

## Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 May 2014

### Present

#### Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Transport & Planning
	Les Caborn	Community Safety
	Jeff Clarke	Corporate Business & Environment
	Alan Cockburn	Deputy Leader
	Jose Compton	Adult Social Care
	Colin Hayfield	Customers
	Bob Stevens	Health
	Heather Timms	Children & Schools

#### Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor June Tandy	Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

#### Other Councillors:

Councillors Chattaway, Chilvers, N.Davies, Hicks, Holland, Rolfe, StJohn, Whitehouse, Williams,

**Note – The business of this meeting was conducted in a different order to that set out in the agenda. These minutes reflect the order as set out in the agenda.**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Clare Marchant the newly appointed Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and Nigel Minns, Warwickshire County Council's Head of Learning and Achievement.

### 1. General

#### (1) Apologies for absence

None

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

None

#### (3) Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2014 and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

#### (4) Public Speaking

No requests had been made to speak.

## 2. Provision of Additional Primary and SEN School Places

This item was introduced by Councillor Heather Timms (Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools).

Regarding recommendation 4 of the published report concerns were expressed that Cabinet was apparently being asked to make a decision prior to the end of the consultation period. It was suggested that any decision concerning Budbrooke Primary School and Aylesford School and Sixth Form College be deferred pending the outcome of the review. In response Councillor Timms assured Cabinet that if the responses to the consultation were negative and the published proposals were found to be impractical or undesirable then they would not be pursued. If there is support for the proposal then the funds will be transferred. She noted that the consultation exercise had been extended taking account of the Easter holiday period and that the proposal to increase numbers at Aylesford and the consultation exercise itself were driven by the school (an academy). In the light of this Members requested that in future where an academy school is running a consultation in which responses should be sent to the County Council the relationship between the two bodies should be made clear.

Challenges facing pupil forecasting were highlighted it being noted that in 2014 there had been a 14% increase in the number of siblings unable to attend the same school. Support was expressed for the withdrawal of the proposal for the expansion of Milverton School but the need to monitor the impact of this on other schools in North Leamington was emphasised.

Concerning Paddox School in Rugby Cabinet was informed that information pertaining to the published proposals had not been noted in the report. It was suggested that three particular issues of concern would need to be resolved. These related to access and to funding. Regarding access Councillor Timms informed the meeting that further pedestrian access points would be provided. In terms of funding Cabinet was assured by the Portfolio Holder that this will be sufficient.

The need to ensure that local members be engaged in proposals such as those contained in the report was emphasised.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the publication of statutory notices to enlarge Long Lawford Primary School by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2015 admissions;
- 2) Approves the publication of statutory notices to enlarge Paddox Primary School by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2015 admissions;
- 3) Approves the publication of statutory notices to provide additional accommodation at Brooke Special School to cater for 30 additional children with special educational needs;

- 4) Subject to the outcome of consultation on 16 May 2014, and subsequent approval of the final business case by the Secretary of State, approves the transfer of capital funds originally allocated to support the expansion of Budbrooke Primary School to the proposal to provide primary school places at Aylesford School and Sixth Form College; and
- 5) Withdraws the proposals to increase the PAN of Milverton Primary School as the school does not support expansion and it has not been possible to show that there is an expected local demand for places.

### **3. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

Councillor Heather Timms introduced this item setting out the rationale behind the assessment. Whilst there was general agreement around the value and quality of the assessment some concern was expressed that the matter had not been subject to review by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that as the document is produced annually it should be included on the committee's work programme for 2015. The view was also expressed that whilst the document reflected the hard work undertaken by officers in producing it was "neutral" in that contains little about the County Council's beliefs in and commitment to this area of work. It was agreed that this would be addressed in the future.

#### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Gap Analysis and Action Plan for publication; and
- 2) Approve the priorities contained in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan.

### **4. Child Poverty: HM Government Consultation on the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017**

Councillor Heather Timms set out the background to this report.

Discussion focused on the use of the Pupil Premium as referenced in section 6 C of the draft response. The meeting agreed that it is important to ensure that Pupil Premium funds should not be absorbed in schools' general budgets but there was a sense that the funds could be used for increased contact time between pupils and teachers on a one to one basis.

Members requested that Phil Evans, Head of Localities and Community Safety be requested to amend the response to the consultation to reflect these views.

#### **Resolved**

That subject to the insertion of additional wording from the Head of Localities and Community Safety the draft response attached as Appendix 1 of the report be submitted to Central Government as the County Council's formal response to the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17.

## **5. Warwickshire All Age Autism Strategy (2014-2017) and Delivery Plan**

Following introductory remarks from Councillor Jose Compton (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care) members complimented officers on the quality of their work.

The need to acknowledge the scale of undiagnosed autism in adults was stressed as was the need to consider challenges around the management of transition from child to adult services.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the All-age Autism Strategy (2014-2017) and agree to implement the delivery plan attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report; and
- 2) Agree the recommendations from members of the Children & Young People and Adult Social Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees in section 6 of the report.

## **6. Review of Household Waste Recycling Centre Vehicle Restriction Policy**

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Corporate Business and Environment) explained the background to this report. In response to a question regarding disabled motorists (2.3 in para 2.2 of the report) it was agreed by officers that there was no need for them to have vouchers and that a permit system would suffice. Cabinet therefore agreed that paragraph 2.3 of the current "Vehicle Restriction Policy – May 2010" should remain and not be amended.

The meeting was assured by the Portfolio Holder that efforts are being made to publicise the Vehicle Restriction Policy and that operators and partners had been consulted on and notified of the proposed changes.

In response to questions regarding evasion of the policy the meeting was informed of initiatives to support traders and small businesses thus helping reduce the need for evasion.

### **Resolved**

That paragraphs 2.1, 2.4 and 3.2 of the Vehicle Restriction Policy be revised as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report with the current annual permit scheme for small, car-derived vans being replaced with an entitlement to six vouchers for disposal of household waste in a permitted vehicle up to six times a year.

## **7. Project Arrow Interim Report – Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service and Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service**

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety) stressed the primary outcomes for the project as set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report. He also highlighted that given the potential impact of the project on service areas across Warwickshire County Council this was the third partner along with the two Fire and Rescue Services.

It was acknowledged that there are a number of significant differences between the two services concerned. Officers and members were thanked for their work on this project.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet notes the project approach and the progress that has been made to assess the benefits and options for closer working between Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS), Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service (HWFRS) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

## **8. Use of Insurance Claim Monies – Former Bath Place Community Centre, Bath Place, Leamington Spa**

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Customers) explained the background to the report. Discussion centred on the use of the insurance payment to support the Council's Property Rationalisation Programme (PRP). Concern was raised that payments such as this were being used to subsidise the PRP and it was suggested that members may wish to look at the PRP to be assured of its effectiveness. In response Cabinet was informed that the funds (subject of this report) would be used to pump-prime phase two of the PRP just as other funds had been used to pump-prime phase one.

The meeting discussed the possibility of retaining the funds for use in the Leamington area as they had resulted from the loss of a community resource in the town. However, given that county-wide funds had been put in to the building over many years it was felt that the resource should be used wherever in the County it as required. In addition Cabinet was informed that the money in question will be used to reduce the Council's debt thus freeing up resources that can be used for the delivery of services.

### **Resolved**

That Cabinet agrees that a virement of the net insurance settlement sum of £713,289.79 is made from the General Insurance Fund to the Physical Assets Reserve Service Savings Budget and earmarked for revenue expenditure costs relating to the Property Rationalisation Programme.

## **9. Any Other 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 Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)**

**11. Disposal of the former Bath Place Community Venture Building and No.2 Bath Place, Leamington Spa**

Councillor Colin Hayfield explained to the meeting that a considerable amount of time had been spent considering this matter and that it presented a difficult decision to make. He assured Cabinet that the process followed by the County Council had complied with legislative requirements.

The work and efforts of the Bath Place Community Venture (BPCV) were commended but following a lengthy debate that involved a number of elected members (including local councillors) Cabinet agreed to support a scheme proposed by another party.

**Resolved**

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

**12. Development of a New Special Educational Needs (SEN) School at Manor Park Site**

Councillor Heather Timms explained the background to Cabinet. Cabinet welcomed the progress being made towards the construction of the new SEN facility on the site of the former Manor Park School. The meeting spent some time discussing the merits of the two proposals before it. Cabinet concluded that the new school should be built on land north of Vernon's Lane.

**Resolved**

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

The meeting rose at 3.55pm

..... Chair