

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 27 June 2006

Present:

Councillor Chris Davis (Chair)

Councillors John Appleton, George Atkinson, Peter Barnes, Sarah Boad, David Booth, Ken Browne, John Burton, Les Caborn, Tom Cavanagh, Richard Chattaway, Alan Cockburn, Gordon Collett, Jose Compton, Jill Dill-Russell, Richard Dodd, Michael Doody, Alan Farnell, Anne Forwood, Peter Fowler, Eithne Goode, Richard Grant, Colin Hayfield, John Haynes, Marion Haywood, Martin Heatley, Bob Hicks, Richard Hobbs, Richard Hyde, Mick Jones, Katherine King, Nina Knapman, Joan Lea, Bryan Levy, Barry Longden, Helen McCarthy, Brian Moss, Tim Naylor, Mike Perry, John Ross, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Kam Singh, Mota Singh, Ian Smith, Mick Stanley, Bob Stevens, Ray Sweet .B.E.M., June Tandy, Sid Tooth, John Vereker, C.B.E., John Wells and John Whitehouse.

The Council stood in memory of Councillor Anita Macaulay who died on 11 May and David Addyman, Head of Strategic Support, Environment & Economy who died on 31 May.

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Pat Henry, Bernard Kirton, Frank McCarney, Raj Randev, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

District/borough memberships

The following councillors disclosed a personal interest as members of the district or borough council indicated.

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillors: Peter Fowler, Colin Hayfield, Joan Lea, Brian Moss, Mick Stanley, Ray Sweet and Sid Tooth.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor John Ross.

Rugby Borough Council

Councillors: Tom Cavanagh, Gordon Collett, Richard Dodd and Jerry Roodhouse.

Stratford on Avon District Council

Councillors: John Appleton, Peter Barnes, Richard Hobbs, Mike Perry, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe and Bob Stevens.

Warwick District Council

Councillors: Les Caborn, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Chris Davis, Michael Doody, Eithne Goode and Dave Shilton.

Other interests

Councillors Barry Longden, Richard Chattaway, Tim Naylor and June Tandy declared personal interests in item 2, Statement of Accounts and Statement of Internal Control, in relation to the Pensions Scheme.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chair referred members to a revised set of minutes circulated to them that morning (and placed on the Council website).

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2006 (as revised) be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Announcements

Anita Macaulay

The Council paid tribute to Councillor Anita Macaulay who had died suddenly on 11 May. Members referred to the energy and spirit Anita had portrayed since her election in 2005 and in particular the input she had made to the shaping of Children Services, her work on the dentistry review and the positive relationships she had built with councillors and officers.

Councillor Alan Farnell reminded the Council that there would be a coffee afternoon on 13 July in support of Anita's charity, the Jennifer Trust.

David Addyman, Head of Strategic Support, Environment & Economy

Members paid tribute to David Addyman who had died on 31 May following a long fight with leukaemia. David had joined the Council's Planning Department in July 1981 and had made major contributions throughout his career, including the development of the Research Unit as a Centre of Excellence, and would be greatly missed by Members and his colleagues.

National Public Procurement Awards

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet portfolio holder for Resources, presented a trophy in recognition of the County Procurement Unit having obtained the National Public Procurement Award in the category “ Greatest procurement contribution to the environmental, social and sustainability agenda.”

The Council congratulated Paul White and his team.

Poppy Support Awareness Campaign

The Chair announced that the launch of the Poppy Support Awareness Campaign had taken place at Shire Hall that morning and referred Members to the display in the ante-chamber.

Display of Work by People with Learning Disabilities

The Chair referred Members to the display in the ante chamber of work by people with learning disabilities.

Petitions

Councillor Richard Chattaway presented a petition to Councillor Richard Hobbs, Cabinet portfolio holder for Community Protection, opposing any proposals to close Bedworth Fire Station.

2. Statement of Accounts and Statement of Internal Control 2005/2006.

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet portfolio holder for Resources, presented the Statement of Accounts and Statement of Internal Control for 2005/2006 which had been considered by both the Audit and Standards Committee and Cabinet in June. Following questions on aspects of the Statement, Councillor Alan Cockburn proposed that the statements be approved, and was seconded by Councillor Bob Stevens.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council approves the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006.
- (2) That Council approves the Statement of Internal Control for 2005/2006.

3. Corporate Business Plan 2006-2009

Councillor Alan Farnell, Leader of the Council, presented the draft Corporate Business Plan for 2006-2009, and reminded Members that, although it had to be agreed by 30 June in order to meet the statutory deadline, it was a working

document and it was likely that targets would be monitored throughout the year and revisited if necessary.

The Council was reminded that a number of changes had been made following discussion at Cabinet on 15 June and forwarded by the Strategic Director of Performance and Development. (These related to changes at paragraphs 5.2,5.4,8.1, 8.2 and 10.1 and the 'financially' box in paragraph 3.0.)

- A** Councillor Alan Farnell proposed (and was seconded by Councillor Bob Stevens):

"That the County Council approves and adopts the draft Corporate Business Plan 2006-2009".

- B** Councillor Ken Browne proposed the following amendment (and was seconded by Councillor Sarah Boad):

" That the relevant overview and scrutiny committees be asked to consider the appropriateness and challenge of the targets and report back to Cabinet with any suggested improvements."

- C** Councillor Martin Heatley proposed the following amendment (and was seconded by Councillor Bob Stevens):

"That the first key target under Environment at paragraph 9.2 on page 16 read:

Key targets for WCC	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
" % reduction in tonnage of household waste per head sent to landfill"	5%	0%	2%

Councillor Alan Farnell accepted the amendments and a vote was taken on A,B and C together and was agreed, no one voting against.

Resolved:

- (1) That the County Council approves and adopts the draft Corporate Business Plan 2006-2009, subject to the amendments tabled and referred to above and at C.
- (2) That the relevant overview and scrutiny committees be asked to consider the appropriateness and challenge of the targets and report back to Cabinet with any suggested improvements.

4. Question Time (Standing Order 7).

Councillor Tim Naylor asked the following question of Councillor John Burton, Cabinet portfolio holder for Schools:

“ What criteria are used to determine Inter Cultural Support Services (ICSS) allocation to schools and when were those criteria were last reviewed?”

Councillor John Burton replied:

“ Thank you for this question. It is extremely important. There have been very significant reductions in the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant by the government, a cut of some £250,000 in each of the next three years.

That grant is based on the annual census of pupils in schools. Much of the grant is used to fund staff in schools to support the needs of ethnic minorities, and in particular the language needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language. Those staff are allocated by the management of ICSS by reference to a formula based on language assessments carried out with school staff by ICSS staff.

The reduction in government grant has inevitably led to a refocusing of the work of ICSS and prompted a review of the way ICSS currently works to introduce news of working and to respond to the changing needs of the communities in Warwickshire and, in particular, new arrivals from countries in the European Union. It is important to note that most of the large ethnic minority populations in Warwickshire out perform the white majority.

As part of this process it has been agreed that the work of centrally managed staff, funded by the County Council will focus on intercultural work, promoting racial equality and celebrating racial diversity, providing support to new arrivals and work in the early years. All the EMAG grant will be devolved to schools so that they can deploy resources to best meet the needs of their pupils. A new formula for allocating resources to schools will be developed in order to target those schools with significant numbers of children in need of support, children with language needs and in particular new arrivals, but also children from Afro-Caribbean backgrounds who underachieve. It was not possible to develop that formula in time for the financial year 2006-07 and it will be introduced with effect from the next financial year 2007-08. In the meantime the management of ICSS is seeking to manage the transitional year in negotiations with individual schools. If members are aware of issues in particular schools then please contact Mark Gore, Head of Service, Education Partnerships and School Development or James Shera, the Director of ICSS.”

There were no further items of business

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

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Chair