

## Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 September 2017

### Present

#### Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe	Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Deputy Leader (Finance & Property)
	Les Caborn	Adult Social Care & Health
	Jeff Clarke	Transport & Environment
	Colin Hayfield	Education and Learning
	Jeff Morgan	Children's Services
	Howard Roberts	Fire & Community Safety

#### Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
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#### Other Councillors:

Councillors Boad, Golby, Olnier, O'Rourke, Webb and Williams

#### Public attendance:

None

### 1. General

Before the commencement of the meeting the Chair welcomed Nigel Minns in his new role as Strategic Director for the People Group and Rob Tromans the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### (1) Apologies for absence

Councillor Kam Kaur	Portfolio Holder for Customer & Transformation
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Councillor Richard Chattaway	Leader of the Labour Group
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#### (2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

With reference to agenda item 7 - Blue Light Collaboration, Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) declared an interest this being that she is married to the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It was acknowledged that the PCC will not sit on the proposed project board.

#### (3) Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Under matters arising, Councillor Sarah Boad referencing item 9 (Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education) asked how people involved in religious instruction could view the syllabus if it was confidential. It was explained that the report considered by Cabinet on 13 July was confidential as the syllabus had been developed by a commercial enterprise and is subject to copyright. Schools and other establishments wishing to use the syllabus will be required to pay for it. In the normal course of events volunteer readers working in schools that have purchased the syllabus will have access to it.

It was agreed that a note clarifying this will be sent to all members.

#### **(4) Public Speaking**

None

## **2. One Organisational Plan Quarterly Progress Report: April-June 2017**

In the absence of Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader, Finance and Property) introduced this report. Having explained that the method of reporting results was slightly different to that previously used Councillor Butlin highlighted two particular areas to Cabinet.

The first was the reported underspend of 2.69% of budget in the Social Care and Support Service. This is attributable to the late receipt of grant funding from central government. It is expected that the reserves will be spent over the next 12 months.

The second area is capital slippage as set out from paragraph 3.4.3 of the published report. This is focused on three service areas, Education and Learning, Transport and Economy and Fire and Rescue. In response to a question from Councillor Alan Webb it was explained that slippage is a complex area and it is not always possible to distinguish between that which is due to delayed expenditure and new funding.

Overall, Councillor Butlin explained, the Council's budget is forecast to be within agreed tolerances.

Concerning sickness and absence levels Councillor Maggie O'Rourke asked how Warwickshire County Council compares in performance with its statistical neighbours. David Carter (Joint Managing Director – Resources) explained that sickness levels are reported to the Council's Staff and Pensions Committee adding that the County Council's figures are slightly above the national average.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) highlighted performance around reablement and delayed transfers (page 3 of 14 of the report) asking whether this will remain in the red. In response Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) explained that one of the challenges facing those who monitor performance is that different partner agencies have different baselines. In addition the three hospitals trusts in Warwickshire operate different discharge policies. It was acknowledged that despite good progress being made with integration and the alignment of budgets it is unlikely that the target set by government will be met this year.

Responding to a question from Councillor Roodhouse concerning the management of the highways maintenance budget Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment) explained that the Transport Management Board has been exploring the way in which information on highway repairs is recorded. Better recording should result in fewer delays between the reporting of an issue and it being resolved. Councillor Peter Butlin suggested that one of the causes in delays was a previous decision by the contractor to establish an “efficiency hub”. In doing so it reduced the number of staff to a point where it was unable to operate effectively. Following intervention by Monica Fogarty and Councillor Butlin that situation is being reversed. In response to further comments regarding delays in road repairs Councillor Jeff Clarke agreed to obtain more information on the situation for circulation to members.

The forecast rise in the cost of the household waste services was discussed. Having confirmed the reason behind this as the increase in green waste in Rugby being directed to landfill, Councillor Jeff Clarke informed Cabinet that the overall expected cost will increase by £321,000 per annum. Monica Fogarty (Joint Managing Director – Communities) agreed that if other district and borough councils followed this route it would cause major problems for the County Council. Cabinet was informed that the Warwickshire Waste Partnership is reviewing the situation. In particular it is considering how greater collaborative working can assist in reducing costs.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) notes the progress on the delivery of the One Organisational Plan (2017-2020) as at the end of June 2017, as summarised in sections 1 to 3 of the report and detailed in Appendix A of the report;
- 2) wishes to remind Corporate Board and Heads of Service of the importance of delivering a balanced budget both collectively and individually and that proposals for actions to bring those budgets overspending back on track should be discussed with Portfolio Holders as a matter of urgency;
- 3) approves the net transfer of £3.432 million to Business Unit reserves to support the delivery of services in future years, as outlined in section 3.2 of the report; and
- 4) approves the revised capital payments totals and the revised financing of the 2017-18 capital programme, as detailed in the table in section 3.4 of the report.

### **3. 2018/19 Refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020**

Councillor Peter Butlin introduced this report explaining that the Medium Term Financial Plan is reviewed annually.

Highlighting uncertainties over future funding as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report namely the Dedicated Schools Grant, and Business Rates (and associated “Fairer Funding”) Councillor Jerry Roodhouse sought assurance that pressure is being brought to bear on the local MPs. Councillor Peter Butlin confirmed that this was the case adding that John Betts (Head of Finance) had circulated an update for members on the current position. Councillor Izzi Seccombe noted that eight pilots

had already been agreed. In addition combined authorities in particular had undertaken a significant amount of work basing their budgets around presumptions concerning business rate retention. Councillor Seccombe confirmed that as well as lobbying local MPs on the matter she would be looking for the LGA and CCN to apply pressure for a satisfactory outcome.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees the process and timetable for the 2018-19 refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan through to 2020 and for setting the 2018-19 Budget.

## **4. Annual Governance Statement 2016-17**

Councillor Peter Butlin explained the purpose of the report and the Annual Governance Statement. There were no questions from members

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet endorses the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-17 prior to submission to Council for approval.

## **5. Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Framework**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe drew members' attention to a slight change to the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Framework that had been requested by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting on 6 September. This requested that paragraph 7.2 of the document read,

“Managers must immediately inform the Chief Risk and Assurance Manager of all allegations and suspicions of possible fraud, bribery and corruption. The Chief Risk and Assurance Manager will determine in conjunction with managers the arrangements for investigating the allegation. The more complex cases will be investigated by Risk and Assurance. Minor, straight forward allegations may be referred back to the relevant Service Manager for further investigation. Some cases may be reported immediately to the police by the Chief Risk and Assurance Manager. Members of Risk and Assurance will always be available to support staff and managers where necessary”.

This change was agreed.

David Carter confirmed that this framework operates alongside the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and that the Council's policies do take account of the legislative requirements as set out in section 5 of the framework.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet approves the updated Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Framework incorporating the changes requested by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee on 6 September 2017.

## **6. Improving Fire Safety within Warwickshire's Built Environment following the Grenfell Tower Tragedy**

Councillor Howard Roberts (Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety) reminded Cabinet that it had received regular updates from the Chief Fire Officer following the Grenfell Tower fire. It was considered that the report offered assurance to people in Warwickshire over their safety in high rise buildings but Councillor Roberts cautioned against complacency. Members highlighted the benefits of sprinkler systems and requested that updates be provided on discussions around building standards.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse suggested that the Council's Trading Standards service had a role in terms of monitoring the safety of white goods. Councillor Bill Olnier called on national bodies such as the LGA to press for greater fire safety with white goods. In addition he called for more consideration to be given to the installation of sprinkler systems in schools and for Building Regulations to be applied retrospectively (thus enhancing safety in existing buildings).

Members thanked officers for their hard work in recent weeks, visiting buildings and advising and reassuring residents concerning their safety.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That Cabinet notes and endorses the progressive fire safety work undertaken within high rise premises in Warwickshire. Improvements have been established as a result of constructive local partnership working following the sharing of early lessons that have emerged after the Grenfell Tower fire; and
- 2) Warwickshire County Council affirm its positive commitment to reduce the impact of fire on people, property, firefighter safety and the environment by supporting the benefits of appropriately deployed sprinkler fire suppression systems in the wider built environment of Warwickshire. In support of this commitment, Cabinet requests that the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Community Safety, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and the Joint Managing Director (Resources) develop a risk-based 'Sprinkler Fire Safety Position Statement' with a view to its adoption as policy by Cabinet in December 2017.

## **7. Blue Light Collaboration**

Councillor Peter Butlin explained the background to the proposals as set out in the report adding that Warwickshire appeared to be pioneering this approach.

Councillor Sarah Boad commended the proposal to set up a project board but expressed the hope that the Police and Crime Commissioner would not be looking to take over the running of the Fire and Rescue Service. Councillor Boad cited the situation in West Mercia where local authorities have already rejected such an approach. It was noted that Mark Pawsey (MP for Rugby and Bulkington) is on a national working group considering blue light collaboration. It was hoped that he will be able to bring his knowledge to any discussions in Warwickshire.

Cabinet was reminded that the proposal is for an advisory board. It will not be a decision making body and will have to ensure that it confines its business to its stated remit.

Members agreed that the key with emergency service attendance at an incident is that the right people arrive there in the least possible time.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees:

- 1) the arrangements for the Blue Light Collaboration Joint Advisory Board, as set out in the report; and
- 2) that Councillors Peter Butlin and Howard Roberts be appointed to the Board.

## **8. Drug and Alcohol Redesign - Consultation Findings and Proposed Service Model**

Councillor Les Caborn stated that drug and alcohol services were being redesigned in part to address new challenges being presented. These include the growth in the use of “legal highs” and a growing recognition that whole families can have a drug – related problem. Services need to be based more on outreach rather than in buildings and will be formed around three core elements namely, services for adults, services for children and young people and a recovery network. Ideally these will be delivered via a single contract but this will depend upon the outcome of the tendering process.

Prevention will be a large element of the service whilst the relationship between homelessness, mental health issues and drug usage is also recognised.

Members agreed that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be asked to consider drug and alcohol abuse and the services provided.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) agrees the outcomes and findings of the consultation process which has informed the Drug and Alcohol Service redesign;
- 2) approves the proposed new service model; and
- 3) agrees that the Joint Managing Director (Communities) be authorised to commence an appropriate procurement process and to award any contracts for the redesigned Drug and Alcohol Service on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

## **9. Public Health - Preventing a First Fall Fitter Futures - Move! Improve! Service Proposed Re-Tender of Service**

This item was deferred pending further consideration.

It was noted that the current service provision will be extended to allow for this deferral.

## **10. A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement Scheme: Growth Deal 3 Funding**

Councillor Jeff Clarke summarised the published report. Members welcomed the proposals but recognised that extensive road works on what is already a busy network could cause major disruption pushing more traffic through towns like Warwick. It might be possible to consider out of hours working but the project has a fixed budget and this could be prohibitively expensive.

Reflecting back on the M40 Junction 15 project Councillor Les Caborn reminded Cabinet that a working group comprising parish councils and other agencies and individuals had functioned very successfully in aiding communication and avoiding problems.

Members recognised the need to maintain the public's confidence in this and other projects and also to show that infrastructure planning is being carried out in a structured fashion.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That Cabinet recommends that Council approve the addition of the A452 Europa Way Corridor Scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £18.890million, fully funded from a £3.6million allocation from Growth Deal 3 and £15.290million from Section 106 agreements with developers; and
- 2) Subject to Council approving recommendation 1), that Cabinet approves the Council entering into a funding agreement with Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership to finalise and secure the £3.6million Growth Deal 3 funding allocation towards the A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement Scheme on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Directors.

## **11. Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan**

In introducing this report Councillor Howard Roberts drew Cabinet's attention to the fact that Warwickshire's Youth Justice Service out-performs many others in the country.

Councillor Alan Webb noted the reduction in the budget available for the service reminding members that investment early on in a person's life can bring dividends later.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse emphasised the link between mental health issues and youth offending (Page 6 of 24 of the Strategic Plan) adding that it will be of interest to see how the CAMHS service can have a positive impact on this.

The high proportion of young offenders who have been looked after children was also noted. Recognising the authority's collective responsibility as corporate parents this was of concern to Cabinet

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet endorses the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2017-18 for adoption by Warwickshire County Council.

**12. Any Urgent Items**

None

**13. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

**EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)**

**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 exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**14. Exempt Minutes – 13 July 2017**

The exempt minutes of 13 July 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

**15. Transforming Nuneaton Programme: Growth Deal 3 Funding**

Cabinet recognised the importance in investing in Warwickshire's towns and welcomed this new initiative.

**Resolved**

Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting rose at 15.27

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Chair