

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council
held on 16 October 2018**

Present:
Councillor John Cooke (Chair)

Councillors Helen Adkins, Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, 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, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Jeff Morgan, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, David Reilly, Kate Rolfe, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe OBE, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mark Cargill, John Horner, Wallace Redford, Clive Rickhards, Howard Roberts, Jerry Roodhouse and Chris Williams.

The Council expressed its best wishes to both Councillor Chris Williams and to Councillor Clive Rickhards who were unable to attend due to illness.

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

Councillor Dave Shilton declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the debate on shared services at minute 4 (2).

(3) Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

(4) Announcements

(i) Councillor Keith Lloyd

The Chair referred to the recent sad loss of Councillor Keith Lloyd on 3 September.

The Chair reminded Council that Councillor Lloyd was first elected to the County Council on 2 May 2013 to represent Stratford Avenue and New Town Division and was re-elected to the new division of Stratford North in 2017. When Councillor Lloyd joined the County Council he was already very well

known in his community having served on both the Town Council and Stratford on Avon District Council and been mayor in 2012 to 2013. As a County Councillor he served on Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was a member of the Regulatory Committee since 2015.

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Lloyd's commitment to his community where he was well liked, reflected in the great number of people who attended his service at Holy Trinity Church on 21 September.

Councillor Judy Falp referred to Keith Lloyd's strong personality, friendliness and hard work and how he had devoted his life to Stratford Town and to helping those in his community. Councillor Jenny Fradgley added her appreciation of Keith Lloyd's friendship and how he had been a towering figure in the town, following in his father's footsteps as mayor and being well liked by so many residents.

Councillor Olnier paid tribute to Keith Lloyd's work on Regulatory Committee and to his thoughtful judgements as well as his friendship.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe added her appreciation to Keith Lloyd's work with the County but also to the many years he had given to both the District and Town Councils, and to his very evident commitment to Stratford and his residents where he will be greatly missed.

The Council stood for a minutes silence.

(ii) Chair's Engagements

The Chair announced that HRH The Princess Royal visited Warwickshire on 25th September and also that he had attended the recent presentation of the Queen's Award for Enterprise to: Brose Ltd in Exhall Coventry; The Green Sheep Group in Snitterfield and George Pragnell Ltd.in Stratford. The Chair was pleased to announce that Warwickshire business was attracting so many awards.

(iii) Shire Hall Open Evening

The Chair invited members and their families and friends to his Open Evening at Shire Hall on Saturday 1st December 6.30 - 8.30pm.

(iv) WCC Annual Rounders Tournament

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, announced that this year's rounders tournament had taken place between April and September, with ten teams and over 700 rounders scored.

Four teams reached the semi-finals : Nowhere Insight; Warwickshire Whizzers; Wacking for Warwickshire and the Swingers.

The Leader congratulated Warwickshire Whizzers who took the title and thanked Jo Kellsell for her work in organising the tournament.

(v) OVO Bike Race

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, referred to stage four of the OVO bike race that had taken place on 5 September over 183 kilometres from Nuneaton to Leamington Spa, following some of the same roads used by the women's race in June. This was the first time Nuneaton and Leamington Spa were the host venues and the riders were greeted by enthusiastic crowds in both towns and along the route and although not all of the statistics for the event were available, it was known that there had been 4,000 people an hour before the start of the race in Nuneaton.

Councillor Seccombe added that the statistics were available for this year's women's tour which had attracted a total of 300,000 visitors. 100,000 of the visitors were in Warwickshire (10,000 more than in 2017), with two thirds of these visitors being from out of the County. This had brought £3m to the local economy.

The Chair added his congratulations to all involved in the event, reporting that a visitor had expressed his appreciation for how well the Warwickshire stage of the tour had been organised.

(vi) Warwick Poppies

Councillor Les Caborn encouraged members to visit the display of poppies in St Mary's Church, Warwick (until 9 December). The poppies have been made and donated with the aim to have a poppy for each of the 11,610 soldiers from the Warwickshire Regiment who have died in service. This target has been greatly exceeded with 62,438 poppies on display from all over the world in honour of the fallen of Warwickshire.

(vii) CQC Inspection of Warwickshire South Reablement Service

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, announced that the Warwickshire South Reablement Service had recently been inspected and had maintained its rating of good in all categories. Councillor Caborn congratulated the service for this achievement, particularly as the inspection regime had become harder.

(viii) West Mercia and Warwickshire Police Strategic Alliance

Councillor Andy Crump, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety, referred to the recent notice given by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of West Mercia's withdrawal from the Strategic Alliance with Warwickshire with effect from October 2019. Councillor Crump advised that he had asked for a report to December's Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board on the implications of this for Warwickshire

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, thanked the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel for her agreement to call an extraordinary meeting of the Panel to consider this issue.

(5) Petition – Request for the reinstatement of chaperones for 4-11 year olds on school buses

The Chair welcomed Becky Rees and Kate Worthington to the meeting and noted that Claudia Lindstrom, the organiser of the petition, had been unable to attend the meeting and had nominated Becky Rees to present the petition. .

Becky Rees explained that she was co-chair of a federation of two rural primary schools (Revel and Wolvey Schools). Up to 50 children take the bus for Revell School aged 4-11 and sometimes just there is just one on the bus.

Becky raised the following points with regard the withdrawal of chaperons (assistants) on school buses:

- Whether the Council's safeguarding duty will be met, given that there will be just one adult supervising 50 children whilst also safely driving the bus.
- Very small children can have physical difficulty getting onto the bus, as well as being nervous and need reassurance of another adult who can help them.
- Budgets are tight but the role of the chaperone is essential not a nice to have.
- Chaperones undertake a number of roles that the driver cannot do without stopping the bus which is not practical, as follows:
 - help children on to the bus;
 - ensure they are seated and stay seated with their seatbelts fastened;
 - resolve any squabbles;
 - report to the school of any incidents on the bus;
 - deal with any child taken ill;
 - checks that child goes to the correct adult at the end of the day;
 - can reassure and calm the children on the bus and look after the children if there is an accident;
- Some of the children have additional needs and the Council will have to provide some alternative provision.
- Bus drivers do not have training in child care, and cannot undertake that role and also drive the bus.
- It is different for secondary school children who are expected to manage their own behaviour.

Cllr Colin Hayfield, as Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, thanked Becky Rees for her presentation and the petitioner for bringing the petition to Council and added that it would inform the Council's discussions in the future.

(6) Public Speaking

None.

2. Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillor Izzi Seccombe advised the Council that she had decided to step down from the chairing of the Health and Wellbeing Board and proposed that Councillor Les Caborn be appointed Chair. Councillor Margaret Bell seconded this proposal.

The Council voted on the proposal and it was agreed as set out below:

Resolved

That Councillor Les Caborn be appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2017-18 and Delivery Plan for 2018-19

- A Councillor Caborn proposed that Council endorse the Health and Wellbeing Board's Annual Review 2017/18 and its Delivery Plan for 2018/19 and was seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe.

In presenting the report, Councillor Caborn drew particular attention to the development of the local JSNA groups and encouraged members to take part in their local group and influence the development of action plans for their communities. Councillor Caborn reminded Council of the three key priorities in the development plan: promoting independence, building community resilience and working together. and of the key areas in the work programme, which included supporting the Year of Wellbeing in 2019.

- B The following amendment was proposed by Councillor John Holland and seconded by Councillor Dave Parsons:

Add the words:

'That Council notes that this is the final report from the previous chair of the Health and Wellbeing board; expresses its concern at the lack of progress to reduce health inequalities in parts of Warwickshire and resolves that all parts of the Council should implement Public Health recommendations to reduce inequalities in Health and Wellbeing.'

Councillor John Holland, in moving the amendment, said that the amendment sought to reduce inequalities in the County and apply the excellent work of Public Health across the Council. He added that life expectancy is increasing in areas where it was already above average and appeared to be decreasing in areas where it was already below average and that a local approach was needed to tackle health inequalities, including in local planning, looking at solutions by geographical area and also in specific groups (such as mentally ill).

Councillor Dave Parsons, in seconding the amendment later in the debate, added that he would like there to be investigation of why life expectancy is stalling and to look at not just lifestyle, but also factors such as housing, stress (often caused by money worries).

DEBATE

Councillor Sarah Boad expressed concern that infant mortality had increased from 3.6 per 1000 births in 2014 to 4.7 in 2015/16 (page 4 of the report), bringing Warwickshire above the national rate, and asked that this be investigated.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, added his concern that Public Health budget had been cut nationally whilst there were increasing issues, such as a slowing down of the improvement in life expectancy, difficulty in accessing GP appointments and that health inequalities continued to exist across the County. Councillor Keith Kondakor added that the areas where life expectancy is lower are also the areas where the most improvement can be made but expressed concerns that some improvements (such as GP surgeries) were stalling and that he would welcome more case studies demonstrating action in the north of the county.

Members welcomed the Year of Wellbeing and hoped this would promote prevention and should also focus on mental as well as physical wellbeing.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, in seconding the motion, spoke against the amendment as it failed to recognise the positive work undertaken already by Public Health and the improvement in most of the indicators which mean better outcomes for residents and that illustrate the many achievements through work with partners. This includes a reduction in the age gap of those men who die early in the north compared to the south from over 10 years to 8 years. Councillor Seccombe added that the Health and Wellbeing Board has been recognised nationally as one of the better performing boards and that, whilst she accepted there was work to be done (including looking at child mortality) she was disappointed that the achievements were not being recognised by the amendment.

Councillor Les Caborn, in responding to the debate, agreed with a request from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers that a briefing note on infant mortality be circulated to members, along with information regarding children attendances at hospital. He added that he recognised that Public Health had suffered a reduced budget and that he made representations regarding this and the need to support preventative work. In addition the Council's GP Services Task and Finish Group report had been submitted as a response to the national consultation and the issue of life expectancy was also a national issue. Councillor Caborn added that the Year of Wellbeing provided an opportunity to promote healthier lifestyles that will impact on life expectancy. Councillor Caborn concluded by assuring members that there was now an Integrated Care Partnership in Nuneaton looking at how issues can be resolved locally. This and other initiatives started in the north of the county will be rolled out.

VOTE

Councillor Richard Chattaway and two other members requested a recorded vote on the amendment at B and this is recorded below:

FOR the amendment (17):

Councillors Helen Adkins, Sarah Boad, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Corinne Davies, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Judith Falp, Jenny Fradgley, John Holland, Keith Kondakor, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Kate Rolfe and Alan Webb.

AGAINST the amendment (31)

Councillors Jo Barker, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Peter Gilbert, Dan Gissane, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Jeff Morgan, Parminder Singh Pandher, Anne Parry, Dave Reilly, Andy Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe, Dave Shilton, Julie Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

The amendment was LOST.

The original motion as printed in the report was put to the vote and was AGREED, the vote being 37 for, none against and 11 abstentions.

Resolved

That Council endorses the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Review 2017-18 and Delivery Plan for 2018-19.

4. Notices of Motion

(1) National Adaptation Programme

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Jenny Fradgley and seconded by Councillor Sarah Boad:

‘This Council supports the vision for Local government as outlined by the Government (June 2018) in the second National Adaptation Programme report, that “*Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.*” This Council also recognises the leading role for local authorities such as Warwickshire in taking forward this agenda as outlined in the Government’s 25 year plan “A Green Future.”

Building on these commitments Council therefore requests that the Leader brings together the work that is already in progress in regard to tackling Climate Change into a single Climate Change strategy for Warwickshire.’

Councillor Jenny Fradgley explained that the motion sought to ensure the County Council, as a public body, takes responsibility and has a plan to respond to effects of climate change by ensuring the Council has a coordinated plan to respond to increased extreme events.

Councillor Fradgley noted that Warwickshire used to be recognised as leading on this until 2011 when Government reduced support to local authority and the sustainability unit was disbanded and responsibility spread across departments. Information is fragmented and although good work is being done, there is not a comprehensive overarching strategy that will make the most of limited resources or maximise outcomes from the inter relationships of the risks faced due to climate change. The motion therefore requested that the Council produces an up to date strategy that sets out the Council’s statutory obligations, leadership role, strategies for working with partners, involvement of communities and strategies

for communication. The strategy should take account of the Government's 'Green Future' plan.

Councillor Sarah Boad, in seconding the motion later in the debate, added that there is a pressing need to reduce global warming, and to reduce energy consumption overall.

DEBATE

The following points were made:

- The Council led on a pathfinder project in 2013/14 and there are other initiatives underway with the environmental team who are advising Defra
- There are initiatives under way, including waste management and reducing waste in residual waste bins, and green energy.
- Individual responsibility is important as well as public bodies.
- It is an emergency and all layers of Government need to respond. A broad and deep plan is needed that reduces the speed of change and puts in plans to adapt
- National changes are needed e.g. the food industry needs to reduce the use of black plastic.
- This motion is about adaptation to what it is happening, rather than actions to reduce carbon emission (which is another strand).
- The strategy needs to extend the existing pockets of good practice across the County (e.g. in flood risk management).
- Local authorities should think about what can be done locally, and immediately (including stopping use of plastic cups).
- Local authorities must ensure planning supports sustainable development.

VOTE

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

Resolved

This Council supports the vision for Local government as outlined by the Government (June 2018) in the second National Adaptation Programme report, that "*Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.*" This Council also recognises the leading role for local authorities such as Warwickshire in taking forward this agenda as outlined in the Government's 25 year plan "A Green Future."

Building on these commitments Council therefore requests that the Leader brings together the work that is already in progress in regard to tackling Climate Change into a single Climate Change strategy for Warwickshire.

(2) Shared Services

- A Councillor Maggie O'Rourke moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Helen Adkins

'The LGA has recently re-launched the national shared services map for 2018 which evidences how shared services have contributed to taxpayers saving more than £971m cumulative efficiency savings from over 559 shared service arrangements.

In light of this, and to ensure that as a Council we can demonstrate to the people of Warwickshire that we have explored all opportunities to maximise savings through shared services initiatives for all of our back office services and so avoid cutting vital front line services, this Council agrees that:

(i) A cross party working group is established to lead a review to identify which current back office and corporate services could be potentially delivered more efficiently through a shared service approach.

(ii) The results of that review be brought back to a Cabinet meeting within the current financial year outlining any opportunities to make savings.'

Councillor O'Rourke explained that she was putting this motion as more councils were looking at shared services that can deliver efficiencies, continuity, sustainability and the opportunity to deliver seamless services across sectors and beyond council boundaries, delivering for the many not just the few. The County Council should be leading on shared services and demonstrate to people of Warwickshire that it has looked at every option to protect vital front line services whilst delivering best value for money. Councillor O'Rourke stated that the pressure on local council finance meant that sharing services was now being considered by an increasing number of councils. She added that a Cipfa survey had found that 63% of senior local government executives agreed that front line services will suffer if councils do not radically change how they structure and deliver their services. Councillor O'Rourke added that the LGA had estimated that the sharing of services was creating savings of £643m per annum across local government, although most of these are small scale and more needs to be done to deliver significant savings required and for many shared services may be the only way to protect vital front line services.

Councillor Helen Adkins, in seconding the motion, added that although the Council has looked at this before she considered more could be done. She added that it should focus on innovation, efficiency and improving services not just saving money.

- B Councillor Kam Kaur moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin:

Amend paragraph 2 to read:

' In light of this, and to ensure that as a Council we can demonstrate to the people of Warwickshire that we have explored all opportunities to maximise savings through shared services initiatives for all of *our services* and so avoid cutting vital front line services, the Council *instructs the Joint Managing Directors to consider*

the options for shared services as part of the implementation of the Council's new operating model.'

Delete paragraphs 3 and 4.

Councillor Kam Kaur explained that the Council had embarked on a transformation agenda and that it would be right to consider opportunities as they arise. Councillor Kaur added that care was also needed in embarking on shared services, illustrated by the dwindling of support for the joint customer service centre and difficulty in finding a neighbouring council to join the council in providing its hr and od function. Councillor Kaur added, however, that the Council already had successful shared arrangements – such as legal services with Warwick District Council and the Police, shared Highways maintenance contract with Coventry and Solihull, the Regional Adoption Service, discussions with West Midlands Fire, increasing Section 75 arrangements to do things jointly with heads of services.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in seconding the motion, stressed that the Council has had success in sharing services and he was in favour of this in principle but added that it needed to be considered as part of the transformation programme, rather than waiting for a working group report.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke responded to the debate by accepting the amendment as a way forward.

The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and agreed as set out below:

Resolved

The Council notes that the LGA has recently re-launched the national shared services map for 2018 which evidences how shared services have contributed to taxpayers saving more than £971m cumulative efficiency savings from over 559 shared service arrangements.

In light of this, and to ensure that as a Council we can demonstrate to the people of Warwickshire that we have explored all opportunities to maximise savings through shared services initiatives for all of our services and so avoid cutting vital front line services, the Council instructs the Joint Managing Directors to consider the options for shared services as part of the implementation of the Council's new operating model

(3) Highways

Councillor Bill Olnor moved the following motion (amended from that set out in the agenda papers) and was seconded by Councillor Alan Cockburn:

'That this Council expresses its disappointment at the time taken to carry out road repairs and member highways schemes in Warwickshire and agrees that the Proposer and Labour Group Leader be invited to meet with the Portfolio Holder so that the specific concerns are understood. That the Portfolio Holder then produces a briefing paper for Communities Overview and Scrutiny, along

with inviting Balfour Beatty to that meeting so Members can then voice their concerns.'

Councillor Bill Olnier explained that he had brought this motion as he was aware of road repairs, including local schemes put forward by members, that had been agreed should take place had either not taken place or had taken many months . Councillor Olnier stated that he understood that there will sometimes be delays due to external factors (such as seeking insurance claims) and that there may be delays to enable a number of repairs in an area to be undertaken together, but he considered that the current length of delays was now unreasonable and that members were also not being kept advised of when schemes are going to be undertaken, or where schemes are on the list of priorities. Councillor Alan Cockburn, in seconding the motion, observed that highways maintenance has remained a priority for the Council despite budget pressures and the increasing pressure on the network due to growth in the economy. Councillor Cockburn added that road repairs is a high priority service with members spending a lot of time dealing with the concern or residents and he therefore supported this motion.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, added that members were frustrated at the length of time for works to be undertaken but that this was not a criticism of the workforce who were working hard but that he was concerned that there may be an issue of capacity, as well as delays from external contractors.

The following point were raised during the debate:

- The quality of some works needs to be looked at to avoid further work being required within a short space of time (for example removing/repainting of road markings).
- Not tackling repairs in a timely manner does not save money in the longer term. The money set aside in the capital budget should be used for the schemes that have been agreed.
- Some roads are re-patched frequently and it may be more effective to do resurfacing of an area
- Members are not kept up to date on the progress of projects and have to make enquiries on behalf of residents who complain to them.
- Warwickshire Fix MyStreet is a good on-line service for residents to report issues and for members to monitor issues in their areas but there is a need to be sure the issues are responded to in a timely manner with report on Fix MyStreet if and when work will be scheduled.
- County Highways officers are very supportive, provided quick responses and there are examples of very good work.
- Ensuring effective communication from other agencies is important to avoid repetition of road resurfacing.
- A review should include the role of the Environment Agency.
- Parishes have made effective use of lengthsman schemes using councillor delegated budgets, to undertake low level maintenance.

- The review should include the effectiveness of the contract in dealing with small jobs, given that the contract had been structured to allow smaller scale works to be undertaken by smaller organisations.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, advised the Council that maintaining the safety of the road network is essential and there are four inspection crews covering the 2368 miles of network and supported by 13 locality officers. Councillor Clarke added that around £15m per annum is spent on road repairs. This includes repair of potholes and there were 7235 potholes repaired in 2017/18 and there have already been 6679 repairs this year (April – September) with over 70% are fixed on a first repair. Councillor Clarke added that he understood the concerns raised by members and supported the motion.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader of the Council, reminded the Council that the new contract had had to absorb a 20% increase in material costs so it had been necessary to be more selective and efficient. Councillor Butlin acknowledged there are frustrations and he welcomed Overview and Scrutiny looking at the issues as this will provide an opportunity to question the contractor and to understand the expectations of both the contractor and members.

VOTE

The motion was put to the vote and was agreed, unanimously, as set out below:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its disappointment at the time taken to carry out road repairs and member highways schemes in Warwickshire and agrees that the Proposer and Labour Group Leader be invited to meet with the Portfolio Holder so that the specific concerns are understood. That the Portfolio Holder then produces a briefing paper for Communities Overview and Scrutiny, along with inviting Balfour Beatty to that meeting so Members can then voice their concerns.

(4) Brexit

This motion was withdrawn.

(5) Local Government Finance

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, proposed the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Alan Webb, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group:

'Budget restrictions in the form of direct cuts and budget pressures have meant losses of almost 50% for councils across the country and the Local Government Association believes that Councils will have lost 77 per cent of their budget by 2020.

This Council therefore calls on Government to reverse the disastrous policy of austerity that has dominated thinking in the Treasury since 2010 and has been disproportionately weighted against local authorities and demands complete reform of Local Government funding to make Councils more sustainable and more accountable by allowing the proceeds of growth to be retained locally'

Councillor Richard Chattaway referred to the concern raised by the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network that local authorities are at a financial breaking point and that budget cuts are impacting on essential services. Councillor Chattaway added that the budget restrictions were now impacting on many lives in Warwickshire and that the Council should put pressure on Government to reverse its policy of austerity.

Councillor Alan Webb, in seconding the motion, added that residents are paying more but now receiving less.

DEBATE

The following points were made during the debate:

For the motion:

- There has been a world recession but the UK has suffered more due to having low growth and reduction in productivity. The public sector is taking the brunt of the financial pressures.
- Reductions in public services are impacting on lives and will lead to more problems for the future that will be more expensive to resolve.
- This local authority has done well in difficult circumstances and local growth is welcome but the proceeds of this growth should be retained locally.
- Warwickshire County Council has good financial management but does not get enough income. Government should ensure local authorities have stable funding and give certainty for years ahead.
- There should be tax reforms including tax on unused sites with income from unused land going to local authorities.

Against the motion

- Austerity was an economic decision and necessary to reduce the deficit.
- Some Councils have not taken decisions early enough to manage the financial pressures.
- Coventry and Warwickshire businesses have a high degree of confidence for the future.
- Coventry and Warwickshire is the fastest growing area for business in the country.
- The motion does not propose a solution for funding local government.

- Warwickshire County Council has managed budget pressures responsibly over a number of years and made difficult decisions whilst stimulating income and achieving an underspend of £1.5m. Real term losses in income is 20-25%, not the level suggested in the motion.

VOTE

The motion was put to the vote and was LOST the vote being 17 for, 29 against and 1 abstention.

(6) Fracking – response to consultation

Councillor Keith Kondakor moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Jonathan Chilvers:

‘This Council notes that the Government are proposing, via a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS), to allow the exploration phase of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to be allowed under Permitted Development (PD), therefore requiring no planning permission. They also propose to bring the production phase of fracking under Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to be decided centrally by Government and the planning inspectorate, thus taking decisions away from local councils. If approved, this could be extended to include other types of oil and gas exploration, such as acid stimulation, through secondary legislation.

This Council believes that local plans, local planning and local democratic decision makers should retain control of all local mineral and fossil fuel development. Therefore, this Council requests Cabinet responds to the Government consultation accordingly, by rejecting the changes proposed for PD and NSIP as inappropriate and with the view that local Minerals Planning Authorities retain local control and primacy for all planning decisions at all stages for all types of oil and gas exploration.’

Councillor Keith Kondakor emphasised that the purpose of the motion was to ensure local control and whilst abiding by national policy, local authorities can set conditions to minimise impacts and ensure the best restoration of sites. Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, in seconding the motion, emphasised that the motion refers to all types of oil and gas exploration (not just fracking) as it is important that any planning decisions remain with local authorities.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, expressed his support for the motion to ensure local control. Councillor Clarke added that a response will be put to Government by 25th October on this basis.

VOTE

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

Resolved

This Council notes that the Government are proposing, via a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS), to allow the exploration phase of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to be allowed under Permitted Development (PD), therefore requiring no planning permission. They also propose to bring the production phase of fracking under Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to be decided centrally by Government and the planning inspectorate, thus taking decisions away from local councils. If approved, this could be extended to include other types of oil and gas exploration, such as acid stimulation, through secondary legislation.

This Council believes that local plans, local planning and local democratic decision makers should retain control of all local mineral and fossil fuel development. Therefore, this Council requests Cabinet responds to the Government consultation accordingly, by rejecting the changes proposed for PD and NSIP as inappropriate and with the view that local Minerals Planning Authorities retain local control and primacy for all planning decisions at all stages for all types of oil and gas exploration.

5. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

(1) Local Economy

Councillor Yousef Dahmash asked the Leader of the Council, for an update on the local economy and employment level.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that the national average level of unemployment was 4.2% and that unemployment in Warwickshire is at 1.8%, a reduction again and the lowest since 2004. Local businesses feel confident and will be seeing profits over the next quarter.

(2) Communication with local members on local tree work

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, asked Councillor Dave Reilly, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture, whether he would ensure that local members are advised of any forestry work in their local area before it takes place.

Councillor Reilly gave his assurance that he would look into this.

(3) SEND Inclusion Delivery Plan- Transport Group

Councillor Nicola Davies asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, whether he could confirm that the Warwickshire Carer Parent forum would continue to be represented on the SEND Transport Group.

Councillor Colin Hayfield responded that he expected this to be the case as it is important that parents have their say.

(4) Loneliness

Councillor Kate Rolfe asked the Leader of the Council what plans were in place to tackle loneliness in Warwickshire, in particular new and single mothers, who may no longer have access to a children's centre.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she was aware of the appointment of an MP as champion on loneliness and noted that the LGA had undertaken work on this. Councillor Seccombe reminded members that the Council has done a lot of work in the area of support for the elderly, but recognised that there is more work to be done with young mothers, some of whom will have access to a children centre but there will also be outreach work and targeted support.

(5) Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)

Councillor Adrian Warwick asked Councillor Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, for the latest position on the completion of EHCPs.

Councillor Hayfield responded that in 2017/18, 21% had been completed within 20 weeks which was below the national average. Priority was given to the transfer of SEN plans to EHCPs and since the completion of this the focus has been on ensuring new plans met the 20 week target. Additional resources had been made available and the current quarter had seen an increase to 64% completed within 20 weeks and 81% completed in September. This brings performance above the national average which needs to be sustained.

(6) Stockingford Nursery School

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, when Stockingford Nursery School will have confirmation of their funding for the coming year.

Councillor Colin Hayfield responded that he would provide a written reply.

(7) Bedworth Parking Enforcement

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would attend a meeting with residents to discuss the issue of parking enforcement in Bedworth.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that he would attend.

(8) Universal Credit

Councillor Dave Parsons asked the Leader of the Council what are the problems being caused by the loan period and what is the gathering debt level as a result of the introduction of universal credit.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that this question should be directed to the District Council as this was within its remit rather than the County Council's..

(9) Roadworks at Longshoot, Nuneaton

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, what can be done to avoid issues such as that at the Longshoot in Nuneaton where road works expected to be weeks were now likely to be months.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that this is a developer-led scheme and unfortunately a delay had been caused due to the discovery of a need to replace utility services. Councillor Clarke undertook to provide any further updates as they become available.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether the lessons learned from this scheme would be taken into account with other schemes, such as the Eastboro Way Development.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that he did not envisage the same problems at Eastboro Road as it is a newer road.

(10) Brexit

Councillor Sarah Boad asked the Leader of the Council whether she would report to a future meeting of the Council on how Warwickshire is preparing for Brexit.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that she recognised that it was important for both the Council and businesses to prepare for Brexit and that she would be happy to bring back a paper.

(11) Gypsies and Travellers Sites

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked Councillor Dave Reilly, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture, when the Hartshill Gypsies and Travellers Site would reopen.

Councillor Dave Reilly replied that it is now open.

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Dave Reilly what plans there were to provide an emergency stopping place in the south of the County now that the Southam proposal was no longer possible.

Councillor Dave Reilly replied that the Government inspector had declined to give permission to the proposed emergency stopping place in Southam and that further work would be undertaken to identify an alternative site.

Councillor Bill Olnor asked whether Councillor Dave Reilly would investigate how to ensure cooperation between the Council, Borough Council and the Police in relation to the use of the Albury Emergency Stopping Place.

Councillor Dave Reilly gave his assurance that he would ensure all officers are aware of the rules.

(12) West Midlands Rail 30 year plan

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Peter Butlin whether, as a member of the West Midlands Rail Executive, he could advise why West Midlands had not included Stockingford, Rugby Parkway and improvement of service at Polesworth, in its consultation on its 30 year plan except as an aspiration at the end of the plan.

Councillor Peter Butlin responded that the rail line lies is franchised to Cross Country not West Midlands Rail although it has an aspiration to hold the franchise in future when it comes up for retendering. Viability of the station will depend on further services using the line. Councillor Butlin stated, in response to a question from Councillor Maggie O'Rourke, that Rugby Parkway is in the Midlands Connect presentation and also recognised by West Midlands Rail as one that is wanted.

Councillor Butlin added West Midlands Rail operates the railway and Midlands Connect is a strategic body who determine where major projects happen in the whole of the Midlands.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked whether Councillor Butlin would ask that Stockingford Station is given the same recognition in the document as Castle Bromwich and Fort Dunlop which are on the same line. Councillor Dave Parsons asked that Polesworth Station also be included in this request.

Councillor Butlin replied that he would ask.

(13) Ash Green School

Councillor Pete Gilbert asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would attend Ash Green School to see their Sixth Form project on traffic. Councillor Clarke that he would be happy to attend.

6. Any other items of urgent business

None

7. Exclusion of Public and Press

The Chair moved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting and was seconded. The proposal was put to the vote and agreed as set out below.

Resolved

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

8. Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018

Resolved

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

9. Senior Management Arrangements

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, presented proposals for new senior management arrangements and was seconded by Councillor Peter Butlin.

The Council considered the proposals (as set out in full in the exempt minutes) and agreed the recommendations in the report and as set out below:

Resolved

- 1) That Monica Fogarty is appointed as Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer from 1 April 2019;
- 2) That arrangements are put in place to appoint Strategic Directors for Resources and Communities including the establishment of a Members appointment panel of five Members;
- 3) That the Assistant Director Finance and ICT is the s151 officer and the Assistant Director Governance and Policy is the Monitoring Officer until 31 March 2019;
- 4) That the Assistant Director – Business and Customer Services be appointed as the Proper Officer for the Registration Service;
- 5) That arrangements are put in place to appoint to vacant Assistant Director posts and a Chief Fire Officer including the establishment of Member appointment panels each consisting of five Members; and
- 6) That Council authorises the Joint Managing Director (Resources) to make such changes to the officer delegations of non-executive functions and such other provisions of the Constitution as he considers necessary arising from the new officer leadership structure.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

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Chair