

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 15th June 2006.

Present

Cabinet Members:

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

“ Bob Stevens (Deputy Leader),

“ 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).

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, Josie Compton, Anne Forwood, Richard Grant, Mick Jones, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy Tim Naylor, John Wells and John Whitehouse.

Before the commencement of business members stood in silence as a mark of respect for the late David Addyman, former Head of Strategic Support in the Environment and Economy Directorate.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence.

Were received from Councillors Alan Cockburn (Resources) and Izzi Seccombe (Children, Families and Young People).

(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 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 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.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th May 2006 and Matters Arising.

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 25th May 2006 meeting be approved.

(ii) Matters Arising

Minute 4 – Post 16 – Transport

Councillor Alan Farnell advised members that it was not now intended to request the Task and Finish Group to consider the options. Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, would bring a further report to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

(4) Requests for Discussion of En Bloc Items.

It was agreed that Agenda Item 9 would be discussed before a decision was taken.

2. Developing the Corporate Business Plan 2006-9

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

The draft Corporate Business Plan (CBP) 2006-9 presented the medium term priorities for the County Council, with the actions and targets would deliver them. As the organisation was in the middle of the major change of modernisation the plan was still in a transitional form between the old and the new, which will emerge in next year's plan. The CBP contained key actions, targets and milestones which will form the basis for reporting performance. The plan would form part of the Council's statutory Best Value Performance Plan 2006/7.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler (Performance and Development), members considered several aspects of the report and raised the following points:-

- Incomplete figures would be updated when the report was submitted to the

Council.

- o The Plan should include the development of well-being across the county.
- o In section 6.1 members noted that the changing national agenda for Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.
- o With regard to aspirations under Environment – paragraph 9.2 - the wording should be amended to show that recycling of waste was as big an issue as the disposal and processing of waste.
- o Comparison should be made between the targets for recycling of waste with the total targets for waste disposal.
- o The amount of garden waste which was composted or burnt by residents impacted on the Council's overall recycling targets.
- o The difference in the Healthy School Standard figures on pages 6 and 7 resulted from different calculation periods.

Councillor Peter Fowler suggested that the Cabinet Portfolio Holders should be consulted on the finalisation of the targets in the last stage of service plan production.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the final draft Corporate Business Plan 2006-9 to go forward for adoption by the County Council on 27th June 2006, subject to the targets being finalised in the last stage of service plan production in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

3. Adult and Community Learning Development Plan 2006/07

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

All Local Authority Adult Education Services that were funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) were required annually to draw up Adult and Community Learning Development Plans for the period of their next contract with the LSC - in this instance for the period August 2006 to 2007. The plan built on the work carried out through previous plans. The report had been considered by the Adult & Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 17 May 2006.

Following comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield, (Adult, Health and Community), and Councillor Frank McCarney, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet recommends the Council to adopt the Adult and Community Learning Development Plan 2006/07 at its meeting on the 18th July, 2006.

4. Developing Telecare in Warwickshire

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

Warwickshire was in receipt of the Preventative Technology Grant from the Department of Health to stimulate the development of telecare services. The development of telecare would be most effectively undertaken in partnership with the District/Borough Councils and PCTs and other key stakeholders. In order to make speedy progress, it was proposed that subject to appropriate safeguards, Warwickshire enters into a partner agreement with the Northern Housing Consortium, who provide a consultancy service and access to a procurement service for the purchase of telecare equipment.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community) the following points were noted:-

- The Fire and Rescue Service and the District and Borough Councils would be consulted on the proposals.
- The examples of neighbouring county councils and the benefits of cross boundary working would be taken into account.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet approves and authorises the County Council to procure telecare equipment through the arrangements put in place by the Northern Housing Consortium (“NHC”), which procurement will be funded by a Preventative Technology Grant.
- (2) That the Cabinet approves and authorises the County Council to negotiate and enter into:
 - (a) A partnership agreement with NHC;
 - (b) A supply agreement/s with the framework contractor/s appointed by NHC pursuant to the EU procurement undertaken by NHC; and
 - (c) Partnership arrangements with district and borough councils and other community alarm providers (and potentially also PCTs) in Warwickshire.

In each case, on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services.

- (3) A further report detailing the implementation plans for telecare be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet within six months.

5. A Summary of the Draft Report produced by Coventry City Council on the Coventry and Warwickshire Breastfeeding Review Document

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

The Coventry City Council led a grant application with Warwickshire County Council to the Centre for Public Scrutiny to support an action research framework for this scrutiny review. The summary document gave a brief outline of the aims and eight themes chosen by the board with recommendations on how services could be improved to support/enable women to breastfeed in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Bob Steven, the Deputy Leader, it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet supports the recommendation from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the Council reviews its employer practices with a view to supporting breastfeeding.
- (2) That the Cabinet endorses the recommendations outlined in a summary of the draft document provided by Coventry City Council.

6. Transport for Non-entitled Pupils

The report of the Chair of the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was considered.

A Home to School Task and Finish Group had been established by the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review home to school transport for non-entitled pupils and pupils attending denominational schools. The report followed a consultation exercise and had been considered by the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 18 May 2006.

Councillor John Burton (Schools) moved and it was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet agrees to introduce a Vacant Seats Policy on vehicles operated under contract to the Council which are not registered as local bus services from September 2007, taking into account the comments of the Children, Young People & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the introduction of instalments.

7. Transport to Denominational Schools

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Home to School Task and Finish Group had been set up by the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review home to school transport for non-entitled pupils and pupils attending denominational

schools. The report followed a consultation exercise and had been considered by the Children, Young People & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 18 May 2006.

Following introductory comments from Councillor John Burton (Schools), members discussed several aspects of the report. The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The criteria for determining whether a pupil was practising a faith could raise issues relating to the Council's admissions policy, human rights and equality. The example in the report referred specifically to those attending Catholic schools and Members required further information as to those attending schools of other faiths, particularly Church of England schools.
- Research had been undertaken including the practices of other local councils and no judicial reviews had been undertaken of other councils who had introduced similar charging schemes to that recommended to the Cabinet.
- Legal advice had been given that there was no discrimination on religious grounds but advice had not been sought on the proposals being unfair between faiths.
- Deal with other faith schools when issues arise.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the recommended policy was fairer than the Council's current policy.
- A further report should be submitted to the Cabinet through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the criteria for whether a pupil is practising a particular faith and human rights issues.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet agrees to introduce a charge for transport to denominational schools for future pupils who do not practice the faith of the school attended unless the school is the nearest appropriate school to the parental home, the new policy to be phased in from September 2007 subject to the consideration of a further report about the criteria for whether a pupil is practising a particular faith and about any human rights issues.

8. Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection.

The Domestic Violence Strategic Board, a partnership group supported by a number of agencies, had developed a 3 year strategy for Warwickshire to tackle Domestic Abuse, supported by a 12 month action plan which included specific outcomes. This had already been endorsed by the five Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Warwickshire, as well as all the agencies involved in developing the strategy. In addition, the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee had reviewed and supported the strategy. The Cabinet was asked to endorse the strategy so that it could be published as a public document to

demonstrate the work that was being undertaken in Warwickshire.

Following comments from Councillor Richard Hobbs, (Community Protection) and Councillor Richard Chattaway, Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was Resolved:-

That Cabinet endorses the Domestic Violence Strategy on behalf of the County Council and agree that the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee should review the effectiveness of the Strategy in 12 months time.

9. Risk Assessment of the County Council's Strategic Priorities

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

The paper presented the reassessment by Strategic Directors of the strategic risks to the delivery of the County Councils priorities, with proposed actions to mitigate the risks where necessary. This was part of the Council's Business Planning process.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler, (Performance and Development), it was Resolved:-

That the Cabinet endorses the summary of strategic risks facing the County Council in delivering its objectives and the actions to mitigate them where necessary

10. Recycling Credits

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

The report detailed rates for recycling credits for 2006/07 and recommended arrangements for paying certain third parties recycling credits.

Resolved:-

That the arrangements for Third Parties be as follows:

- (1) Recycling credits are not paid to the organisations listed in paragraph 3.3 of the report or in respect of waste arising from charity shops.
- (2) The Strategic Director for Environment and Economy is authorised to agree to pay recycling credits to other third parties whose applications:
 - (i) support delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy;
 - (ii) avoid duplication of effort;

- (iii) offer verifiable and significant local social, economic or environmental benefits;

if he is satisfied that in all the circumstances payment would be in accordance with best value principles.

11. Warwickshire Quality Rail Partnership Station Improvements

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

A Warwickshire Quality Rail Partnership (Station Improvements) would provide an opportunity for the County Council to formalise partnership working with Network Rail, Central Trains, Chiltern Railways, Virgin Trains (West Coast) and Virgin Trains (Cross Country). It was envisaged that the Partnership would be able to deliver improvements to station facilities more effectively than if each organisation worked in isolation.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet approves the proposed Warwickshire Quality Rail Partnership Station Improvements with details of the Partnership to be acceptable to the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

12. Countywide Bus Shelter Maintenance and Advertising Contract

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

The Cabinet was asked to consider authorising a countywide contract for the cleaning, maintenance and repair of bus shelters and street furniture and a separate countywide contract for advertising on bus shelters and other free standing plinths in return for a revenue payment to the County Council.

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, on terms satisfactory to the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, to award:-

- (1) A countywide contract for the cleaning, maintenance and repair of bus shelters and street furniture.
- (2) A countywide contract for advertising on bus shelters and other free standing plinths in return for a revenue payment to the County Council.

13. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider.

14. Report Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved:-

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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 25th May 2006 and Matters Arising. Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

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Chair

The Cabinet rose at 2.30 p.m.