

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

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe OBE	Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet
	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 Chilvers, Olnier, Redford, Webb and Williams

Public attendance: None

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Les Caborn and Peter Butlin

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 15 February 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. Service Estimates 2018-19

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) explained that the report before members set out to indicate, following the annual budget meeting, where resources were to be allocated. Members' attention was drawn specifically to section 3 of the report. This explained two recent changes in spend and resourcing. The first was the allocation nationally of an additional £150m of Adult Social Care Support Grant. This equates to an additional £1.4m for Warwickshire County Council. The second concerned an additional £1.839m to

come to the County Council from business rates. This latter additional funding will be regarded as on-off funding to prepare for the delivery of the next (post OOP 2020) savings plan.

Councillor Bill Olnier, welcoming the additional funding from business rates questioned whether any organisation had made representations to government regarding the plight of town centres. In response Cabinet was informed that so far as was known most discussion had been around the routing of business rates to local government and not around the rate of business rates.

John Betts (Head of Finance) added that the CBI and LGA has been lobbying government regarding the shift from the use of the Retail Price Index to the Consumer Price Index. Small businesses will be eligible for tax relief but this presents the challenge of making up any shortfall in income resulting from that relief. Re-evaluations will become more frequent but these along with appeals present challenges in terms of resourcing.

Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) welcomed the additional funding from government for Adult Social Care but called on the County Council and the LGA to press for more. On business rates, having expressed some concern over the use of the additional income to support OOP savings Councillor Chattaway requested that information be made available on where economic growth is focused in Warwickshire. It was agreed that this would be provided.

Referring to paragraph 3.3 of the report Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) expressed concern regarding the reset and wondered whether this would be a partial one or a complete one. He suggested that pressure be applied on government especially by the Warwickshire MPs to ensure a degree of fairness. In response Cabinet was informed that the LGA Finance and Resources Board is examining this issue. It was noted that overall under the new business rates system Warwickshire should be better off.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) approves the detailed revenue budget, capital programme and medium term savings plan for each of the authority's business units, as set out in Appendices A to P of the report; and
- 2) approves the adjustments to Business Unit budgets as a result of the realignment of budgets within and between Groups and the notification of additional resources since the budget was set on 6 February 2018, as outlined in Section 3 and Appendix Q of the report.

3. Community Infrastructure Levy - Implementation in Warwickshire

Councillor Izzi Seccombe summarised the published report noting that Warwick and Stratford on Avon District Councils have now introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Members were reminded that CIL will be applied to smaller developments. Major developments such as those proposed for Long Marston and Lighthorne Heath will attract Section 106 funding.

It was stated that it is important that members from all tiers of local government understand the criteria around CIL and how funds can be accessed and utilised. They must also work together but it should not be expected that the County Council will pick up all planning obligations. It was noted with concern that Warwick District Council has suggested that resources from CIL may not be sufficient to match requirements.

Members recognised that developers (operating to make a profit) will seek to minimise their contribution to CIL or S106 if they can. One way of achieving this is to focus on building very small developments. Councillor Richard Chattaway suggested that there is a case for the establishment of a CIL development body to manage the relationship between town and parish councils, district and borough councils, the County Council and developers. If the use of CIL is not managed carefully a large proportion of it could go to town and parish councils when it ought in some instances to be going to support larger projects eg schools.

Janet Neale (Infrastructure Delivery Manager) stated that it is the size and location of developments that determines who is involved in negotiations on S106 and CIL. Officers work with the health sector (CCGs), the Police and on public transport, libraries and rights of way.

Wherever possible WCC would now look to secure funding for Highways improvements under S278 agreements. In essence S106 contributions are a one-off amount for a project. If the project costs more the County Council has to make up the difference. S278 agreements cover the project thus placing the financial risk on the developer. Some developments attract a mix of S106 and S278 contributions.

From the County Council's perspective S106 is attractive as the Council has total control over it. CIL rests with the district and borough councils. The County Council can let the district and borough councils know what its priorities are but has no control.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe concluded by agreeing that the establishment of a reference group be considered to address all new consultations, how best to ensure that members understand CIL and to emphasise to town and parish councils that they will now to play a strategic as well as parochial role.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) notes the progress on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) across the District/Borough Councils in Warwickshire; and
- 2) agrees the principles, as outlined in Section 3 of the report, as the basis of the County Council's response to CIL and any discussions going forward.
- 3) agrees that consideration be given to the establishment of a reference group working with partners on CIL related issues.

4. Any Urgent Items

None

5. 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)

6. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of 15 February 2018

The exempt minutes from the 15 February 2018 meeting were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair.

The meeting rose at 2.30pm.

.....
Chair