

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 07 December 2017**

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe OBE	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
	Kam Kaur	Customer & Transformation
	Jeff Morgan	Children's Services
	Howard Roberts	Fire & Community Safety

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor Richard Chattaway	Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Other Councillors:

Councillors Sarah Boad, Nicola Davies, Judy Falp, Bill Gifford, John Holland, Bill Olnier, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Alan Webb and Chris Williams

Public attendance: 1

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

None

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 09 November 2017 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Public Speaking

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) welcomed Councillor Tony Heath (Mayor of Whitnash and member of Warwick District Council) to the meeting. Speaking to item 3 on the agenda (Warwick District Libraries and the Future of Sunday Opening in Libraries), Councillor Heath explained the background to the proposal for a community hub in Whitnash. Plans for a community hub had existed since 1990. It has a high priority in the Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan and it is expected that a planning application for the facility will be submitted towards the end of January 2018. Completion of the project, which will include meeting rooms, a

café, sports facilities and a library is forecast for mid-2019. Extensive development in the area around Whitnash is serving to increase the need for such a facility and with contracts to be agreed and a tight timetable to meet the agreement of Cabinet in this matter would be welcome.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe thanked Councillor Heath for his contribution. It was agreed that item 3 on the agenda be brought forward for consideration as the first substantive item. (These minutes retain the order of business as set out on the agenda).

2. 2018/19 Refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020 Background Information and Proposals from Corporate Board

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader Finance and Property) explained that the report before Cabinet presented background information and proposals from Corporate Board. In response to a question from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) it was confirmed that the budget pressure of £322,000 for waste was solely attributable to Rugby Borough Council's policy changes.

Following a question from Councillor Sarah Boad Cabinet was assured that any independent support brought in to assist in identifying savings for the Fire and Rescue Service would have the skills and knowledge to do an effective job. Councillor Richard Chattaway suggested that given the pressure on Fire and Rescue to realise significant savings it is important that the Council develop a workable strategy for the service that involves greater collaboration with neighbouring authorities.

Resolved

Cabinet agrees to

- 1) Put forward their draft 2018/19 Budget and refresh of the 2017-20 Medium Term Financial Plan, taking into account the information presented in the published report and the views of Corporate Board on that information.
- 2) Authorise the Joint Managing Directors, the Strategic Director of People Group and the Chief Fire Officer to begin any preparatory work necessary to deliver the budget proposals, prior to the final decision on the budget on 6 February 2018.

3. Warwick District Libraries and the Future of Sunday Opening in Libraries

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) summarised the published report and recommendations. It was explained that Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council had worked successfully in partnership regarding the provision of one stop shops. The District Council had shared its recommendations with the County Council but had yet to approve them.

Councillor Judy Falp emphasised the importance of reading as a skill for life. She explained that libraries have changed in their form and function over the years and now provide a broad range of services for all ages. Whitnash has grown from being

a small village to a small town and currently lacks the types of facilities that the proposed community hub would provide.

Councillor Sarah Boad explained that Lillington library, located in an area of high deprivation, has 34,000 visits a year and is currently open for 32 hours a week. She expressed disappointment at the proposal by Warwick District Council to withdraw one stop shop staff from the library adding that the forecast savings from this proposal were small. Councillor Boad requested that the words, “that Cabinet strive to find the money to keep the facilities open” be added to recommendation 3. However, it was pointed out that such a statement would pre-empt the outcome of the budget setting process. It would be better that the issue be considered as part of that process.

Councillor Bill Gifford informed Cabinet that Leamington library is heavily used by people of all ages including families on Sundays. He asked that if consultation on Sunday closures is to be undertaken, that proper account is taken of any responses made. Councillor Nicola Davies emphasised the need to introduce people to libraries at an early age. Many families are not able to access libraries between Monday and Friday and therefore rely on being able to visit at weekends.

Councillor Alan Webb observed that Rugby Library shares accommodation with the Rugby Hall of Fame. He suggested that that attraction is partially reliant on footfall from the library and asked if it would have to close on Sundays if the library did so. In response he was informed that it was likely that the Hall of Fame would be able to open on Sundays.

Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) noted that any project such as the Whitnash hub required funds for contingencies. He asked if the money set aside for the project was sufficient. In response he was informed that the project had been costed accurately and that £150,000 would cover the costs of the library provision.

Regarding Warwickshire libraries in general Councillor Chattaway observed that it was some time since a full review of the service had been undertaken with a view to establishing a clear vision for the future. He was informed that the last major review was eight years ago as part of the move towards community managed libraries.

Resolved

That Cabinet

- 1) Authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to relocate Whitnash Library to the new Hub Facility to be managed by the Whitnash Town Council at Acre Close in Whitnash on terms and conditions which are acceptable to him.
- 2) Recommends to Council that £150,000 of the capital receipt from the sale of the current library be invested in a new library facility at the Whitnash Hub facility at Acre Close, Whitnash.
- 3) Notes the position regarding opening hours at Whitnash and Lillington libraries and Sunday opening at Leamington, Nuneaton and Rugby libraries.

4. Local Authority Multi-Academy Trusts

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) informed Cabinet that following the publication of the government's "Education Excellence Everywhere" White Paper officers had reviewed the implications for academisation in Warwickshire. They had concluded that it would be better to focus on the current mixed market of academies and maintained schools rather than pursuing the idea of a multi-academy trust at this time.

It was noted that whilst few secondary schools in Warwickshire are Council maintained the majority of primary schools remain so.

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the renewed emphasis on Warwickshire's 'Family of Schools' rather than establishing a Local Authority Multi-Academy Trust at this time.

5. Education, Health and Care Plans – Personal Budget and Direct Payments Policy

Following an introduction by Councillor Colin Hayfield members discussed and acknowledged the need to audit the use by recipients of the funding they receive. In response to a question from Councillor Bill Oler Cabinet was informed that there was no connection between this new arrangement for personal budgets and Universal Credit.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the Personal Budget and Direct Payments Policy for children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans.

6. Any Urgent Items

None

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

8. Joint Working Opportunities - Waste

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment) explained how closer collaboration between waste authorities could result in significant savings. Members discussed the merits of the consultant's report before them and agreed that joined up working had the potential to bring about savings.

Resolved

As per the exempt minutes.

9. Property Services Review & Facilities Management and Construction Delivery Options

Councillor Peter Butlin emphasised the need to make savings in this area of the organisation. He welcomed a suggestion from Councillor Richard Chattaway that any proposals resulting from the work be considered by Overview and Scrutiny prior them being presented to Cabinet.

Resolved

As per the exempt minutes.

The meeting rose at 14.50.

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Chair