

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 March 2011

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillors

Alan Farnell (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet)
John Appleton (Support Portfolio Holder for Economy and Housing)
Peter Butlin (Workforce and Governance)
Alan Cockburn (Environment and Economy)
Colin Hayfield (Customers, Workforce and Partnerships)
Richard Hobbs (Community Safety)
Izzi Seccombe (Adult Social Care)
Bob Stevens (Health and Deputy Leader)
Heather Timms (Children, Young People and Families)

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor June Tandy (Leader of the Labour Group)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)

Other Members:

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Jeff Clarke, Ron Cockings, Jose Compton, Jim Foster, Julie Jackson, Robin Hazelton, Barry Lobbett, Barry Longden, Brian Moss, Tim Naylor, Clive Rickhards, Kate Rolfe, John Ross, Sid Tooth, John Vereker C.B.E. D.L., Helen Walton, John Whitehouse, Chris Williams, and David Wright.

Chair's Announcement - Dave Clarke, Strategic Director, Resources

Councillor Alan Farnell reminded the meeting that Dave Clarke, Strategic Director for Resources would be retiring at the end of March and requested that Cabinet's appreciation of Dave's service and best wishes be formally recorded.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Martin Heatley (Resources) and

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Items 3 and 4

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest as Chair of LINKS.

Item 4

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest as Chair of Amenities Committee, Galanos House, Southam.

Item 13

Councillor Hayfield declared a personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Warwickshire PCT.

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Warwickshire PCT.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2011

Resolved

That, subject to the deletion of reference to Councillor John Whitehouse from the list of attendance, the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2011 be approved as a correct record.

2. Warwickshire Library and Information Service – Facing the Challenge

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customers, Workforce and Partnership, presented a report setting out proposals for the future direction of the service which will achieve the budgetary reductions set by Council.

Councillor Alan Farnell referred to a petition he had received from Councillor John Ross and others in the Bulkington community requesting the retention of Bulkington Library. Councillor Farnell added that the consultation process had been validated by the Consultation Institute and that the questionnaire would be available after this meeting, provided Cabinet agreed to go forward with the consultation.

Councillor Hayfield reminded the meeting that Warwickshire Library and Information Service is part way through a transformation to develop services to meet modern day needs. The service has also to address an accumulated deficit and ensure it meets the savings targets agreed by Council. The report before Cabinet set out the ambitions for the future of the Service, the changes already underway and the recognition of the need to ensure the opening hours of libraries across the County better matched the use made of them and the need to address the position of 16 libraries identified as no longer sustainable in their current form.

Councillor Hayfield emphasised that this was an open consultation and that all responses will be considered and suggestions for local solutions will be welcomed, which may include joint or alternative use of current buildings. To this end Councillor Hayfield assured the meeting that information would be made available of the costs of the service in each location (e.g. lease or rental costs, utilities etc) so that communities are properly able to assess the position in their area and decide whether they wish to put forward business cases for retaining a local service.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) sought assurance that there would be a clear time line for reaching a decision and proper project management, given the need to meet the savings target and the complexity and scale of the change programme. This assurance was also sought by Councillor John Whitehouse, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who reported the findings and views of that Committee expressed at their meeting on 1 March 2011. (The publication of the minutes of the meeting had been notified to all members and the minutes circulated specifically to Cabinet).

Members also questioned whether income made from disposal or the cost benefits of alternative use of buildings would be allocated to a central Council fund or be used to offset the savings required of the Library and Information Service. Councillor Hayfield assured the meeting that any benefit gained to the overall working of the County Council and savings made, for example, through alternative use would be credited against the savings required for the service.

During the debate, assurance was also given that any representations made to date, before the formal launching of the consultation document, would be fed into the consultation. It was also noted that the outcome of consultation would be considered by the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee before consideration by Cabinet on 14 July 2011. It was noted that the Committee's scheduled meeting of 30 June may be too early for this and that a special meeting after that date and before 14 July may be necessary.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet approves a 12 week public consultation (March 18 to June 9) based on the proposals contained in this report.
- (2) That Cabinet considers a report on the consultation on 14 July 2011.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the comments made by Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 March 2011.

3. Home Care Commissioning Strategy 2011-14

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care presented proposals for a new Home Care Commissioning Strategy for the period 2011 to 2014.

Cabinet was reminded that Cabinet had considered the strategy in February 2010, including plans to tender existing home care services. Further work had then been undertaken to significantly modify the requirements in light of changing financial constraints and the need to increase the pace of modernisation in line with the latest legislative and policy drivers.

During the debate, Wendy Fabbro, Strategic Director for Adult Social Care and Health, assured the meeting that the current strategy had full support of Health partners who supported the expansion of a fast response service. Members also asked about the position with

Supporting People and were reminded that Supporting People services were largely for those who may not be eligible for care services. Rob Wilkes assured the meeting that the procurement process took account of supporting people, telecare services etc and that the use of framework contracts (rather than block) allowed a greater flexibility of approach.

Resolved

(1) That Cabinet endorses the Home Care Commissioning Strategy 2011-14.

(2) That Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services, the Strategic Director of Customers, Workforce and Governance and the Strategic Director of Resources, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to determine the method of procurement and make the subsequent award of contracts.

4. Working Together to enable people to Live Well with Dementia. 2011-2014

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, presented Warwickshire's response to the National Dementia Strategy and the joint commissioning intentions for people with dementia and their families.

Councillor Jose Compton, the Council's champion for dementia care, stressed the importance of the strategy and paid tribute to all who had contributed to its development.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the strategy and requested that recognition also be included of the role of the Hospice movement.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe stated her commitment to ensuring quality of care and welcomed overview and scrutiny playing a role in ensuring quality standards are met.

Resolved

That Cabinet agrees the joint strategic approach and commissioning intentions of the Warwickshire Dementia Strategy and the associated delivery plan.

5. Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy

Councillor John Appleton, Cabinet Support Portfolio Holder for Economy and Housing, presented a proposed strategy outlining how Warwickshire will reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in

Warwickshire. This follows on from a previous Cabinet report in September 2010 which outlined the duties for upper tier authorities under the new Child Poverty Act, March 2010.

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group and Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the strategy and requested that there be further updates to Cabinet and/or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its progress.

Resolved

That Cabinet endorses the Child Poverty Strategy for Warwickshire.

6. Allocation of Home Office Stronger Safer Communities Funding – 2011/12

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, presented a recommendation from the Safer and Stronger Communities Board for the allocation of the Stronger Safer Communities grant funding for 2011/12. During debate, it was agreed that members be advised of any projects no longer being undertaken as a result of the reductions.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the allocation of 2011/12 Stronger Safer Communities Funding as detailed in the report.

7. Proposed collaboration with Warwickshire Police – fleet maintenance and management

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy, presented a report that sought approval to investigate a proposal to collaborate with Warwickshire Police on the possibility of delivering fleet maintenance and fleet management services to both organisations.

Resolved

That Cabinet give authority for such work as may be necessary to develop a business case for a Joint Venture between Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police to deliver fleet maintenance and fleet management for both organisations.

8. Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy, introduced a report that set out the key aspects of the proposed Local Transport Plan 2011-2026. This had been subject to

public consultation during Summer 2010 and a draft Rights of Way and Recreational Highway Strategy had also been subject to consultation during the same timeframe. The Plan had been considered and developed through a Member Steering Group who had also considered what priority bid should be put to Government for funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Cabinet agreed that it would be appropriate to review the Strategy in a few years time (and before the expiry of the Implementation Plan), rather than wait to the end of 2026.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the results of the public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP), and approves the proposed response of the County Council to the issues and comments raised in the consultation.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees the LTP Implementation Plan 2011-2015 including the proposed priorities for resource allocation.
- (3) That Cabinet recommends that Council adopts the Final LTP (including any minor modifications proposed by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy).
- (4) That Cabinet recommends that the Council adopt the Rights of Way and Recreational Highway Strategy contained within the LTP as a revision to the Authority's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- (5) That Cabinet agrees Stratford Parkway as the priority scheme for a bid to be submitted to Government for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, and the Warwick District area modal shift package as a reserve bid should Stratford Parkway be ineligible for funding.

9. Termination of the Fire Control Project

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, presented a report from the Chief Fire Officer, setting out the implications of the termination of the Fire Control Project.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet notes the contents of this report concerning the impact of the termination of the Fire Control Project on the future of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Limited Company.

- (2) That Cabinet endorses the decision of the Board of Directors on 28 January 2011 that the Company should close down all of its activities and become dormant for a short period of time.
- (3) That Cabinet authorises the Chief Fire Officer to determine, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, whether to support the dissolution of the Company on behalf of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority, in the event that a satisfactory agreement has been reached with the Government and the other Fire and Rescue Authorities in the region on the use of uncommitted regional Fire Control grant and other assets.
- (4) That, in the event that the Chief Fire Officer supports dissolution as outlined in recommendation (3), Cabinet authorises the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety (in his capacity as the Company's Director for Warwickshire FRA) to take all steps reasonably necessary to give effect to the dissolution of the Company.

10. Review of Community Transport Schemes for Value for Money of Revenue Grant

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy, referred to the decision made at Council on 15 February 2011 relating to the Savings Plan and the request that officers undertake a financial review of the community transport schemes currently receiving revenue grant from the County Council.

The report issued with the Cabinet agenda, identified those schemes that officers had assessed as providing particularly good value for money and that could continue to be supported. Since the issue of the report, however, the Government had announced funding to help support community transport schemes for 2011/12. The amount allocated to Warwickshire was £183,016. This would enable time for analysis and engagement with providers over the coming year on what may be the way forward for future years.

Resolved

That Cabinet authorises funding of current community transport schemes operating in Warwickshire for a further period of one year, from the recently announced DfT Community Transport grant of £183,016, with details to be determined by the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment & Economy.

11. Nuneaton Academy – Project Support Funding

Councillor Heather Timms, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families, presented a report that explained the new project support funding for the Nuneaton Academy.

Resolved

That the new project support grant of £150,000, available for the Nuneaton Academy, is approved as an addition to the Capital Programme.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

12. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

13. Care and Choice Accommodation Programme – Residential Care Home Land for Development of Extra Care Housing

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, presented proposals for the disposal of County Council-owned sites.

Cabinet agreed proposals as set out in the exempt minutes of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

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Chairman