

**The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 2 November 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),
- “ Izzie Seccombe (Children, Families and Young People).

**Non-Voting Invitees:**

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group,

- “ Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

**Other Members:**

Councillors Ken Browne, Richard Chattaway, Josie Compton, Jill Dill-Russell, Anne Forwood, Richard Grant, Marion Haywood, Mick Jones, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy, Tim Naylor, Raj Randev, John Vereker and John Wells.

**1. General**

**(1) An Apology for absence**

was received from Councillor Chris Saint, Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

**(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 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, Member of the Warwick District Council.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 October 2006 and Matters Arising.**

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 12 October 2006 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

**(4) Request for the Discussion of En Bloc Items**

It was agreed that item 18 would be discussed before a decision was taken.

**2. Programme of Items for Future Consideration**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which contained details of all items programmed for consideration by the Cabinet up to the 1 February 2007, as taken from the Forward Planning System.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Children, Families and Young People) advised members that the item relating to the Commissioning of Connexions Services, that was scheduled for the 23 November Cabinet, would now be considered at later date.

Resolved:

That members note the programme.

**3. The Vision**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive which presented the proposed Vision Statement for the Council for 2006 – 2015. Every organisation needs a vision - a focused set of priorities, a set of outcomes to be achieved. The Vision will guide the Council in the planning and delivery of its services and resources so as to best achieve outcomes for the communities of Warwickshire. The Cabinet was asked to agree the Vision.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- (1) The Core Vision Statement 2006 – 2015 should be amended by:
  - (i) the first bullet point “ • Raising standards of Customer Service and Access to our services” being relocated after the bullet point “• Strengthening our Communities and Celebrating our Heritage”.
  - (ii) the wording of the bullet point “ Confronting inequalities ....best and worst” be changed to read “• Confronting Inequalities and narrowing the gap by raising standards”.
- (2) The Vision Statement should be considered by the Council.

It was then Resolved:

That the proposed the Vision Statement, as amended above, be endorsed as a means of setting the strategic direction for the Council and be referred to full Council for approval.

#### **4. Half-Year Composite Performance Report 2006/07 (April 2006 – September 2006).**

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

The report provided an analysis of the Council's performance for the half-year 2006/07 (the period 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006) as part of the Performance Management Framework. It reported on performance against the key actions from the Corporate Business Plan, Corporate Headline Indicators (CHIs) and LPSA2 Targets.

During the discussion members were advised that, with regard to performance indicator CH52 under Children and Young People, the 2006/07 Year End Estimate figure was 58.5.

Resolved:

That Cabinet notes the contents of the report and notes that half-year reports from individual directorates will be reported to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

#### **5. Development of the 2007/08 to 2009/10 Medium Term Financial Plan**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Resources which informed members of the latest information on available resources, spending pressures and investment proposals for the period 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn (Resources), members were advised that there were several courses of action open to the Council to ensure that all collected waste was properly disposed of, including the use of landfill credits from other councils.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Cabinet :

- (1) Notes the latest resource forecast and early indications of spending pressures and investment proposals from Directorates.
- (2) Requests that Overview and Scrutiny Committees review and comment on the information relevant to their terms of reference.

## **6. Projected 2006/07 Revenue Outturn**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which summarised the projected revenue outturn as at the end of quarter 2 (April to September 2006). It highlighted the main reasons for any variations from the approved budget for each service and the projected reserves position at the year-end.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn (Resources) the following points were made during the discussion:

- o With regard to the forecast underspend on the Childrens budget of £2.47m, members attention was drawn to the Standards Fund resources being based on a 17 months period which rolled forward to August each year. There would not be any adverse financial or service consequences as a result of this arrangement.
- o Concern was expressed about the amount of reserves being held by some schools. This could result in money that had been allocated for school children of a particular age not being used for the purpose intended. Members were advise that schools, mainly primary schools were being asked for the reasons for holding onto reserves.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet notes the projected 2006/07 revenue outturn position and the projected reserves at year-end, and requests Directorates to take appropriate management action to try to ensure that spending remains within budget.
- (2) That a report addressing members concerns about the level of school reserves be submitted to the January 2007 meeting of the Cabinet.

## **7. Projected 2006/07 Capital Outturn**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which gave a mid-year update on the variations on projected capital outturn for 2006/07 and overall budget variances.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn (Resources) the following points were made during the discussion:

- o There were several schemes that were dependent upon the capital receipt from the Aylesford land which had been agreed by the Council during the budget discussions.
- o Members were reminded of the need for the proposed footway/cycleway at Birmingham Road, Stratford upon Avon (paragraph 3.6.3) particularly having regard to the new residential development being constructed in the area.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet notes the revised spending forecast for capital schemes in 2006/07 and over the scheme lives.

## **8. 2006/07 Annual Efficiency Statement Mid-Year Update**

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director of Resources and the Strategic Director of Community Protection.

The report gave an update on progress in achieving the forecast efficiency gains for 2006/07 and the 2006/07 Annual Efficiency Statement Mid-Year Update for approval to be submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Resources) presented the report.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- o The Comprehensive Spending Review might suggest the efficiency targets should be raised and this was likely to be regardless of whether councils had met existing targets or not.
- o Efficiency targets were currently not linked to grant settlement

Resolved:-

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the latest forecast efficiency gains for 2006/07 for the County Council and the Fire and Rescue Service.

- (2) Approves the draft 2006/07 Annual Efficiency Statement mid-year update for the County Council attached at Appendix A to the report and the Fire Service, attached at Appendix B, for submission to the Government.
- (3) Authorises the Strategic Director of Resources, and Strategic Director of Community Protection, in conjunction with the respective portfolio holders, to make any changes necessary to the 2006/07 Annual Efficiency Statement mid-year update prior to its submission.

## **9. Fairer Charging - Care at Home Services**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult Health and Community Services which set out proposals for a revised charging policy.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community), it was Resolved:

That the Cabinet approves the following proposals for a revised charging policy.

- (1) Increase "buffer" to Income Support + 40% and increase the charge to £8.70, half way between our current charge and the group average.
- (2) Charging on planned hours is continued at the present time but a review of this decision is taken when the electronic time recording system is in place. In the meantime remove what is now seen as inconsistency with our banded charges and charge on the basis of a standard hourly rate rounded to the nearest half hour.
- (3) That the Council does not increase the savings figure from the current level of £21,000 but that this is increased annually in April in line with CRAG guidance.
- (4) That for the time being the Council does not charge a higher rate for service users who receive more than 18 hours home care.
- (5) That the rate for day care is increased from £2.22 per day or part day to £5.00 per day or part day.
- (6) That rate for transport is increased from £1.07 per journey to £1.20 per journey.
- (7) Providing all the above are approved it is proposed to implement the changes from 1 January 2007. This would need to be reviewed should any of the above recommendations be changed or not approved
- (8) That the proposed charges remain the same until April 2008.
- (9) A further report on disability related expenditure be brought back to Members in due course.

## **10. Review of the Cultural Strategy**

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

The report was the final report for the Scrutiny Review of the Cultural Strategy. It had been considered by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2006.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community) it was Resolved:

- (1) That the final report of the review of the Cultural Strategy be approved;
- (2) That the Cabinet agree the following recommendations:
  - (a) That no steps be undertaken to replace the current cultural strategy 2003-06 with another strategy.
  - (b) That future work in this area be referred to as Culture, Leisure and Sport.
  - (c) Notwithstanding (2)(a) above the current cultural strategy be assimilated in the overall promotion of culture leisure and sport within the development of the local area agreement and existing community strategies.
  - (d) That amongst the options being explored to develop services in this area; consideration be given to the feasibility of a County Wide Cultural 'Champions' Forum and a website portal providing a single point of access for all cultural, leisure and sports activities within Warwickshire.

## **11. Catholic Provision in Rugby**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families.

The report included a draft response to the Catholic authority's consultation on Catholic provision in Rugby.

Councillor John Burton, (Schools) presented the report.

Following comments about the importance of further consideration by the Area Committee, it was Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet comment on and agree the draft response to the Diocesan School Commission's consultation document at Appendix A to the report.
- (2) That the Area Committee consider this matter further and the Cabinet receive a further report on the outcome of the consultation process at its meeting on 23rd November

## **12. Chedham's Yard, Wellesbourne: Investment and Regeneration**

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

Chedham's Yard, a historic forge and wheelwright's yard in Wellesbourne, won the national final of the BBC programme 'Restoration Village' in September. As a result, the project would secure £1 million investment from the Heritage Lottery Fund, subject to satisfying the necessary requirements.

The project was promoted by the local community, with support from (among others) staff from the Warwickshire Museum Service. This had been a further example of the Museum Service's role in supporting and enabling engagement by local communities with their local heritage.

The report outlined the potential benefits for Wellesbourne, and more widely for Warwickshire, and set out the approach officers propose to take to supporting the local community with their project.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community) members discussed several aspects of the proposal. In particular the following points were made:

- o The importance of consulting the local member on reports to the Cabinet and other bodies was acknowledged.
- o The County Council's involvement was in supporting and enabling engagement by the local community with its local heritage.
- o There were some local concerns with the project which were being examined.
- o The project would need to comply with the criteria for Heritage Lottery Funding including the preparation of a business plan.
- o With regard to the sustainability of the project members would be kept informed of any developments in liabilities.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorses the approach proposed.

## **13. Council Housing Disposal Policy**

The report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered.

The report sought approval to a policy for the disposal of Council housing not required for operational purposes.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Alan Cockburn (Resources), it



was Resolved:

- (1) That approval be granted to the Council adopting a policy to offer for sale its 'non operational' housing to tenants at a discount reflecting the discount under Right to Buy legislation.
- (2) That no new service tenancies are granted for 'non-operational' Council housing.
- (3) That approval is granted to the sale of individual 'non-operational' Council housing in accordance with the above policy on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Directors of Resources and of Performance and Development.

#### **14. Delivering the Customer Service & Access Strategy – Funding options for a joint One Stop Shop in North Warwickshire**

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

The report set out the proposed funding options for Warwickshire County Council's participation with North Warwickshire Borough Council in a joint One Stop Shop in Atherstone

Resolved:

That the Cabinet:

- (1) Approves the utilisation of £35,000 capital underspend from the Stratford Register Office to support the capital contribution to the joint one stop shop in Atherstone.
- (2) Notes that the Strategic Director for Performance and Development will fund from within existing resources the additional £25,000 towards the capital contribution.
- (3) Notes that the revenue funding will be the subject of a future bid to the Modernisation Fund.

#### **15. Changes to Indicated Admission Numbers – Southern Warwickshire**

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered.

The report informed the Cabinet about current Admission Numbers in two schools and sought authorisation for formal consultation to change those numbers.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families to consult stakeholders on proposals to:

- (1) increase the Admission Number of Wellesbourne C of E Primary School, from 40 to 60 pupils per year; and
- (2) increase the Admission Number of Ettington C of E Primary School, from 20 to 25 pupils per year.

## **16. Children's Centres – Phase 2**

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

The report outlined the details on proposed sites and estimated costs for Phase 2 of the strategy for Children's Centres across Warwickshire. The report had considered by the Sure Start Policy Panel.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet agrees the proposals for Phase 2 of Children's Centres and notes the financial implications arising from the feasibility study and that the cost of the programme will be met from Government grant.
- (2) That the Cabinet approves the proposal to manage the programme within the overall grant allocation as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report.

## **17. The Consumer Advice Policy for Trading Standards**

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

The report asked the Cabinet to consider a revised policy for the delivery of consumer advice by Warwickshire Trading Standards Service in light of the introduction of Consumer Direct West Midlands.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorses the revised approach and formally adopts the policy.

## **18. Waste Strategy Implementation - Approval of Method for Allocating Capital Support to the District/Borough Councils**

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

Capital funding had already been allocated to implement aspects of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Out of the total budget, £1 million had been provisionally allocated to provide capital support for the district/borough councils to contribute to reaching the targets established in the Waste Strategy. The report sought approval for allocating the £1 million and the method proposed for distributing funding to individual district authorities.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Martin Heatley (Environment), it was suggested that, whilst the Project Board would take decisions based on the objectives of the Warwickshire Waste Management Strategy, there should be member involvement in the allocation of funding.

Resolved:

- (1) That £1 million is allocated to support district schemes that will contribute to the implementation of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- (2) That the Waste Strategy Implementation Project Board, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy, the Cabinet Member for the Environment and the other party spokespersons, be authorised to make the decision on the allocation of funding to the districts in accordance with the objectives of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and following the procedures proposed in this report.
- (3) In making allocation decisions the Waste Strategy Implementation Project Board shall follow a fully transparent and objective process with the primary aim of maximising the total amount of recycling and composting carried out in Warwickshire.

## **19. Land at Corner of Park Road and Mill Street, Bedworth**

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

The report sought authorisation for a land exchange between the County Council and the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council on the site at the corner of Park Road and Mill Street, Bedworth. The exchange of land would facilitate the redevelopment of the site (as proposed in the Masterplan for Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres) and protect the alignment of any future highway improvements by the County Council to support the Masterplan proposals and regeneration of the Town Centre.

Resolved:

That authorisation be given to transfer ownership of the land shown as plot 2 in Appendix A to the report from the County Council to the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in exchange for the land shown as plots 1 and 3, currently owned by the Borough Council.

## **20. Delivery of HR services**

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

The report sought the endorsement of changes in the way that HR services were delivered throughout the County Council, allowing more effective exploitation of the new HRMS system, greater economies of scale and a clearer focus on the delivery of HR advice and policy development.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorses the changes to the way that Human Resources (HR) services are delivered throughout the County Council, as set out in the report, including the creation of a single unit for transactional purposes.

## **21. Any Other Items**

There were no urgent items to consider.

## **25. Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children, Young People and Families in Warwickshire**

Publication of the report relating to the item had been embargoed until the day of the Cabinet meeting 2 November 2006. The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families had been circulated with the Agenda as an exempt item and was considered in public at the Cabinet meeting.

The Annual Performance Assessment summarised the performance of the Children, Young People and Families Directorate as assessed by Ofsted/CSCI.

Following Introductory comments from Councillor Izzi Seccombe it was Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet accepts the performance of the Children, Young People and Families Directorate as assessed by Ofsted/CSCI.
- (2) That the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the findings of Ofsted/CSCI and subsequently monitors the action plan.
- (3) That the Cabinet's congratulations be passed to all members of staff in the Children, Young People and Families Directorate.

## **22. 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 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**23. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2006 and Matters Arising.**

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

**24. Warwick - 31 Shakespeare Avenue Disposal**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources relating to the sale of 31 Shakespeare Avenue, Warwick.

The Cabinet rose at 2.45 p.m.