

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 13 September 2018**

Present:

Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe OBE	Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Deputy Leader (Finance and Property)
	Les Caborn	Adult Social Care & Health
	Jeff Clarke	Transport & Planning
	Andy Crump	Fire and Rescue and Community Safety
	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 Boad, Falp, Gilbert, Olnier, Parsons, Phillips, Rickhards, Webb

Public attendance:

None

Councillor Keith Lloyd.

The meeting stood in memory of Councillor Keith Lloyd who passed away on 3 September 2018. Councillor Lloyd had been a member of Warwickshire County Council since May 2013. He had also been a member of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 24 July 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. One Organisational Plan Quarterly Progress Report: April to June 2018

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) introduced the report focusing on the County Council's performance in the first quarter. In particular the updates under the headings, "Children are Safe", "Adult Social Care", "Health and Wellbeing", "Community Safety and Fire", "Economy, Infrastructure and Environment", "Education and Learning" and "Warwickshire Makes the Best Use of its Resources" were highlighted.

Regarding the finance elements of the report Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) drew members' attention to the chart at para 3.1.3 on page 8. Councillor Butlin observed that ideally there would be zero variance between forecasts and budget. However Adult Social Care and Support and Children's Services had witnessed a significant increase in demand which has to be met. Councillor Butlin added that progress against the Council's savings plan is good. A requested drawdown on reserves of £1.946 million will be countered by a request to add £3.960 million to reserves. Councillor Butlin ended his introductory remarks by commending the style of the published report.

Councillor Bill Olnier suggested that the use of reserves was an indication that the Council budget agreed in February 2018 had not been sufficient to cover outgoings. In reply Cabinet was reminded that at the time of agreeing any budget it is not possible to predict all factors that impact on spending over the year or over the life of the One Organisational Plan. It was also noted that the figures before Cabinet were an interim report and that these might change again in the future. An example was provided on adult social care which is currently reporting an underspend owing to the provision of additional funding by government after the Council's budget had been agreed. There is no certainty that that level of funding will be sustained beyond 2020.

Referring to para 3.3.1 on page 11 of 16 of the report Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) highlighted the forecast overspend on special education needs transport. He asked when the task and finish group cited in the report will be established. Officers agreed to respond to Councillor Roodhouse after the meeting.

Councillor Sarah Boad expressed her concern over the extent of capital slippage as reported on pages 12 and 13 of the report. In response Councillor Peter Butlin informed Cabinet that a Capital Working Group is being established to manage expectations and monitor progress with capital schemes. In response to a further question from Councillor Boad regarding the statement that the safer routes to school programme is on hold Monica Fogarty (Joint Managing Director, Communities) stated that the programme remains on the Council's agenda to progress.

The meeting was assured that Warwickshire County Council is not in a similar position to other local authorities that are now in acute financial difficulties.

Regarding Part 3 of Appendix A – Strategic Risk Information Councillor Dave Parsons noted that the risk of "Failure to Adequately Safeguard Children and Vulnerable Adults" is consistently rated as red. He suggested that this indicated a failure to make progress. In response David Carter (Joint Managing Director, Resources) stated that Corporate Board had taken the decision to leave the risk

level at red in recognition of the many factors across Warwickshire's population that can influence this. That it is red does not mean that the Council is not working to address matters. Councillor Butlin added that the County Council has appointed more social workers to meet increasing demand for services. Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) added that many of the new social workers are relatively inexperienced and could not yet carry a full caseload. He was confident that this would change in time.

Councillor Jeff Morgan asked that the charts in Appendix A be made larger so that they can be more easily read. It was agreed that this would be looked in to.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the progress of the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 for the period contained in the report; and
- 2) Approves the net transfer of £2.014 million to Business Unit reserves in order to support the delivery of services in future years, as outlined in section 3.2 of the report.

3. 2019-20 Service and Financial Planning Arrangements and the Development of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Councillor Peter Butlin stated that through its Transformation Programme the County Council is planning for the delivery of the next One Organisational Plan. The policy drivers for the organisation as set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 were highlighted. An update was provided on the statement in paragraph 5.4 regarding the Fire and Rescue Service. Cabinet was assured that work is being carried out to produce a savings plan for the service. Councillor Butlin informed Cabinet of proposals by government to raise the cap on Council Tax from 2 to 3%. With the 2% Social Care Levy on top this could lead to Council Tax increases of 5%. He added that officers are considering the implications of this but are awaiting the proposed Government Green Paper on Social Care to gain a clearer indication of funding in the future.

Referencing paragraph 6.3 on page 6 Councillor Roodhouse emphasised the need to align new structures and delivery models and the Medium Term Financial Plan as soon as possible.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the process and timetable for the refresh of the 2019-20 service and financial planning; and
- 2) Supports the inclusion in the 2019-20 budget resolution of the process and timetable for approving the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

4. Digital and Technology Strategy

Councillor Kam Kaur introduced the report emphasising that the strategy was the result of extensive consultation with customers, users, employees, partners and suppliers. Cabinet's attention was drawn to paragraph 2.5 which explained the link between the strategy and the One Organisational Plan 2020.

Councillor Alan Webb requested that a member briefing be organised to explain more fully the role of digital services across the organisation and how this will impact on customers. This was agreed.

Members emphasised the need to ensure that all customers can continue to access the services they require. User focus groups should be used to ensure that nobody is excluded. People also need to be confident that their data is secure. In response to these concerns Councillor Kam Kaur stated that the Council is already working with customers to ensure their requirements will be met. Also for people who cannot, for whatever reason, use digital means (in particular for accessing Universal Credit) staff in libraries are being trained to assist them. With regards to data security members were referred to page 9 of the Strategy which gives assurance that information will be kept secure.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the Digital and Technology Strategy for the period 2018 to 2021.

5. Warwickshire Visitor Economy - Forward Plan: 2018-2022

Councillor Dave Reilly (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture) highlighted the importance of tourism to the economy of Warwickshire. He briefed Cabinet of the benefits that the OVO Women's and Men's cycle races had brought to Warwickshire. In addition the upcoming City of Culture Year for Coventry will benefit Warwickshire as, "The County of Culture".

Councillor Sarah Boad echoed the comments regarding the cycle races and thanked those involved in their organisation.

Councillor Reilly concluded by stating that that whilst Warwickshire currently has a thriving manufacturing economy it will be important in the future to focus more on the role of tourism and services for economic growth.

Resolved

That Cabinet endorses the Warwickshire Visitor Economy - Forward Plan: 2018-2022.

6. Maintenance and Inspection Services of Traffic Signal Equipment and Intelligent Transport Systems, and the Supply and Installation of Traffic Signal Equipment, and Other Works

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) introduced this item stressing the need to ensure that road junctions are kept safe through effective signalling. In response to a question concerning of the timing of repairs and

maintenance it was confirmed that any new contract would require that this be done according to the Council's wishes and not be left to the company providing the service to decide.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) approves proceeding with an appropriate procurement process for the Supply, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance of Traffic Signal Equipment and Intelligent Transport Systems; and
- 2) authorises the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to enter into the relevant contract for the Supply, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance of Traffic Signal Equipment and Intelligent Transport on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

7. Public Health and Strategic Commissioning Fitter Futures Warwickshire Proposed Re-tender of Services

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) summarised the published report highlighting the need for weight management support amongst young people and a significant increase in referrals by health professionals to the Fitter Futures programme.

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet notes the outcome of the consultation process and the outcome of the equality impact assessment for the service;
- 2) That Cabinet approves the proposed new model for Fitter Futures Warwickshire (FFW) services that are based on the findings from the consultation process;
- 3) That Cabinet approves proceeding with an appropriate procurement process for a Fitter Futures Warwickshire framework of providers; and
- 4) That the Strategic Director for People is authorised to commence an appropriate procurement process and award any contracts for the redesigned services on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

8. Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services Task and Finish Group Review

Councillor Pete Gilbert who chaired the review into children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health services introduced the report. He stated that the review had been informative and that he considered that it had resulted in some constructive solutions. Councillor Les Caborn thanked the review group for its efforts and introduced a series of revised recommendations.

Members stressed the need to ensure that mental health services for children and young people are delivered in a timely and effective fashion. To ensure that this happens, service providers must be held to account.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Thanks the Task and Finish Group for its work on this important area.
- 2) Requests that Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) reports back on a six-monthly basis to joint meetings of the Children and Young People and Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to update members on the following performance aspects:
 - CWPT will update members on their performance against their Key Performance Indicators.
 - CWPT will highlight any achievements (including how they have been made) and any areas of concern (including how they will be remedied).
 - CWPT will update members on how children looked after are accessing mental health services.
- 3) Agrees that the performance of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust should be a specific part of the performance reporting to Cabinet on a six-monthly basis.
- 4) Agrees that a business case evaluation of the Dimensions Tool be undertaken and evaluated by the Joint Managing Director, Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation and the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9. Report and Recommendations of the Loneliness Advisory Group

Councillor Clive Rickhards who chaired the Loneliness Advisory Group thanked those members, officers and partners who had contributed to the review and outlined some of the key issues that had been considered. He emphasised the need to engage GPs in initiatives to address loneliness and commended the work of agencies such as Age UK.

Councillor Les Caborn welcomed the report adding that it should be widely circulated. A minor amendment to recommendation 2 was proposed and agreed. This was in recognition that there will be some reports written that will clearly not have an impact on loneliness.

Councillor Judy Falp commended the work of Warwickshire Young Carers and stressed the need to ensure that the needs of young carers are being met. On this theme members emphasised the need to remember that people of all ages and backgrounds can suffer from loneliness. A major challenge can be in identifying people who are lonely and then encouraging them to accept assistance.

Councillor Jeff Morgan echoed the importance of social prescribing and the role of GPs in helping to address loneliness. Councillor Dave Parsons pointed out that when new estates are built residents and particularly young mothers can feel lonely. This was noted.

Resolved

That Cabinet considers the report of the Loneliness Advisory Group and approves the following recommendations:

- 1) That in view of the prevalence of loneliness and the impact that it can have on people's health and wellbeing, Warwickshire County Council undertakes to raise awareness of the issue amongst its own staff. In addition the messages regarding loneliness should be extended to the wider public sector via the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board;
- 2) That where appropriate authors include in reports specific reference to the impact of proposals on loneliness;
- 3) That from 2019/2020 an additional scoring criterion is considered for inclusion in the Warwickshire County Council Councillors Grant Fund Scheme that relates specifically to the impact of all project applications on reducing loneliness and social isolation;
- 4) That agencies such as Age UK be invited to promote any schemes they operate aimed at reducing loneliness (e.g. befriending schemes) to Warwickshire County Council staff. This will take the form of submissions on the intranet, a presence in Shire Hall and other offices on key dates and articles in staff newsletters, etc.;
- 5a) That GP practices be targeted to ensure that they are sufficiently aware of the benefits of social prescribing to wish to engage with this initiative. GP learning events should be used to assist in the dissemination of this message;
- 5b) That a member development/briefing session be arranged to relay messages about Social Prescribing. This session will cover those actions that members can undertake to promote Social Prescribing in their communities;
- 6) That during the Year of Wellbeing the impact of loneliness is particularly recognised and projects developed to specifically address this;
- 7a) That the Council recognises the value of arts and culture in addressing issues of loneliness and encourages family centres, GP practices and libraries to promote activities around this;
- 7b) That the Council endorses efforts underway to develop a Creative Health Alliance across Warwickshire, to form a strong partnership between arts and culture organisations and health partners, to include supporting partnership bids for external funding;
- 8) That the County Council continue to manage information on events and activities that people can engage with and that this be shared with GPs, Practice Nurses and Social Workers; and

- 9) That EQUIP (the organisation delivering the WCC contract for equalities services within Warwickshire) be requested to raise awareness of, and signpost to, services, support and activities that address loneliness and social isolation for their target groups (as per Outcome 3, 3a of the service specification).

10. Any Urgent Items

None

11. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

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. Exempt Minutes of Cabinet 24 July 2018

The exempt minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 24 July 2018 were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

The meeting rose at 15.06

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Chair