

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 27 June 2006.

Present

Cabinet Members:

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

- “ Bob Stevens (Deputy Leader),
- “ Alan Cockburn (Resources),
- “ John Burton (Schools),
- “ 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 June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group,
“ Sara Boad, representing the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Other Members:

Councillors Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Josie Compton, Jill Dill-Russell, Anne Forwood, Richard Grant, Marion Haywood, Bob Hicks, Mick Jones, Helen McCarthy Tim Naylor, Mick Stanley, John Wells and John Whitehouse.

1. General

(1) An apology for absence

was received from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse.

(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 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 Josie Compton declared a personal interest in any matters affecting the Warwick District Council, as a member of that Council.

Councillor Sara Boad declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Developing Adult, Health and Community Services in view of her husband being the Warwick District Council's representative on the Supporting People Partnership Board.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 - Admissions to Stratford upon Avon Grammar Schools as a Governor of the High School at Stratford upon Avon.

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 - Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan, as a Magistrate.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 15 June 2006 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 15 June 2006 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

2. 2005/2006 Final Revenue Outturn

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

The final revenue spending of the Council in 2005/2006 was £491.295 million which represented a £9.234 million service underspend compared to the latest approved budget of £500.529 million (excluding contributions to and from the Capital Fund). The report provided a summary of the overall position, with the details of individual service spending contained in appendices.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet member for Resources, indicated that recommendation (5) relating to the Customer Service Centre overspend would need to be a recommendation to the Council.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- Several members were concerned at the increased level of reserves held by schools, particularly primary schools and, although there were reasons for the current level of reserves, this could give the wrong impression

when the Council's balances were examined.

- The overall situation was a surplus of 4.2% which was within the 5% guidelines although some schools had significant deficits.
- Members were advised that the state of school reserves was a problem nationally and that it would be very difficult to resolve.
- The reasons for the current levels of surplus in some school reserves included obligations under government rules and the fact that some allocations made at the start of the financial year could not be spent until September and consequently were held in reserves.
- The issues would be examined by the schools forum and pressure was being exerted on schools to use reserves or provide a good reason why they could not use them.
- A further report would be submitted to the Cabinet on the situation relating to schools reserves.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Note the 2005/2006 final revenue spending and the reserves position at the year-end.
- (2) Approve the recommendation of the Strategic Director of Resources not to transfer any funds to general reserves in respect of departmental carry forwards.
- (3) Approve the use of £1,574,000 of TSF (the Standards Fund) funds in 2006/2007.
- (4) Note the reduction of £299,000 in the 2006/2007 budget for Adult, Health & Community Services Directorate and £330,000 for the Environment & Economy Directorate to repay the overdrawn reserves at the year end.
- (5) Recommend the Council to approve the use of £184,000 of general reserves to fund the Customer Service Centre overspend in 2005/2006.
- (6) Approve the use of £1,971,000 service savings to support the 2006/2007 Revenue Budget as outlined in the report.

3. Capital Outturn 2005/2006

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which detailed the Council's 2005/06 capital spending and how it had been financed. The report showed how capital spending had changed since the third quarter monitoring report to the Cabinet on 2 February 2006 and asked the Cabinet to agree the carry forward of funding resources into 2006/07.

During his introduction of this item, Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Member

for Resources, confirmed that the capital spending figures relating to Education reflected the current situation in the financial year. There had been no reduction in spending levels on education.

It was then Resolved:

That Cabinet

- (1) notes the 2005/06 outturn capital spending of £64.054 million, detailed in Table 1 of the report, and its financing (Table 2 in the report), and
- (2) agrees the carry over of surplus funding resources into 2006/07, where necessary, to fund the existing capital programme.

4. Statement of Accounts and Statement on Internal Control 2005/2006

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

The report presented the Statement of Accounts and Statement on Internal Control for 2005/2006 and provided an explanatory note of the key issues.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Member for Resources, it was Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006.
- (2) That the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the Statement on Internal Control for 2005/2006.

5. Best Value Performance Report 2006/07

The Cabinet considered the report of the of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which presented the Best Value Performance Report 2006/07 to Cabinet for approval, before publication.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler, Cabinet Member for Performance and Development, the following points were raised during the discussion:

- The level of consultation undertaken in connection with the report had followed a similar process to previous years.
- With regard to the setting of some targets, members noted that the Council was required to include certain targets in the Plan but some, such as targets for economic development, were selected by the Council itself.
- It was suggested that consideration should be given to yearly trends when setting targets.
- The Plan was a document of record and if it wished, the Cabinet could ask

the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider the issues during the September round of Committees.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the Best Value Performance Report for 2006-07 for publication on 30th June and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the Plan during the September round of meetings.

6. Developing Adult, Health & Community Services

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services which set out the proposed strategic direction for the Adult Health and Community Services Directorate. It made proposals for the development of the structure, systems and culture of the organisation.

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Community, introduced the report.

The following points raised during the discussion:

- The report related to the principles of the proposed changes and a report dealing with financial issues would be submitted in September.
- There was a need for outcomes to be seen from the changes.
- The Council's partners would be the district/borough councils, voluntary organisations and Primary Care Trusts (PCT).
- There were differences in partnership working with the PCTs because of duties imposed on them by legislation and the tightening up of the inspection regime
- The merger of the Warwickshire Trusts into one PCT would make matters simpler.
- Staffing levels should be monitored.
- The library service was an important service for the well being of residents.
- There were several concerns about the current service including the high staffing costs and the condition of certain buildings and a review of the service was considered to be an appropriate way forward.
- Health and well being linked all directorates

Resolved:

That the Cabinet agrees the proposals in the report for the structure of the new Directorate.

7. Role of Director of Adult Services

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services.

The report related to statutory guidance on the role of the Director of Adult Social Services; the related strategic, political and operational expectations; and, to outline local arrangements for securing consistency.

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Community, moved and it was Resolved:

That the Cabinet

- (1) Notes the Department of Health guidance issued under Section 7[1] of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 on the Statutory Chief Officer Post of the Director of Adult Social Services and related best practice guidance.
- (2) Notes the assessment of local consistency with these requirements and the provisions in relation to political focus on adult social services.
- (3) Endorses the approach outlined in this report for taking forward the agenda outlined by Government in the context of the Council's process of modernisation and the design and delivery of operational and partnership arrangements through the new directorate.

8. Delivering the Customer Service & Access Strategy

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

The reports set out recommendations for the Cabinet to consider for the delivery of the Customer Service & Access Strategy.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler, Cabinet member for Performance and Development, members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were made during the discussion:

- With regard to future working with the Police, discussions were being held to overcome potential difficulties with the Police proposal for 31 neighbourhood units.
- Public perception was being raised and consideration was being given to the number of access points that would be needed to meet public expectations.
- A key challenge was to make the current One Stop Shop county wide, and then to extend beyond local government.

- One none emergency telephone number would be introduced for the Council and its partners. Members were advised that there were some difficulties to be resolved relating to the national roll out of a single number.
- One number should result in high public expectations although the number of Police complaints made could impact on overall perception of the service.
- The Strategy would enable development of longer term services that would be possible through digital TV and the internet.

One aspect of the proposed funding arrangements was specific budget allocations where members had approved the provision of enhanced services. Members were advised that this would not result in an additional burden on Directorates.

It was then Resolved:

That the Cabinet

- (1) Approves the Customer Service and Access Strategy 2006-2009.
- (2) Supports the roll out of the next phase of development of the Customer Service Centre as outlined in this report.
- (3) Supports the development of a business case for an integrated Customer Service Centre and Joint One Stop Shops with Warwick District Council and recognises that one element of this aim can be delivered within existing capital and revenue resources through the development of a One Stop Shop at Shire Hall.
- (4) Recognises that the potential of the existing One Stop Shop at Kenilworth Library can be developed further.
- (5) Supports the development of a One Stop Shop at King's House Bedworth funded from within existing capital resources and the next phase of Customer Service Centre resources as per recommendation 2 above.
- (6) Supports a multi-site pilot of kiosks.
- (7) Supports the development of business cases for at least two more One Stop Shops, at least one of which will be located in an extended school.
- (8) That the funding for the programme be as follows:-
 - Funding from the modernisation fund of £350k (£250k for Kings House and the Customer Service Centre and £100k for e-Access Points) in 2006/2007 and £250k in 2007/08 for Kings House and the Customer Service Centre
 - Future year costs should be funded from either:
 - Efficiency savings delivered within Directorates achieved through re-engineering processes/back office in conjunction with the Customer Service Centre; or

- Specific budget allocations where Members have approved the provision of enhanced services.
- (9) That all services which are capable of delivery through the Customer Service Centre, e-access and other forms of integrated customer service access points are reviewed from end to end by business process re-engineering to ensure that the benefits to customers and efficient service delivery are maximised.

9. 2005/06 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement and Quality Crosscheck

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer which sought members' approval to submit the 2005/06 Annual Efficiency Statements for the Council and Fire Authority to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Member for Resources, it was Resolved:

That the Cabinet:-

- (1) Approve the draft 2005/06 Backward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement for the County Council attached at Appendix A to the report.
- (2) Authorise the Strategic Director of Resources in consultation with the Leaders and Chief Executive, to make any changes necessary to the County Council's 2005/06 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement prior to its submission to the Government on 6 July 2006.
- (3) Approve the draft 2005/06 Backward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement for the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority attached at Appendix B to the report.
- (4) Authorise the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer in consultation with the Head of the Fire and Rescue Authority (Cllr Hobbs acting in this capacity), Cllr Shilton and Cllr Chattaway to make any changes necessary to the Fire and Rescue Authority 2005/06 Backward-Looking Annual Efficiency Statement prior to its submission to the Government on 6 July 2006.

10. Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which introduced the objectives of the annual Youth Justice Plan, performance during 2005 and priorities/objectives for 2006/07. The Cabinet was asked to endorse Warwickshire's Youth Justice Plan 2006/07 and recommend it be adopted by the Council.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, introduced the item.

During the discussion Members were advised that, with regard to all party representation on the Youth Justice Management Board, an examination would be undertaken into the possibility of amalgamating the Board with the Community Safety and Drug and Alcohol Action Team Partnership having regard to the extent of common membership of these bodies. Councillor representation would be examined at that time.

Members were also advised that the reasons for offending would be examined strategically under the new Directorate.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet recommend the Council to adopt the Warwickshire's Youth Justice Plan 2006/07.

11. Admissions to Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar Schools

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which summarised the outcome of consultation on proposed changes to the admission arrangements to the Stratford grammar schools.

Following introductory comments from Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, it was Resolved:

- (1) That the administrative changes to the selection process outlined in para. 3.1.1 of the report be agreed but that the changes proposed under 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 not be pursued.
- (2) That admission arrangements to Stratford Girls' Grammar School remain as now with an 'automatic' qualifying score as set by the Adjudicator and a maximum of 22 further places offered as vacancies become available and that the governors of King Edward VI School are advised to in the same terms.

13. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

Following an announcement by Councillor Alan Farnell, the Leader of the Council, members congratulated John Deegan, Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on his recent appointment as President of the County Surveyors' Society.

The Cabinet rose at 11.30 a.m.

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Chair