

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 4th May 2006.

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 Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Other Members:

Councillors David Booth, Ken Browne, Michael Doody, Richard Grant, John Haynes, Marion Haywood, Richard Hyde, Mick Jones, Frank McCarney, Tim Naylor, Mike Perry, Raj Randev and Sid Tooth.

(1) Apologies for absence.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor June Tandy.

The Chair advised Cabinet that Councillor Phillip Morris-Jones was in hospital follow an accident. It was agreed that the Cabinet’s best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Councillor Morris-Jones.

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

District/Borough Council and Police Authority Memberships

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as District/Borough Councillors and as members of the Warwickshire Police Authority 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 and the Warwickshire Police Authority.

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 and the Warwickshire Police Authority.

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

Other Interests

Item 2 – Announcement by Peugeot of Closure of the Ryton Plant

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a personal interest as two members of his family were employed by Peugeot.

Councillor Richard Hyde declared a personal interest as a member of the Board of AWM and as a member of CSWP.

Item 3 – Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector

Councillor Anne Forwood declared a personal interest as Chair of North Warwickshire CVS.

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a personal interest as vice-chair of North Warwickshire CAB

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest as a non-executive member of Age Concern Rugby.

Item 5 – White Paper: Our Health, Our Care, Our Say

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest as a non-executive member of Age Concern, Rugby.

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest as a non-executive director of the North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.

Item 7 – Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road

Councillors Chris Saint and Izzi Seccombe declared personal interests as members of the Stratford on Avon Area Committee.

Item 8 – Additional Road Maintenance Funding – North Warwickshire

Councillors Peter Fowler and Colin Hayfield declared prejudicial interests as members of North Warwickshire Borough Council and left the meeting during discussion on this item.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th April 2006 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6 April 2006 be approved, subject to the exempt minute 26 being made public.

2. Announcement by Peugeot of the Closure of the Ryton Plant

Councillor Chris Saint (Cabinet portfolio holder for Economic Development) introduced a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy that set out the consequences of the recent announcement about the proposed closure of Peugeot plant at Ryton.

Councillor Saint reported that, as soon as the announcement regarding Peugeot had been made, a meeting with partners had been requested and was held on 27 April. The meeting had concluded that a partnership be established to look at the issues connected with the proposed closure.

Councillor Saint moved revised recommendations and these were agreed as set out below:

Resolved:

- (1) That Cabinet endorses the prompt establishment of the Peugeot partnership to manage the cross-authority and multi-agency issues connected with the proposed closure of the Ryton Plant.
- (2) That the Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to convene an early meeting of his Committee to scrutinise the impacts and consequences of the proposed closure of the Peugeot plant at Ryton and the measures being taken to meet the need of the workforce and to address the impact on the local economy, with a report back to Cabinet.

(Councillor Mick Jones, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, undertook to ensure this was considered at a meeting of the Committee and welcomed liaison with Councillor Saint in identifying the issues to be covered).

It was also agreed that the report be amended at paragraph 3.2 by the removal of the word "only" in relation to the number of possible jobs effected.

3. Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Cabinet portfolio holder for Adult and Community Services) presented a report from the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which set out a Strategy for Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the period from 2006 to 2111. Members welcomed the strategy and noted that progress would be monitored (by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee if considered appropriate).

Resolved:

That Cabinet approves the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006-2111 for implementation.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire

Councillor John Haynes, Chair of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented a report that outlined the findings of the scrutiny of the multi agency approach to anti-social behaviour in Warwickshire. The Committee requested support to the use of the additional resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the profile of a number of issues highlighted by the scrutiny exercise.

Councillor Richard Hobbs (Cabinet portfolio holder for Community Safety) thanked the Committee for the report and for officer's work on this subject. During debate members suggested that directorates identify how they are tackling anti-social behaviour, for example in support for parenting and in ensuring the Council's services are being delivered in a way that is relevant to people's lifestyles.

Resolved:

That Cabinet supports the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety Budget to raise the priority of the issues listed in the report.

5. White Paper: "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say"

Councillor Colin Hayfield presented a report from the Strategic Director for Adult Health and Community Services that outlined the main thrusts of the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" and which also gave an initial assessment of local issues for adult social care, health and well-being.

Members debated the proposals in the report and in particular considered the importance of there being clarity about the commissioning role envisaged for the Council and how resources (Health and Council) will be agreed.

It was also suggested that more information was needed on how the preventative services would be continued and developed and a request was made for reports on progress of Telecare and direct payments (possibly through Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet).

Resolved:

That Cabinet supports the development of local partnership working to offer better community based health care services and requests further reports on developing this agenda as soon as possible.

6. Funding for the Customer Service Centre

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Cabinet portfolio holder for Corporate Services) presented a report and a request from the Modernisation Fund Group (established by Council in February) for additional funding for the Customer Service Centre.

The Cabinet was advised that the full year resource impact had been identified in the budget process, but further ongoing funding would be needed.

Councillor Cockburn moved an amended proposal, which was agreed as set out below.

Resolved:

That Cabinet confirms the additional funding of £785,000 from the Modernisation Fund to meet the existing shortfall for 2006/07 and recognises that further funds will be required for staffing and further development work within the Customer Service Centre during 2006/07.

(The Director of Resources informed the meeting that the £785,000 would be call on next year's budget).

7. Proposed Zebra Crossing at Rushbrook Road near Wordsworth Avenue, Bridgetown, Stratford-upon-Avon

The Cabinet considered this proposal, which was part of a traffic management scheme for Bridgetown, funded through the Trinity Mead development. The crossing formed part of the Safer Routes to School initiative, local safety schemes and a facility for Quality Pedestrian Corridors. The proposal had been agreed by the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 15th March, but the Area Committee's decision had been subsequently called-in by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, in her capacity as a Cabinet member, for determination by the Cabinet. A map showing the location of the proposed crossing was tabled.

Councillor Martin Heatley referred to two petitions – one of 178 signatures in support of the proposal and one of 72 signatures in opposition to the proposal. Councillor Heatley thanked the petitioners for their time and for the clarity of their arguments.

Councillor Heatley highlighted the points made in the Strategic Director's report to the Area Committee and the reasons for the proposal.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe presented the arguments against the crossing and emphasised that it was important to hear the arguments at this meeting as she considered there had not been proper opportunity for this at the Area Committee.

Councillor Mike Perry also presented arguments against the proposal, adding that alternative traffic management measures should be considered.

Councillor Richard Hyde advised that there was more support than opposition for the crossing, including support from Police.

Following a debate, a vote was taken and it was agreed as set out below.

Resolved:

That Cabinet endorses the decision taken by the Area Committee.

8. Additional Road Maintenance Funding - North Warwickshire

Councillors Colin Hayfield and Peter Fowler declared prejudicial interests and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

The Cabinet was advised that the North Warwickshire Area Committee had considered a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy setting out the Capital Programme for Transport 2006-07 in the North Warwickshire area. Delegated funding to the area committee included £300,000 for capital funded road maintenance schemes. The Area Committee had discussed how they wished to use this money and had agreed to request approval from the Cabinet that the use of the allocation of £300,000 be expanded to include structural road maintenance and improvement schemes.

The Cabinet discussed this issue but concluded that the budget should be retained as a budget for capital funded road maintenance schemes.

Resolved:

That, whilst recognising that the Area Committee should spend funding as it sees fit, the Area Committee must follow the criteria set down by the Council in February 2005

9. School Term and Holiday Dates 2007/08

The Cabinet considered a report from the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families that sought approval to school term and holiday dates for 2007/08.

Resolved:

That the school term and holiday dates calendar for 2007/08, attached as Appendix A to the Strategic Director's report, be adopted.

10. Procurement Policy - Concordat for Local Businesses

Cabinet considered a report from the Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This had been produced following the Committee's consideration of a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy on 16 March 2006 concerning the ODPM's Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guidance, which gives best practice procurement guidance for both Local Authorities and suppliers. The Committee had been advised that the County Council had been working beyond these guidelines for some time.

Resolved:

That Cabinet adopts the Small Business Friendly Concordat Good Practice Guide.

11. Response to the Consultation on the Revision of England's Waste Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, which proposed a response to consultation.

Cabinet noted that the strategy was first published in 2000 and England's Waste Strategy sets out how England's waste should be managed, setting challenging targets for recycling, composting and recovery of waste.

Resolved:

That Cabinet supports the proposed response to the consultation on the Revision of England's Waste Strategy.

12. Government Consultations on EU Funding Proposals for 2007-2013 and the UK's New Assisted Areas Map

The Cabinet considered a report from the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy on proposals for the new Structural Fund programme, new England Rural Development programme and new Assisted Areas map. The report summarised the main issues in the three consultations and requested Cabinet support for the steps being taken to maximise the benefits of future regional policy and funding for Warwickshire.

Resolved:

- (1) That Cabinet supports the steps being taken to maximise the benefits of future regional policy and funding for Warwickshire.
- (2) That Cabinet requests further reports as the new European Union (EU) funding programmes and new UK Assisted Areas map develop.

13. Any Other Urgent Items

There were no items of urgent business.

14. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved:

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 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972.

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April 2006

Resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2006 be approved as a correct record and that minute 26 be made open to the public.

16. Funding the Implementation of the Equal Pay Strategy

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Cabinet portfolio) presented a report which set out the recommendation of the Modernisation Fund Group for resources from the Modernisation Fund to support the costs of implementing the Equal Pay Strategy. Funding was agreed as set out in the exempt minutes.

17. Warwick - 31 Shakespeare Avenue

Councillor Alan Cockburn presented a report from the Director of Resources regarding 31 Shakespeare Avenue, Warwick.

The Cabinet considered they needed more information on the proposal before a decision could be made.

The Cabinet rose at 3.05 p.m.