to September 2005) as part of the Performance Management Framework. It reported on performance against the key actions from the Corporate Business Plan, Corporate Headline Indicator (CHI) estimates / forecasts and Key Messages from Public Consultation under the six Corporate Objectives.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor Bob Stevens suggested that the tolerances on performance indicators should be tightened up to give a clearer focus.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

With regard to progress with extended schools under the corporate objective of Promoting Lifelong Learning and Personal Development, a progress report would be submitted to the December Cabinet.

An examination should be undertaken of corporate performance relating to responses to telephone calls, letters and e-mails, under the objective to "Ensure Sound Governance of the County Council to Provide Accessible, Responsive and Well-Managed Services." This should include the criteria for assessing performance which should have regard to the type of response required to be made within the defined period.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That Cabinet notes the contents of the report and note that half-year reports from individual departments will be reported to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
 - (2) That Cabinet identifies any aspects of performance where they believe there is potential to improve year-end performance and that Portfolio Holders be asked to come back to Cabinet to demonstrate what actions will be taken.
 - (3) That Cabinet notes the Key Messages from Public Consultation identified in the report.
- (3) That the tolerance on performance indicators be reviewed to ensure a tighter focus on targets.

- (5) That the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to examine corporate performance with regard to response times.

3. Update on Progress in Relation to the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2)

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive which updated the Cabinet on recent work undertaken in relation to LPSA2. A final report would be considered by the Cabinet in December 2005. The report emphasised that discussions with Project Leaders, partner agencies, and central government departments were both ongoing and fast moving.

An amended Appendix had been circulated prior to the meeting.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor Bob Stevens indicated that the references in the LSPA Targets in the appendix to "very effort" should be references to "every effort" and the reference to "earning disabilities" should be a reference to "learning disabilities". He also suggested that consideration should be given to rewording LSP 11 to make it easier to read.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- The method of reporting criminal damage was changing and care was needed to ensure this did not distort the progress being made.
- It was pleasing to see that the Council's efforts in reducing the level of re-offending and nuisance youths were producing results.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet notes and endorses the progress that has been made in relation to the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) and agrees that a final report should be made to its meeting to be held on 8th December 2005.

4. Member Involvement in Community Safety Partnership Working

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

The report highlighted the fact that elected members of the county and district councils had very limited opportunity for involvement in partnership working on community safety issues. It is proposed that a body be

established to oversee the work of the Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership and Drug and Alcohol Action Team. The body would consist of county and district councillors plus governance representatives from partner agencies such as the Police Authority and the PCTs. Consultations would be necessary with partner agencies.

During his introduction of this item Councillor Richard Hobbs confirmed that there would be no duplication of work under the new arrangement because the work undertaken by the Council would be of a strategic nature.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet endorses the proposal to establish a countywide members' group to oversee partnership working on Community Safety, subject to the agreement of community safety partner agencies (District Councils, Police Authority, Police and Primary Care Trusts).

5. Strategic Review of Services for Young People – Progress report

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Education Officer and Director of Social Care & Health.

The report summarised progress to date since the last Cabinet report of 21st July 2005 and the publication of the Green Paper: Youth Matters.

Following introductory comments from Councillors Peter Fowler and Izzi Secombe members considered several aspects of the report and made the following points:-

- There would be a need for budget implications of the service priorities to be taken into account.
- The need to focus on targets in Every Child Matters.
- ACECs needed to talk with volunteers as well as professional officers.
- Consideration should be given to placing more emphasis on the Council's alcohol strategy.
- Members of the Youth Parliament and representatives of the Youth Panel should be involved in any future review.
- The Area Committees would be asked for their views on possible future arrangements affecting ACECs at the appropriate time.
- Local knowledge gained by ACECs would not be lost.
- It was expected that the new service would become operational from May 2006 not April as mentioned in the report.
- Members expressed their appreciation to the officers involved in the review

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That Cabinet notes the contents of the Joint Report which describes the progress made since 21st July 2005.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees:
 - to support the general direction of travel with regards to the establishment of the new service in the context of the modernisation of the County Council, the Children Act 2004 and the Green Paper: Youth Matters
 - the consultation arrangements set out for the name and shape of the new service.
- (3) That Cabinet agrees that the options set out in paragraph 4.6 concerning the future of the Area Community Education Councils be considered further by the Council's Review of Relations with the Voluntary and Community Sector and also that the views of Area Committees are sought.

6. Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Eligibility Threshold

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Adult and Community Services O&S Committee.

The report outlined whether the eligibility threshold for Adult Social Services, as set out in the FACS Framework, should be lowered, giving other options as well as the cost implications. The report had been considered by the Adult and Community Services O&S Committee on 11 October 2005 FACS

During his introduction of main points of the report, Councillor Colin Hayfield drew attention to the need for the Council to consider funding issues as part of the budget process having regard to budget pressures on Adult Services.

Members discussed several aspects of the matter and raised the following points:-

- Eligibility thresholds have been an ongoing priority for a number of years
- Imprecise terminology such as substantial/moderate/several that had been used in the report should be avoided if possible.
- The Council was spending less than the Shire County average on older people services.
- The Overview and Scrutiny recommendation would enable the Council to consider matters under the budget process and then for Cabinet to consider eligibility thresholds.

Councillor Colin Hayfield moved, Councillor Bob Stevens seconded and it was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet changes the eligibility threshold to include some or all Moderate band needs subject to appropriate funding being made available in the budget for future years.

7. Consultation Paper - Periodic Electoral Reviews

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive which advised members of a consultation paper issued by the Electoral Commission on the future arrangements for periodic electoral reviews. A draft response had been circulated before the meeting. The deadline for responses was 25 November 2005.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet endorses the draft response.
- (2) That the County Solicitor & Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the response in consultation with the Leaders of the political groups.

8 2005/06 Annual Efficiency Statement Mid-Year Update

The report of the County Treasurer was considered.

The report gave an update of the forecast level of efficiency gains that were expected to be achieved in 2005/06.

During the discussion members raised the following points:-

- The report highlighted several issues that should be taken into account during the preparation of the budget.
- Certain savings, such as those from Section 106 Agreements, could not be included in the Statement.

It was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the latest forecast of efficiency gains for 2005/06,

- (2) Approves the draft 2005/06 Annual Efficiency Statement mid-year update attached at Appendix A to the report for submission to the Government, and
- (3) Authorises the County Treasurer, in conjunction with the portfolio holder, to make any changes necessary to the 2005/06 Annual Efficiency Statement mid-year update prior to its submission.

9. Projected 2005/2006 Revenue Spending as at Quarter 2

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Treasurer which summarised the projected revenue net spend as at the end of quarter 2 (April to September 2005). It highlighted the main reasons for any variations from the approved budget for each service and the projected reserves position at the year-end.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, it was suggested that there was a need for any underspends and overspends in Departments to be brought closer together having regard to the changes to the councils structure under modernisation.

It was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the projected 2005/06 revenue spending position and the projected reserves at year-end, and ensure appropriate management action is being taken to control spending in the delivery of services.
- (2) Approves the contribution to reserves of £9,000 in 2005/06, detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.
- (3) Approves the transfer of £100,000 budget from Other Services to the Fire and Rescue Service, detailed in paragraph 3.6
- (4) That chief officers make every effort to balance budgets in 2005/06 before reorganisation on the 1st April, 2006.

10. Projected 2005/06 Capital Spending as at Quarter 2

The report of the County Treasurer was considered.

The report advised members of the projected outturn for 2005/06, based on the information known at the end of the second quarter.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet notes the revised spending forecast for capital schemes in 2005/06 and the revised spending forecast over the lives of schemes.

11. Recycling Redundant PCs

The report of the Director of Contract & Management Services was considered.

The report described the current arrangements for the disposal of redundant PCs and recommended that a number were recycled for the benefit of deserving causes that meet criteria determined by Area Committees, or for limited internal use by services within the Area. This would be for a trial basis for 12 months initially with a view to making the arrangements permanent.

Resolved:-

- (1) That 20 Recycled PCs are made available to each of the 5 Area Committees in 2006/07 for allocation to deserving causes or for service use within the Area on a conditional basis and subject to a budget allocation of £20,000 being made to cover the costs of recycling.
- (2) That an equitable, consistent and transparent allocation protocol is devised and agreed with the County Solicitor and the County Treasurer for adoption by all 5 Area Committees.
- (3) That the arrangement is trialled for 12 months and then reviewed with a view to making it permanent.

12. Proposed Revision of Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

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

The report summarised the proposed revisions to the current Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.

Resolved:-

That the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, as amended in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of State, be brought into effect on 25th November.

13. Shipston-on-Stour, Highway Improvements at Housing Development on Tilemans Lane

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

The report sought Cabinet approval to add the project to the 2006/2007 capital programme.

Resolved:-

That the Highway Improvements at Tileman's Lane, Shipston-on-Stour be included in the 2006/2007 capital programme at an estimated cost of £110,000.

14. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

16. 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 or exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7,8, 9 and 10 of the Local Government Act 1972'.

17. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th October 2005 and Matters Arising.

(1) Minutes

Resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2005 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

(i) Minute 23 - Warwick Additional Shire Hall Car Parking Provision

In response to comments from Councillor Ken Browne, David Carter, the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that discussions had been instigated with the unions. This was noted.

17. Options for the Shire Hall, Warwick

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Property Services which summarised the options available for the future development of the County Council's office accommodation in central Warwick and asked the Cabinet to agree certain action.

The Cabinet agreed several land/property matters for consideration by the Council.

18. Additions to the Capital Programme Costs in Relation to Phases 1 and 2 Link Road, Midland Quarry, Camp Hill

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

The overall costs of Phases 1 and 2 access to Midland Quarry had increased, as have levels of grant. The Cabinet agreed to increase the Capital allocation for the scheme to reflect this.

19. Consortium of Local Authority Special Projects (CLASP): Trading Company

The joint report of the Director of Property Services, the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and County Treasurer was considered.

The report sought the Cabinet's approval for the establishment of a new company and of Warwickshire County Council's participation in the company.

20. Replacement of Central Property Register with Archibus/FM - Project Update

The report of the Director of Property Services.

A report to update the Cabinet on progress made with the replacement of the Central Property Register. The Cabinet approved a settlement to the supplier.

21. Talisman Square Development, Kenilworth

The Cabinet considered the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive's report and supplementary report which had been circulated before the meeting..

The reports updated members on the position relating to Talisman Square.

The Cabinet considered contributing to the scheme.

22. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service - Community Fire Safety – Departmental Review

The Cabinet considered the report of the County Fire Officer which detailed proposed structural changes to the Community Fire Safety Department establishment.

23. Nuneaton: 1A Weddington Terrace - Lease Acquisition

Councillor John Burton declared a prejudicial interest in the matter and left the room during the debate.

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

The Cabinet rose at 3.25 p.m.