

**The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 7 December 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),
- “ 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,

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

**Other Members:**

Councillors David Booth, Ken Browne, Jill Dill-Russell, Anne Forwood, Marion Haywood, Bob Hicks, Frank McCarney, Tim Naylor and Raj Randev.

Before the start of business the Cabinet received a presentation from representatives of the Youth Parliament about the range of activities undertaken during the year.

Members were also advised of outstanding issues which needed to be addressed, including transport for young people and the use of computers provided by the Council.

It was suggested that further consideration should be given to key issues affecting young people in the county, including travel assistance, with a view to a report being submitted to the Cabinet.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe indicated that she would pursue a suggestion that the MYP's should be invited to all meetings of the Cabinet and the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, subject to any comments from the Chair of that Committee. It was suggested that this should commence after the next Youth Parliament Elections in 2007.

Members then thanked the MYP's for their presentation.

## 1. General

### (1) An Apology

for absence was received from Councillor Martin Heatley, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

### (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.

### Other Declarations

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Voluntary and Community Sector Developments**

Councillor Alan Farnell declared a personal interest.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Company**

Councillor Richard Hobbs declared a personal interest as a member of the West Midlands Fire Regional Management Board.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Connexions Service**

Councillor Chris Saint declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of the Board of the CWSP and indicated that he would leave the room whilst the matter was discussed.

Councillor June Tandy declared a personal interest as a member of the CWSP.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe declared a personal interest as a member of the Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions Strategic Partnership Board.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Area Community Education Councils – Funding Arrangements.**

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest as he ran a local youth group.

**Agenda Item 8 – Re-structure of Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership**

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest as a member of the Stratford LSP.

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a personal interest as a member of the North Warwickshire LSP.

**Agenda Item 16 – Highways Agency Arrangements**

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest

**Agenda Item 17 - Nuneaton Citizens' Advice Bureau**

Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest as a member of the Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service Joint Management Committee.

Councillor Alan Farnell declared a personal and prejudicial interest and indicated that he would leave the room whilst the matter was discussed.

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 November 2006 and Matters Arising.**

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 23 November 2006 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

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

It was agreed that items 10, 11 and 12 would be discussed before decisions were taken.

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

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which related to items programmed for consideration by the Cabinet up to the 29 March 2007, as taken from the Forward Planning System.

With regard to the 11 January meeting, Members were advised of the following changes to the programme:

**Merger of the Stratford and Warwick Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships** – now to go to the 1 February meeting because of delays in collating the views of the consultees.

**Street Lighting Hours of Operation** – following talks between Councillor Martin Heatley, Cabinet Member for the Environment, and Councillor Ken Browne, Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the matter would now be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being considered by the Cabinet.

**Minerals and Waste Development Scheme** - deferred to the 22 February meeting to comply with Government advice.

Resolved:

That members note the programme.

### **3. Development of the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which submitted an outline of the final draft of the LAA that would be submitted to Government Office on 8th December 2006 and informed of key developments since that last report to Cabinet on 12th October 2006.

In response to comments from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, members were advised that the next draft of the LAA would have more focus on migrant worker issues.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet notes the current position in relation to the development of the Warwickshire LAA.
- (2) That the Cabinet endorses the latest draft LAA prior to submission to Government Office on 8th December 2006.

### **4. Voluntary and Community Sector Developments**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which updated the Cabinet on possible changes in the structure of key organisations in the voluntary and community sector.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Peter Fowler, Cabinet Member for Performance and Development, Members were advised that it was intended to consult Area Committees about future developments if the Cabinet agreed the recommended discussions.

Councillor Peter Fowler, seconded by Councillor Colin Hayfield, moved and it was Resolved:

That the Cabinet supports discussions with key Voluntary and Community Sector organisations about their future organisation and structures and asks for a

progress report in six months time.

## **5. Establishment of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre company**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer and the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

The joint report proposed that the Cabinet recommends Council, in its capacity as Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority, to approve the Council's participation in the Regional Fire Control Company in the terms outlined in the report.

During his introduction of the item Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Protection, indicated that he had held discussions with Councillor Richard Chattaway, Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Dave Shilton on the approach to be taken prior to the matter being submitted to the Cabinet.

It was then Resolved:

That Cabinet recommends that the Council, in its capacity as Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority:

- (1) notes the steps being taken to establish the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Company by January 2007;
- (2) agrees that the County Council participates as a Member of the Company on terms substantially as outlined in this report and its appendices;
- (3) appoints Councillor Richard Hobbs as a Director of the Company;
- (4) authorises the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and the Strategic Director of Resources to take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to finalise the company documentation in order that the Company may be established by January 2007;
- (5) notes that further reports will update Council on developments in the Fire Control project and the operation of the Company and in particular proposals for financial apportionment being developed at a local and national level.

## **6. Connexions Service**

Councillor Chris Saint left the room for this item.

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

The Cabinet was asked to approve the transfer of funds from the Connexions Service to the County Council from the 1st April 2007 and to approve a three year commissioning of the Connexions Service with effect from the 1st April 2007.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People, Members discussed several aspects of the matter and made the following points:

- o Care must be taken to make people aware that that Council was the distributor of funds allocated to them and that any shortage of funds was not the Council's fault.
- o The Coventry City Council had been invited to join in scrutiny of the proposed arrangements.
- o There was a funding split of 42/58 between Coventry and Warwickshire and local decisions would be made under the supervision of the government office.
- o Member representation on the Connexions Board would enable input by elected representatives.
- o Establish exemption to bid, as with other local authorities.

Resolved:

- (1) That Cabinet approves an initial 3 year commissioning of the Connexions Service to deliver independent information, advice and guidance and targeted youth support as prescribed through the "Youth Matters" Green Paper.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees to the pooling of funds from the Connexions Service to Warwickshire County Council through the Local Area Agreement Children Young People and Families Block to commence 1st April 2007.

## **7. Area Community Education Councils – Funding arrangements**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought Cabinet approval for the future arrangements for allocation of ACEC funding. The report related only to the funds used to support work with 0-19 year olds. The 19+ funds will be the subject of a separate report.

During her introduction of the item, Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People, expressed her support for the proposal which would enable opportunity for equality of service. She had some concern about the proposal for the task and finish group referred to in paragraph 3.2, to meet up to three times a year, which was not in the spirit of task and finish

groups.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- o It was suggested that the area committees should remain responsible for allocating the funding. The current arrangements made the funding more accessible and enabled local input.
- o Members were advised that both the Nuneaton and Bedworth and the Warwick Area Committees did not support the proposals for centralisation of the ACECs funding.
- o The proposal would involve consideration by local youth workers.
- o A particular problem was that not every local organisations had a good set up, constitution etc.
- o In view of the divergence of views it was suggested that it would be appropriate to refer the issues to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That the matter be referred to the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

## **8. Restructure of Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership**

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

The report asked Cabinet to confirm its views on the proposals to re-structure the Local Strategic Partnership in light of the overall direction that the Local Area Agreement Governance Task and Finish Group was taking on Local Area Agreement matters.

Resolved:

That Cabinet supports the revised structure of Stratford Local Strategic Partnership in the light of views of the Stratford on Avon Committee.

## **9. Migrant Workers**

The report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy.

The report provided an overview of the available information on the recent influx of migrant workers to the UK.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Chris Saint, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Members discussed several aspects of the proposal and made the following points:

- o It was important for the statistics to be disseminated through Directorates and partners and for heads of services to pick up impacts on all services.
- o Information was being pulled together to give rounded picture.
- o Statistics relating to health, police and district services including housing, should be included if possible in future reports.
- o For clarity and co ordination the Cabinet must decide which portfolio is appropriate
- o In view of the potential problems a further report giving a statistical analysis should be submitted to the Cabinet within six months with subsequent reports on a quarterly basis.
- o Officers should research the appropriateness of the West Midlands Regional Observatory being involved the regional project examining the economic impact of migrant workers bearing in mind service delivery issues.
- o Impact of limited LSC funding on skills development.
- o There was a need for Strategic Directors a examine the potential impact on services before a further report was submitted to the Cabinet.

It was then Resolved

That Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the baseline information for migrant workers.
- (2) Endorses the work in section 10 of the report to the Cabinet
- (3) Request a further report be brought forward in six months time, updating the Cabinet on the work in hand and the effects of Migrant Workers in schools, the Health agenda and the District/Borough Councils' services.

## **10. Contract for the Provision of Temporary Staff**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director, Performance & Development.

The report summarised the current contractual provision for temporary staff and proposed a consolidation of the County Council's requirements, thereby reducing the supplier base and ensuring that all terms and conditions had a contractual basis in future. Adoption of the process should produce cost savings for the County Council.

Following comments from Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, Councillor Peter Fowler, seconded by Councillor John Burton, moved and it was Resolved:



That consideration of this item be deferred to enable the views of the Strategic Directors Management Team to be obtained.

## **11. Strategy for the Inclusion of Pupils with Emotional, Behavioural and Social Difficulties**

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

The Behaviour Strategy had been through a prolonged consultation phase. It had now been published in the final form and required approval from Cabinet.

During his introduction of this item Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, indicated that no new money would be required as funding would be met from within the existing Directorate budget and from the Delegated Schools Grant.

It was then Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet endorses the Strategy for the Inclusion of Pupils with Emotional, Behavioural and Social Difficulties.
- (2) That the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors progress of the proposals contained within the Strategy.

## **12. Heathcote - Warwick Technology Park - Warwick Footway/Cycle Scheme**

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

Tender prices had been received for construction of the above scheme. The lowest tender was higher than the approved estimate. The report sought Cabinet approval for letting of a contract at the higher cost.

Councillor Chris Saint, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, introduced the report.

During the discussion several comments were made relating to the funding of the higher costs, including:

- o As the proposed footway/cycleway was included as part of the Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme the costs should be met from that scheme so that there was no impact on other schemes in other areas.
- o There should be no impact on the budget for safer routes to schools.
- o The Area Committee should be involved in any changes to the use of developer funding of the Scheme
- o Officers should investigate alternative funding.

Roger Newham, Chief Transport Planner, reported that the higher costs would be funded from the integrated transport capital programme using funds originally allocated for two other cycleway schemes that had been deferred and that the money allocated had to be spent on schemes this financial year.

Members were unsure about the impact of using funding from other schemes, particularly safer routes to schools schemes, and Resolved;

It was then Resolved:

That consideration of this item be deferred to enable a further report to be submitted dealing with members concerns.

**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 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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**15. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2006 and Matters Arising.**

**(1) Minutes**

Resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

**(2) Matters Arising**

**Minute 20 – Redevelopment of North Leamington School**

Councillor Alan Cockburn advised members that the planning application was to be considered by the Warwick District Council before Christmas and that the planning officer recommendation was that it be approved.

**16. Termination of Highway Agency Arrangements with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council**

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

Economy relating to the proposed termination the existing Highway Agency arrangements with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council.

**17. Nuneaton Citizens' Advice Bureau**

Councillor Alan Farnell left the room for this item. The Chair was taken by Councillor Bob Stevens, the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development dealing with the outstanding liabilities of the Nuneaton CAB following its closure in 2004.

The Cabinet rose at 3.55 p.m.

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Chair