

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 10 May 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
	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 Adkins, Boad, Fradgley, Kondakor, Olnier, Reilly, Webb, Williams

Public attendance: None

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group)

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 19 April 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. Stratford-upon-Avon Area Transport Strategy

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment) introduced the published report explaining the process that had been followed in the production of the strategy and the rationale behind it. The strategy was required to provide a

framework to address issues around congestion and pollution in Stratford-upon-Avon whilst taking account of development proposed for the town and meeting the requirements of residents, employees and visitors. Councillor Clarke emphasised that for the schemes highlighted in the strategy to progress it will be necessary to secure funding from external sources. With this in mind he tabled a new recommendation which stated, (that Cabinet) “notes that the funding of the proposed South Western Relief Road is dependent on sufficient developer and other third party financial contributions being available”. This new recommendation was welcomed by members who recognised that given the financial constraints being faced by the County Council and other public bodies a degree of realism is required when it comes to the resourcing of schemes. Councillor Bill Olnier suggested that given the contribution that Stratford-upon-Avon makes to the financial health of the West Midlands region, the West Midlands Combined Authority might see that they have a role in supporting the strategy and the projects therein.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley (who had attended a meeting at Stratford District Council at which the strategy was discussed) stated that she had been concerned at how little understanding local residents appeared to have over the impact of some proposed schemes on their properties. She asked that in future local residents be included at a much earlier in discussions over such schemes. In addition, Councillor Fradgley asked that local residents be informed of compensation schemes as early as possible.

Councillor Keith Kondakor observed that infrastructure schemes associated with development focus primarily on roads. Schemes for cycling and walking whilst often included in agreements become vulnerable when developers realise that projected incomes will not meet initial expectations. Councillor Kondakor expressed the view that it would be preferable to focus initially on the cheaper infrastructure thus ensuring it is installed and can have an early impact on modal shift.

Members were reminded that the removal of the proposal for an eastern relief road from the draft strategy means that other initiatives such as the imposition of a weight limit on Clopton Bridge can no longer be pursued. The meeting was also reminded that the strategy contained more than just proposals for major highway construction. It also took account of town centre parking, the park and ride facility, river crossings and the need to address issues with the Birmingham Road.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) noting the deletion of the proposal for a relief road around the eastern side of Stratford-upon-Avon, approves the Stratford-upon-Avon Area Transport Strategy; and
- 2) notes that the funding of the proposed South Western Relief Road is dependent on sufficient developer and other third party financial contributions being available.
- 3) recommends that Council endorse the Strategy as an addendum to the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026.

3. Proposed Statutory Sub-National Transport Body for the Midlands

Councillor Jeff Clarke explained that the concept of a sub-national transport body had come via the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Midlands Engine.

Councillor Keith Kondakor welcomed the desire to join up transport across the region but suggested that by focussing on links between major towns and cities opportunities to improve transport between smaller towns will be lost. For example he suggested that smaller towns should be brought into the West Midlands public transport fare structure. In addition it was noted that a number of schemes have yet to be completed. For example the duelling of the A5 was almost complete but required further investment to significantly improve traffic flows and eliminate “pinch points” where it remains single carriageway. Members agreed that the A5 scheme should be given priority as it was close to completion and much needed.

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) observed that the transport body covers an area from Lincolnshire in the east to the borders with Wales and as such reflects the broad, strategic view promoted by the Combined Authority and Midlands Engine. It was emphasised that the transport body will not take away any local statutory powers.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) notes the emerging proposals for Midlands Connect to become a Statutory Sub-National Transport Body (STB) for the Midlands;
- 2) agrees the draft response to the consultation on the Midlands Connect proposition, as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- 3) agrees the process for the council to consider the Midlands Connect proposition, as set out in Appendix B of the report.

4. The Local Offer for Care Leavers

Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services) explained that the Care Leaver Offer whilst required of the Council presented a good news story. He explained that local authorities have a responsibility to look after care leavers up to the age of 25 but the extent and type of care varies depending on age. Ofsted had called for improvements in pathway planning and this revised offer was part of the response to those concerns. Notable additions to the offer included the payment of Council Tax for care leavers, the establishment of at least 5 ring-fenced apprenticeships for care leavers within the County Council, a block of driving lessons and leisure passes in four of the five district and borough councils. (It was reported that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had chosen not to offer these but to provide discounts instead). The proposals had been agreed by the Children in Care Council.

In response to a suggestion that care leavers should be offered bus passes and bicycles Cabinet was reminded that the Children in Care Council had requested

driving lessons. It was recognised that having a driving license could assist a young person into a job and that the offer does include reference to the provision of a travel card. The meeting was reminded that in previous years mopeds had been provided to young people to enhance access to job opportunities. Councillor Morgan duly noted this.

The need to have regard to the mental health of care leavers was acknowledged. Echoing a comment made by Councillor Bill Olnier the need to avoid care leavers falling to the edges of society was also recognised.

The offer was welcomed by Cabinet as a good example of corporate parenting in action.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) notes and endorses the corporate parenting principles; and
- 2) authorises the Strategic Director for People to publish a Local Offer for Care Leavers and for that offer to be regularly reviewed and updated subject to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) being satisfied that all statutory requirements are met and that the offer can be delivered within the available financial resources.

5. Concordat on Children in Custody

Councillor Howard Roberts briefed Cabinet on the report.

There were no questions from members.

Resolved

That Warwickshire County Council becomes a signatory to the Concordat on Children in Custody and adopts the principles and practice detailed within the report.

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.

EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)

8. Fire and Rescue Service Review

Following introductory comments from Councillor Howard Roberts, Councillor Keith Kondakor stressed the need to ensure in any future plans that adequate resources for the Fire and Rescue Service are directed to the north of the county. This was acknowledged.

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the independent review and agrees that proposals are developed for further consideration.

The meeting rose at 2.30 pm.

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Chair