

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet  
held on 14 June 2018**

**Present:**

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe OBE	Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Les Caborn	Adult Social Care & Health
	Jeff Clarke	Transport & Planning
	Colin Hayfield	Education and Learning
	Kam Kaur	Customer & Transformation
	Jeff Morgan	Children's Services
	Dave Reilly	Environment and Heritage & Culture

**Non-Voting Invitees:**

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

**Other Councillors:**

Councillors Bell, Boad, Falp, Kondakor, Olnier, O'Rourke, Parsons, Phillips, Redford, Simpson-Vince, Webb

**Public attendance:** Three

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) and Andy Crump (Fire and Rescue and Community Safety)

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

None

Before considering the minutes of the 10 May 2018 meeting of Cabinet Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) made the following announcements.

- i. From Monday 11 June 2018 Councillor Andy Crump had replaced Councillor Howard Roberts as Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety. Councillor Roberts has been experiencing a period of ill health. Members and officers joined in wishing Councillor Roberts a rapid recovery.
- ii. The week beginning Monday 11 June was "Carers Week". To support this display stands had been erected in the Shire Hall ante chamber and front lobby. Cabinet was reminded that it is important not only to support carers but to encourage those who may be undertaking a caring role to come forward and seek support. A carer's conference was scheduled to be held in Warwick on Friday 15 June 2018 and display stands will be set up in Nuneaton and Leamington Spa libraries on Saturday 16 June 2018.

- iii. The OVO Energy Women's Cycle Race was due to visit Warwickshire on Friday 15 June 2018. This would be the third time a stage of the race has been held in Warwickshire. It was noted that Warwickshire is the first county to see both the men's and women's visit in the same year. (Stage 4 of the men's race will visit Warwickshire on Wednesday 5 September 2018).

### **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 and Matters Arising**

The minutes for the meeting held on 10 May 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

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

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed Thomas Thickbroom (Chair of the Warwickshire Youth Parliament) to the meeting. Thomas Thickbroom addressed Cabinet in support of the Warwickshire Education Strategy (Item 3 on the published agenda). He stated that the Youth Parliament had endorsed the entire strategy and singled out policy WE4 for particular commendation. This policy which focuses on a "curriculum for life" was welcomed as it seeks to prepare young people for the world beyond school, offering the life skills they will require to make informed choices and find employment. Cabinet thanked Thomas Thickbroom for his contribution and the Youth Parliament for its assistance in developing the strategy.

Councillor Bill Lewis (Rugby Borough Council) was welcomed to the meeting to address members on agenda item 4 – Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018 to 2023. Councillor Lewis asked eight questions:

- i. You, the Cabinet, approved the 2016 Sufficiency Strategy in June 2017. You are now considering the 2018 Sufficiency Strategy. What happened to the 2017 Sufficiency Strategy?
- ii. Rugby Borough Councillors were invited to a meeting to discuss the 2016 Sufficiency Strategy – why did this not happen this year?
- iii. Last time I came to Cabinet you decided that very morning to defer consideration of the 2017 Sufficiency Strategy to allow for consultation on the Education Strategy. What were the consultation responses which persuaded you to make such fundamental changes to the Sufficiency Strategy?
- iv. My ward has a deficiency of 20 hectares of open space. In March 2016 you decided to make that worse by taking away four hectares and in November 2016 you dismissed building on the Coton Park East site because you said it was not available in the proposed timescale. Now we know it is available why do you continue to give a low priority to the site?
- v. In May 2017 the Cabinet members for Administration wrote to one of my constituents dismissing the possibility of expanding existing schools and said "the only available option therefore is for additional schools...". During the Rugby local plan examination in public the county council said that excess demand in the North of Rugby might be met by expanding Ashlawn School and Rugby Free Secondary School. When was this change agreed?
- vi. In addition, what impact would this change of policy have on air quality and congestion at the Rugby Gyrotray?

- vii. Haven't the county council's views been unduly influenced by Education Facilities Management?
- viii. Now everyone agrees that a site is readily available in the North of Rugby would it not be better for both educational choice and quality of life to take the government's money and build there where pupils can walk and cycle to school?

Councillor Lewis was thanked for attending and asking his questions.

Clerk's Note – At this point it was agreed to consider the agenda out of sequence. Item 8 GP Services Task and Finish Group, was considered as the first substantive item. These minutes record the meeting in the order as set out in the published agenda.

## **2. One Organisational Plan Year End Progress Report: April 2017-March 2018**

Councillor Kam Kaur introduced the published report focusing on performance against the two key OOP 2020 outcomes. Members' attention was drawn to the commentary on pages 4 to 6 of the report explaining performance against outcome 1 – "Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent". Performance against this outcome is red. In particular Councillor Kaur referenced children looked after where although positive progress is being made in reducing numbers the target for reductions has not been met. In addition increasing demand for adult social care has meant that none of the 6 key business measures in this area have been met. A number of Fire and Rescue targets have not been met including that seeking a reduction in the number of incidents attended. Councillor Kam Kaur stated that one of the reasons that targets are not being met is a general increase in demand for services.

Members asked a series of questions regarding sickness absence levels that are higher than the national average for public and private sector employees and for the extent of capital slippage to which it was suggested that over optimistic timescales should be recalibrated to make them more realistic.

Concerning the failure to meet targets in children's services the high incidence of self-harm in certain parts of the county was singled out as requiring attention.

The use of benchmarking against national trends was challenged as being of little practical use. It was suggested that it is preferable to measure and address county-wide trends and to hold conversations regarding the social fabric of the County.

Members expressed concern that targets are consistently being missed in certain key business measures. Matters, it was suggested need to be seen to be improving with Portfolio Holders being more clearly accountable for performance.

Regarding concerns over slippage Councillor Izzi Seccombe stated that this is always a risk especially when external funding is concerned. The point raised concerning the adoption of realistic timeframes would be taken on board.

Regarding absence management Cabinet was reminded that the Staff and Pensions Committee monitor and seek to manage this. Occupational Health therapists work with staff to maintain their health.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe concluded by agreeing that missed targets are regrettable and that action continued to be needed to address this issue.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the progress on the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 at the end of March 2018 as summarised in Sections 1 to 6 of the report and detailed in Appendix A of the report;
- 2) Notes explanations for business unit spending variances in Appendix A of the report;
- 3) Notes the 2017-18 revenue and capital outturn position, the cumulative performance against the savings plan, performance against the Key Business Measures (Background Annexes A to R) and the level of reserves held by the Authority (Appendix B);
- 4) Approves the use of £4.130 million of reserves to support spending in 2018/19 as outlined in Table 3 of the report;
- 5) Notes the approach to funding business unit overspends in 2017/18 as outlined in section 5.4 of the report;
- 6) Notes the management of significant risks as outlined in Section 2.7 of the report; and
- 7) Notes the key achievements of the OOP 2020 at the end of 2017-18 and focus areas of improvement in 2018-19 as summarised in section 2.6 of the report.

### **3. Education Strategy: Consultation Findings and Proposed Strategy Documents**

Councillor Colin Hayfield expressed his pleasure at introducing the Education Strategy to members. Its concise nature and breadth of relevance to schools, parents and pupils were particularly welcomed. Although almost every secondary school in the county is now an academy the strategy provides an overall approach that promotes the Warwickshire family of schools. Councillor Hayfield echoed the points made earlier by Thomas Thickbroom regarding the curriculum for life adding that he wished to continue to work closely with the Youth Parliament on this area to avoid being restricted by the tight principally academic curriculum as set by government.

Members questioned how easy it will be to deliver the strategy when the County Council has less control over the funding available to it.

Concerning Policy WE2 (d) it was suggested that requests for needs assessments can take a very long time to be processed. This serves to undermine the 20 week target for referral following the assessment. This issue was acknowledged by

Cabinet but it was added that SEND is one of several elements of the strategy and issues in one area should not diminish the value of the strategy as a whole.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the outcomes of the consultation process; and
- 2) Recommends to Council:
  - (a) that the Education Strategy in Appendices 1-6 of the report be approved; and
  - (b) that Cabinet approves an annual update on the implementation of the Education Strategy, with the delivery plan and contextual documents being dynamic documents which are updated on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

## **4. Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2023**

Councillor Colin Hayfield emphasised the need to ensure that there are sufficient places for children in Warwickshire's schools. Cabinet was informed that over the next 15 years it is expected that 25 to 30 new schools will be required to accommodate an additional 30000 pupils. This will require the Council to ensure adequate funding from the EFSA and via Section 106 monies.

The value of the infant/junior school model was explored and it was recognised that in the case of the two Telford Schools in Leamington amalgamation would result in a very large primary school of 600 to 700 pupils.

Continuing delays with the provision of a new school in Weddington, Nuneaton were referenced. It was noted that a delay of one year can cause serious issues for pupils who can find themselves at a school much further away from their homes. Officers were asked to ensure that councillors are kept informed of progress with school developments especially if delays in progress seem probable.

Returning to the questions raised by Councillor Bill Lewis earlier in the meeting it was noted that land acquisition can be an issue when identifying where schools should be located. It was suggested that as part of a joined up approach to planning developers should be encouraged to consider donating land for new schools.

Section 106, it was suggested, is flawed as a wide range of parties usually seek a share of it. Housing development can bring challenges as the area it is in can, a few years after completion, lead to a bulge in pupil numbers. The County Council is often left to manage that bulge through the location of temporary classrooms at already busy schools. This carries a cost that the County Council must bear.

In concluding Councillor Colin Hayfield acknowledged the issues presented by bulge classes and the need to fund temporary accommodation. He agreed to provide a response to Councillor Bill Lewis' questions and offered to work with officers from Education and Learning to arrange seminars for members in each of the five district/borough areas to review pressures for school places.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet recommends that Council approves the Education Sufficiency Strategy for the academic years 2018-2023.

### **5. WCC Fair Access Protocol for Secondary Schools**

Councillor Colin Hayfield summarised the published report emphasising the need to locate places for pupils in-year. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group suggested that that on occasions schools will be reluctant to take certain pupils despite the protocol. Whilst it was noted that those pupils can bring a significant amount of money with them Councillor Hayfield agreed to establish the position on whether a school can opt out in certain circumstances.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees the WCC Fair Access Protocol for Secondary Schools.

### **6. Capital Investment Fund 2018-19 Quarter 1 Report: Lawford Road/Addison Road Rugby, Casualty Reduction Scheme**

Following a brief introduction to this report by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Councillor Maggie O'Rourke (the local member) expressed her support for the scheme and requested Cabinet support for it. This was duly given.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the addition of the Lawford Road/Addison Road Casualty Reduction Scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £0.847 million, split as £0.678 million in 2018/19 and £0.169 million in 2019/20;
- 2) Approve the allocation of £0.783 million of Capital Investment Fund (CIF) to fund the scheme, with the remaining £0.064 million coming from Members' delegated Budgets and to be used preferentially ahead of CIF funding in 2018/19;
- 3) Agree that any funding above the level approved needed to meet risks and contingencies is found from the existing resources of the Transport and Economy Business Unit; and
- 4) Agree that funding allocated to the project will be reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding become available.

### **7. Transformation Update**

Councillor Kam Kaur introduced the published report.

Councillor Richard Chattaway thanked Cabinet and officers for the recent briefing he had received on this matter. Whilst he was generally supportive of the project he reminded Cabinet that he would challenge in a positive way any elements he did not agree with.

It was noted that the project to date appeared to be focusing on structure and not on outcomes. In response the meeting was told that outcomes will be based on meeting customers' needs. It is recognised that one size does not fit all and that the customer journey will vary depending on that person's requirements.

Clarification was sought on the use of the term accountability. The answer given was that this is to ensure that officers acknowledge that they have a fundamental role in ensuring a satisfactory outcome for the customer.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet endorses the proposed future direction, the planned activity and the design principles for the Council's transformation programme, as set out in the report.

## **8. GP Services Task and Finish Group**

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) introduced this item before handing over to Councillor Wallace Redford (Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor Margaret Bell (Chair of the Task and Finish Group).

Councillor Redford provided the background to the review stating that forecast and current development is leading to increasing demand for GP services which are themselves experiencing a reduction in provision. Councillor Bell summarised the key findings of the review and its recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Caborn thanked and commended the task and finish group for its efforts before expressing his support for the recommendations contained in the report.

Having acknowledged that the planning system could do more to support the co-ordination of development of GP practices it was agreed that the report should be sent to all Warwickshire MPs for their information.

Cabinet was informed that the NHS continues to use very old technology to plan GP provision. This is aggravated by a national shortage of GPs and long lead in times for trained GPs and the construction of new surgeries.

Whilst it was acknowledged that the County Council has little influence over government policy regarding GPs the meeting recognised that the Council does work with community pharmacies. It was considered that the Health and Wellbeing Board should review how it can assist in this area.

NHS England manages both capital and revenue allocations and consequently the Clinical Commissioning Groups can have little influence on this so far as the development of GP practices is concerned. It has proved difficult to get NHS England to discuss matters such as GP provision but there was hope that an

upcoming meeting with the NHS England regional lead would provide an opportunity to do so..

Investment is required in the prevention agenda thus reducing demand for GPs.

In summing up Cabinet again congratulated members and officers on their efforts. The overall sense was that as GP practices are autonomous business the ability to directly influence their decisions is limited. Nevertheless it is important to ensure that MPs are aware of the Council's concerns.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the report of the GP Services Task and Finish Group, as approved by the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) Welcomes and supports the recommendations shown in Section 2 of the report, particularly those which concern lobbying the Government and recommendations made for actions by the County Council;
- 3) Confirms its decisions to the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order that implementation of agreed actions can be monitored; and
- 4) Notes that the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board will also be invited to consider and respond to the issues for the wider Coventry and Warwickshire health 'system'.

## **9. The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health**

Councillor Les Caborn explained the purpose of the concordat adding that the County Council is already heavily committed to meeting the needs of people with mental health issues. It was agreed that Councillor Caborn would be the signatory for the County Council with Councillor Izzi Seccombe the signatory for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Resolved**

That Warwickshire County Council signs up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, as set out in the application form in the appendix of the report.

## **10. Any Urgent Items**

None

## **11. 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)**

**12. Transforming Nuneaton Programme: Vicarage Street CPO**

**Resolved**

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

**13. Disposal of Land at Europa Way**

**Resolved**

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

The meeting rose at 3.35pm.

.....  
Chair