

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 11 October 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

Other Councillors:

Councillors Boad, Chilvers, Gilbert, Fradgley, Kondakor, Oler, Webb

Public attendance:

None

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 13 September 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

(4) Public Speaking

None

Chair's Announcement

Prior to consideration of the main agenda Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet informed the meeting that the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner of West Mercia had jointly announced their intention to withdraw from the alliance arrangements with Warwickshire Police. The alliance will cease to exist on 8 October 2019. The Chair of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Nicola Davies, had been briefed on this development by the office of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner. It was expected that the two Police and Crime Panel Chairs would meet to discuss the matter. David Carter (Joint Managing Director of Resources) would be writing to Warwickshire Police affirming the County Council's ongoing support to that body. Members acknowledged that the alliance arrangements had taken some time to become effective but agreed that once that had happened the alliance appeared to have been very successful. Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety) stated that as soon as matters became clearer he would report back to Cabinet

2. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2017-18

Councillor Kam Kaur ((Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) introduced the report explaining the purpose of the Ombudsman report and accompanying letter. Most matters that reached the Ombudsman, she stated, related to adult social care, safeguarding issues and education and learning. Much work was being undertaken to train staff to manage complaints and to be more effective in feeding back the results of complaints to customers. Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) expressed his support for the efforts being made by Councillor Kam Kaur and officers adding that new developments such as Mosaic (the social care case file management system) were assisting in reducing the number of complaints against the council. Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) expressed the view that whilst any complaint is of concern to the council the number highlighted in the report before Cabinet was remarkably low given the financial constraints being faced and the increases in demand for service.

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the annual review and summary of upheld complaints issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman in the financial year 2017-18.

3. Transfer of Community Dietetics Budget

Councillor Les Caborn welcomed the move to greater integration of service provision with health providers. Explaining that delivery of the Community Dietetics Service would in future rest with the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust he assured members that performance of that service would be subject to oversight by the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Colin Hayfield stated that it was important that these services be easily accessible in a timely fashion. In response to a question from Councillor Sarah Boad Cabinet was assured that no additional funding would be required for the service as a result the change in delivery arrangements.

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the payment of the £700,000 annual budget (pro-rated for 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019) for the Community Dietetics Service to South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SWCCG) for the full delivery of the Community Dietetics Service under SWCCG's Out of Hospital Services (OoH) contract until 31 March 2021;
- 2) That Cabinet approves the joint management of the Community Dietetics Service element of the OoH contract by SWCCG and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Public Health and Strategic Commissioning; and
- 3) That the Strategic Director of the People Group be authorised to agree and execute an agreement under Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

4. Warwickshire County Council's Financial Contribution to the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub (2019-20 to 2021-22)

Councillor Izzi Seccombe reminded Cabinet that it had been asked previously to agree financial support for the Growth Hub. She added that the report before Cabinet was not at this stage requiring a commitment to be made to that funding.

Two areas of concern were highlighted. With reference to paragraph 2.3 and the table contained therein the contribution expected to be made by the County Council as compared to other local authorities was considered to be unreasonably high. In addition, when the Growth Hub was initially established it was expected to eventually become self-funding. That had yet to occur. Cabinet was informed that the Government had recently announced a major review of Local Enterprise Partnerships. If the review concluded that businesses should make a greater contribution then the funding arrangements for the growth hub should be challenged.

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) acknowledged that the Growth Hub works well but agreed that it should be self-funding by now. He agreed that before any commitment could be made to further financial contributions more questions needed to be asked and greater clarity obtained regarding the national LEP review.

Councillor Keith Kondakor welcomed the shift of the Growth Hub to supporting more small and medium sized businesses adding that business rates should be used to support smaller businesses. In addition it is important to capture some of the increased business rate income due to the growth hubs activities to fund the growth hub.

That more support is being given to smaller firms was also welcomed by Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group). Councillor Sarah Boad stated the key was to establish whether the Growth Hub is delivering value for money. In response to this latter point Councillor Izzi Seccombe observed that growth in the economy and the LEP was currently very high but added that small businesses do need the support of the Growth Hub.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe counselled against relying too heavily on business rates to support the economy as a downturn in the economy can lead to a reduction in them.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the requested allocation of £128,000 per year (rising to £130,560 in year 3) for the next three years to the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub;
- 2) Notes the request for funding as part of the framework of the County Council's 2019-20 budget setting process; and
- 3) Agrees to receive annual reports on the performance and impact of the Growth Hub.

5. Tender to Establish a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Learning and Organisational Development

Councillor Kam Kaur explained that a new Dynamic Purchasing System would be fully electronic providing the council and suppliers greater flexibility around procurement. Members agreed that timely and efficient procurement would lead to savings and better purchasing decisions.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve proceeding with a tender for the provision of a Dynamic Purchasing System for Learning and Organisational Development; and
- 2) Authorise the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to enter into a DPS arrangement for the provision of Learning and Organisational Development as well as all subsequent call-off Contract there-under.

6. Warwickshire Early Help Strategy (2018-2023)

Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) emphasised that "early help" is not the same as "early years". It is about providing the right support at the right time regardless of the age of the child. Cabinet was informed that the Strategy had been drafted following an OfSTED inspection that had concluded that there were some areas for improvement in this area. The results of a peer review had been used to inform the strategy as had input from bodies such as the Safeguarding Board. An action plan, written in the light of the review of the Children and Families Business Unit will be developed before the end of the year.

Councillor Colin Hayfield welcomed the document and asked that it has a clear interface with the Education Strategy in terms of its implementation.

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Warwickshire Early Help Strategy (2018-2023) be approved and included as part of the Policy Framework; and
- 2) That any future action plan is submitted to Cabinet for approval.

7. Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cycling Infrastructure Task and Finish Group

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) introduced the report along with three revised recommendations before asking Councillor Keith Kondakor (Chair of the Task and Finish Group) to explain the review's findings.

Councillor Kondakor explained that cycling with its health and economic benefits is becoming mainstream. He then went on to highlight the first three recommendations of the task and finish group's report. He considered that the key for progress would be the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The lists referenced in recommendation 2 was critical as it set out what needs to be done whilst the West Midlands Cycling Design Guidance is reflective of the positive attitude to cycling by the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street.

In addition Councillor Kondakor emphasised the need to maintain cycleways. He suggested that cycle forums be given resources to make improvements to the network eg through signage. Finally he proposed that a member cycling group be established to oversee resources and champion cycling.

Councillor Colin Hayfield emphasised the need to be able to encourage children to cycle and walk to school.

Councillor Dave Reilly (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture) pointed out that North Warwickshire did not have a cycle forum but since the completion of the review discussions had been held with the Leader of North Warwickshire Borough Council with a view to establishing one.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers stressing that the task and finish group had been cross-party called on Cabinet to display its commitment to cycling by agreeing to investment. In response Councillor Izzi Seccombe reminded members that there are many competing interests for funding.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley agreed that initiatives that encourage cycling to school are to be welcomed and recognised that the Community Infrastructure Levy should provide funding for cycle network improvements.

Councillor Sarah Boad noted that parents worry about safety when children cycle to school. She also called for better, secure, cycle parking facilities in towns.

Councillor Andy Crump questioned how accountable cycle forums are and suggested that if any additional resources become available for network improvements they be added to the members' capital grants.

In concluding, Councillor Kondakor reminded Cabinet that cycle infrastructure projects have a high benefit value in terms of economy and health.

Councillor Jeff Clarke again thanked the task and finish group. He assured members that the action under the table recommendation 2 would be followed up as part of the budget setting process.

Resolved

- 1) That the Cycling Infrastructure Task and Finish Group be thanked for its work and its extensive recommendations.
- 2) That the Joint Managing Directors be asked to prepare a detailed evaluation which identifies those recommendations which can be implemented within existing resources and those which require additional resources.
- 3) That the Joint Managing Director (Communities) be authorised to implement those recommendations which can be implemented within existing resources and the costs of the other recommendations be shared with all the party groups for consideration as part of the development of their budget proposals.

8. Any Urgent Items

None

The meeting rose at 14.45

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Chair