

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet  
held on 15 February 2018**

**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
	Colin Hayfield	Education and Learning
	Kam Kaur	Customer & Transformation
	Jeff Morgan	Children's Services
	Howard Roberts	Fire & Community Safety

**Non-Voting Invitees:**

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse    Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

**Other Councillors:**

Councillors Bill Olnier, Alan Webb and Chris Williams

**Public attendance:** 1 (Councillor Bill Lewis, Rugby Borough Council)

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeff Clarke and Councillor Richard Chattaway.

Councillor Bill Olnier thanked Cabinet for the good wishes sent to him during his recent period of illness. Members expressed their pleasure at his continuing recovery.

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

None

**Chair's Announcement**

Before considering the minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2018 Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet) informed Cabinet that Item 2 of the agenda, Education and Learning Sufficiency Strategy for the Academic Years 2017-2022, was to be deferred to a later meeting of Cabinet. This was to enable it to be considered alongside the emerging Education Strategy which is currently under review.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2018 and Matters Arising**

The minutes for the meeting held on 25 January 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

**(4) Public Speaking**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Bill Lewis (Rugby Borough Council) to the meeting explaining that she understood that he had attended to comment on item 2 of the agenda. Despite the deferral of this item the Chair invited Councillor Lewis to address Cabinet. Councillor Lewis presented five questions. These were:

1. Why in paragraph 6.2 does it say that “Rugby Borough Council are currently consulting on further residential allocations for their local plan” when consultation on the proposed local plan was closed on 11 January 2017 (over a year ago) and the plan is currently undergoing its Examination-in-Public?
2. Why does paragraph 6.11 say “there is currently forecast capacity to meet the existing needs within East Warwickshire until 2020” when paragraph 6.10 states “secondary schools in Rugby are expected to be over capacity in September 2019”?
3. Paragraph 6.11 states “The Department for Education has recently approved an application for Ashlawn School to open a Free School in Rugby”. The Prime Minister announced this approval in July 2016 (over a year and a half ago). How many more months must pass before this approval ceases to be “recent”?
4. Paragraph 6.12 states that “The South West Rugby development outlined in the draft Local Plan will require a new secondary school (8 to 9FE)”. If the county council’s assessed need for the South West Rugby development is 8 to 9 forms of entry why on 24 January this year did Mr John Edwards, on behalf of Warwickshire County Council, sign a Statement of Common Ground, which has been sent to the Inspector appointed by the government to hold the Examination-in-Public on Rugby’s Local Plan, saying that a school with only six forms of entry was required?
5. Why does the *Sufficiency Strategy* not refer to either of the strategies advanced by Warwickshire County Council’s officer attending the Examination-in-Public on Rugby’s local plan on 1 February 2018 viz that Bilton School should be expanded and that Avon Valley School should be expanded in “three to four years’ time”?

Given that the matter had been deferred it was agreed that officers should take account of the comments raised by Councillor Lewis in reviewing the report before consideration by Cabinet in the summer of 2018.

## **2. Education & Learning Sufficiency Strategy for the Academic Years 2017-2022**

This item was deferred to be considered by Cabinet in summer 2018.

In response to a question from Councillor Bill Olnier regarding the deferral of consideration of the Bermuda Connectivity project, Cabinet was informed that this had been necessary as advice is being sought from Queen's Counsel over whether further public consultation is required. The date that the issue is presented to Cabinet will depend on when advice is received from Counsel.

The deferral of agenda item 2 was welcomed by Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group). He asked that any further reflection on the draft strategy give more emphasis to the issues surrounding (i) the provision of 30 hour nursery education and (ii) the future of children's centres. This was noted by Cabinet.

## **3. Education & Learning (Schools) Capital Programme 2017-18 and Approval of Statutory Proposals**

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) explained that the report before Cabinet provided details of proposed school expansions and the costs associated with them.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees:

- 1) That the reconfiguration of classrooms at Round Oak School to enable the increase in places for learners with SEND be approved.
- 2) That a consultation exercise be undertaken regarding an increase to the number of places for learners with SEND at Exhall Grange School and Science College
- 3) That Council is recommended to approve that the sum of £3,076,540 is added to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in Section 3; and
- 4) Subject to Council agreeing to add the schemes to the capital programme, that the Joint Managing Director (Communities) is authorised to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources), or (where the scheme is school-led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

## **4. Warwickshire Rural Growth Plan**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed the production, in conjunction with the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, of the Rural Growth Plan.

It was confirmed that copies of the plan would be sent to parish councils which in turn would be encouraged to put it on their websites.

Members noted that Shenton station (referred to on page 10 of the plan) is in Leicestershire and not Warwickshire.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet adopt the Warwickshire Rural Growth Plan 2017-2020.

### **5. Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader Finance and Property) briefed Cabinet on the purpose and content of the report stating that it was concerned primarily with short term money management.

## **Resolved**

That:

- 1) Cabinet recommends to the County Council that the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2018/19 be approved and its provisions have immediate effect in the current financial year 2017-18;
- 2) The Prudential Indicators (as outlined in Appendix A of the report,) are noted;
- 3) Cabinet recommends that the County Council requires the Head of Finance to ensure that gross borrowing does not exceed the prudential level as specified in Appendix A of the report, taking into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the budget report;
- 4) Cabinet recommends that the County Council delegate authority to the Head of Finance to undertake all the activities listed in Appendix G of the report, subject to the use of any new financial instruments being approved by Cabinet; and
- 5) Cabinet recommends that the County Council requires the Head of Finance to implement the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as specified in Appendix H of the report.

### **6. Review of Section 75 Partnership Agreement between Warwickshire County Council and Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust for Mental Health Services**

Councillor Les Caborn (Adult Social Care and Health) explained the background to the report.

Councillor Alan Webb expressed a general concern over mental health service provision locally and nationally suggesting that there may be too many service providers. Homelessness, he added, was closely linked to mental health matters. If more resources were made available to tackle homelessness this should have an impact on the incidence of mental health problems.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) welcomed the reference in paragraph 2.2 to governance and the drive to the alignment and integration of services. The relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the STP and mental health services was questioned. To address this latter point Cabinet was informed that discussions were to be held with Simon Gilby (Chief Executive of the Partnership Trust).

Councillor Bill Olnier, noting that the report was requesting a 12 month extension to the partnership agreement following a similar extension in 2017, suggested that a longer term strategy was now required. He asked if the STP was delaying progress with this and other initiatives. In response the meeting was informed by the Chair that the Council was not yet in a position to agree a longer term contract. The service, she stated, was old fashioned and there is a need to review how the needs of individuals are met.

Mental health is a workstream within the STP. A report on progress with the STP will be taken to Cabinet in due course.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Agree to extend the current Section 75 agreement between Warwickshire County Council and Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust for the provision of integrated mental health services for adults and older people in Warwickshire for a further period of 12 months expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019;
- 2) Authorises the development of an action plan to further improve integrated partnership working in preparation for the development of a revised section 75 Partnership Agreement to cover the period April 2019 to March 2022; and
- 3) That the Strategic Director for People is authorised to enter into the arrangements on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

### **7. Any Urgent Items**

None

### **8. 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.

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

### **9. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of 25 January 2018**

The exempt minutes from the 25 January 2018 meeting were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair.

### **10. Capital Programme Provision for Disposal of Strategic Land**

Councillor Peter Butlin explained the background to the published exempt report.

**Resolved**

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

The meeting rose at 2.19pm.

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Chair