

The Cabinet met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 23 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),
“ 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, Richard Chattaway, Jill Dill-Russell, Anne Forwood, Ethne Goode, Marion Haywood, Bob Hicks, Richard Hyde, Mick Jones, Katherine King, Brian Levy, Frank McCarney, Helen McCarthy, Tim Naylor, John Vereker, John Wells and John Whitehouse.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

None.

(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 3 - Delivering Performance Improvement in Adult Social Care

Councillor Izzi Seccombe declared a personal interest because her mother was in care.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest because a relative received care and in view of his involvement in Age Concern.

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest as a Non Executive Member of the Board of the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.

Agenda Item 5 - The Voluntary and Community Sector Initial Review – Councillor Alan Farnell declared a personal interest as Chairman of the CVS North Warwickshire.

Councillor Jill Dill-Russell declared a personal interest as her daughter was employed by Stratford Mencap

Agenda Item 9 - Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Southam College

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a prejudicial interest in as a Governor of the College.

Councillors Richard Chattaway and Helen McCarthy declared personal interests as members of the Schools Organisation Committee

Agenda item 13 World Class Stratford

Councillor Richard Hyde declared a personal interest because he was a member of the Board of AWM

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 2 November 2006 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Cabinet's 2 November 2006 meeting be approved.

There were no matters arising.

(4) Request for the Discussion of En Bloc Items

None.

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 22 February 2007, as taken from the Forward Planning System.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet note the programme.

3. Delivering Performance Improvement in Adult Social Care [2006-2007]

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services which set out a response to the need for further performance improvement within social care that had been developed with support from the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield it was Resolved:

That the Cabinet :

- (1) Endorse the approach to improvement;

- (2) Note the intention to submit a further report on progress made in June 2007; and,
- (3) Receive a report on the CSCI performance assessment for 2005/06 in due course.

4. Older People and Residential Care - Report of the Chair of the Adult and Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Cabinet considered the report of Councillor Frank McCarney as Chair of the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report set out the outcomes and recommendations of the select committee into Older People and Residential Care. The report had been considered by the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 September 2006.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor Frank McCarney expressed his appreciation to officers and other organisations for the work that had been undertaken.

Members were advised that the response to the various actions recommended would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members requested that the Cabinet should be kept informed at the same time.

It was then Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorses the following recommendations:

- (1) That the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services should explore through discussions with CSCI and other Councils in high performing areas whether there are any particular initiatives or practices that have had a measurable impact on improving standards in care homes which could be applied in Warwickshire.
- (2) That discussions should take place with the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust to clarify the level of support the health service can provide for nursing and care homes in Warwickshire, particularly in relation to pharmaceutical advice, with a view to improving compliance with the medication standards.
- (3) That the Council and the Warwickshire PCT as commissioners of services should seek to align their expectations of the quality of service expected from nursing homes with a view to improving standards through their contract management processes.

- (4) That the Council in consultation with the Warwickshire PCT should review its medication practice and guidance for both residential and domiciliary care settings.
- (5) That the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a report in 6 months time on:
 - actions taken to improve compliance with the medication standard
 - any other improvement and/or training activity which has taken place
 - the effectiveness of the new contract management protocols which are under development
 - any information which is available at that time on current compliance levels.
- (6) That the Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a report in 12 months time on compliance with standards by Care Homes in Warwickshire.
- (7) That the Council and CSCI establish arrangements to facilitate the regular exchange of information about standards in care and nursing homes in Warwickshire with a view to addressing areas of poor performance.
- (8) That the Warwickshire Association of Care Homes be asked to share information with its membership about levels of compliance in Warwickshire compared with the national average and to seek advice from its members on how best to raise standards and report its findings to the Committee in 6 months time.
- (9) That the Council and the Warwickshire Association of Care Homes together with the Warwickshire Quality Partnership should consider whether there is any scope for a career progression schemes to improve recruitment and retention of staff.
- (10) That the Strategic Director of Adult, Health & Community Services should explore whether the following suggested improvements can be implemented:
 - Some staff felt there would be an advantage to intervening earlier with people showing signs of dementia.
 - It would be useful for homes to have a small pot of money to hire “local tradespeople” to carry out some jobs on the premises.
 - “Friends Groups” could be formed with volunteers who could visit people in the homes who were often

lonely. This could be expanded to include people living in their own homes.

- County Council Care homes could achieve better value for money by employing local suppliers such as butchers and gardeners and should be allowed to opt out of contracts with the Council on these occasions.
- At one Council Care home the provision of a large vehicle for transporting groups on outings would be beneficial

- (11) That the Council and the Warwickshire PCT should consider in consultation with the Warwickshire Quality Partnership how up to date information about nutrition for older people can be made more readily accessible to providers of homes.
- (12) That a joint approach to decision making and decision making tools on Continuing Health Care (CHC)- Registered Nursing Care Contributions (RNCC) should be sought with the Warwickshire PCT.
- (13) That future arrangements for CHC-RNCC determinations should include effective arrangements for assurance on correct and consistent decisions and review.
- (14) That future arrangements for CHC-RNCC should ensure data generation to ensure transparency, monitoring and information for strategic and operational commissioning.
- (15) That CHC-RNCC should be included in the Directorate Strategic Risk Register.
- (16) That future arrangements for CHC-RNCC should embrace improved support and information for patients, users, carers and supporters; including assistance on advocacy and appeal mechanisms

5. The Voluntary and Community Sector Initial Review

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

The report outlined a process for undertaking an initial review of Voluntary and Community Sector agreements with an anticipated completion date of April 2007.

Following introductory comments from Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet

Member for Adult Health and Community, it was Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet agree the proposed process for 'initial' review and dealing with underperformance/under-spending in relation to services commissioned from the voluntary and community sector.
- (2) That the review should be conducted in accordance with the Compact and the findings be integrated with the CVS Strategy.

6. Proposed Closure of the Peugeot Assembly Plant at Ryton-on-Dunsmore - Update

The Cabinet considered the report of Councillor Mick Jones as Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

At its meeting on 10 October 2006 the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered a report which provided an update on the redundancies and potential closure of the Peugeot Plant at Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

Councillor Mick Jones introduced the main points in the report.

Councillor Chris Saint, Cabinet Member for Economic Development reported that the brought forward closure date of the plant meant that no new cars would be made after the 15 December. The brought forward date had resulted in an acceleration of support work including retraining. Work was being undertaken to secure the future of the land. He confirmed that collaborative arrangements had been established between the various sub regional bodies.

It was then Resolved:

That the Cabinet -

- (1) Supports Rugby Borough Council in retaining the use of the Ryton site for employment use;
- (2) Expresses gratitude to Peugeot Partnership for their actions supporting the workforce, and supports them in seeking a legacy fund for the local community;
- (3) Presses the Government to reconsider the proposed Assisted Area map, retaining the Ryton Ward in the light of the closure announcement.

7. Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for the Community Protection Directorate - Consultation

The Cabinet considered the report of the Councillor Richard Chattaway as Chair of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 6 November, 2006, had considered a report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer. The Committee had agreed to recommend the Cabinet that the Community Protection Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2007/10 be approved as a draft for consultation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2006-08).

During his introduction of the item Councillor Richard Chattaway drew attention to the special meeting of the Committee that had been arranged for the 5 February and confirmed that a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet after that date.

In response to comments made during the meeting Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Community Protection, drew attention to the key outcomes in 2006/07, in particular the reduction in the total number of fires and the reduced number of people injured in fires.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet approves the Community Protection Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2007/10 as a draft for consultation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (Fire and Rescue Services National Framework 2006-08).
- (2) That the Cabinet notes that the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be holding a special meeting to consider the draft consultation document on 5 February 2007.

8. Corporate Parenting Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2009

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

The report described the collective responsibilities that Warwickshire County Council and partner agencies have towards children and young people in care of the Local Authority. It was being presented at a time when the profile of children in care had been raised by the recent launch of the Green Paper Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care. The policy was about ensuring that children in care were secure and supported to achieve well and have full and fulfilled lives. The document set out the key principles and responsibilities of agencies in working together for the benefit of children in care. It further outlined an ambitious Action Plan to progress services for looked after children.

During her introduction of the item, Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People, expressed her appreciation for the work undertaken by officers and the Corporate Parenting Policy Panel and for the work of foster parents. She suggested that the matter should be referred to the full Council for discussion so that all members could take ownership of the Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

In response to point raised during the discussion, Marion Davis, Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families, outlined several proposals to expand the Council's responsibilities further, as contained in the Green Paper "Care Matters: Transforming the lives of Children and Young People in Care" including measures to ensure that children advance as much as they could after leaving school. She also outlined that the dedicated officer team provided a range of services and help to assist young people in seeking employment.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorse the Corporate Parenting Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2009 for consideration and adoption by the County Council on the 12 December 2006.

9. Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Southam College

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought authorisation to undertake formal consultation on a proposal to change the admission number of Southam College.

Councillor Bob Stevens left the room during this item.

During his introduction of the item Councillor John Burton, Cabinet member for School, indicated that there could be an impact on the falling roles of other schools in the area and that the lower Pupil Admission Number (PAN) should be agreed. Seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, he moved:

That Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families to consult stakeholders on proposals to increase the Planned Admission Number of Southam College to 210 pupils per year.

Councillor Colin Hayfield considered that, as the report indicated that there was capacity for 221 pupils at the College, this figure should be agreed as the PAN. Seconded by Councillor Martin Heatley, he moved as an amendment that the PAN of the College be increased to 221 pupils.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried. The amendment was duly carried as the substantive motion as follows:

That Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families to consult stakeholders on proposals to increase the Planned Admission Number of Southam College to 221 pupils per year.

10. Changes to Indicated Admission Numbers – Central Warwickshire

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which informed the Cabinet about current Admission Numbers in two schools and sought authorisation for formal consultation to change those numbers.

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

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

- (1) increase the Admission Number of Budbrooke Primary School, from 40 to 45 pupils per year
- (2) increase the Admission Number of The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School, from 15 to 17 pupils per year.

11. Changes to Primary School Priority Areas in North Rugby

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought authorisation to undertake formal consultation on proposals to change the priority areas of four primary schools in north Rugby.

Resolved:

That Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families to consult stakeholders on proposals to change the priority areas of four primary schools in North Rugby.

12. Catholic School Provision in Rugby

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families which sought a decision by Cabinet as to whether support should be given to the current proposals for Catholic school provision in Rugby.

During his introduction of the item, Councillor John Burton, Cabinet Member for Schools, paid tribute to all involved in preparing the proposals. Councillor Burton emphasised that any new arrangements put in place needed to impact positively on outcomes for children and young people. There was enough evidence from the survey of parents of greater support for the 'fresh start' school from the Catholic community. Seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People, he moved and following discussion, it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet support the proposals to establish a federation of Catholic schools in Rugby and the proposal to close Bishop Wulstan School and establish a new 'fresh start' Catholic secondary school, subject to the agreement of the governors and the submission of a 'fresh start' proposal to the DfES.
- (2) That the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families and the Diocesan Schools Commission seek a meeting with the DfES to discuss the proposals as soon as possible.

13. World Class Stratford

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

The report incorporated a copy of the report to the Stratford Area Committee meeting on 22nd November 2006, which outlined the results of the public consultation on the five concept designs for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Avon.

During his introduction of the item Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, reported that the Area Committee had resolved by 8 votes to 5 *"That Members, having considered the contents of the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy, recommend to Cabinet that in view of the strong opposition recorded in recent surveys of residents of Stratford-upon-Avon to the proposal for a new bridge, no further action be taken to work up a detailed design."*

He also reported that the Stratford on Avon District Council had arranged to discuss the issues at a special meeting on the 8 December and he suggested that it would be more appropriate for the matter to be considered by the full Council on the 12 December when the District Council's views would be known. Seconded by Councillor Martin Heatley, Cabinet Member for Environment, he moved and following discussion it was Resolved:

That the report and recommendations be submitted to the full Council to consider on the 12 December by which time the District Council's views would be known.

14. Government Responses to Consultations on the Review of UK Assisted Areas and the Draft UK National Strategic Reference Framework for the 2007-2013 EU Structural Funds Programme

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

The Cabinet agreed a report on 4th May 2006 which set out Warwickshire County Council's approach to Government consultations on the new Assisted Areas map and European Union (EU) funding proposals for 2007-2013. Responses to two of the consultations had now been published. The new Assisted Areas map removed all of Warwickshire's coverage as expected, but included some measures for areas not on the map. The National Strategic Reference Framework allocates €680 million (approximately £460 million) to the West Midlands as part of two new Structural Funds Programmes. The report summarised the Government responses and the main implications for Warwickshire.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes publication of the final Assisted Area Map and Warwickshire's loss of all coverage.
- (2) Welcomes a continuation by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) of the region-wide Selective Finance for Investment in England scheme for all Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) outside the Assisted Area but also asks the Government to recommend to AWM that particular encouragement and priority is given to applications from SMEs based in those parts of Warwickshire and other areas which are losing Assisted Area status.
- (3) Notes progress on the new EU Structural Funds Programmes and supports the approach set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report.
- (4) Requests a further report on the final shape of the new EU Structural Funds Programmes and opportunities for Warwickshire.

15. Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan

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

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 had placed a statutory duty on public agencies to positively promote disability equality and to produce a

Disability Equality Scheme. The Cabinet was asked to approve the initial version of the Scheme and Action Plan.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Cabinet endorses and approves the initial version of the Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan for implementation and publication.
- (2) That the Cabinet notes that this version will be subject to further consultation with disabled people from December 2006 – February 2007.

16. Funding of Black and Minority Ethnic Projects

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

The report set out the proposed funding from the Race Equality Budget for Black and Minority Ethnic projects in Warwickshire.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet endorses the proposed funding to Black and Minority Ethnic projects in Warwickshire.

17. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items to consider..

18. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

To consider passing the following resolution:

‘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’.

19. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2006 and Matters Arising.

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2006 be approved as a correct record and the minutes be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

20. Redevelopment of North Leamington School - Progress and the Next Steps

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

The Cabinet considered a joint report which updated Members as to progress to date and decided a future course of action for the redevelopment of North Leamington School

21. Development of HQ Accommodation, Warwick.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources relating to the progress made on exploring the options for the Shire Hall and proposed next steps.

The Cabinet agreed a recommendation to the County Council on the 12 December.

The Cabinet rose at 3.55 p.m.