

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 19 April 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
	Jeff Clarke	Transport & Environment
	Colin Hayfield	Education and Learning
	Kam Kaur	Customer & Transformation
	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 Boad, Chilvers, Golby, Holland, Kondakor, Olnier, Redford, Webb, Williams

Public attendance: None

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeff Morgan

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

With reference to agenda item 5 "Warwickshire County Council's Membership of the Local Government Association" Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Director of the new Local Government Association company.

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

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

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. Leamington Town Vision

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) introduced the item explaining that this project had been in development for some time. The project, she explained, involved a number of partners and sought to provide a vision

for the future of the town. Councillor Izzi Seccombe commended the report for its clarity.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers noted that the project to develop the vision had served to get appropriate people working together. It had proved a very successful exercise which amongst other things had provided an opportunity to review transport provision across the town. Councillor Chilvers requested confirmation that consideration was still being given to the submission of a joint bid with Chiltern Railways to the Local Enterprise Partnership for funds to improve Leamington station and the links to it. This was given by Councillor Izzi Seccombe who reminded Cabinet that Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader - Finance and Property) was the County Council's representative on the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Sarah Boad observed that the vision document was principally the product of officers of the Leamington Town Forum. Elected members had however been consulted. Councillor Boad, who is also a member of Leamington Town Council, having informed the meeting of progress with the Leamington Neighbourhood Plan observed that Leamington is unusual in that there is very little development underway in the town itself but there is considerable development either underway or proposed on its periphery. Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment) informed Cabinet that he had recently met with representatives of Chiltern Railways to discuss Leamington station. He had a further meeting scheduled with Chiltern Railways at which he planned to share and discuss the points made at this meeting by local members.

Councillor Keith Kondakor requested that vision documents similar to that for Leamington be produced for other towns in Warwickshire. The principle of this was agreed and it was recognised that the Nuneaton Transformation Project currently underway involves a range of partners.

Resolved

That Cabinet endorses the Leamington Town Vision.

3. A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements

Councillor Peter Butlin reminded Cabinet of the basis of the project to undertake improvements to the Stoneleigh Junction on the A46. Cabinet was informed that the predicted cost of the works will be £33.1m with funds being sought from a number of different sources. Detailed design has been put in the charge of Balfour Beatty.

Councillor John Holland explained that improvement works at the Tollbar End junction at Baginton had improved traffic flows to the extent that vehicles travelling south were able to do so freely until they reached Longbridge Island, the junction with the M40 motorway. This had presented a new challenge in that traffic seeking to circumvent queues leading up to Longbridge was leaving the A46 and seeking a route through Warwick town centre. This, suggested Councillor Holland, was contrary to the previously identified need to reduce congestion in Warwick and improve air quality.

In response Cabinet was reminded that the A46 junction project was a component of a larger scheme which will address the concerns raised.

A request was made that when the construction works are underway the safety of pedestrians and cyclists be taken account of. In addition other transport solutions should be considered it being observed that there is not currently a bus service from Nuneaton to Warwick University.

Councillor Jeff Clarke informed the meeting that he had recently met with Councillor Bill Gifford who in turn had met with "Cycleways" (a local interest group working to improve cycle provision in the Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth area). Cabinet was reminded that support had been given at the 20 March meeting of County Council to the exploration of further opportunities for enhancements to the local cycle network.

The issue of timing was considered with the prospect of construction traffic for HS2 peaking in 2020 action as a spur to expedite the project.

In concluding it was confirmed that the planned improvement project makes adequate provision for cycle and pedestrian routes. The amount of traffic queuing onto the A46 at peak times presents a danger which needs to be addressed before a serious collision occurs.

Resolved

That Cabinet recommends that Council:

- 1) Support the use of a maximum of £10.000m of the Capital Investment Fund to deliver improvements to the A46 Stoneleigh Junction, as part of an overall scheme costing £33.100m;
- 2) Agree that any future funding needed above this level is found from within the existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit;
- 3) Agree to the funding allocated from the Capital Investment Fund being reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding become available;
- 4) Agree that, should the full funding package not be approved by the Department for Transport and the West Midlands Combined Authority and a decision made to abandon the scheme, the revenue impacts of costs incurred to that point should fall upon the existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit;
- 5) Approve the addition of the A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements scheme to the capital programme at an estimated cost of £10m, funded from the Capital Investment Fund; and

Subject to Council agreeing with recommendations 1 to 4 above that Cabinet:

- 6) Authorise the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to invite tenders and, subject to approval of funding from the external funding bodies, planning approval and completion of land acquisition, enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources); and

7) Authorise the Head of Property to acquire the land required for the Scheme on terms acceptable to the Joint Managing Director of Resources. The Director being satisfied that the Scheme is fully funded.

4. Collaborative Working between Warwickshire and West Midlands Fire & Rescue Services

Councillor Howard Roberts (Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety) summarised the published report emphasising the importance of collaboration and briefing members on progress to date.

Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group), Councillor Sarah Boad and Councillor Keith Kondakor asked that all group leaders be kept closely informed of progress with this initiative. Assurance to this was duly given by Councillor Roberts.

In response to a question from Councillor Bill Oler regarding the possible re-branding of the fire and rescue service, Cabinet was reminded that the proposal was for closer collaboration and not a merger. It was emphasised that for a long time Warwickshire County Council has been working in partnership with a range of other agencies. The proposal for closer working with the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service is another example of this.

Resolved

That Cabinet endorses the collaborative programme of work between West Midlands Fire Service and Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Services as the first phase in exploring the benefits of joint working.

5. Warwickshire County Council's Membership of the Local Government Association

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) introduced the report explaining that the Local Government Association (LGA) was seeking to become a private unlimited company. In response to a question regarding the level of liability this change might impose on members of the LGA, Cabinet was informed that the position would be no different to that under the current arrangements. The merits of converting to an unlimited company come from the capacity to protect liabilities regarding pensions and from the protection of the LGA's tax status.

If the LGA was to be wound up its assets would be divided between its members. However any liabilities it held at that time would need to be met by its members.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to sign the relevant application form for Warwickshire County Council to be admitted as a member authority of the LGA's private unlimited company.

6. Any Urgent Items

None

The meeting rose at 2.15 pm.

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Chair