

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 8 November 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, C.Davies, Falp, Golby, Kondakor, Olnier, Redford, Webb

Public attendance:

None

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

None

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 11 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet) referencing the Cycling Infrastructure Review (Page 5 of the minutes) informed Cabinet that the promised exercise considering which schemes could be undertaken within existing resources had been completed. Referencing the previously circulated spreadsheet these were numbers 1,2,3,4,,5,7,12,13,14,15 and 16. A paper explaining this further had been circulated to Group Leaders. It was agreed that a copy be provided to Councillor Keith Kondakor.

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. One Organisational Plan Quarterly Progress Report: April-September 2018

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) introduced the report explaining that it provided a snapshot of progress in a continuing journey. Officers were thanked for the revised layout of information but they were requested to consider increasing the size of the charts and graphs in future reports to make them more legible.

The following points were highlighted by Councillor Butlin.

- 1) Revenue expenditure (para 3.1.3.page 12 of 19) – Whilst overspends are forecast for Education and Learning and Children and Families the majority of services are spending within their 2% variance threshold. Work is being undertaken to manage both overspends and underspends.
- 2) Capital programme - (pages 15-17 of 19) - An underspend (slippage) of £11.527m was noted. However, of that amount £9.277m relates to grants and developer contributions over which the County Council has little direct influence.

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder – Customer and Transformation) highlighted the following.

- 1) The number of Child Protection Plans at the end of quarter 2 was 502 down from 584 in April 2018.
- 2) The number of schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding is above the national average. (89.2% compared to 86%).
- 3) School attendance levels are good.
- 4) County Council staff have, through the staff survey, indicated a high level of “employee engagement” at 75%.

In response to the updates provided by Councillors Butlin and Kaur, Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) expressed his desire to see any under-performance explored either by Overview and Scrutiny Committees or the Head of Finance.

Councillor Keith Kondakor noted that, as recently reported in the press, some private providers of social care were reportedly facing financial difficulties. He sought assurance that recipients of such care in Warwickshire were not at risk. This was duly given by Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health). Councillor Kondakor also noted the reduction of adults moving to residential care. This, Cabinet was informed, was to be commended.

On a further point Councillor Kondakor expressed concern that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had recently resolved to commence charging an additional fee for the collection of green waste. Cabinet was reminded that the charging for waste collection was a not a matter that the County Council can control although a reduction in green waste collection will impact on the amount of waste requiring disposal by the County Council. Councillor Dave Reilly (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture) expressed disappointment that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had taken its decision to charge for green waste collection without consulting the County Council. He stressed that Warwickshire

County Council has both a financial and environmental responsibility to manage waste disposal effectively.

Councillor Bill Olnier stated that the cost of capital projects appear to be understated or overstated at their inception; the former leading to reported overspends on completion. Councillor Butlin agreed that this has been an ongoing issue adding that the County Council is looking to be more realistic over costs. The buoyant nature of the economy means that contractors can afford to be selective over the work they bid for. Prices have increased and it is important to make accurate forecasts of costs if fresh resources are not to be requested as projects progress. Councillor Olnier added that it appeared that the cost of small projects which County Councillors are promoting often appear to be quoted very high. This is a source of frustration for members.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group), referencing reported sickness levels emphasised the need for greater consideration of staff wellbeing during this (stressful) period of reorganisation. In response Councillor Kaur assured Cabinet that sickness absence is closely monitored by the Staff and Pensions Committee. She added that it is important to maintain a close watch on staff welfare and to link this to the "Year of Wellbeing" and the work of the Council's new occupational health provider.

Regarding the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Councillor Roodhouse requested more visibility around the decisions on how the funding for the high needs block is utilised. In response Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) reminded Cabinet of the central role of the Schools Forum in determining the use of the DSG. The County Council is an invitee at the Schools Forum but has no voting rights. He observed that a small percentage of the DSG (0.25%) has built in flexibility. Schools can choose to direct this to the high needs block but there was no evidence that this had happened. As well as considering funding of the high needs block the County Council is exploring ways by which costs can be reduced.

Resolved

That Cabinet

- 1) Notes the progress of the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 for the period as contained in the report; and
- 2) Approves the net transfer of £0.475 million from Business Unit reserves in order to support the delivery of services in future years, as outlined in section 3.2 of the report.

3. Capital Investment Fund 2018-19 Quarter 3

Councillor Peter Butlin summarised the published report. Regarding the A46 junction project (Stanks Island) Councillor Butlin assured Cabinet that funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership and Highways England was secure.

The meeting was informed that delaying commencement of works on Stanks Island had potentially resulted in savings as a fresh tendering round had attracted more bidders and consequently greater competition for the contract. This could lead to a saving of £300k. In addition there appeared little logic in commencing the project before the Christmas holiday.

Regarding the A47 Hinckley Road scheme Councillor Keith Kondakor, whilst welcoming the removal of the disused railway bridge, expressed reservations over the short timescale and the lack of consultation on the project. In addition he considered that more consideration is required regarding cycleway provision at the roundabout junction with Eastboro Way and along the A47.

Members asked that information will be provided on diversion routes for when the works are undertaken.

Councillor Richard Chattaway made four points.

- 1) If savings of £300k were to be realised as a result of the procurement process would it be necessary to allocate £1.1m or would £800k suffice?
- 2) The removal of the railway bridge is unlikely to happen early in 2019.
- 3) Some small grant allocations do not result in success.
- 4) If assurances around capital projects and the extent of expenditure on them cannot be given it may become necessary to call proposals in for closer scrutiny.

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety) noted that the small capital grant scheme had been successful in creating more jobs.

In response to issues raised Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) informed Cabinet that the railway bridge removal in Nuneaton had been delayed pending land transfer completion. Warning signage has been replaced concerning the height of the bridge. Councillor Clarke informed the meeting that £500k has been earmarked for cycleway provision as part of the A47 project and stressed that the plans appended to the report were indicative only. The scheme remained to be consulted on and cycleway proposals may well change.

In response to Councillor Chattaway's question regarding the amount required for Stanks Island Councillor Butlin emphasised that at this stage £1.1m is required. Any savings realised early on are likely to be placed in a contingency fund.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves a total allocation of £2.249m funding from the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) (i.e. a further addition of £1.100m) to complete the funding package for the A46 Stanks Island scheme, subject to confirmation from the CWLEP board that their contribution of £4.100m may be rescheduled to fit the updated project timescales;
- 2) Recommends that Council approve the allocation of £0.596m funding from the CIF to contribute towards the A47 Hinckley Road Corridor scheme and add the project to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £3.485m;
- 3) Approves the continuation of the Small Capital Grants Scheme for a further two years of operation with an allocation of £0.700m funding from the CIF; and

4) Agrees that funding allocated to all these projects will be reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding become available.

4. HS2 Phase 1, Road Safety Fund

Councillor Jeff Clarke summarised the published report.

Councillor Richard Chattaway questioned whether the amount being provided would be sufficient and requested that relevant members be given the opportunity to inform the process for the allocation of the funds.

It was noted that the fund covers capital and revenue projects. In the case of the latter this is in the form of road safety training.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the proposed financial management of the HS2 Phase 1, Road Safety Fund (RSF).

5. Use of Councillor Grants

Councillor Dave Reilly introduced the report.

The Councillor Grants Fund was commended by Councillor Judy Falp who thanked Cabinet and Council for its continuing support for it. Councillor Kondakor welcomed the cross-division nature of the benefits accrued from some of the schemes supported.

Councillor Alan Webb observed that the online application process can be a challenge for some groups. In response Councillor Reilly informed Cabinet that this was being addressed.

In response to a question from Councillor Richard Chattaway the Chair agreed that the report did not need to be considered by full council.

Resolved

That Cabinet notes the use of the Councillor Grants Fund for 2017-18.

6. Pride in Camp Hill, One Organisation Plan (OOP) Savings Proposal – Outcome of Public Consultation

Councillor Izzi Seccombe explained that the proposal before Cabinet had been developed following discussions with the Leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and served to extend support to Pride in Camp Hill for a further 12 months.

Councillor Corinne Davies (Local member for Camp Hill) addressed Cabinet explaining that work at Camp Hill had yet to be completed and that there remain a number of serious issues to be addressed. Councillor Davies emphasised the need

to retain a community development worker at Camp Hill to ensure that problems can be resolved and community cohesion maintained.

The view that there continue to be matters requiring attention at Camp Hill was echoed by other members.

Members agreed that the project had gone well and recognised the role of Councillor Davies in supporting the community.

Resolved

That Cabinet supports the revised plan for the implementation of the OOP savings (17-18) regarding Pride in Camp Hill (PinCH CG-TE-08).

7. Any Urgent Items

None

The meeting rose at 14.45

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Chair