

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet  
held on 11 July 2019**

**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 & Rescue and Community Safety     |
|             | Colin Hayfield    | Education and Learning                 |
|             | Kam Kaur          | Customer & Transformation              |
|             | Heather Timms     | Environment and Heritage & Culture     |

**Non-Voting Invitees:**

Councillor Richard Chattaway      Leader of the Labour Group

**Other Councillors:**

Councillors Helen Adkins, Judy Falp, John Holland, Clare Golby, Keith Kondakor, Bill Olnier, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford and Dominic Skinner

**Public attendance:**

None

**Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate 2019**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) welcomed Hannah Owens, the Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate, to the meeting. Hannah recited three of her poems after which members and officers expressed their appreciation and Councillor Seccombe wished Hannah best wishes for her future endeavours.

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)  
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)

Monica Fogarty (Chief Executive)

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

None

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

None

The Chair welcomed John Cole and Isabelle Moorhouse to the meeting. Both have recently joined the Democratic Services Team as Trainee Democratic Services Officers. The Chair also welcomed Councillor Dominic Skinner, who was attending in the absence of Councillor Jerry Roodhouse and Councillor Helen Adkins, who was present in support of Councillor Richard Chattaway.

### **2. Treasury Management Outturn 2018-19**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) introduced the report explaining that it provided an indication of where the County Council's money is kept and where it is invested in accordance with the CIPFA code. The report was commended for its clarity. Members' attention was drawn to the table on page 7 of 16 (Appendix A) which set out where the Council's money is kept. Appendix B on page 8 was highlighted; in particular, the high returns being delivered by the CCLA Property Fund and the Threadneedle Social Bond Fund. It was explained that whilst most deposits provide a return and the deposit value is static these two funds are of a nature where the deposit itself has a value which can rise and fall. This presents an opportunity for higher returns but with higher risk.

The factors that influence economic growth were highlighted in Appendix E and it was recognised that Warwickshire's economy continues to outperform many other areas.

Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) asked about the ethical nature of the County Council's external investments. In response the meeting was informed that wherever possible the ethical nature of investments is assured. However, it is the safety of the Council's investments which are paramount. It was agreed that a briefing note be circulated to all members on the ethical basis of the Council's investments. In addition, Councillor Seccombe invited the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider exploring this area.

#### **Resolved**

That Cabinet notes the Treasury Management outturn in respect of 2018-19.

### **3. Annual Governance Statement 2018-19**

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation) explained the purpose of the Annual Governance Statement adding that the draft document before Cabinet had been reviewed by the Council's Audit and Standards Committee and the External Auditor.

Councillor Keith Kondakor acknowledged reference on page 15 of the appendix to the relationship between the provision of education infrastructure and School Sufficiency Strategy projections. He did however consider that where major housing developments are being undertaken the provision of new schools is too slow. In response, Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) observed that it is always a challenge to forecast demand for school places. He was however confident that the officers involved in managing school places were doing a good job.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet endorses the Annual Governance Statement for 2018-19 prior to submission to Council for approval.

### **4. Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2019-20 and approval of the change of age range at Northlands Primary School, Rugby**

Following introductory comments by Councillor Colin Hayfield, Councillor Helen Adkins sought assurance that the removal of the maintained nursery class at Northlands Primary School in Rugby would not result in three year olds and in particular those with special education needs being unable to access nursery provision elsewhere. In response the meeting was informed that most nursery provision in Warwickshire is provided by the private sector. A high proportion of children attending private nurseries do have special education needs. Few responses had been made to the consultation on the change in age range. Councillor Hayfield offered to provide more detail of nursery provision to Councillor Adkins following the meeting.

Regarding Weddington Primary School (Section 3.1) Councillor Keith Kondakor stated that if the new school proposed for Weddington had been constructed sooner then the need for the additional classroom would not have arisen. Councillor Richard Chattaway expressed concern that demand modelling tools do not appear to have been used in forecasting where pressures for school places will arise.

Cabinet was reminded that a briefing has been scheduled for the 25 July regarding schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Members with schools in their divisions that are due to receive financial support for expansion welcomed the proposals as set out in the report.

## **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Agrees to change the age range of Northlands Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2019, as outlined in section 4 of the report;
- 2) Approves the addition of £1,676,811 to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in section 3 of the report; and
- 3) Authorises, subject to the approval of recommendation 2, the Strategic Director for Communities to tender and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, or (where the scheme is school-led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

### **5. Warwickshire County Council Fair Access Protocol for Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools**

Councillor Colin Hayfield explained that the Fair Access Protocol had been reviewed with more changes being made to the primary element than the secondary. Success of the protocol is dependent on schools (maintained and

academies) communicating and working closely together. Cabinet was reminded that the protocol covers children other than those who have been excluded.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees the new Warwickshire County Council Fair Access Protocol for Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools, as set out in Appendix B of the report.

## **6. Commissioning Intentions Performance Framework**

Following an introduction by Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet was informed that, in line with the principles of openness and transparency, performance dashboards and scorecards will be available for members and others to view as part of this new framework. The need to ensure that district and borough councils and the County Council work effectively to manage waste was noted.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agree to the introduction of the Commissioning Intentions Performance Framework from 1 October 2019 with reporting against the new set of Key Business Measures commencing for quarter 3.

## **7. Appointment of a Chief Transformation and Digital Officer**

Councillor Kam Kaur explained the rationale behind the proposed appointment as set out in the published report. In response to a question from Councillor Dominic Skinner the meeting was informed that independent advice regarding the salary being considered was provided by two executive search agencies.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Supports the creation of a Chief Transformation and Digital Officer post on a fixed term contract for a two-year period, on terms and conditions set out in paragraphs 2.2-2.6 of the report; and
- 2) Recommends the creation of the post to full Council for approval.

## **8. Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Scrutiny of Warwickshire Major Roads Network (MRN) – Proposed Scheme Programme and Priorities**

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) reminded members that the Major Roads Network had been discussed by Cabinet on 11 June.

In response to members' statements on the desirability of modal shift Cabinet was reminded that Warwickshire has seen a significant number of new railway stations built in recent years. The need to address air quality issues was recognised with mitigating measures such as tree planting being required.

Regarding timescales Mark Ryder (Strategic Director for Communities) observed that work is ongoing. He recognised that in accordance with recommendation 1 a piece of work will need to be completed. He agreed to inform Cabinet of an anticipated date for this to be completed.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Commissions a report that considers how the Major Road Network proposals fit into Warwickshire County Council's wider transport strategy, including how Major Road Network Projects will contribute towards meeting the goals of Warwickshire County Council's Local Transport Plan in particular to reduce climate change emissions and encourage modal shift; and
- 2) Publishes appropriate supporting evidence for each scheme as soon as possible and if necessary re-evaluate the prioritisation of the schemes and investigate alternatives.

## **9. Any Urgent Items**

None

## **10. 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)**

## **11. Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## **12. Commissioning of Short Breaks for Disabled Children**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe explained that the current contract had been reviewed and redesigned. All members acknowledged the need to get the contract right for the good of the children and their families.

Councillor Richard Chattaway expressed his concern that the report was being considered in closed session. How, he asked, could people engage in the debate over any service configuration? In response, Cabinet was reminded that the report under consideration covered financial matters. A considerable amount of work has already been carried out in public, discussing services with clients and their families and partner organisations.

## **Resolved**

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

### **13. Authorisation to Re-Tender Tracking and Supporting the Participation of 16-17 (up to 25 SEND) Year Olds into Education, Employment or Training**

Councillor Colin Hayfield summarised the published report.

## **Resolved**

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

### **14. Land at Higham Lane, Nuneaton**

Councillor Peter Butlin explained the basis of the report. Members asked a series of questions regarding the future of the land in question.

## **Resolved**

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

### **15. Land Acquisition in Nuneaton and Bedworth**

Councillor Colin Hayfield expressed his pleasure at being able to introduce this report. Members asked a series of questions regarding the site and the benefits that would accrue from acquiring it.

## **Resolved**

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

### **16. Tender for a Local Framework of Supported Accommodation Providers**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe set out the requirement for the new contract.

## **Resolved**

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

### **17. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service – Approach to Transformation**

Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) presented the details of the report. Members asked questions concerning future work with partners and training.

## **Resolved**

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

**18. A46 Stoneleigh Junction Improvements**

Councillor Jeff Clarke outlined progress with this project. Members acknowledged the challenges to be addressed. Councillor Peter Butlin reminded the meeting of why the project was deemed necessary. Road safety, economic growth and air quality being three of the reasons.

**Resolved**

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

**19. Old Shire Hall Operating Model Update**

After a brief introduction by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Councillor John Holland (Local Member) reminded Cabinet of the high quality of support available from within the County Council and elsewhere for those charged with delivery of the scheme.

**Resolved**

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

The meeting rose at 15.58.

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Chair