

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 25th May 2006.

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Alan Farnell (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet),
“ Bob Stevens (Deputy Leader),
“ John Burton (Schools),
“ Alan Cockburn (Resources),
“ Peter Fowler (Performance and Development),
“ Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community),
“ Martin Heatley (Environment),
“ Richard Hobbs (Community Protection),
“ Chris Saint (Economic Development),
“ Izzi Seccombe (Children, Families and Young People).

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor Tim Naylor representing the Leader of the Labour Group,
“ Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Other Members:

Councillors John Appleton, David Booth, Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Josie Compton, Chris Davis, Michael Doody, Marion Haywood, Mick Jones, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy and John Vereker.

Before the commencement of business members stood in silence as a mark of respect for the late Councillor Anita Macaulay.

1. General

- (1) Apologies for absence.

An apology was received from Councillor June Tandy.

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

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 were 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.

Councillor Chris Saint declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 relating to the consultations on proposed departure routes for Coventry Airport because a relative lived at Stoneleigh.

Councillors Josie Compton and Michael Doody declared personal interests in any matters affecting the Warwick District Council, as members of that Council.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th May 2006 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 4th May 2006 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

(4) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.

It was agreed that Agenda Item 8 would be discussed before a decision was taken.

2. Capital Programme for Transport 2006-07

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy which set out the proposed detailed capital programme for Transport for 2006-07 and invited the Cabinet to approve the Programme.

During his introduction of the item Councillor Martin Heatley, Cabinet Member for the Environment, reported that the Programme had been discussed with Area Committees and had their support.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Capital Programme for Integrated Transport and Structural Maintenance of Roads and Bridges detailed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 in the report be approved and contracts let as required for the projects.

- (2) That the increases in some project estimates, described in Tables 1 and 3, be approved.
- (3) That the programme of Major Schemes detailed in Table 4 be approved, including the increase in estimate for Rugby Western Relief Road.

3. Children, Young People and Families Directorate – Capital Works Programme 2006/07 – Schools

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which set out the proposed allocation of capital resources for schools projects in 2006/07.

During his introduction of the item Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, drew attention to the work proposed at the Wotton Wawen Primary School and, in particular the fundraising activities of the school. Members asked that the school be congratulated on the success of its fundraising activities which had raised £100,000.

Resolved:-

That the proposed programme of works set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

4. Post-16 Transport

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families, which set out the options of achieving the required saving of £220,000 from the Post-16 Transport budget.

During the discussion members confirmed that further information was required before a decision could be taken.

In response to comments about the appropriateness of the Cabinet requesting the Task and Finish Group to consider the options, the Strategic Director of Performance and Development confirmed that the Cabinet could ask any group of members, such as a former task and finish group, to consider an issue and report back to the Cabinet themselves or through the appropriate Strategic Director.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet request that the Task and Finish Group, initially established by the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reconvene as a matter of urgency to consider the options available to achieve the savings required.

5. Response to the Consultation on the Proposals for the Revision of the Noise Preferential Routes/Standard Departure Routes For Coventry Airport

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

The proposals contained in the consultation were for relatively minor changes in the routes currently flown by aircraft. The proposals would avoid the main built up areas of the County.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor Chris Saint indicated that he considered the latest proposals would improve the overall situation slightly

Members noted that it was likely that the consultations about routes for incoming flights would involve a short timetable for responses, similar to the arrangements for the current consultation.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet supports the proposals but requests West Midlands International Airport Ltd to consider the scope for reducing the impact on rural areas, especially those villages identified in the Director's report as likely to be, or continue to be affected by noise due to over flying of aircraft to and from Coventry Airport.

6. FiReControl Governance Arrangements - A draft response to the ODPM's consultation paper

The report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer.

The report set out the background to the FiReControl project and provided a draft response to the ODPM consultation document on FiReControl Governance Arrangements.

During his introduction of this item, Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Protection, indicated that there were certain issues to be resolved in the future including the composition of boards and political proportionality of representation. Also, the situation relating to possible conflict of interests of local authority board members was being examined legally.

Members were advised that a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet at the appropriate time.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet approve the consultation response.

7. Rokeby Primary Schools

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Family Services which informed the Cabinet on feedback from the recent consultations on the proposed amalgamation of Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School. The Cabinet was asked to agree the issues of statutory notices.

Following introductory comments from Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, Councillor Alan Farnell, the Chair, suggested that, with regard to the use of the existing building, the examination of the demand for use by extended schools services should also include other services.

Councillor John Vereker, Chair of the Rugby Area Committee, spoke in support of the points raised by the Area Committee and for other community uses.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That Cabinet confirm its decision to close Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School and establish a 4-11 community primary school with effect from September 2007.
- (2) That the relevant statutory notices are issued, on the basis of closing the two schools and creating the new primary school.
- (3) That the new primary school continue to use the existing buildings of both schools to facilitate the transition to a one-form-entry school and allow for further exploration of the demand for extended schools and other services in the Rokeby area.

8. Climate Change Strategy for Warwickshire

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 27th April 2006 considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy which set out the policy context for a Climate Change Strategy for Warwickshire, provided an overview of the Strategy and a draft Strategy for consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Strategy and recommended its adoption by Cabinet.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- The importance of the Council's Strategy must be acknowledged particularly having regard to the current national media coverage of climate change.
- Members agreed that the Strategy had been well scrutinised by the

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Departments.

- o The Committee would monitor progress on a six monthly basis.
- o It was important that the successes of the Strategy were publicised

Resolved:-

That Cabinet adopts the draft Climate Change Strategy.

9. Review of Regional Spatial Strategy - Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum's Advice on Sub-Regional Input

The report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy was considered.

In January the Cabinet asked the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum to take the lead on co-ordinating a response to the Regional Planning Body and it is recommended that Cabinet supports the Forum's advice relating to Phase 2 Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet supports the advice of the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum and confirms to the Regional Planning Body that Warwickshire County Council has nothing further to add at this stage of the Phase 2 Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

10. Adoption of Warwickshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement in Planning

The report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy was considered.

Following examination of the draft Submission Statement of Community Involvement in Planning, the Inspector had issued his report, which was binding upon the Authority. The final Statement of Community Involvement incorporated all comments from the Inspector's report and Members were asked to adopt the final version of the Statement of Community Involvement.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet :

- (1) Adopts the Statement of Community Involvement, with the modifications recommended by the Inspector following independent examination, in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
- (2) Authorises the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy to prepare

an adoption statement and carry out the steps for publicising the Statement and its adoption required by Regulations 35, 36 and 49 to 51 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004.

11 Early Years Service Delivery Plan 2006/08

The report of the Chair of the Sure Start Policy Panel was considered.

The report contained a plan to deliver services for 2006/08 in accordance with the Children Act 2004 and the Childcare Bill 2005. The report had been considered by the Sure Start Policy Panel at their meeting on 4 April 2006.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approve the Early Years Service Delivery Plan 2006/08.

12. Deed of Postponement regarding the University of Warwick Science Park in favour of Advantage West Midlands

The joint report of the Strategic Directors of Performance and Development and Resources was considered.

The joint report proposed that the County Council agreed to the debt owed by the University of Warwick Science Park Company to Advantage West Midlands taking priority over the debt owed by the company to the Council for the reasons set out in the report.

Resolved:-

That Cabinet agrees to the County Council entering into a deed of postponement, the effect of which will be that the debt owed by the University of Warwick Science Park to Advantage West Midlands will take priority over the debt owed by the company to the County Council.

13. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

14. 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 paragraph 3 the Local Government Act 1972'.

15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th May 2006 and Matters Arising. Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

16. Exhall Grange School and Science College Redevelopment

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families relating to the proposed redevelopment of Exhall Grange School, the disposal of land and buildings and the use of the capital receipt.

17. Saltisford Report

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources.

The report updated Members on the progress on the occupation of Saltisford Buildings 1 and 2 and the progress made on the planning and procurement of Building 3.

The Cabinet gave approval to revised funding arrangements, proposals for the procurement of the fitting-out works, and proposals for the management of variations in forecast expenditure.

The Cabinet rose at 2.55 p.m.