

## Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 October 2012

### Present

#### Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Alan Farnell	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Transport & Highways
	Alan Cockburn	Sustainable Communities
	Colin Hayfield	Customers, Access & Property
	Richard Hobbs	Community Safety
	Martin Heatley	Workforce & Governance
	Izzi Seccombe	Adult Social Care
	Bob Stevens	Deputy Leader of the Council
	Heather Timms	Children & Schools
	David Wright	Finance, Improvement & IT

#### Non-Voting Invitees:

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

**Other Councillors:** Ashford, Boad, Chattaway, Clarke, Foster, Gittus, Hazelton, Jackson, Johnston, Naylor, Walton, Whitehouse, Williams

#### 1. General

##### (1) Apologies for absence

None

##### (2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

##### (3) Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2012

###### Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2012 be approved as a correct record.

##### (4) Petitions

None

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities) informed Cabinet that Warwickshire County Council has been recognised at the Local Authority Recycling Awards for its engagement with the voluntary sector at its household waste sites.

## **2. Business Rate Pooling - Coventry and Warwickshire Memorandum of Understanding**

This item was introduced by Councillor David Wright (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT). Cabinet was informed that money from the scheme will be used to support economic growth. It will not be handed over to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

### **Resolved**

- 1) That Warwickshire County Council should be a member of the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rate Pool for 2013/14 and subsequent years, subject to an annual review to ensure that membership of the Pool remains in the best interests of the authority.
- 2) That Cabinet approves the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rate Pool (Appendix B of the report) for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 3) That Cabinet authorises the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Governance, the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Resources to make any amendments needed prior to its submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 9 November 2012.

## **3. Community Infrastructure Levy – The County Council’s approach**

This item was introduced by Councillor Alan Cockburn.

The meeting was informed that figures for Rugby had been split a) because it is the only borough with an approved local plan and b) it has sites that have been commenced and which will be subject to Section 106 and others that have yet to commence and which will be subject to CIL.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That Cabinet endorses the approach outlined in the report to ensure a transparent, accountable and robust approach between Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire’s District and Borough Councils to the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 2) That Cabinet notes the status of the infrastructure requirements identified by services.
- 3) That Cabinet agrees that the three members on the working group referred to in paragraph 4.4. of the report should be Councillors Chattaway, Cockburn and Whitehouse.

## **4. Provision of Emergency Stopping Places for Gypsies and Travellers**

This item was introduced by Councillor Alan Cockburn who explained the rationale behind seeking approval in principle to the establishment of stopping places before undertaking detailed work to identify them. Members requested an early indication of the number and location of the sites.

Referring to para 2.5 of the report Councillor June Tandy (Leader of the Labour Group) noted that whilst listed as a member of the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Group she had never been invited to attend any of its meetings.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet approve the principle of providing emergency stopping places for travellers and ask the Strategic Director for Communities to obtain all necessary consents and take all other steps as are necessary to provide such place or places as she may identify on terms acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources.

## **5. Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)**

Councillor Richard Hobbs (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety) introduced this report. Cabinet was informed that Incident Commander Dave Ashwell had recently been commended for his performance at a training day with officers from other authorities.

A revised table showing Fire and Rescue Service expenditure 2011/12 was circulated.

It was noted that recruitment of fire fighters is not specifically referred to in the draft IRMP. However the point was made that as this is a fundamental component within the service it had not needed to be singled out.

The emphasis on web based consultation was questioned. Cabinet was informed that this is the preferred approach although where community forums request direct input from the service this will be considered.

Members were encouraged to take up any offers of visits to Fire and Rescue Headquarters and it was agreed that performance figures should be sent to all members.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet approve the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2013/17 as a draft for consultation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

## **6. Street Lighting Energy Savings**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways) introduced the item before handing over to Councillor John Whitehouse and Councillor Jim Foster.

The members and officers who had supported the task and finish review were commended by the Chair of the task and finish group for their efforts.

There followed a discussion on the report from the Strategic Director, Communities and the proposal to advance the programme for part-time street lighting. The timing of the proposal was questioned, Cabinet being asked when consideration was first given to the advancement of the programme. Councillor Butlin informed the meeting that this was being considered in September 2012 adding that any further acceleration to the programme would be small.

It was suggested that December was not a good time to introduce this initiative. Members observed that the pre-Christmas period is very busy and the possibility of people being injured or victims of crime would increase. In addition, information circulated previously to communities had stated that the programme would commence in April 2013.

The merits of the proposal were discussed. Cabinet was informed that many people, particularly in rural areas are supportive of it. However, support was particularly given to the principle of regular monitoring. Where there are road works the street lights will be left on thus reducing the risk of accident.

It was agreed that up to date maps showing where the scheme will be implemented should be made available to all members.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet

- 1) With the exception of Minority Recommendation 1 agrees the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- 2) Confirms the accelerated programme for introducing part-night operation included in paragraph 2.3 of the report and
- 3) Instructs officers to investigate further acceleration and delegates the authority to implement a further accelerated programme to Strategic Director for Communities following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways.

## **7. Report of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Post 16 Transport**

Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools) introduced this item and Councillor Julie Jackson (Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee) called on Cabinet to endorse the recommendations.

There followed a discussion on whether task and finish review reports should contain an indication of the costs relating to recommendations. Some members felt that they should whilst others noted that recommendations often call for further work to be undertaken. That work would include consideration of costings.

Councillor Timms noted that some of the points and recommendations made in the report were now being implemented.

Concern was raised that it was proposed to “note” the recommendations. The view was expressed that if there is evidence that young people are missing out on learning opportunities because of transport difficulties these should be addressed. Councillor Alan Farnell (Leader of the Council) assured members that the findings of the task and finish group would not be dismissed and would be given due consideration.

**Resolved**

That Cabinet has considered the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on post-16 transport and notes the recommendations in the report.

**8. Any Other Urgent Items**

None

The meeting rose at 15.10

..... Chair