

Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 18 July 2017

Present:
Councillor Clive Rickhards (Chair)

Councillors Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Pete Gilbert, Dan Gissane, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Keith Lloyd, Jeff Morgan, Maggie O'Rourke, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Matt Western, Chris Williams and Pam Williams.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Judith Falp, Bill Olnier, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Howard Roberts and Andy Wright.

An apology for absence was also submitted on behalf of Sarah Boad who arrived during the afternoon sitting of the meeting.

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

Item 12 (1) Children's Centres Consultation

Councillor Caroline Phillips declared an interest as Chair of Governors of Stockingford Early Years Centre.

Item 12 (2) Public Sector Pay

Councillor Andy Crump declared an interest as an employee of Warwick District Council and took no part in the discussion or voting on this motion.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke declared an interest as an employee of the NHS and took no part in the debate or voting on this motion.

Item 12 (4) Warwick District Council New Offices Proposal

Councillor Andy Crump declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of Warwick District Council and left the meeting during discussion and voting on this motion.

Councillors John Cooke, Bill Gifford and Dave Shilton declared interests as members of Warwick District Council but it was noted that they had dispensation in accordance with the decision of the Dispensations Sub-Committee.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2017 be approved as a correct record.

(4) Announcements

Councillor Izzi Seccombe – OBE

The Chair, on behalf of Council, congratulated Councillor Izzi Seccombe for her award of an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of her services to local government. The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Seccombe's energy, enthusiasm and commitment to local government and to Warwickshire in particular.

Councillor Matt Western

The Chair, on behalf of Council, congratulated Councillor Matt Western for his election as Member of Parliament for Warwick and Leamington.

Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the Local Safeguarding Board

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, reported that Ofsted had now published its report on the recent inspection of Warwickshire's Children's Services and services had been marked down to 'requires improvement'. (The exception was the adoption service which had been marked 'good'). Councillor Seccombe expressed her disappointment and recognised that this would be of particular disappointment to staff who had worked extremely hard in improving services and the lives of looked after children.

Councillor Seccombe reminded members that the current Ofsted inspection process is very different to the one that had been in place when the Council had been inspected some years ago and also that steps had already been taken (for example the funding for additional social workers agreed by Council in February) which will lead to improvements but the benefits of this had not come through at the time of the inspection.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, requested that the report be considered in depth by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a view to identifying what actions and resources are required to improve the services.

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, highlighted the four key areas that he would focus on:

- Engagement with partners and in particular schools to ensure an understanding of the thresholds for early assessments.
- The implementation of the MOSAIC IT system to ensure staff are trained and no longer using two systems.

- The implementation of the recruitment of social workers to bring down the level of caseloads.
- Engagement with the health sector.

Dr John Linnane, Faculty of Public Health Award

The Chair presented Dr John Linnane with a medal and certificate which had been awarded to him by the Faculty of Public Health in recognition of his exemplary performance and contribution to improving the health of the public.

Chair's Open Evening

The Chair invited members to his open evening which would be held at Old Shire Hall on 16 September from 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm.

Edward's Trust – Charitable Donation

The Chair advised that the Members Association had agreed that the Chair of Council make a donation of £1,000 each year to a charity of his/her choice, using the surplus on the Association accounts. The Chair announced that he had chosen the Edward's Trust for this year's donation. The trust provides bereavement counselling across the County.

Councillor Kam Kaur

The Chair expressed best wishes to Councillor Kam Kaur on her birthday.

(5) Petitions

None.

(6) Public Speaking

None.

2. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-2020 and Action Plan 2017-18

- A Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, presented the report, on behalf of Councillor Howard Roberts, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety and moved the recommendation to approve the IRMP and Action Plan.

Councillor Caborn reported that there had been extensive public consultation on the document and that the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet have considered and supported the IRMP.

Councillor Caborn referred to the five broad development objectives and 10 specific actions in the short term. A particular focus is on ensuring safety of staff and sufficient training and also the preventative agenda, in particular work with partners. Cabinet had endorsed this aspect and had agreed that the Chief Fire Officer engage with the health sector on medical co-responding.

Councillor Caborn also highlighted the following areas:

- progress on the single Control Centre with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- the need to keep under review the position of fire stations in the light of increases in housing;
- the Government's proposals for the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- the need to look at any implications following the Grenfell Tower fire in London, and which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to review.

Councillor Wallace Redford seconded the recommendations and in particular supported the proposal in relation to emergency medical response and considered the extension of the role of the Fire and Rescue Service into other areas of public service is an effective way of deploying resources.

The following points were noted in debate :

- There is a distinction between firefighters as 'co-responders' (fully trained paramedics) and firefighters who are 'first responders' which is a role that firefighters can undertake within their current training.
- The developing corporate role of the Fire and Rescue Service, for example in extending fire safety checks to other aspects of prevention were welcomed.
- The Grenfell Tower Fire has raised issues around building control, use of materials in buildings and the role of trading standards.
- The need to equip the Fire and Rescue Service in the light of the increase in road traffic accidents.
- Care should be taken in comparing response times with past response targets as there is no longer separate standards for rural and urban, but one standard target applied to both.

B Councillor Maggie O' Rourke, moved the following additional recommendation:

'That Council establish a cross-party fire working group immediately with the following remit:

- to monitor the implementation of the IRMP and the action plan for 2017/18.
- to ensure the Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service has robust plans in place to meet the requirements of the new national inspectorate
- to consider the implications of the Policing and Crime Act in relation to collaborative working between blue light services.'

Councillor O'Rourke referred to the credit members had paid to the previous working group and the increased importance in having a focussed group, particularly in light of current national debate regarding Fire and Rescue Service collaboration.

Councillor John Holland seconded the amendment and in responding to the debate stated that the previous working group had been viewed as valuable by Cabinet Portfolio Holders and had enabled in-depth consideration of issues. Councillor Holland added that, although the whole County Council is the Fire Authority, he did not

consider it good governance for a body of 57 members to oversee the service and that having a small group of people scrutinising issues reduced the risk of things going wrong.

The following issues were also raised during the debate:

For the additional recommendation:

- The following areas of concern warrant in-depth review by a cross-party group:
 - response times for second fire appliance to attend incidents are not being met which may be an indicator that the service is too lean which may be further exacerbated by deregulation.
 - the proposal for the control of the Fire and Rescue Service to pass to the Police and Crime Commissioner which would remove representation of people from all communities across the County.
- The Fire Working Group has been commended in the Peer Challenge review.
- The Fire Working Group effectively supported the Cabinet Portfolio Holder in the discharge of his duties.

Against the additional recommendation:

- The Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee should have the IRMP on their work programme (with regular updates from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder) and report back to full Council as the responsible Fire and Rescue Authority. Councillor Heather Timms, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, gave assurance that she accepted accountability for ensuring scrutiny of these issues.
- The work in developing the IRMP has been undertaken and does not need to be repeated.
- The establishment of a separate working group would undermine the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

VOTE on additional recommendation at B

Councillors Richard Chattaway, John Holland, Maggie O'Rourke, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Alan Webb and Matt Western called for a recorded vote.

A vote was taken and the recommendation was LOST the vote being 10 for and 38 against, as set out below:

For	Against	Against
Cllr Chattaway	Cllr Barker	Cllr Jenns
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Bell	Cllr Kaur
Cllr Holland	Cllr Birdi	Cllr Morgan
Cllr Kondakor	Cllr Brain	Cllr Parry
Cllr Lloyd	Cllr Butlin	Cllr Redford
Cllr O'Rourke	Cllr Caborn	Cllr Reilly
Cllr Parsons	Cllr Cargill	Cllr Rickhards
Cllr Phillips	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Rolfe
Cllr Webb	Cllr Cockburn	Cllr Roodhouse
Cllr Western	Cllr Cooke	Cllr Sargeant
	Cllr Crump	Cllr Seccombe
	Cllr Dahmash	Cllr Shilton
	Cllr Fradgley	Cllr Simpson-Vince
	Cllr Gifford	Cllr Stevens
	Cllr Gilbert	Cllr Timms
	Cllr Gissane	Cllr Warwick
	Cllr Golby	Cllr C Williams
	Cllr Gran	Cllr P Williams
	Cllr Hayfield	
	Cllr Horner	

A VOTE was taken on the recommendations set out in the report which were agreed as set out below

Resolved

That Council adopts the Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-2020 and Action Plan 2017-18.

3. Education & Learning Sufficiency Strategy 2016-2021

A Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, proposed that the Council approve the Education and Learning Sufficiency Strategy for 2016-2021. Councillor Yousef Dahmash seconded the proposal and, later in the debate, gave his support for the Strategy which he considered was both robust and flexible to meet changing circumstances.

B Councillor Dave Parsons proposed the following additional recommendation:

'That the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Education urging her to remove the disparity between the policies for existing schools and those for new schools (which is prejudicial to our aim of providing good or outstanding schools for all of Warwickshire's children), to put an end to the haphazard approach to education and introduce a clear system that enables local accountability in the planning of school places.'

Councillor Parsons explained that the purpose of his motion was to press the

government for a coherent policy on new schools and provision of places.

Councillor Parsons referred to the current confusion caused by the Government's policy on new ('free') schools which are stand - alone institutions and the encouragement of existing academy schools to become multi academy trusts which are not stand-alone. Councillor Parsons expressed concern that this approach to education had not been thought through and cited examples of academy chains which had been found to be inadequate or had suffered from financial or other mismanagement.

Councillor Parsons added that the government's recent announcement that 30 of the 143 proposed new schools would be through a local authority route added to the confusion as it was unclear how this will be financed.

Councillor Caroline Phillips seconded the motion and emphasised the need to get clarification from the Government.

DEBATE

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, spoke in support of the additional recommendation and expressed his concern that local authorities are expected to take responsibility for the planning of school places but have no control over school provision.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, added his agreement that the current system made it difficult for councils to produce an effective sufficiency strategy.

The following points were raised during the discussion on the strategy:

- Housing development may not be an accurate basis on which to predict school places as people also move between housing developments.
- The strategy is based on predictions of future need for school places but also needs to be flexible enough to meet changes in house numbers and pupil numbers.
- There is concern that the funding will not be available for the extra schools predicted in the strategy and that the cost will not be met by developer contributions.
- Future consideration should be given to car parking for schools as well as routes to schools.

Councillor Colin Hayfield responded to the debate by reminding members that the Strategy is reviewed annually in recognition of the need to keep under review the range of factors that can change and impact on the need for school places. These factors include shifts in housing growth, job markets, populations and changes in parental preferences for particular schools. There is a need for review and flexibility and a 4% over capacity is built in to enable some flexibility. Councillor Hayfield added that the strategy had shown significant improvement over the years although he recognised that there were pressures in some areas of the County.

Councillor Hayfield undertook to provide a range of briefings for members to cover the issues raised during this debate.

VOTE on the additional recommendation at B

Councillors Richard Chattaway, John Holland, Maggie O'Rourke, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Alan Webb and Matt Western called for a recorded vote.

A vote was taken and the recommendation was LOST the vote being 15 for and 33 against, as set out below

For	Against	Against
Cllr Chattaway	Cllr Barker	Cllr Horner
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Bell	Cllr Jenns
Cllr Fradgley	Cllr Birdi	Cllr Kaur
Cllr Gifford	Cllr Brain	Cllr Morgan
Cllr Holland	Cllr Butlin	Cllr Parry
Cllr Kondakor	Cllr Caborn	Cllr Redford
Cllr Lloyd	Cllr Cargill	Cllr Reilly
Cllr O'Rourke	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Sargeant
Cllr Parsons	Cllr Cockburn	Cllr Seccombe
Cllr Phillips	Cllr Cooke	Cllr Shilton
Cllr Rickhards	Cllr Crump	Cllr Simpson-Vince
Cllr Rolfe	Cllr Dahmash	Cllr Stevens
Cllr Roodhouse	Cllr Gilbert	Cllr Timms
Cllr Webb	Cllr Gissane	Cllr Warwick
Cllr Western	Cllr Golby	Cllr C Williams
	Cllr Gran	Cllr P Williams
	Cllr Hayfield	

A vote was taken on the recommendation moved at A (to approve the Strategy) which was agreed unanimously as set out below.

Resolved

That Council approves the Education & Learning Sufficiency Strategy 2016-2021.

4. Capital Programme - Additions and Use of Contingency

A Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, moved that Council approves the recommendations set out in the report. Councillor Butlin reminded Council that the projects listed in the report had already been approved and that the purpose of this report was to approve additions to the Capital Programme and, in the case of Kenilworth Station project, the use of contingency that was already in the Capital Programme.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, seconded the recommendations.

B Councillor Matt Western moved the following additional recommendation:

‘That members are kept informed of material slippage in the delivery of the capital programme and that the effective delivery of the capital programme forms part of the on-going work programme of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.’

Councillor Western referred to the amendments to the capital programme that had been made over the last few years and that this had been an issue that the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee had looked at with a view to ensuring there was proper monitoring and control of the capital programme.

Councillor Western proposed that there is an on-going report or dashboard that will show the position on all major projects and give better visibility of the progress of projects. Councillor Alan Webb, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, seconded the recommendation and emphasised the importance of effective monitoring and for all members to be kept informed of progress of the capital budget

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, suggested that whenever there is a report on capital slippage to Cabinet it should include a paragraph on what monitoring process there is in place, be it through the quarterly monitoring system or some other method.

Councillor Keith Kondakor requested that any surplus in the allocation for the energy projects be directed to investment in battery storage technology. Councillor Izzi Seccombe advised that work was being undertaken with Warwick University on this technology and that there was also a company in Warwickshire looking at the recycling of batteries.

Councillor Seccombe added that there were some 220 capital schemes in progress and many of these relied on external funding. The Council is ambitious in its capital programme and that some slippage is inevitable. Councillor Peter Butlin added that there is £196m worth of capital projects and most of the funding is external with £20m of council funding each year. Slippage can be due to a number of reasons and in terms of rail projects there have been delays due to Network Rail. He added that Network Rail have given their assurance that Kenilworth Station will be open in December.

VOTE

A vote was taken on the additional recommendation at B which was LOST

A vote was taken on the recommendations set out in the report and was AGREED unanimously as set out below

Resolved

- (1) That Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme 2017/18 of ground mounted solar projects, including battery storage and related equipment at the locations set out in paragraph 1.0 of the report, subject to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) being satisfied with the business case;
- (2) That the use of previously agreed self-financed borrowing approvals of £5.23 million for renewable energy projects be extended to include Ground Mounted Solar, battery storage and related equipment;

- (3) That Council approves the addition of the following scheme to the 2017/18 capital programme subject to the applicable Section 278 Agreements being signed by the Developer which will provide for 100% of the funding:
- A452 Europa Way/Olympus Avenue, Warwick. Developer – Catesby Property Group plc. Approximate cost £3.5m.
- (4) That £373,000 of the contingency in the Capital Programme for the Kenilworth Station scheme is released to cover the extended cost.

5. Capital Investment Fund Allocations 2017-18: Quarter 1

A Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, presented proposals for investment from the new Capital Investment Fund established by the Council as part of its budget in February 2017 and being funded through tax receipts. The Council also had before them an addendum that set out the impact on the investment fund of the A444 Corridor Improvements Phase 2 (£0.420m for 2017/18 and £3.850m for 2018/19). These two figures had been omitted from the report but had been included in the remaining fund balance.

Councillor Butlin also reported that the last line of paragraph 2.1 in the report should refer to a contribution of £4.270m from the Fund (not £4.720m) and that the scoring for the Birmingham Road Scheme was 72.5%, not 69.5% as stated in page 10.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, seconded the proposals and in speaking later in the debate assured the meeting that the analysis is robust and agreed that safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the A444 is paramount.

B Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following additional recommendation:

‘That reports on further allocations provide more information on the expected completion date for the work, the detail supporting the costings and any contingencies, in order to enable more effective scrutiny and accountability for the delivery of schemes.’

Councillor Chattaway explained that the purpose of the recommendation was to ensure the capital programme is robust and avoids slippage. Councillor Alan Webb seconded the recommendation and reminded Council that slippage leads to increased cost and this proposal would help to ensure a close eye is kept on the programme to minimise this.

DEBATE

The following points were raised during the debate in support of the proposals:

- The Investment Fund is to be used for schemes that drive down costs or bring in income.
- The Birmingham Road Scheme has been needed for a long time and the need has been supported by the public. It is also hoped the allocation will help to draw down money from the Department for Transport.

- Fire and Rescue Service HQ needs to be maintained to a standard expected of a modern flexible office and also to ensure it is an attractive and viable proposition for any future use.
- The A444 corridor improvements are welcomed by residents in particular the improvement to the College St junction with B4112 Heathend Road and Greenmoor Road junctions.

The following points were made in opposition to the allocations:

- Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, stated his opposition to the use of a benefit cost analysis that was based on an assumption that transport improvements generate economic growth as he considered there was no evidence supporting this assumption.
- Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed support for the addition of traffic lights on the A444 but opposed the remodelling of the roundabout and the approval of a scheme without knowing what the provision would be for pedestrians and cyclists, which should be put in as part of the scheme.
- The refurbishment of the Fire and Rescue Service HQ should be deferred until the future arrangements of the service are known.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in responding to the debate, urged members to support the schemes, adding that the refurbishment of the Fire and Rescue Service HQ was important to make it fit for the 21st century.

VOTE

A vote was taken on the additional recommendation set out at B and was LOST.

A vote was taken on the recommendations set out in the report and the recommendations were AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That Council:

- (1) Supports the use of a maximum of £4.270 million of the Capital Investment Funds Capital Growth Fund to deliver the A444 Corridor Improvements – Phase 2, as part of an overall scheme costing £4.600 million;
- (2) Supports the use of a maximum of £3.500 million of the Capital Investment Fund for the A3400 Birmingham Road Stratford Improvements;
- (3) Supports the use of a maximum of £2.402 million of the Capital Investment Fund for the refurbishment of the Fire and Rescue Headquarters in Leamington;
- (4) Supports the use of a maximum of £0.500 million of the Capital Investment Fund for creation of a WFRS Water Training Facility;

- (5) Agrees to the funding allocated to each of the projects being reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding for the become available;
- (6) Agrees any funding, above the level approved to meet any risks and contingencies needed, is found from within the existing resources of the Business Unit sponsoring the scheme; and
- (7) Subject to the approval of recommendations 1) to 4) above, adds the schemes to the capital programme.
- (8) Notes that the Cabinet has authorised the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts and grant agreements on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) for these schemes.

6. Approval of the Usage of Adult Social Care Grant Funding

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, presented a report that set out proposals for the use of the additional one-off funding from government to support adult social care. Councillor Caborn reported that this had been supported by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 July and Cabinet had also agreed that the Joint Managing Director (Resources) should be delegated power to make further changes to the use of the grant in 2017-18 as necessary to deliver the required outcomes.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, seconded the proposals and welcomed the funding, but recognised that there was a need to find a solution beyond 2020.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, welcomed the funding but requested information on the remaining shortfall of funding for the three year plan for Adult Social Care.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, responded that £1bn was to be spent nationally this year (and £1bn over the next two years). The £1bn, added to the current funding, is still less than the country spent on adult social care last year. Local Government has been inventive in meeting the pressures but there is now an added challenge in the targets being set and transformation is the only way to manage down demand both in social care and in the NHS. Councillor Seccombe added that, although the pressures are currently on adult social care, there is increasing pressure from those of working age which are becoming comparable with the pressure on adult social care.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat, added his concern that there is a growing pressure in younger age groups, in particular due to dementia and mental health issues, and that there needs to be a national debate to address the pressures, including integration with the NHS. Councillor Roodhouse added his support for the amendment to the savings plans, in particular the reduction in savings in the development and shaping of community alternatives, as these take time to implement.

Councillor Les Caborn replied to the debate and supported the concern that this is one off funding and that there is a need for a long term view from Government. Councillor Caborn undertook to bring back further information to members as soon as possible.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That Council:

- (1) Approves the use of the grant as set out in section 2 of the report;
- (2) Approves the amendment of the savings plans for 2017-18 as set out in sections 3 and 4 of the report.
- (3) Agrees that the Joint Managing Director (Resources) be delegated the power to make further changes to the use of the grant in 2017-18 as necessary to deliver the required outcomes.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016-17 and paid tribute to the chairs of the committees for the work they had undertaken during the previous Council administration. Councillor Dave Parsons seconded the proposal to note the report.

It was noted that Warwick District Councillor Pam Redford had been omitted from the list of membership of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Chattaway reminded members of the importance of overview and scrutiny in holding Cabinet to account and in making a difference to how the Council serves its residents. He added that it is important to retain transparency and challenge in the scrutiny process, for example he would be ensuring the use of urgency is monitored now that consent to urgency rests with the new chairs of the committees.

Councillor Alan Webb reminded the Council of the importance of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which covered a large range of services and was the only forum for elected members to scrutinise the NHS.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to the previous chairs and the work undertaken by the committees, and in particular the work undertaken by the task and finish groups, which provided in-depth consideration that Cabinet members may not have had time to undertake themselves.

Resolved

That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17.

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 pm and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

8. Proposal to Establish Arrangements for a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Coventry City Council

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, presented a report setting out proposals for a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Coventry City Council and explained that this would enable consideration of issues that impact on both Coventry and Warwickshire and matched the NHS and STP footprint.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe added that an addendum to the report had been circulated that corrected the allocation of County Council places on the proposed Joint Committee to 3 Conservatives, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat.

The following points were raised in debate:

- That the needs of district/borough areas within Warwickshire are represented at the Committee.
- The Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will retain its power to make representations to the Secretary of State.
- The cross border relationships (for example with NHS services in Redditch, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire used by Warwickshire residents) need to be taken into account and there should be no decisions that disadvantage residents in Warwickshire.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe agreed that it was important to also take account of NHS services in neighbouring areas that served Warwickshire residents. Councillor Seccombe also assured the Council that both Warwickshire's and Coventry's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees would retain their independent powers to respond to NHS proposals but that the Joint Committee will enable a joint response to proposals that impact on residents of both Coventry and Warwickshire and will add value by helping to shape services across the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS footprint.

A vote was taken and AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That Council:

- (1) Approves the proposed approach for the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Coventry City Council as set out in the report;
- (2) Approves the terms of reference for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) Retains the County Council's powers to make referrals to the Secretary of State in prescribed circumstances and not delegate these to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (4) Agrees to the appointment of 3 Conservatives; 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat as Warwickshire County Council's representatives on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18, with subsequent appointments to be made at the Council's Annual Meetings; and

- (5) Authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources), in consultation with the Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to finalise the Terms of Reference with Coventry City Council and to take any necessary steps to implement the arrangements.

9. Amendments to Council Standing Orders

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the proposed amendments to Standing Orders deferred from the last meeting and set out below:

(a) Standing Order 34.3 to read:

'Speakers at Council, Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings may speak on any matter relevant to the remit of the Council, Cabinet or Committee. Any address must not contain any defamatory, frivolous or offensive statements'. (The rest as printed).

(b) Standing Order 34.6 to read:

'Answers may take the form of either a direct oral answer or reference to a publication. Where an oral answer cannot immediately be given, a written answer may be given to the questioner as soon as practicable following the meeting. The Chair of the meeting or someone nominated by the chair will normally respond to any questions. At meetings of the full Council the Leader or spokesperson of each political group shall have a right of response to any questions'. (The rest as printed)

(c) Standing Order 44 add:

'The Council shall use audio visual equipment to record all full Council and overview and scrutiny meetings and make these available online for a period of at least one year.'

Councillor Chattaway explained that the amendments sought to increase public involvement in line with many other councils across the country (including Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) and that this may also help to address the key message in the Living in Warwickshire Survey that nearly half of residents were dissatisfied with their ability to influence decision making.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, seconded the proposals and urged the Council to make the amendments in order to increase the Council's accountability and public engagement.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, stated that she would accept the amendment to Standing Order 44 to retain recordings of meetings on line for at least a year but that she did not support the other amendments which she considered would distract Council from its business.

A vote was taken on each proposed amendment at (a),(b) and (c). Amendment (a) and (b) were LOST.

Amendment at (c) was AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

- (1) That Council approves the addition of the following to Standing Order 44:

'The Council shall use audio visual equipment to record all full Council and overview and scrutiny meetings and make these available online for a period of at least one year.'

- (2) That Council authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to make any changes to the Constitution that are necessary to reflect the Council's decision.

10. Appointment of Independent Persons

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, presented a report seeking Council's approval to the appointment of independent persons as part of the arrangements for dealing with code of conduct issues in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash seconded the proposals.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, observed that there may on occasion be a conduct issue regarding a councillor in more than one council and that he considered it may be appropriate for a different independent person to consider each issue. Councillor Chilvers also questioned whether the appointment of a parish councillor as an independent may lead to a conflict of interest. Councillor Izzi Seccombe assured members that there are statutory restrictions that will manage this.

The recommendation was put to the vote and was AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That Council confirms the appointment of Mr Garth Murphy, Ms Maureen O'Sullivan, Mr David Stone, Mr Ray Tomkinson and Mr Howard Darling as Independent Persons for Warwickshire County Council under the Localism Act 2011.

11. Treasury Management Strategy 2017-18: Amendment

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, proposed that the Council agree the lowering of the minimum rating of bond funds from A to A- in order to continue investment in the Columbia Threadneedle Social Bond Fund who had reduced its funds ratings to A- following agreement with the Council that the average duration of the Fund portfolio should be shortened from 6.8 years to 4.75 years which will add protection to investors. Councillor Andy Crump seconded the proposal.

Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed caution that this should not lead to an increase in lower grade investments. Councillor Bill Gifford observed that the Bond had been high performing and that A- is still a high rating. He added that some risk is necessary in order to avoid the risk of low returns and that this proposal did not place the Council at an undesirable level of risk.

The recommendation was put to the vote and was AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That Council approves the lowering of the minimum rating of bond funds from A to A-.

12. Motions to Council

(1) Children's Centres Consultation

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following motion:

- A 'The Council puts on record its disappointment regarding the timing of the consultation meetings on the future of children's centres which have been scheduled when most schools and main users of these vital services are on their summer break.

The Council requests that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services instructs officers to arrange alternative dates for consultation for those schools impacted by the proposals and which are closed on the dates scheduled for consultation.

The Council also calls on the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to call a select committee when the consultation has finished.'

Councillor Chattaway explained that his motion concerned the robustness of the current consultation exercise and the need to ensure people were able to put their views and that all evidence is available before a decision is made. Councillor Chattaway expressed concern that the consultation was taking place during a period when many schools, nurseries and children centres were not operating as normal which meant that many would have to rely on making their responses on-line. In addition the consultation meetings were not convenient for many. Councillor Chattaway added that the consultation meeting in Bedworth was at 10.00 am on a Wednesday morning which was not convenient for parents, the meeting in North Warwickshire was taking place in the evening at Atherstone when bus availability was poor; and the evening consultation meeting in Nuneaton would require one or two buses from areas such as Galley Common or Camp Hill.

Councillor Caroline Phillips seconded the motion and added that Park Lane Children's Centre was one of the centres proposed for closure but that it will be difficult for people to attend the consultation as the centre is out of town and the consultation is in town during the evening and there are no buses to town after 8 p.m. Councillor Phillips also supported the need for a select committee to enable scrutiny of how the re-design will impact on local families and added that the last re-design had resulted in the family support worker hours at her local centre being reduced from 148 hours a week to 42 hours a week. More children were now coming into nursery needing a health needs assessment and Councillor Phillips considered that if there had not been a reduction in support

workers the situation would not have deteriorated and there would be less pressure on social workers.

B Councillor Jerry Roodhouse moved the following amendment:

Amend paragraph 2 by the addition of 'and parents' after the word 'schools'.

Add additional paragraph after paragraph 2:

'Council also wishes that extra time will be allowed before any final decision is made to allow any proposals that are being developed about future provision in areas of Warwickshire'

Amend the last paragraph by adding the words

'hold an extra select committee' after 'Committee' and adding at end ' and prior to any final decision being made in December'

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse advised that there is now discussion growing amongst organisations and groups about what provision there could be and that more time is needed to allow these to come forward. In addition a select committee would enable more information, including about the work of family support workers and early years workers which operate in some parts of the County, and how that fits with the consultation to ensure all evidence is taken into account before a final decision is taken.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley seconded the amendments and in speaking later in the debate added that more time was needed to understand the impact of the proposals and ensure all who have an interest have the relevant information and that there is adequate time to consider views before coming to a decision.

Councillor Fradgley added that it is not just about 0-5 provision but also 0-19 and has also become conflated with the community hub issue which is an important part of the transformation plans. She added that the choice of Alcester as a single children centre community hub be viewed with caution as it is far from other areas of population and that Stratford hospital should be consulted on how it should contribute to the initiatives.

C Councillor Jonathan Chilvers moved the following amendment:

At the end of the text add:

'That Council requests financial modelling by 11 September to establish the costs of:

- building capacity in the PVI sector to ensure good use of the existing Children's Centre buildings
- providing at least weekly outreach in a play setting staffed by paid professionals in the localities currently served by the 39 Children's Centres.'

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers explained that ideally there would be a series of costed options but as this was not now possible his amendment sought to provide costs that would enable parents to better assess the proposals.

Councillor Keith Kondakor seconded the amendment and requested that consideration should be given to what use there is for the centres that close even if in the private sector so that there is future ability to grow back facilities.

Councillor Richard Chattaway accepted the amendments proposed by Councillor Jerry Roodhouse and as set out at B and the amendment proposed by Councillor Jonathan Chilvers set out at C.

The substantive motion read as follows:

‘That the Council puts on record its disappointment regarding the timing of the consultation meetings on the future of children’s centres which have been scheduled when most schools and main users of these vital services are on their summer break.

That Council requests that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services instructs officers to arrange extra dates for consultation for those schools and parents impacted by the proposals and which are closed on the dates scheduled for consultation. Council also wishes that extra time will be allowed before any final decision is made to allow any proposals that are being developed about future provision in areas of Warwickshire.

That Council also calls on the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to hold an extra select committee when the consultation has finished and prior to any final decision being made in December

That Council requests financial modelling by 11 September to establish the costs of:

- building capacity in the PVI sector to ensure good use of the existing Children's Centre buildings
- providing at least weekly outreach in a play setting staffed by paid professionals in the localities currently served by the 39 Children's Centres.’

DEBATE

The following points were raised in opposition to the substantive motion:

- The issue of children’s centres has been under discussion over the last four years and is part of the Council’s agreed budget.
- This is the earliest opportunity for the consultation following the delays due to the election periods and it allows 11 weeks consultation period, during which time many centres will have activities and schools will be open for 5 of these weeks.
- The consultation is fair and robust and includes a number of ways for public to participate, including on line, at the children’s centres, drop in sessions, written and telephone responses as well as consultation

meetings (increased from 10 to 12 following requests) at different times and venues in an attempt to get the highest response possible.

- Work is underway with communities to look at future opportunities, including the PVI sector, and the needs beyond 0-5s also needs to be considered recognising the role of family support workers.
- There will be an additional meeting of the Children, Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this issue on 27 July.
- The request for costings on the weekly outreach service pre-empts the outcome of the consultation.
- There will need to be a point at which a decision will be made by Cabinet but if there are still ongoing discussions with preferred providers there will be as much flexibility as possible.

The following points were made in support of the motion:

- There is a recognition of a need for robust consultation that includes all of the stakeholders. Stakeholders should include school governors.
- The definition of a family hub appears to be open ended, which is positive in terms of being open minded in consultation, but it appears to be restoring the cuts made in the past, although there is a reduction in funding. This means there needs to be increased engagement with stakeholders.
- Parents have requested an extension of the consultation period.

VOTE

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, John Holland, Maggie O'Rourke, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Alan Webb and Matt Western called for a recorded vote.

A vote was taken and the recommendation was LOST the vote being 14 for and 31 against, as set out below

For	Against	Against
Cllr Chattaway	Cllr Barker	Cllr Horner
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Birdi	Cllr Jenns
Cllr Fradgley	Cllr Brain	Cllr Kaur
Cllr Gifford	Cllr Butlin	Cllr Morgan
Cllr Holland	Cllr Caborn	Cllr Parry
Cllr Kondakor	Cllr Cargill	Cllr Redford
Cllr O'Rourke	Cllr Clarke	Cllr Reilly
Cllr Parsons	Cllr Cockburn	Cllr Sargeant
Cllr Phillips	Cllr Cooke	Cllr Seccombe
Cllr Rickhards	Cllr Crump	Cllr Shilton
Cllr Rolfe	Cllr Dahmash	Cllr Simpson-Vince
Cllr Roodhouse	Cllr Gilbert	Cllr Stevens
Cllr Webb	Cllr Gissane	Cllr Timms
Cllr Western	Cllr Golby	Cllr Warwick
	Cllr Gran	Cllr C Williams
	Cllr Hayfield	

(2) **Public Sector Pay**

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Matt Western:

- A 'That the Council writes to Warwickshire MPs and urges them to ask the Prime Minister to reverse the current Government policy of capping pay rises for public sector staff and fire fighters, at 1% per year up to and including 2019/20.'

Councillor Chattaway, in speaking later in the debate, highlighted that there was now awareness amongst the public and amongst some in government, that there is an increasing number of public sector staff, such as nurses, who are facing financial difficulties. Councillor Chattaway added that he agreed that government should include funding for this in its local government settlement.

- B Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin:

Delete all words after 'Prime Minister' and insert the following words:

'...to consider the impact of local government pay restrictions on recruitment and retention and subsequent service delivery. Although it is recognised that local government pay is not determined by central government, the costs of any subsequent pay award to address these issues need to be fully funded through the local government finance settlement'

Councillor Kaur added that the government does not set local government pay. The Local Government Association acts as a representative of local government employers, but there is no pay review body for local government employees as there is with other parts of the public sector and therefore if the cap was removed it would not necessarily mean that pay would increase as the LGA would take into account affordability. Warwickshire County Council's Medium Term Financial

Plan assumes 1% increase in pay in 2017/18 and 2% thereafter and, although there is some evidence that local government has difficulty in recruitment and retention of key staff, any further increase in pay in Warwickshire could lead to redundancies and further service cuts if there is no additional funding.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, seconded the amendment and spoke later in the debate, stating that the Council valued its staff but that it was not possible to make a larger pay settlement as the funding is not available. Councillor Seccombe therefore supported this amendment as a way of raising the issues with MPs.

- C Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Jenny Fradgley:

Delete the word 'reverse' and replace it with the word 'scrap'.

Councillor Roodhouse added that there were a number in the public sector where inflation was overtaking pay and pressure needed to be put on government to remove the cap.

Councillor Richard Chattaway accepted the amendment at C.

During the following debate Councillor Chattaway questioned whether the amendment moved by Councillor Kam Kaur (at B above) was an amendment and not a negation of his motion and also asked whether, if the amendment is agreed, it would become part of the substantive motion which would remove any opportunity to vote on the original motion.

The Chair advised that the monitoring officer had ruled that the amendment was permissible and that it was correct that if the amendment is agreed it would become part of the substantive motion, and there would be no vote on the original motion.

DEBATE

The following points were raised in the debate:

- The issue of pay is not just an issue for the public sector which is why the government has increased the personal tax allowance that has benefited all.
- Although there has been some reduction in direct tax, there has also been an increase in indirect tax which impacts most on the lowest paid.
- Government has set limits on public sector bodies and there is evidence of teachers and nurses leaving their professions.
- Putting money in the public sector helps the local economy and ultimately government through taxation.
- Public sector workers are not being rewarded for their increases in productivity
- There is public recognition of the value of public sector workers (such as fire fighters) is not reflected in their pay.
- Difficulty in retention of staff ultimately leads to increase costs (for example in the NHS who are having to pay for agency staff).
- The private sector creates wealth not the public sector and pay increases should not come from Warwickshire tax payers.

VOTE

The amendment at B was put to the vote and was AGREED. The substantive motion was put to the vote and was AGREED as set out below.

Resolved

That the Council writes to Warwickshire MPs and urges them to ask the Prime Minister to consider the impact of local government pay restrictions on recruitment and retention and subsequent service delivery. Although it is recognised that local government pay is not determined by central government, the costs of any subsequent pay award to address these issues need to be fully funded through the local government finance settlement.

(3) Schools Funding

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

- A 'That, having cancelled its plans for new Grammar Schools to be built across the country, Warwickshire County Council demands that the Government channels funding that would have come to Warwickshire for developing grammar schools into Warwickshire's existing great schools in this financial year and reverses the savage real-term cuts it proposed to our primary and secondary schools.'

Councillor John Holland reminded members of the agreement by the previous Council to write to MPs regarding the Council's concerns in relation to changes in school funding and the impact on Warwickshire schools. Councillor Holland referred to the increase in school funding that had been announced by the Secretary of State and expressed concern that how this will be funded is unclear and he feared that if it came out of the funding allocated to free schools it could leave Warwickshire in a worse position. In addition if funding for health and wellbeing in schools is being reduced this could put further pressure on the County Council to fund.

- B Councillor Jerry Roodhouse moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Kate Rolfe:

Delete the word 'reverses' and replace with the word 'removes'

Councillor John Holland accepted the amendment.

DEBATE

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, reminded Council that the consultation proposals on funding had been mixed for Warwickshire. Overall primary schools gained but it was mixed in the secondary sector with some schools losing quite a lot, although they may be more resilient given their larger budgets. Councillor Hayfield added that the Secretary of State for Education had now responded to the consultation and had stated that she

would continue with a new funding formula, that an extra £1.3bn would be provided over two years, that no school would have its existing budget cut and that the settlement for 2019/20 will provide at least £4,800 per secondary pupil.

Councillor Hayfield welcomed this announcement but noted that the funding for this would be found from elsewhere in the Department for Education and it is not yet known whether this would have any implications for Warwickshire. He added that it was clear, however, that there would not be savage cuts and that he could not support the motion.

Councillor Alan Webb spoke in support of the motion as he considered, even with the increase in the overall pot, the net effect of factors such as the apprenticeship levy and back loading of employer's contributions to pension funds, meant that schools had less to spend.

VOTE

The motion at A, as amended by B, was put to the vote and was LOST.

(4) Warwick District Council New Offices Proposal

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

'As agreed by a unanimous vote here some 18 months ago to explore the opportunities for co-operation with the District and Borough Councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register for Warwickshire, Warwickshire County Council encourages Warwick District Council to work both collaboratively and in the interests of the public purse to effectively deliver better, more joined-up public services. In the light of this Warwickshire County Council urges Warwick District Council to pause the proposals to build new council offices pending further engagement with partners and the public to ensure that we are making the best possible use of public assets within Warwick District.'

Councillor John Holland stated that this motion was intended to remind Warwick District Council that the Council has identified properties for disposal (for example, the office block in Barrack Street) and to work with the District Council to enable them to replace their headquarters. Councillor Holland added later in the debate that the intention of the motion was to ensure the best value for money to the tax payer.

Councillor Matt Western, in seconding the motion, emphasised that this motion was about examining the possibility of how best to use the council's assets for its communities, and ensure all options have been investigated.

DEBATE

The following points were raised:

- This is an issue for Warwick District Council to decide and they have already agreed on their headquarters
- The solution chosen by the District Council will support the economy of Leamington Spa and provide a high quality office block that can have another use in the future.
- There have been many discussions already with Warwick District Council and also Barrack Street is not available.

The motion was put to the vote and was LOST

13. Member Question Time

(1) Funded Places for 2 year olds

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, whether the Council could guarantee a full academic year for those 2 year olds starting in September and in receipt of funding.

Councillor Jeff Morgan replied that he was aware of the issue and that officers were trying to ensure minimum disruption to these children.

(2) Nursery Places in Stratford Town

Councillor Kate Rolfe asked Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, whether all those parents who wished their children to receive 30 hours free nursery places in Stratford Town, from September will receive them.

Councillor Morgan undertook to provide a written reply.

(3) Ofsted Action Plan

Councillor Dave Parsons asked Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, whether he would ensure that members received a full action plan in response to the Ofsted inspection report, as soon as possible.

Councillor Jeff Morgan replied that he would.

(4) Access for cyclists at the A46 Stoneleigh

Councillor Bill Gifford asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, whether he was aware of the concern of Cycleways and other cyclists regarding the lack of access for them at the proposed A46 roundabout at Stoneleigh and whether he would meet with representatives of cycling groups to look at improving the plans.

Councillor Clarke stated that he is aware of the proposals and that he would be happy to have discussions to try to address this.

(5) Sustainability and Transformation Plan/George Eliot NHS Trust

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to a recent meeting of the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board where there had been a briefing on the STP and where reference had been made to the STP Estates Group 'progressing discussions on a Health and Wellbeing Campus model for George Eliot Hospital' and his concern that it will mean a downgrading of services at the hospital, and asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, whether he could give an update on the development for George Eliot and when the public in Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire can actively get involved in this process.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that Warwickshire is a very active partner with the Board of the George Eliot Hospital Trust and the Board recognise that there are significant opportunities for the site of the George Eliot. There is a lot of available estate on the site and the Leader, he and officers were invited to attend an early partnership workshop to explore the potential and feasibility of developing a Health and Wellbeing Campus to serve the local population, on this site. A wide range of partners were at the event, including the relevant portfolio holder from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, health, housing, social care and education providers as well as the third sector.

This is the George Eliot determining its own way forward to deliver a health care system fit for the future and the next step will be to collate the ideas and make these public.

(6) Closure of Weddington Road A444

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to Weddington Road which is the main route into Nuneaton from the North, is the only direct route without a height restriction and which has suffered from roadworks over the last 3 years and now faces a 4 week closure which will impact on local businesses and residents. Councillor Kondakor asked why the work cannot be done over 7 days of the week to bring down the 4 week closure and why it could not be partly opened for the finishing off work such as white lining.

Councillor Clarke responded the County Council has no legislative powers to compel working at weekends. The Council is keen to get the sewer works completed quickly and any reduction in the period by the developer's contractor would be welcomed, although the contractor would need to get permission from the Borough Council for works outside normal hours (Saturday afternoons and Sundays) but if this were obtained it would only apply to the middle two weekends in the period and this would not make a significant big reduction in time. White lining could only be completed after the road opens if temporary signals were put up which would cause more disruption.

(7) All England Crown Green Bowling Championship

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, whether he would ensure the All England Crown Green Bowling Championship in Nuneaton is promoted and that, given the white lining at the Griff Island has worn away, every effort is made to manage traffic in the area.

Councillor Jeff Clarke undertook to look into this and provide a written reply

(8) NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Councillor Matt Western asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, whether she was aware whether the agendas and minutes of STP meetings are available and whether they could be circulated.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she would ask for them.

14. Any other items of urgent business.

The Chair announced that he had decided to exercise his discretion to add an item of urgent business to the agenda which relates to a Code of Conduct matter in relation to Councillor Alan Cockburn. This had been considered by the Monitoring Officer who has determined that there has been a breach of the Member Code of Conduct and recommends that censure is the most appropriate sanction in the circumstances.

15. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair moved, and was seconded by Councillor John Cooke:

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for this agenda item on the ground 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 (that being the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information).

The proposal to exclude the public was put to the vote and was agreed.

16 Councillor Alan Cockburn

The Council heard that Councillor Cockburn had breached the member code of conduct by failing to maintain confidentiality in relation to a matter involving the Council and was subject to censure by the Council.

The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.

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Chair