

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council
held on 13 December 2016**

Present:
Councillor Bob Hicks (Chair)

Councillors: John Appleton, John Beaumont, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Jonathan Chilvers, Chris Clark, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Jose Compton, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Richard Dodd, Peter Fowler, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Mike Gittus, Brian Hawkes, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Julie Jackson, Philip Johnson, Kam Kaur, Danny Kendall, Bernard Kirton, Keith Kondakor, Joan Lea, Keith Lloyd, Jeff Morgan, Phillip Morris-Jones, Peter Morson, Brian Moss, Maggie O'Rourke, Bill Olnor, Dave Parsons, Mike Perry, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Chris Saint, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Jenny St. John, Bob Stevens, June Tandy, Heather Timms, Angela Warner, Alan Webb, Mary Webb, Matt Western, John Whitehouse and Chris Williams.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Richard Chattaway and Sara Doughty

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

Item 4 – Coventry and Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Councillor Richard Dodd declared a non-pecuniary interest as an employee of West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor Clive Rickhards declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Council appointee to the Council of Governors of South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust and left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Angela Warner declared a pecuniary interest as a non- executive director of South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust and left the meeting for this item..

Councillor Les Caborn declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Council appointee to the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Dave Shilton declared a non pecuniary interest as a Council appointee to the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

(4) Chair's Announcements

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services Presentation – 5 October

The Chair referred to his attendance at the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which this year had been awarded to Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association who had shown exceptional service to the community beyond the normal activities of Neighbourhood Watch.

Queen's Award for Enterprise Presentation - 20 October

The Chair announced that this year's Queen's Award for Enterprise had been given to the JMB Partnership, a sales and marketing company in Wellesbourne which was a small partnership that had achieved the award for their of outstanding contribution to international trade.

Warwickshire County Council Long Service Awards - 24 November

The Chair attended the long service awards celebration held on 24 November where appreciation had been shown to over 40 members of staff who had served the Council for 25 years or over. The awards ceremony had been hosted by the retired athlete, Roger Black, MBE.

Remembrance Services

The Chair expressed his gratitude for the continuing support for the many Remembrance Services he had attended around the County.

George Eliot – Quote for the meeting

The Chair reminded the meeting that there would be a presentation from members of the Warwickshire Youth Parliament at 12 noon and offered the Council the following words from George Eliot:

'The young ones always have a claim on the old to help them forward.'

(5) Petitions

None

(6) Public Speaking

Two members of the public indicated that they wished to speak. The Chair allowed the speakers on this occasion although notice had not been given in accordance with the Council's Public Speaking Scheme.

Mr Michael Curry

Mr Curry spoke on behalf of family carers expressing his concern at the requirement for carers to pay for respite care and seeking a change to the arrangements.

Mr Richard Smith

Mr Smith referred to the recent failed application for judicial review against the County Council's decision to approve an emergency stopping place for gypsies and travellers at Oldbury. Mr Smith stated that the site was prone to flooding and was unsuitable. Mr Smith left photographs of the site and urged members to reconsider their decision.

2. Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan

Councillor John Horner, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, proposed that the Council approve the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan which reported on the priorities for 2016-17 and performance against the 2015-16 national indicators. Councillor Wallace Redford seconded the proposal.

Councillor Horner congratulated the Youth Justice Service for its continued high performance and for again achieving outstanding results against the national objectives set by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The Service was also commended for delivering improved outcomes for communities through its work with families as part of the Troubled Families initiative. Councillor Horner added that the Plan had now been formally signed off by all partners, including the Police.

Councillor Philip Johnson, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the successes outlined in the report and highlighted the importance of continuing to fund the service to ensure the excellent work continues. Councillor John Whitehouse questioned the decision taken by some partners to reduce investment in the service and Councillor Horner gave his assurance that he would try harder to persuade others of the great value of the service. Councillor Philip Morris-Jones highlighted the importance of providing progression into permanent work for offenders and members were assured that this was an area of focus for the Service and that the Service also has an apprentice scheme.

The proposal to approve the plan was put to the vote and was supported unanimously.

Resolved

That Council adopts the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2016-17 as appended to the report.

3. Health & Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2015-16

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, presented the Health and Wellbeing Board's Annual Review for approval and was seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe.

Councillor Caborn reminded members that this was the first annual report since the restructure of the Board which he considered was working well and he commended the input of partners, in particular the district and borough councils, whom he recognised as vital for the Board to meet its priorities. Councillor Caborn also commended the work that was taking place with Coventry City Council and their Health and Wellbeing Board as well as highlighting the progress that had been made including the development of the MASH, the success of the Priority Families Programme and the Suicide Prevention Strategy that had been launched recently and had received national acclaim. Councillor Caborn added that the focus must be on prevention and keeping people as healthy as possible (through the Fitter Futures strategy) as well as ensuring appropriate end of life care.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, emphasised that the success of the Board relies on the partners that make up the board and expressed appreciation to the input of partners, especially that of the district and borough council representatives and in particular their work in housing which is vital to the health and wellbeing of citizens. Councillor Seccombe also thanked Public Health for their work and commended the focus on education and support for people through programmes (such as the Healthy Weight programme) as a way of helping people to have better futures and reduce their need for health care. Councillor Seccombe also highlighted the importance of the role of pharmacists in improving health of citizens.

During the debate members commended the document for both its content and accessibility and also commented on the following:

- The Annual Review is well written and accessible.
- The importance of support for schools in encouraging healthy choices and reducing teenage pregnancy (which although had declined overall had increased in some areas).
- Life expectancy was increasing but is no longer improving.
- The commitment in the Armed Forces Covenant to support the health and wellbeing of service personnel, in particular their mental health needs.
- The impact on health of poor air quality and work being undertaken to mitigate the impact.
- The benefit of obtaining feedback from users and to scrutinising the outcomes from the work of the Board.

Councillor Caborn assured Council that these areas were included and also welcomed the input of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in monitoring the effectiveness of the Board.

The proposal to endorse the annual review was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That Council endorses the Health & Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2015-16.

4. **Coventry & Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)**

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of NHS South Warwickshire Foundation Trust and left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Angela Warner declared a pecuniary interest as a non- executive director of NHS South Warwickshire Foundation Trust and left the meeting for this item.

- A** Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, advised Council that on 8 December Cabinet had considered the Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) produced by the NHS and agreed to not support the document as it had been published without input from Warwickshire County Council (although it used the Council's logo); was not transparent and did not reflect the preventative agenda or priorities of partners. Councillor Caborn stressed that the health of Warwickshire is the business of all partners and all need to work together as one. The expectation was this would be reflected in the STP and it was a great disappointment that the STP had been produced in this manner with a focus on the NHS and structure and did not reflect the preventative agenda or priorities that have been the focus of the Council and partners. Councillor Caborn added that he wished to see an STP that deals with transformation, in a transparent and open way, and that collectively delivers the best health outcomes for the people of Warwickshire which must include a focus on the preventative agenda.

Councillor Caborn, moved the following motion and in doing so accepted the amendment (point 4 below) from Councillors Keith Kondakor and Jonathan Chilvers:

'That Council:

1. Agrees that it will not sign up to the Coventry and Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) which was published on 6th December until:
 - a) There has been full public engagement
 - b) It has been co-produced along with the Health and Wellbeing Boards of both Warwickshire CC and Coventry CC
 - c) It is rewritten in language which is accessible to the public
2. Expects that the STP in its next stage moves to a transformational level and that an independent chair is appointed to ensure the necessary challenge.
3. Expects that the original intent of the STP around the integration of the health and social care systems is progressed in a way which recognises the crucial role played by social care.
4. Expects that the STP workstreams will recognise local and easy access to services by the whole population of Warwickshire and Coventry as a fundamental principle.'

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, seconded the motion at this point but spoke later in the debate when she advised the Council that she had not been involved in the production of the STP and that the principles set out in the concordat agreed with all partners had not been followed, even though the concordat was referred to in the STP. Councillor Seccombe added that she was very disappointed that from a very positive early start in April 2016 on integration on the Coventry and Warwickshire footprint, the STP now published by the NHS presented a move backward.

Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, expressed her Group's concerns that 'transformation' meant cuts to local NHS services and that there was strong opposition amongst residents of Warwickshire to the redesign or removal of services from local hospitals. Councillor Tandy added that whilst there was much to support in the Conservative Group motion, she was concerned that a review of this must come back to full Council.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, in reference to his amendment that had been accepted by Councillor Caborn (set out at (4) above) explained that residents want to have accessible services that are local and that, if prevention of ill health is to be the focus, which it is for the County Council, primary services (such as GPs, pharmacists, mental health services) need to be integrated in communities.

The Chair invited Councillor Matt Western to move the motion under notice (item 6 on the agenda) at this point.

B Councillor Matt Western moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor John Holland:

'Council believes that the approach used to develop the Sustainability and Transformation Plan has been opaque and veiled in secrecy. Given how critical this Plan is to the future provision of Health Services and the future of our local hospitals in Warwickshire, Council urgently requests that more time is allowed for full and proper public consultation and seeks assurances that all plans for the future of the NHS are developed openly and with full involvement of the users of the service.'

Councillor Matt Western expressed concern that the STP reflected an acceptance of Government cuts to the funding of the NHS and Social Care and the shift of funding for health and social care away from central government to local government. Councillor Western considered it particularly unfair that local government is being expected to raise council tax to meet the increasing costs of what should be a national service funded by government. Councillor Western added his concern that the STP had been produced without having been seen by the Leader of the Council, without member input and was written in a manner that was confusing and opaque with intimations of service cuts but no evidence or specific plans. It had also been produced very late and should have been in the public domain much earlier.

DEBATE

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, expressed concern that the production of the STP had been a 'top-down' process, in private,

with no involvement of elected councillors or the public and that it was about cuts, and that although the plan is vague, the appendices indicate that much of the work is already underway. Councillor Roodhouse added that the document is flawed with too much focus on acute services and that it should not be led by the Chief Executive of the UHCW but by someone who is independent.

Councillor Roodhouse suggested that the County Council should also set up a cross party scrutiny group of members to look at the STP (and that it meet quickly and report back to full Council).

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, expressed concern that the STP is based on 'predict and cut' without the evidence to support cuts and that instead the approach should be to retain successful services, such as maternity services (which serve both Nuneaton and areas of Leicestershire) and to retain locally accessible services rather than an assumption of cutting or moving services to Coventry. Councillor Kondakor added that the starting point should be on health and care and what is needed to make people healthier rather than starting from closing hospital services.

DEBATE

The following points were made by other members during the debate:

- Funding for the NHS should be from central government, not local councils.
- It is inappropriate for the STP to be led by the Chief Executive of UHCW
- There continues to be increasing pressures in NHS which needs to be addressed nationally with public consultation.
- The focus on acute services is unhelpful and needs to be an STP that covers the whole of Warwickshire and Coventry.
- There is a lack of partnership input and the document has not had input from this Council.
- The NHS approach is 'top down' rather than 'bottom up.'
- The language in the STP is impenetrable.
- There has been no public involvement.
- Local MPs should be made aware of the concerns expressed by this Council
- Although there has been press coverage saying there will be service closures, this is not evidenced in the STP, and the Council should await a properly produced and clear document.

The Council adjourned at 11.25 am and reconvened at 11.45 am.

C Councillor Les Caborn moved the following revised motion and was seconded by Councillor Matt Western:

- (1) That the Council believes that the approach used to develop the Coventry & Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) has been opaque and veiled in secrecy. Given how critical this Plan is to the future provision of Health and Social Care Services and the future of our local hospitals in Warwickshire, the Council urgently requests that more time is allowed for full and proper public consultation and seeks assurances that all plans for the

future of the NHS are developed openly and with full involvement of the users of the service.

- (2) That, consequently, the Council
- (i) Agrees that it will not consider signing up to the Coventry and Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan published on 6th December until:
 - a) There has been full public engagement
 - b) It has been co-produced along with the Health and Wellbeing Boards of both Warwickshire CC and Coventry CC
 - c) It is rewritten in language which is accessible to the public
 - (ii) Expects that the STP in its next stage moves to a transformational level and that an independent chair is appointed to ensure the necessary challenge.
 - (iii) Expects that the original intent of the STP around the integration of the health and social care systems is progressed in a way which recognises the crucial role played by social care.
 - (iv) Expects that the STP workstreams will recognise local and easy access to services by the whole population of Warwickshire and Coventry as a fundamental principle.
 - (v) Establishes a cross party scrutiny group to consider the STP.'

Councillor Matt Western, in seconding the revised motion, added that the STP showed no evidence of the need to change, there were no clear priorities of options to consider and there is now an urgency to review this and see what options are available.

Councillor Les Caborn welcomed the establishment of a working group and to bring a report back to Council.

The motion at C was put to the vote and was AGREED unanimously.

The Council adjourned at 12.05 pm and reconvened at 2.25 pm.

5. Decisions Taken Under the Urgency Procedure

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, proposed that Council note the report of those decisions taken under the urgency procedure since the last report to Council, and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin.

Resolved

That Council note the report.

6. Motions to Council

(1) Sustainability and Transformation Plan

This was taken with item 4 above

(2) Bus Services

Councillor Philip Johnson, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Chris Clark:

‘This council notes:

1. That the Bus Services Bill currently passing through Parliament includes Clause 21 that will effectively “prohibit a local authority from forming a company for the purposes of providing a local bus service”;
2. That the Localism Act (2011) provides general powers of competence to local authorities;
3. That municipal bus companies provide some of the best bus services in the country and have a successful track record of increasing bus passenger numbers and providing high quality bus services; and
4. That the House of Lords voted by a majority to remove Clause 21 from the Bus Services Bill.

Therefore this council believes that:

1. Clause 21 contradicts the spirit of the Localism Act 2011;
2. If there is a need and a demand from their public, Councils should be able to provide their own bus services if they wish to do so; and
3. Consequently Clause 21 should be omitted from the Bus Services Bill.

This council resolves:

1. To write to Lord Ahmad to call on the Department for Transport to omit Clause 21 from the final legislation; and
2. To write to Warwickshire MPs to ask them to oppose clause 21 when the Bus Services Bill reaches the House of Commons and ask them to write to Lord Ahmad and the Department of Transport to raise concerns about Clause 21.’

Councillor Philip Johnson explained that he had brought this motion as bus deregulation has not been effective outside of metropolitan areas and private bus service provision in Warwickshire is patchy as the companies’ primary duty is to their shareholders and with a few exceptions (such as the provision of new routes to industrial areas) the most common news is of routes being withdrawn or having their frequency reduced. Councillor Johnson added that many journeys took too long by bus, for example from Nuneaton to Warwick involved three different buses and at best would take 2.5 hours. The consequence of this is wide ranging with many people in the north of the County being unable to

access employment opportunities which is not helping economic growth in the County and many in rural areas not being able to access local services, including shops and health services. Councillor Johnson added that it was also difficult for the County Council to meet its air quality objectives through modal shift from car use to buses as the bus services do not exist. In addition the Council does not have leverage over bus companies to insist on electric or hydrogen fuelled vehicles.

Councillor Johnson appreciated that removal of the clause from the Bill would not result in the County Council providing bus services immediately but would provide future opportunities to support the Council's economic objectives through providing new public transport routes and of providing choice of access to services and tackling social isolation in rural communities.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, expressed his support for the motion and recognised that removal of the clause would maintain flexibility for local authorities to provide buses in certain areas where the private sector is not able or does not wish to provide the service.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, suggested that the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP should be working harder on this (along with the West Midlands Combined Authority) to ensure effective transport networks.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, Leader of the Green Group, supported the motion as Clause 21 would prevent local authorities from filling gaps in service. Councillor Kondakor added that there are some positive proposals in the Bill, including publication of fares, but Clause 21 is negative and should be removed.

Councillor Chris Clark, in seconding the motion, cited a situation of a resident who had to stay in a hotel overnight in order to attend a hospital appointment as there was no appropriate bus service. Removing Clause 21 would provide local authorities with the option of providing a service to address such gaps if they considered it appropriate.

The motion was put to the vote and was AGREED unanimously as set out above.

(3) Funding of Adult Social Care

Councillor Alan Webb, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Corinne Davies:

'This Council welcomes the response by Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Chair of the LGA Health and Wellbeing Board, to the government's recent Autumn Statement, that:

"Councils, care providers, charities and the NHS all called on the Government to use the Autumn Statement to properly fund adult social care.

The Government's failure to act means social care remains in crisis, councils and the NHS continue to be pushed to the financial brink and face the prospect of more care providers leaving the publicly-funded market or ceasing trading.....

We have estimated that social care for the elderly and disabled faces a funding gap of at least £2.6 billion. Extra council tax-raising powers will not bring in enough money to alleviate the pressure on social care.....”

This council believes therefore that the elderly and vulnerable residents of Warwickshire have been let down, services are now at breaking point, and that the older generation who have contributed over many years are now being put at risk .

Therefore, this council resolves:

1. To write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to call on him to reconsider the funding of adult social care; and
2. To write to Warwickshire MPs to ask them to lobby the Chancellor and raise this issue in the House of Commons on behalf of the residents of Warwickshire.’

Councillor Alan Webb explained that he brought this motion at this time as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not indicated additional funding of adult social care in his Autumn Statement but was to review the Local Government Financial Settlement in a few days so it was urgent that the County Council urges the government to address the crisis in social care. Councillor Corinne Davies, in seconding the motion later in the debate, expressed her deep concern that the crisis will get worse if this is not addressed.

Councillor Bill Olnier raised concern in relation to his sister who was discharged from hospital and received inadequate care at home and that the quality of care must be ensured. Councillor Jose Compton, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, expressed her regret that the service had been found wanting and advised that the domiciliary care contract is subject to contract monitoring and there is facility for redress. Councillor Compton added that the new domiciliary care service based on 8 zones in the County was now in place and will provide improvements to access to services. It is also hoped that by January people will receive care packages within 72 hours of discharge from hospital. Councillor Compton gave her assurance that the very best is being done to look after those who need care but agreed that national government should be providing the extra funding and not putting the cost onto local authorities.

DEBATE

The following points were also raised in debate:

- Funding of social care should not be subject to a post code lottery – which is what will happen if local authorities are to fund this through council tax due to the different council tax bases across the country. The result will be that the most deprived communities will not have adequate funding.
- The proposal in the STP to release people earlier from hospital will put

extra pressure on those providing care at home which is already under pressure.

- The Council has retained financial support for adult social care (£135m a year) and striven to make positive improvements.
- There is increasing daily stress in hospital with pressure for beds and inadequate levels of staffing.
- Council tax is increasing each year but delivering less service each year.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, advised the meeting that both the Deputy Leader and herself had met MPs and also with Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to discuss this crisis. Councillor Seccombe added that although the 2% precept for social care had been welcomed in 2016, as it raised £4.5m, the increase in national living wage alone had cost £5m, so the precept was inadequate and reliance on council tax to fund social care will only increase the differentials between councils over time. The Council was reminded that there had already been a 40% reduction in council grants, whilst the challenges of an ageing population and increased need for mental health and other services were putting a huge strain on local authorities. Councillor Izzi Seccombe gave her assurance that Warwickshire County Council is doing well in meeting the challenges and would continue to do all it can to provide quality services but the pressure is increasing and she would continue to fight for adequate funding.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, paid tribute to the work that had been done to improve services in Warwickshire and supported the plea for increased funding but recognised there will never be enough funding for health and social care whilst there is a continued level of demographic change. Councillor Roodhouse proposed, however, that not all change requires extra funding and ensuring staff provide dignity in care costs little but makes a huge difference. He added that councillors have a duty to ensure there is dignity in care and to challenge and expose failures. Councillor Roodhouse agreed that it is wrong to use council tax to fund social care and that there should now be a national debate about health and social care to resolve the crisis and suggested a cross party campaign to put pressure on government.

Councillor Alan Webb, in responding to the debate, reminded members that government had provided Warwickshire £38m as a one off payment to help the transition from acute hospital care into social care. This is more expensive than other forms of social care but is an approach that has been accepted as part of the integration of health and social care. Councillor Webb stressed, however, that the funding was failing to provide the appropriate level of care for those coming out of hospital as highlighted by members' personal experiences voiced at this meeting. Councillor Webb added that the NHS responsibility should continue until a person no longer requires acute care.

The motion was put to the vote and was AGREED unanimously.

7. Member Question Time

7.1 Questions on Notice (Standing Order 7.2)

(1) Recycling Plant, Bodymoor Green Farm, Kingsbury

Councillor Brian Moss asked the following question of Councillor Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning and Deputy Leader:

‘Some years ago there was an application for an aggregate recycling plant at Bodymoor Green Farm in Kingsbury Division. It was refused. The applicant went to appeal and lost. Subsequently a modified application was submitted which was also refused. The applicant again went to appeal and again lost. The operation continues to this day.

What are our enforcement officers doing about the matter? Is there any danger that the applicant could apply his permission by default if we do not take action soon?’

Councillor Peter Butlin replied as follows:

‘Bodymoor Green Farm is located in the North Warwickshire Green Belt and is now in partially commercial use. The site in question is a small section of land surrounded by tall earth bunds. In 2008 we dealt with planning applications seeking consent to use this land for waste processing. They were refused and went to appeal. We won the appeal. In 1993 North Warwickshire Borough Council served an enforcement notice requiring the use of this land as a haulage yard to cease. That also went to appeal and was won by the local authority. The haulage use has ceased and recommenced over time but the last time we looked at it in May this year there was no waste use and the site was little used.

If this site is again being used as a haulage yard it will be for North Warwickshire to enforce. We will visit the site to see what the current situation is and advise Cllr Moss accordingly.’

(2) Barrack Street Offices, Warwick

Councillor John Holland asked the following question of Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property:

‘What plans does the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Property have for our Barrack Street building for the next five years, offices and car park?’

Councillor Alan Cockburn replied that proposals for vacating Barrack Street block have been included in the proposed One Organisation Plan 2020, as a contribution to the council’s savings plan, which is subject to approval and adoption by the Council in February. Should the proposal be retained in the Plan, then local members will be consulted on the implications.

Councillor John Holland referred to the grant of a lease of space in Barrack Street to the tenant of 1 Northgate Street and to the fact that Warwick District Council had been told there is no empty space. Councillor Holland asked whether, given the confusion and requirement in the Council's constitution to consult local members, the portfolio holder meet to discuss this.

Councillor Alan Cockburn replied that he would be happy to discuss this with local members if the proposal is agreed in the budget debate in February.

(3) Coventry & Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Councillor Kate Rolfe withdrew her question regarding the Leader's involvement in and support of the STP as the Leader had answered these points during the debate on the STP (see minute 4 above)

(4) Energy Policy

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked the following question (on behalf of Richard Chattaway who was unable to attend) of Councillor Philip Johnson, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

'Please can the Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee update the Council on progress made with the recommendations of the Energy Task and Finish Group that were approved by Cabinet in 2015'?

Councillor Philip Johnson replied that officers are looking at options for the installation of solar panels on County Council property when funding opportunities are available and are also preparing a proposal for a Warwickshire energy company which will allow residents to choose a supplier with a competitive and transparent tariff rate. This is based on the experience of Robin Hood Energy in Nottingham which has proved very successful. It is also hoped that it will eliminate fuel tariff discrimination against prepayment meter clients which will help to reduce fuel poverty in Warwickshire. This will be an exciting proposal once finalised.

(5) Road Safety

Councillor Brian Hawkes asked the following question (on behalf of Councillor Chattaway) of Councillor John Horner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety:

'The Portfolio Holder will know that the issue of road safety for children in the Sutherland Drive area of Bedworth has been raised many times at this full council and I welcome the news that he has visited the site. Will the Portfolio Holder please update us on what actions will be taken as a result and when the road will be made safer for the children of Bedworth?'

Councillor John Horner replied that it had been Councillor Butlin who visited the site to look at the safety issues of the scheme. The road safety audit has been undertaken and the design is being refined.

Councillor Philip Johnson stated that one of the reasons for the problems on Sutherland Drive is that it is used as a 'rat run' to avoid the Griff Island and

asked whether there is any progress on proposals to alleviate traffic at the Gypsy Lane/ Coventry Road junction close to the Griff Island.

Councillor John Horner agreed to find out and get back to Councillor Johnson.

(6) Sheltered Housing Consultation

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the following question of Councillor Jose Compton, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care:

‘Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are currently conducting a very low key consultation on cuts of over a million pound a year to their sheltered housing provision. The very sheltered housing complexes are currently keeping some people from needing full time formal County Council social care. Around £780,000 of these cuts are a result of the County Council cutting its supporting people funding which had been helping the Borough Council.

What response is the County Council making to this consultation and what help will the county give to those residents who will need more support than will be available from the more limited borough sheltered housing service?’

Councillor Jose Compton replied that contributory funding paid by the County Council to older people in sheltered and very sheltered accommodation and those receiving the community alarm service ended on 21st July 2016. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council decided to continue subsidising these services to allow them to consider further what services should be provided in future. The consultation currently being conducted by Nuneaton and Bedworth with its tenants is secondary to the consultation exercise undertaken by this council in 2014 which concluded at the Cabinet in October 2015. Nuneaton’s consultation is a result of the reduction in funding from the County and potentially other changes in national funding that require vision and change in approach. This is a consultation between the Borough Council and their tenants and the County Council has rightly not been invited to respond to the consultation and it would not be appropriate for it to seek to do so. The County Council as the commissioner of social care services is responsible to ensure that those assessed under the Social Care Act receive care in accordance with individual needs. Officers of the County and Borough Councils are accordingly working together to identify those who may now require a care service for the first time or whose existing care package may need alteration. The County Council will then ensure that those who have been assessed will receive the care service to which they are entitled. In addition officers are working to ensure that tenants are aware of any other services that may be of assistance. The new Housing Related Support Service provided by P3 for those aged 25 and above can provide a degree of short term support for those eligible older people. This is targeted to compliment the support not duplicate the support by landlords.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether the County Council knew how many people in very sheltered accommodation who will need extra care. Councillor Jose Compton replied that they will be assessed and helped accordingly.

(7) Bermuda Station Signage

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked the following question of Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio holder for Transport and Planning:

'On the 22nd of March I asked whether you would ensure there is signage for cycling and pedestrians from the obvious places, such as the Coventry Road.

You replied that you would and added that you were "aware that there is still further signage to be installed."

It seems that no signage for cycling and pedestrians for the railway station is in place. The signs on footpaths at the Griff Roundabout direct people to the Bermuda Park industrial estate in the opposite direction. When is this going to be sorted?'

Councillor Peter Butlin replied that in December 2015 a number of pedestrian/cycle signs were installed as part of the Bermuda Park station scheme to assist with sustainable travel to & from the site. The signs were agreed between the NUCKLE 1.1 project team and WCC's Transport Planning officers and installed in accordance with the a schedule that could be shared with Councillor Kondakor.

In September 2016 it was agreed that a number of additional signs would be installed to direct pedestrians to the station from the B4113 Coventry Road (i.e. those living in the Hilltop area of Nuneaton). These signs have been incorporated into the signage proposals for the forthcoming Bermuda Connect project. Given that the overall signing strategy in the area will be refreshed as part of Bermuda Connect we are not planning to install any more signs until this work is complete. This will ensure that signing is consistent and will avoid any abortive costs.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether the business case indicated that there is not a need for a car park as only one car a day is using the station.

Councillor Peter Butlin replied that the second phase of the scheme will increase the rail service from a one hourly to a half-hourly service and the projections were on that basis and the use of the station will increase.

7.2 Questions without Notice to Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holders (Standing Orders 7.7 and 7.8)

Air Quality Monitoring

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to a decision by Nuneaton and Borough Council to discontinue an automatic air quality monitoring machine in Nuneaton and asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder, for Health, whether he could persuade the Borough Council of the importance of retaining air monitoring. Councillor Les Caborn replied that this was a matter for the Borough Council. The County Council does offer advice on air quality to all borough and district councils.

Social Care Personal Budgets

Councillor John Whitehouse referred to a couple in Kenilworth who had experienced a lack of advice and support for them when they had difficulties in managing their personal care budgets. Councillor Whitehouse asked Councillor Jose Compton, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, whether she would look into the case and whether she could give assurance that these problems are not usual in Warwickshire.

Councillor Jose Compton thanked Councillor Whitehouse for raising this issue and advised that help is being offered to the family. Councillor Compton added that it is a complicated system which is why there is advice available through the Rowan Organisation but she appreciated that the personal budgets system needed to work if more people are to be encouraged to take up personal budgets. Councillor Compton assured the Council that a review is planned for the New Year to see what improvements can be made.

8. Any other items of urgent business

None

9. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the item 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.

10. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016

Resolved

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

11. Staffing Arrangements

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, presented proposals for interim management arrangements following the retirement of the Chief Executive and until alternative arrangements are put in place which will be following the County Council elections. Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, seconded the proposals.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously as set out below.

Resolved

(1) That upon the retirement of the Chief Executive, and until such time as alternative arrangements are put in place, the Council;

- (i) Appoints the Strategic Director for Resources and the Strategic Director for Communities as Joint Managing Directors of the Council with the split of responsibilities as set out in the report;
 - (ii) Authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to discharge all the delegated non-executive decisions of the Strategic Director for Resources as set out in Part 2 of the Constitution with the exception of the role of the Monitoring Officer;
 - (iii) Authorises the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to discharge all the delegated non-executive decisions of the Strategic Director for Communities as set out in Part 2 of the Constitution;
 - (iv) Appoints the Joint Managing Director (Resources) as the Council's Head of Paid Service and authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to discharge all the delegated non-executive decisions of the Chief Executive as set out in Part 2 of the Constitution; and
 - (v) Appoints on an interim basis the Head of Law and Governance as the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- (2) That the Council authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make any such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of these arrangements agreed by Council.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

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Chair