

Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 21 September 2017

Present:
Councillor Clive Rickhards (Chair)

Councillors Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Judith Falp, 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, Bill Olnier, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Matt Western, Chris Williams, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mark Cargill, Maggie O'Rourke, Andy Sargeant

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

None.

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

(4) Announcements

Public Sector Pay – Responses from MPs

The Chair read letters from Craig Tracey MP and Marcus Jones MP in response to the motion agreed by the Council at its last meeting. Councillor Matt Western MP added that he had also written to the minister and was awaiting a reply.

Open Evening

The Chair thanked members and their guests for their attendance at the open evening at Old Shire Hall on 16 September.

John Dixon OBE, Interim Strategic Director People Group

The Chair reminded members that this was the last opportunity to say farewell to John Dixon before he leaves the authority at the end of the month.

The Chair paid tribute to John's impressive leadership of the People Group since his appointment in 2015. This followed on from his previous achievements in adult social care and children's services in a number of local authorities as well as his national recognition from work with the Department of Health and Ministers on the personalisation of care, Charing of the Age Discrimination Advisory Group for the Department of Health and work with the Department of Health on integration of health and social care.

Group Leaders, Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees paid tribute to John's wide knowledge and personal skills and how he had brought stability to the services, strengthened the partnership with the NHS and led the transformation of the Council's adult and children's services. Members also thanked John for the invaluable advice and support he had given them in relation to specific issues.

The Council wished John a very happy future.

John Dixon thanked members for their kind words and commended the Council for adopting a transformation plan that had put adult and children services at the centre of the council, for listening to people in developing its plans and for ensuring the Council is in as good a position as possible at a challenging time. John added his thanks for the support given by members and wished the Council well for the future.

Pete Sidgwick, Head of Social Care and Support

The Chair welcomed Pete Sidgwick to the Council. Pete had recently taken up the post of Head of Social Care and Support having been at Lincolnshire County Council as Assistant Director for Adult Social Services.

Chris Malone, Head of Education and Learning

The Chair reported that the new Head of Education and Learning, Chris Malone, will be taking up her post on 25 September. Chris is currently the strategic lead for Education Quality at Oxfordshire County Council.

Displays/Events

The Chair encouraged members to visit the stalls in the ante-chamber during the day. These were showcasing the Library Service, Public Health and the Performance Dashboard (with demonstrations on accessing the IT based systems).

(5) Petitions

None.

(6) Public Speaking

None.

(7) Children in Care Council

Three representatives of the Children in Care Council each gave presentations on their personal experiences (both negative and positive) of being in Care and urged councillors to sign up to the Children in Care Pledge and give their personal commitment to the actions in the pledge to help children have a positive experience of being in care and to help them have success in their lives.

The Chair, on behalf of Council, thanked the representatives for their thought-provoking and honest presentations. It was agreed that the presentations be circulated to members along with a summary of the key issues.

2. The Corporate Parenting Policy, Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel, presented the report setting out the revised Corporate Parenting Policy, revised Children in Care Pledge and the Care Leavers Charter for the Council's adoption.

Councillor Morgan thanked the young people from the Children in Care Council for their presentations and for the contributions to the revised documents and reminded members that both the Council and individual councillors are 'corporate parents' and have responsibilities in relation to looked after children and young people. Councillor Morgan drew attention to two key test questions: *'If this were my child or young person, would it be good enough for them? If I were that child or young person, would it have been good enough for me?'*

Councillor Morgan moved that the Council approve the revised policy, pledge and charter and was seconded by Councillor Chris Williams.

DEBATE

The following points were raised during the debate:

- The information gathered by, and work of, the Corporate Parenting Panel needs to be shared across the council membership.
- The reasons for the increase in the number of looked after children and how this is being tackled through the Council's preventative agenda, needs to be understood.
- There needs to be monitoring and challenging of how well the Council is delivering on the promises in the Pledge (through the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

- Staff and partners (e.g. NHS) are also corporate parents.
- Initiatives, such as The Tiffin Club that provides experiences for young people, need to be continue to be promoted and supported.
- It is recognised that generally children in care are less likely to achieve to a level of their peers at school and later in life, and where they do they may have faced greater challenges in order to achieve. An education care plan is prepared for each child in care and assurance should be sought that these are being followed.
- It would be helpful for members to have advice on what specific actions they can take to ensure they are fulfilling the Pledge commitments.
- Members should be encouraged to attend Children in Care Council meetings.

Councillor Jeff Morgan advised the meeting that he would look into the increase in the number of children in care to assess whether this is a trend and whether this was something that would benefit from scrutiny. Councillor Morgan added that specific engagement with children in care is through the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel. Members of the panel attend Children in Care Council meetings and the children in care representatives attend the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Council agreed unanimously to approve the revised policy, pledge and charter as set out below.

Resolved

- 1) That Council approves the Corporate Parenting Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report
- 2) That Council approves the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

3. Warwickshire Youth Justice Service - Strategic Plan 2017-18

- A Councillor Howard Roberts, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety presented the Warwickshire Youth Service Strategic Plan for 17-18 which had been approved by the partner organisations and was recommended for approval by Cabinet following their consideration of it on 7 September. Councillor Roberts commended the service which continued to out-perform other services across the country. Councillor Heather Timms seconded the recommendation.
- B Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Alan Webb:

‘That there be a report to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the impact of the staffing reduction on the service with a view to seeking assurance that the service can continue to maintain its excellent reputation in the face of increasing demands.’

DEBATE ON RECOMMENDATION AT B

Councillor John Horner, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, assured the meeting that the issue of the impact of savings had been discussed with the Group Spokespersons for the Committee and would be on the Committee's work programme, with a view to inviting either the Chief Constable or the Police and Crime Commissioner for that item. He therefore considered it unnecessary to refer this to the Committee.

The following points were raised in the debate:

- It was the first time since 2007 that there has been an increase in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system whilst there has been a reduction of 11.7% in funding and this was bound to impact on the service.
- Funding had been reduced year on year since 2009 (by over £1m) and although performance remained high over 2016/17, this was due to the commitment and perseverance of staff who worked beyond their contracted hours in increasingly demanding situations.
- There had also been cuts in the youth service and there were other service pressures that could be impacting on this service.
- It may be more appropriate to compare custody rates with those in another County area – such as Worcestershire – rather than the West Midlands.
- Would investment in the service lead to reduced levels of detention and therefore overall be a cost saving?
- The reductions need to be viewed in the context of funding on other preventative activities. Efficiencies are being realised through joint working and support in other areas such as the priority families programme, mental health strategies etc. which are having a positive impact on young people.

VOTE

The recommendation at B was put to the vote and was LOST

The recommendation at A was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Resolved

That Council adopts the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2017-18.

4. Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2016-17 and Delivery & Development Plan 2017-18

- A Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, presented the Board's Annual Review and Delivery and Development Plan and proposed that they be endorsed by Council. Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, seconded the proposal.

- B Councillor John Holland moved the following additional recommendation, and was seconded by Councillor Matt Western:

‘That the Leader report on what specific actions are being taken to reduce the health inequalities that still persist in the County between those most deprived areas and other areas of the County.’

Councillor Izzi Seccombe requested that the recommendation be put as a question to which she would give a full answer. Councillor John Holland agreed to withdraw the recommendation on the assurance from he would receive a response setting out what action has been taken and what has been the result. (The question and response is set out at minute 12 below).

Councillor Seccombe, in presenting the report, highlighted the progress that had been made in implementing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the volume and breadth of achievements to date as exemplified in the accompanying document *‘101 ways in which we are improving Health and Wellbeing in Warwickshire’*. Councillor Seccombe paid tribute to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the commitment shown by partners on the Board. Councillor Les Caborn, in seconding the report later in the debate, commended the progress made since 2014 (the first year of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy) and drew members attention to the five priority areas for 2017/18 which focus on prevention; improving housing; ensuring early help for vulnerable children; integration and co-location of services and adding value to acute service redesign. Councillor Caborn reminded Council that, as the health footprint covers both Coventry and Warwickshire, there are also meetings with Coventry’s Health and Wellbeing Board.

DEBATE

The following points were raised during the debate:

- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to be commended but whilst it has positive objectives, there are factors that are working against positive health and wellbeing. These include the impact of austerity (which is leading to the reduction in service provision), the increase in poverty/financial insecurity, and of homelessness and mental health problems. There is a need to take a holistic and joined up approach.
- The pilot on place based needs assessment in Atherstone and Mancetter has been very successful in providing insight into health outcomes and in identifying specific actions to meet local needs.
- More detail would be helpful on the ‘looking ahead’ section of the report – particularly around ‘Better Health, Better Care, Better Value’ and ‘place based working’.
- There are concerns regarding some health service indicators (e.g. lack of GPs (particularly in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area), nurse shortages and waiting times for some cancer treatment.
- The NHS Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) is not transparent (including lack of access to agendas or minutes of their meetings)

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, in responding to the debate, advised that

there had been a shift from focus on the STP to what is now called the 'Better health, Better care, Better Value Programme' and added that a request had been made for the STP agendas/minutes but these were not publically available.

Councillor Seccombe responded to the issue of health inequalities and reported that there remained issues but there had been a reduction from 12 to 7 years in the difference between life expectancy between the north and south of the County. This was due largely to medical intervention through reduced smoking, improved diet and exercise. In addition unemployment was at its lowest level, and the level of those on low income had fallen (to 36,000 - 25,000 of whom were in the tourist industry). Councillor Seccombe reported that there were currently 25 GP vacancies and ways of managing the gaps in provision were being looked at, but this is a national problem.

VOTE

The proposal to endorse the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review and Delivery and Development Plan was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Resolved

That Council endorses the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2016-17 and the Delivery & Development Plan for 2017-18.

5. A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement Scheme: Growth Deal 3 Funding

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, proposed that Council approve Cabinet's recommendation that the A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement Scheme be added to the Council's capital programme. Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi seconded the proposal.

DEBATE

The following points were made during the debate:

- The scheme will impact on traffic flows in the adjoining areas, lead to increased congestion in the town centres, poorer air quality and not improve economic growth.
- The scheme has already been approved and is needed to relieve the heavy congestion which will intensify with the housing and employment growth in the area.
- The construction period will cause disruption over six years which could lead to prolonged 'rat running' through the towns that may not dissipate at the end of construction.
- The Local Plan includes off road cycle way, park and ride and separate bus lanes but the majority of the sustainability spine proposals are not in the current proposals and key parts are not yet designed and costed. The scheme needs to include these from the start and also be sustainable beyond the year 2029 (which is currently the year when the traffic congestion will be back to the current levels).

- The Scheme has planning approval and the support of local residents who have been campaigning for improvements.
- The period of construction is due to the need to sequence elements of the scheme in order to cause the least amount of road closure and disruption.

Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, in seconding the proposal, reminded Council of the need to get the scheme approved now in view of the pressure on the current network. Councillor Jeff Clarke reminded members that the scheme is a large and complex project that will be overseen by a project board. Councillor Clarke assured members that there will also be a local members liaison group.

VOTE

The proposal was put to the vote and was CARRIED

Resolved

That Council approves the addition of the A452 Europa Way Corridor Scheme to the capital programme at a cost of £18.890 million, fully funded from a £3.6 million allocation from Growth Deal 3 and £15.290 million from Section 106 agreements with developers.

6. Local Pension Board Membership

The Council noted that Councillor Matt Western had resigned from the Local Pension Board and a replacement was needed to fill the vacancy.

Councillor Richard Chattaway proposed that Councillor Dave Parsons be appointed to the board and was seconded by Councillor Bill Olnier. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and the nomination was approved.

Resolved

That Councillor Dave Parsons be appointed to the Local Pension Board.

7. Annual Governance Statement 2016-17

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, presented the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-17 which had been endorsed by the Audit and Standards Committee and by Cabinet. Councillor Kam Kaur reminded members that the Statement set out the framework for the Council's systems and processes and demonstrated that the Council was 'doing the right things in the right way'. Councillor Kaur proposed that the Statement be approved and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-17.

8. Warwickshire Pension Fund Statement of Accounts & Annual Governance Report 2016-17

Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, presented the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Report for 2016-17 which had been approved by the Audit and Standards Committee and recommended that Council approve the Statement of Accounts. Councillor Bob Stevens, Chair of the Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee, seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That Council approves the Pension Fund 2016-17 Statement of Accounts.

9. Warwickshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2016-17

Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, proposed that Council approve the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2016-17. The Statement of Accounts, and the Audit Findings Report from the external auditors, Grant Thornton, had been considered by the Audit and Standards Committee on 6 September who had concluded that there were no issues they wished to bring to the attention of Council. Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That Council approves the 2016-17 Statement of Accounts.

10. Appointment of Independent Persons

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, presented a report proposing the appointment of an independent person as part of the arrangements for dealing with code of conduct issues under the Localism Act 2011. Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, seconded the proposal.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed.

Resolved

That Council confirms the appointment of Ms Mumtaz Goolam as an Independent Person for Warwickshire County Council under the localism Act 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 12. 45 pm and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

11. Motions to Council

(1) Tackling Loneliness

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, moved the following motion:

‘That, in light of the Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2017, which highlights the impact of loneliness and isolation on people’s health and wellbeing, Council asks Cabinet to consider what steps could be taken to reduce social isolation and loneliness including how we work with partners and the voluntary and community sector on targeted initiatives and the role that public transport plays in this context.’

Councillor Roodhouse stressed that loneliness and isolation impacts on all age groups including those who have life changing events (such as illness, bereavement, moving to a new area etc) and includes young people as evidenced by the presentations from the children in care at this meeting and the increase in mental health issues.

Councillor Kate Rolfe, Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson for Adult Social Care and Health seconded the proposal and cited examples of the impact of loneliness, including the exacerbation of any existing mental health issues. Councillor Rolfe added that whilst there are local initiatives (such as Stratford’s ‘tea and chat’) there were barriers for many, including lack of transport.

The following points were raised during the debate:

- There are initiatives with health partners such as the ‘Happy, Healthy and Involved’ joint Council and NHS initiative that could be implemented in other areas. This includes local area surveys of residents to access what they wanted and open days on health issues including loneliness and isolation.
- The problem can be largely hidden as people do not ‘self present’.
- Community hubs may provide access to services/activities to combat loneliness.
- Loneliness can impact through life events such as being a new mother, caring for a family member (or trying to get care for them).
- Loneliness has wider health impacts as it can be a factor in heart disease/attacks, obesity, addictions and generally people not taking care of themselves.
- The role of partners (including local other councils) should be recognised.
- The changes in how services are delivered (including increase in use of digital solutions) could lead to the Council distancing itself from people.

- Examples of good practise/initiatives should be identified and shared (e.g. the Women's Institute pledge to combat loneliness, Age UK's Befriending Service, NHS social prescribing (referrals to non-clinical services), the Jo Cox Great Get Together events etc).

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, in responding to the debate agreed with a proposal from Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, that a cross-party member group be established to identify actions that the Council could take forward.

VOTE

The motion (with the addition of was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Resolved

That, in light of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2017, which highlights the impact of loneliness and isolation on people's health and wellbeing, Council agrees to the establishment of a cross party member group by Cabinet to consider and recommend to Cabinet what steps could be taken to reduce social isolation and loneliness including how we work with partners and the voluntary and community sector on targeted initiatives and the role that public transport plays in this context.

(2) Student Loans

Councillor Dave Parsons moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Corinne Davies:

- A 'That the following is agreed for submission to the Secretary of State for Education:

The Council expresses its concern about the impact that the Government's system for calculating interest on student loans could have on the future prospects and wellbeing of Warwickshire students and the future skills available to promote economic growth in the County. The system for calculating interest on student loans is linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). The recent increase in RPI means that the interest rate on student loans will increase to 6.1% for all new students which is 24 times the current base rate. This appears to be a substantial increase which will lead to students accruing an additional charge of £5,800 through the duration of a three year course and a final debt of around £70,000. In light of this, we would urge the government to urgently review the mechanism for determining the student contribution towards the cost of higher education.'

Councillor Parsons expressed the view that the system of student loans was in crisis and that it is discouraging young people from going to university for fear of being in debt. The total debt of £70,000 had been calculated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the interest rate 24 times the current bank base rate. In addition some mortgage companies are asking mortgage applicants what their level of student debt is when considering their mortgage applications. Councillor

Parsons added that he was concerned that the argument that many students will not earn enough to repay the debt was encouraging students to treat debt as acceptable. In addition the system is ineffective if the result is that many loans do not get paid off. Councillor Corinne Davies, in seconding the motion later in the debate, added that for many students the loan payment is at a time when they have many other costs such as finding somewhere to live, and the increasing cost of the loans is another pressure and the system should be reviewed.

DEBATE

The following points were made in support of the motion:

- UK students have higher levels of debt than students across Europe.
- The loans system is not encouraging financial prudence.
- The loans system impacts on those from the most deprived backgrounds as they are least likely to be able to pay the debt quickly (and so will be incurring more interest).
- The Student Loans Company mode of operation (with loans being auctioned to banks who make a profit) means that there is a cost that is met by the tax payer.
- People should not be discouraged from obtaining higher education.
- Graduates contribute to society through paying higher rates of tax.
- The costs that have to be met up front on entering university are substantial which mean that the poorest are borrowing more than those whose families are able to assist.
- There should be other practical initiatives to enable access to further education (e.g. transport).
- Fees should be lower and there should be no fees for particular areas where we need the services, e.g. nursing.
- If people are not earning enough to pay off the student loan this brings into question the value of the system.

The following points were made against the motion:

- The debt is likely to be closer to £40,000.
- Loans are written off after 30 years.
- The student loans system has enabled people to take up courses who would not have been able to before.
- The question should be how to ensure students can consider other options as well as university –such as apprenticeships – and they should not feel university is the only option open to them to further their education.
- If the student is not paying the fees, the cost needs to be met from somewhere else.
- The salaries being paid to some university chancellors is impacting on cost which needs to be addressed, rather than removing loans.
- There are more people from disadvantaged backgrounds attending university than before the loans system was introduced.
- It is right that people should pay for their own choices.

VOTE

The motion at A was put to the vote and was lost.

12. Member Question Time

(1) Occupational Therapy Assessments

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health, whether he could confirm that there were 354 people waiting for occupational therapy assessments in Warwickshire and if this is correct whether he considered it acceptable. If not, why not, and what action did he intend to take.

Councillor Caborn responded that there were 357 people awaiting a full assessment. 166 were in the south of the County and 191 in the north of the County. The longest wait for a full further assessment is from May 2017. The context is that the service prioritises those at a high risk over those of lower risk and the service monitors those waiting for assessment and reprioritises them as appropriate. The service is working hard to reduce the waiting times for full further assessments and also looking at technology that can be used to assist this. We also refer people to the Reablement Service and if a person requires a major adaptation they can be referred to the Home Environment and Response Service. We do assess people who are at high risk within two hours and working to the national standards.

Councillor Caborn added that he agreed the delay is not acceptable but it is a complicated system with increasing demand and he will be discussing the situation with the new Head of Service and would also raise this with the Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an area for review. Councillor Caborn undertook to keep members informed of the situation.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked whether the Portfolio Holder could give an assurance that this time next year the waiting times would be down within acceptable limits. Councillor Les Caborn replied that he would do his best to bring the waiting times down.

(2) Bikeability

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to the Bikeability training contract and noted that 740 school children and 30 from the Nuneaton Scout Group had taken part in the first 5 months but no children from Nuneaton and Bedworth Schools. Councillor Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, what is being done to address this.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that every school in Warwickshire had been contacted and offered the Bikeability training, including those in Nuneaton and Bedworth. He was aware that the School Sports Partnership also offer Bikeability training and that there are 15 schools within Nuneaton and Bedworth taking this up.

(3) Pedestrian Sign for Bermuda Park Railway Station

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, when there will be a pedestrian sign for Bermuda Park railway station from Coventry Road and generally what is being done to ensure signage at railways stations generally.

Councillor Jeff Clarke replied that the signage had been ordered and that the work is currently being programmed with Balfour Beatty. All other stations are sign posted and no complaints have been received regarding signage.

(4) Severn Trent Works

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to Severn Trent work on Eastboro Way in Nuneaton on 12th September when the road was reduced to one lane way during peak travel times and asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, why he was not ensuring such work was only undertaken during off-peak hours.

Councillor Jeff Clarke replied that there had been complications when undertaking the water diversion works for the new Barratt homes development. Normally such work would be scheduled for over the weekend to avoid disruption but the weekends were already booked for other works.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked why, if it was not possible to reschedule the works, the public were not warned through radio announcements to enable people to avoid the congestion.

Councillor Clarke replied that these were emergency works and on this occasion there was not an opportunity to publicise the works, but officers will do so where possible in future.

(5) Electric Vehicles

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked what is being done to move the Council's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, responded that an electric vehicle strategy would be considered by Cabinet in November and the ambition is to be leading nationally on public and private use of electric vehicles in support of promoting sustainable transport and cleaner air in urban environments but also to cement Warwickshire's position as a hotspot of electric vehicle research and develop and sustain jobs in this key sector, including promoting Stoneleigh as centre for development for the region. With regards to the Council's vehicles, a business case is being put together to replace six of the petrol pool cars with electric cars by 2018. This will help inform future potential investment in electric vehicles.

(6) Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Councillor Bill Gifford asked whether it would be possible to trial the use of electric vehicles in streets both with and without off street parking.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, replied that there are a range of issues that the Deputy Leader and herself had taken to their meeting with the Office for Electric Vehicles that week as part of their discussions on how Warwickshire can be a leader on electric vehicles. Councillor Seccombe added that it was important to look at the issues and to include partners, in particular the district and borough councils in arriving at solutions.

(7) Missing Children

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked whether the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee would agree to that Committee looking at the issue of the increase in the level of missing children in Warwickshire.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Chair of the Children and young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, replied that he agreed to this in principle but that he also understood that the Ofsted report had recommended that the Corporate Parenting Panel has a scrutiny role in this.

(8) Exempt Report to the previous Council meeting

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked when the exempt report and minutes from the previous Council would become public.

The Chair of Council advised that the Leader of the Council has already agreed to share details with the Leaders of the political groups at an appropriate time. With reference to the exempt minutes he could not give a commitment to when the minutes would be public.

(9) Community Grant Application Process

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, whether he would ask officers to be flexible and accept paper applications for community grants in cases where people are unable to complete an on-line application.

Councillor Clarke replied that on-line applications are encouraged but that written applications will be accepted and he would ensure that the area teams support this approach.

(10) Emergency Stopping Places

Councillor Bill Olnier referred to recent incidents gypsies and travellers encampments on public land in the Nuneaton area and asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, when the emergency stopping places would be completed so that the issue of illegal encampments can be addressed.

Councillor Jeff Clarke replied that work on the Oldbury Road Emergency Stopping Place was progressing and he expected the site to be in operation within the next few months.

Councillor Olnier asked whether the Portfolio Holder could ensure this happens sooner. Councillor Clarke replied that engineering works needed to be scheduled.

(11)Influenza Vaccination

Councillor Alan Webb referred to the warning that the NHS is braced for the worst flu season in its history and asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, whether he would encourage all councillors, including district and borough colleagues, to take up the flu vaccination to protect themselves and in turn their constituents with whom they come into contact.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that Public Health is coordinating a proactive approach to seasonal flu including a dedicated webpage for use by partners and the public, the issue of posters to partners and press releases. All children and adult services are being targeted including care home managers, schools and places visited by children and young people. Councillor Caborn agreed that all councillors, including district and borough councillors, should be encouraged to be vaccinated.

(12)Health Inequalities

Councillor John Holland asked the Leader of the Council whether she could report on what specific actions are being taken to reduce the health inequalities that still persist in the County between those most deprived areas and other areas of the County.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that life expectancy in Warwickshire for males is 80 years and for females is 83.6 years, which is higher than the national and regional figures for life expectancy. The difference in life expectancy across the County is at its lowest in a decade and reducing the difference in life expectancy is key to helping reduce the health inequalities that exist across Warwickshire. Life expectancy for both males and females has been increasing steadily for the last few decades, primarily due to improvement in medical intervention, smoking reduction, improved diets and healthier lifestyle choices, all of which have been supported by our Public Health department.

Healthy life expectancy for men and women in Warwickshire has also improved more quickly than the national rate. The healthy life expectancy for men is 68 (the national UK average being 63.4) and for women it is 67.6 (the national UK average being 64.1).

The difference in life expectancy between the north and south of the County has reduced from 12 years to a 7 year difference.

Councillor Seccombe added that the ambition was to continue this improvement.

(13)Parking at Kingsbury Water Park

Councillor Andy Jenns referred to the difficulties for residents caused by visitors to Kingsbury Water Park who parking on residential streets, often inconsiderately. Councillor Jenns observed that this was partly caused by the slow rate at which cars can enter the official car park and asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, whether there was any action that could be taken to increase the flow of traffic into the Water Park.

Councillor Clarke responded that work is being done to introduce two lanes for entering the car park and one lane for exiting in addition to looking at improvements to the car park entry system. Councillor Clarke added that there would continue to be liaison with local residents with regard any issues that arise.

13. Any other items of urgent business.

None

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair moved, and was seconded by Councillor John Cooke, that the public be excluded from the meeting. This was agreed as set out below.

Resolved

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.

15. Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017

The Chair moved, and was seconded by Councillor John Cooke, that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record. This was agreed as set out below.

Resolved

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

16. Transforming Nuneaton Programme: Growth Deal 3 Funding

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, presented a report from Cabinet seeking Council approval to the addition of funding to the County Council's Capital Programme to take forward the Transforming Nuneaton Programme. Councillor Jeff Clarke, seconded the proposal and it was agreed as set out in the exempt minutes.

Resolved

That Council approves the addition of to the Council's Capital Programme as set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting closed at 3.46 p.m.

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Chair