

Cabinet Agenda

2nd February 2006

The Cabinet will meet at the **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **THURSDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2006** at **1.45 P.M.**

The agenda will be :

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence.

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

Members are reminded that they should disclose the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as District/Borough councillors are declared below:-

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Member of Warwick District Council.

Councillor Peter Fowler, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Member of Rugby Borough Council.

Councillor Chris Saint, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Councillor Bob Stevens, Member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers



(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January 2006 and Matters Arising. (For exempt items see later on the agenda).

(4) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.

PART A - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION (WHITE PAPERS)

2. 2004/2005 Joint Audit & Inspection Letter to Members

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The Cabinet is asked to consider and receive the Annual Audit Letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers.

A presentation will be made to members.

For further information please contact: David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources. Tel: 01926 412003, e-mail: davidclarketr@warwickshire.gov.uk

3. Public Consultation on 2006/07 Budget and Council Tax: Results

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The report provides members with details of the results from the public consultation on the 2006/07 budget priorities and council tax.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet note the feedback received from the public about the budget and level of council tax for 2006/07 and commend the information to the political groups for consideration when preparing their 2006/07 budget resolutions.

For further information please contact: David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources. Tel: 01926 412003, e-mail davidclarketr@warwickshire.gov.uk or Joanne Harrison, CIPFA Trainee. Tel: 01926 412860, e-mail joanneharrison@warwickshire.gov.uk

4. 2006/07 Revenue and Capital Budgets - Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

This report outlines for Members' consideration the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the 2006/07 Revenue and Capital spending proposals.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet note the report and refer the views onto the political groups for consideration when preparing their budget resolutions.

For further information please contact: Michael Furness, Principal Accountant
Tel: 01926 412666, e-mail: michaelfurness@warwickshire.gov.uk

5. Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2008/09

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The report summarises existing and proposed capital projects put forward by departments. It identifies the cost of proposed schemes from 2006/07 onwards and potential income available to fund them. The proposals are commended to the political groups for consideration in formulating an approved capital programme for 2006/07 and draft programmes for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet

- (1) Notes the report and commends it to the political groups for their consideration in formulating proposals for the capital programme 2006/2009 and the revenue budget 2006/2007 to be considered by the County Council at its meeting on 7th February.
- (2) Notes that there is £1.566 million of resources available in the capital programme for new capital development bids in addition to resources generated by borrowing where the revenue impact is built into Council budget resolutions.

For further information please contact: Charles Holden, Corporate Capital Accountant. Tel: 01926 412092, e-mail: charlesholden@warwickshire.gov.uk

6. 2006/2007 Budget

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The report provides members with an updated indication of the revenue resources available for 2006/07 and the associated spending proposals identified by directorates. It also recommends that the framework 2006/07 revenue and capital budget resolutions are forwarded to Council for the budget setting meeting on 7 February 2006.

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the 2006/07 government support of £74.505 million.
- (2) Notes the projected resource implications of setting a 2006/07 council tax at various levels, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

- (3) Notes the need to fund/utilise the deficit/surplus on the collection of council tax in previous years, reported to us by the district/borough councils, of £X.XXX million as part of the budget resolution to Council.
- (4) Notes the Strategic Director of Resources' comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves (see **Appendix A** of the report).
- (5) Notes the 2006/07 revenue spending pressures outlined in section 10 and detailed in **Appendix B** of the report.
- (6) Notes the likely level of resources available for 2007/08 and recommend that the Party Groups consider the implications of any decisions on the allocation of resources in 2006/07 on 2007/08 and future years.
- (7) Recommends to County Council that account is taken of the 2006/07 Framework Budget Resolutions when setting the 2006/07 Budget (see **Appendix C** of the report).

For further information please contact: David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources. Tel: 01926 412003, e-mail davidclarkeTR@warwickshire.gov.uk or Virginia Rennie, Group Accountant. Tel: 01926 412239, e-mail vrennie@warwickshire.gov.uk

7. Completion of the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) 2006-2009

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

This report confirms the latest position and progress made in negotiating LPSA2 since Cabinet last considered the matter on 8th December 2005. At the time of preparing this draft report we have secured final agreement with central government on 6 Projects (two of which count as 'super targets' and are both worth the value of 2 Projects). Negotiations are at a positive and advanced stage on a further 3 Projects and should be completed by 27th January 2006. We met with the lead officer from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 19th January 2006 in order to prepare the first draft of the LPSA2 agreement. This, together with a complete report, will be distributed to Cabinet members and others in advance of the meeting on 2nd February 2006.

Recommendations:

- (1) That Cabinet supports and adopts the Local Public Service Agreement 2 (LPSA2) 2006-2009 on behalf of the County Council.
- (2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Chief Executive to finalise and enter into LPSA2 on behalf of the County Council.

For further information please contact: Nick Gower Johnson, County Partnerships Manager. Tel: 01926 412053, e-mail nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk or Monica Fogarty, Head of Policy. Tel: 01926 412514, e-mail monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk

8. Record of Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care 2005.

Report of the Interim Director of Social Care.

The report provides a summary of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's evaluation and judgement of Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and recommends the adoption of an action plan to further improve performance.

Recommendations:

- (1) That Cabinet receives and notes the Commission for Social Care Inspection's [CSCI] report on performance within Adult Social Care Services contained in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (2) That Cabinet endorses and approves the performance improvements highlighted in section 4 of the report and the action plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

For further information please contact: John Bull, Head of Adult Services.
Tel: 01926 412338, e-mail johnbull@warwickshire.gov.uk

9. Supporting People

Report of the Interim Director of Adult Social Services.

This is a progress report on the Audit Commission Inspection of the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire. Included is a copy of an Action Plan which indicates progress to date.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to comment on the progress and endorse the actions taken to prepare for the next Supporting People Audit Commission Inspection, expected to commence week beginning 27 March 2006.

For further information please contact: Rosie James, Service Manager. Tel: 01926 476849, e-mail: rosiejames@warwickshire.gov.uk or John Bull, Head of Adult Services. Tel: 01926 412338, e-mail johnbull@warwickshire.gov.uk

10. Education White Paper: "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All"

Report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families Services.

This report summarises the Government's White Paper: "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All" and asks Cabinet to comment on the draft response.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet is asked to comment on the draft response and to authorise the Strategic Director for Children, Young People & Families and the County Education Officer to forward the response, as amended, to the Secretary of State and to the Warwickshire Members of Parliament.

For further information please contact: Mark Gore, Assistant County Education Officer (Strategy). Tel: 01926 412887, e-mail: markgore@warwickshire.gov.uk

11. Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School

Report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families Services.

Local member - Cllr John Ross – Bulkington

The Cabinet is asked to approve the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School in Nuneaton following positive feedback from formal consultations.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the feedback from stakeholders concerning the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to reducing the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School from 120 to 90 per year with effect from September 2007 admissions.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle, Education Officer (School Organisation). Tel: 01926 412820, e-mail: philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk

PART B - ITEMS FOR EN BLOC DECISIONS (YELLOW PAPERS)

12. Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

This report sets out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/07 as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2006/07 be noted and referred to County Council for approval;
- (2) That the Prudential Indicators are noted and referred to County Council for

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approval, subject to any changes as a result of the setting of the 2006/07 budget;

- (3) That the delegated powers in paragraph 9 of the report are approved (Cabinet's attention is drawn to the new decision-making power concerning funding options (Leasing c.f. PWLB) in section 9.2 of the report).

For further information please contact: Phil Triggs, Group Manager (Treasury and Pensions). Tel: 01926 412227, e-mail: philtriggs@warwickshire.gov.uk

13. Projected 2005/2006 Revenue Net Spend as at Quarter 3

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the projected net spend for 2005/2006 based on the information known at the end of the third quarter.

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the provisional 2005/2006 Revenue net spend position and the projected reserves at year end, and ensures appropriate action is being taken to control spending in the delivery of services.
- (2) Approves the transfer of £500,000 of Social Services budget from Children's Residential Care Services to Foster Care Services, detailed in paragraph 2.14 of the report.
- (3) Approves the contribution to reserves of £200,000 in 2005/06, detailed in paragraph 3.2.

For further information please contact: David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources. Tel: 01926 412003, e-mail: davidclarketr@warwickshire.gov.uk or: Neill Butler, Performance Development Accountant. Tel: 01926 476967, e-mail neillbutler@warwickshire.gov.uk

14. Funding of Black and Minority Ethnic Organisations

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

This report sets out the proposed funding from the Race Equality Budget for Black and Minority Ethnic projects in Warwickshire.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet endorses the funding proposed to Black and Minority Ethnic projects in Warwickshire.

For further information please contact: Arun Kang, Corporate Policy Advisor
Tel: 01926 746811, e-mail: arunkang@warwickshire.gov.uk

15. Review of Regional Spatial Strategy - Phase 2 - Advice of Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum (CSWF) is advising the County Council - along with Solihull and Coventry City Councils - to adopt a partnership approach to the detailed advice on such matters as housing numbers and employment land to be given to the Regional Planning Body on Phase 2 of the Regional Spatial Strategy's Review. Cabinet is recommended to agree with the Forum's advice.

Recommendation:

That the advice of the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum (9th December 2005) be generally endorsed and that Cabinet specifically confirms the Council's agreement to:-

- (1) The Forum co-ordinating the joint views of all the authorities in the Sub-region, conveying these for the 3 Strategic Authorities to passport to the Regional Planning Body while the Strategic Authorities retain their legal right to make any additional comments separately; and
- (2) The Forum's contention that the detailed housing figures should be produced for local authority areas - taking into account local, sub-regional and cross-boundary housing market issues.

For further information please contact: Andy Cowan, Chief Planner
Tel: 01926 412126, e-mail: andycowan@warwickshire.gov.uk

16. Government Consultation on a New Draft National Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): HOUSING

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The proposed new PPS3 - Housing sets out draft Government policy aimed at using the planning system to its maximum to deliver Government's aspirations for the scale, quality and affordability of new homes. These latest national policy proposals on the issue modify the Government's radical market-led approach, outlined in its September 2005 consultation 'Planning for Housing'. However, the draft PPS3 still includes serious threats to the plan-led approach on which there is local, sub-regional and regional consensus across local authorities in the West Midlands. The Director's recommendation is to respond to the consultation accordingly.

Recommendation:

That the assessment and conclusions, set out in the Director's report at sections 3 and 4, be conveyed to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as the County Council's response to the Government's consultation on the Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS3): Housing and copied to the West Midlands Regional Housing Board and West Midlands Regional Planning Body.

For further information please contact: Andy Cowan, Chief Planner
Tel: 01926 412126, e-mail: andycowan@warwickshire.gov.uk

17. Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Minerals Core Strategy - Preliminary Consultation

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The Minerals Core Strategy will determine the scale and broad location of mineral sites in the County. This questionnaire forms the basis of a 6 week period of consultation in order to determine the range of issues that the Core Strategy will have to deal with.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approves the questionnaire (at Appendix A of the report) for a period of 6 weeks public consultation between February and April 2006 as part of the Minerals Core Strategy Preliminary Consultation.

For further information please contact: Suzanne Osborn, Planning Strategy.
Tel: 01926 412538, e-mail: planningstrategy@warwickshire.gov.uk

18. Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Waste Core Strategy - Issues and Options Consultation

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy.

The Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options paper sets out the issues and a range of options for dealing with the scale and broad location of waste disposal facilities. It is due to go out for a 6 week period of consultation between February and April 2006 to give consultees an opportunity to comment on their preferred options.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approves the Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options paper for a 6 week period of consultation between February and April 2006.

For further information please contact: Suzanne Osborn, Planning Strategy.
Tel: 01926 412538, e-mail: planningstrategy@warwickshire.gov.uk

19. Potential Tourist Information Facility in Market Hall Museum, Warwick

Report of the Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards.

Local member - Councillor Raj Randev.

The possible integration of Warwick tourist information facilities into the Market Hall Museum, Warwick has been raised. Members are asked to note the issues raised and to authorise further investigation and negotiation.

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Authorises officers to pursue an investigation of the feasibility and to undertake negotiations about the integration of Warwick Tourist Information facilities into the museum building at Market Hall, Market Place, Warwick.
- (2) Receive a report in due course prior to the agreement of a final position.

For further information please contact: Helen Maclagan, Head of Museum Service
Tel: 01926 418127, e-mail: helenmaclagan@warwickshire.gov.uk or:
Christopher Jeens, Head of Heritage & Cultural Services. Tel: 01926 412329, e-mail: chrisjeens@warwickshire.gov.uk

20. Disposal of items from the Museum Collections

Report of the Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards,

The report seeks Cabinet approval, in accordance with established procedures, for the disposal of items from the Museum Collections. The report was considered by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 January 2006 as part of the Collections for the Future report.

Recommendation of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

That the Cabinet agrees the disposal of items from the Museums Collection in accordance with the schedule in Appendix 1 to the report.

For further information please contact: Helen Maclagan, Head of Museum Service. Tel: 01926 418127, e-mail helenmaclagan@warwickshire.gov.uk or Ann Mawdsley, Senior Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 418079, e-mail anmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk

21. Capital Programme Review

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The report considers changes to the capital programme since Cabinet in September 2005.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Cabinet recommend the Council to approve the additional project relating to Mental health Provision at Table 1 in the report.
- (2) That the Cabinet approve the other additional projects at Table 1 in the report.
- (3) That the revised starts and payments totals for 2005/06 identified at paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 (Tables 2 and 3) of the report be approved.
- (4) That Cabinet note the projections of spending and financing for future financial years and agrees the variations at Appendix C to the report.

For further information please contact: Charles Holden, Corporate Capital Accountant.. Tel: 01926 412092, e-mail charlesholden@warwickshire.gov.uk or Jane Haygreen, Principal Accountant(Capital). Tel: 01926 412915, e-mail janehaygreen@warwickshire.gov.uk

22. Leamington Spa Mixed Priority Scheme (LUMP) with a bid for additional funding to complete the scheme in 2006.

Report of the Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

On the 17 January 2006 the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the funding issues relating to the Leamington Spa Mixed Priority Scheme, referred from Cabinet on 12 January 2006.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet note the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee's request for a joint report to a future meeting from the Strategic Directors of Environment and Economy and Resources detailing how the costs of the Leamington Spa Urban Mixed Priority Scheme had been estimated, why they had increased dramatically, and what measures had been taken to mitigate the escalating costs in Phase1.

For further information please contact: Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator. Tel: 01926 412476, e-mail jeanhardwick@warwickshire.gov.uk

23. Irrecoverable debts

Report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families Services.

Authority is requested to write off two irrecoverable debts. The Strategic Director of Performance and Development has advised that these debts cannot be pursued further or it would be uneconomical to do so.

Recommendation:

That the two debts outlined in the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families amounting to £7,306.28 be written off as irrecoverable.

For further information please contact: Brian Smith, LEA Services Finance
Tel: 01926 738424, e-mail: briansmith@warwickshire.gov.uk
or: Jenny Shirley, Debt Recovery Officer. Tel: 01926 738422, e-mail:
jennyshirley@warwickshire.gov.uk

24. Any Other Items

To consider any other items that the Chair decides are urgent.

PART C - EXEMPT ITEMS (PURPLE PAPERS)

25. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

To consider passing the following resolution:

‘That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Local Government Act 1972’.

(NB. Copies of extracts describing exempt information are available in Warwickshire Libraries, the County Council Handbook and the Access to Information Register held in my office).

26. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2006 and Matters Arising.

27. Stratford-upon-Avon: Winton House, Church Street

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The Cabinet is asked to consider certain property related matters.

For further information please contact: Ian Dawson, Senior Estates Surveyor
Tel: 01926 412368, e-mail: ilandawson@warwickshire.gov.uk

**JIM GRAHAM,
Chief Executive
Shire Hall,
Warwick**

Cabinet Membership

Councillor Alan Farnell (**Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet**) (**Policy and Governance**),

cllrfarnell@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor John Burton (**Schools**),

cllrburton@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Alan Cockburn (**Corporate Services**),

cllrcockburn@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Peter Fowler (**Family Services**),

cllrfowler@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Colin Hayfield (**Adult and Community Services**),

cllrhayfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Martin Heatley (**Environmental Services**),

cllrheatley@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Richard Hobbs (**Community Safety**),

cllrhobbs@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Chris Saint (**Economic Development**),

cllrsaint@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (**Children's Services**),

cllrmsseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

Councillor Bob Stevens (**Performance Management**),

cllrstevens@warwickshire.gov.uk

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Non-voting Invitees - Councillor June Tandy (**Leader of the Labour Group**) cllmrstandy@warwickshire.gov.uk and Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (**Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**) cllrroodhouse@warwickshire.gov.uk or their representatives.

General Enquiries: Please contact Pete Keeley, Member Services, Chief Executive's Department, Tel: 01926 412450 Email: petekeeley@warwickshire.gov.uk

Enquiries about specific reports: Please contact the officers named in the reports.

The reports are available in large print if requested.