

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council  
held on 26 July 2018**

Present:  
Councillor John Cooke (Chair)

Councillors Helen Adkins, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jonathan Chilvers, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Nicola Davies, Judith Falp, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Pete Gilbert, Clare Golby, Seb Gran, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Keith Kondakor, Jeff Morgan, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Dave Parsons, Caroline Phillips, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Howard Roberts, Kate Rolfe, Jerry Roodhouse, 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 Jo Barker, Corinne Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Dan Gissane, Keith Lloyd, Anne Parry, Clive Rickhards and Chris Williams

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

None.

**(3) Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**(4) Announcements**

Lesley Tregear- Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Manager

The Chair announced that Lesley Tregear, Manager of the Youth Justice Service, was retiring at the end of July.

Councillor Andy Crump, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety, paid tribute to Lesley's 26 years of service with Warwickshire. Lesley joined Warwickshire as a social worker with the Juvenile Justice Team in 1992 and became Operations Manager of the newly formed youth offending team (YOT) in 1999 which was rated 'high performing' by inspectors and used as a benchmark for other YOTs. During this time Lesley also helped design and deliver the two multi-agency justice centres in Warwickshire and was Business Change Manager for the Youth Justice Board's 'Wiring Up Youth Justice'

programme working with West Midlands, North West and Eastern YOT regions and West Midlands Police Force Areas. Other achievements included her initiation of a national project with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the development of a multi-agency IT solution to share information to safeguard children early. This project was undertaken in Warwickshire, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets and rolled out to a further 15 local authority areas.

In 2009 Lesley became head of service and was soon a regional representative on the Association of YOT Managers and Chair of the Association by 2016.

Councillor Crump congratulated Lesley for her fundamental part in developing children services over the last 26 years and for helping many children, parents and victims. Lesley has also led the service in obtaining many awards, including the Youth Justice Board's award for Best Social Media Coverage and most recently won a quality award from the 'Achievement for All' partnership organisation.

Councillor Crump thanked Lesley for her work and wished her well in her retirement on the Isle of Wight.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group added their thanks to Lesley for her enthusiasm and commitment to improving the lives of young people and families in Warwickshire and making the Youth Justice Service a national leader. Councillor John Horner added his thanks for the role Lesley had taken in developing Warwickshire's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Lesley thanked members for their support and also thanked the staff in the Youth Justice Team and wished them well for the future.

#### Jeremy Wright MP

The Chair announced that Jeremy Wright MP had been recently appointed Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

#### Kenilworth Station

The official opening of Kenilworth Station took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July, attended by Jeremy Wright QC, Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport and other guests.

#### Static Bike Challenge

Councillor Jeff Morgan thanked all of those who had taken part in the Static Bike Challenge on 18 July to raise money for the Cyclists Fighting Cancer charity and to mark the count down to the OVO Energy Tour of Britain cycle tour (with the men's tour starting in Nuneaton on 5<sup>th</sup> September).

## **(5) Petitions**

None

## **(6) Public Speaking**

None.

## **4. Warwickshire Minerals Plan**

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, presented the proposed Warwickshire Minerals Plan and moved the recommendations in the covering report which included a six week consultation process prior to submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Councillor Peter Butlin seconded the proposal. The Council noted that Cabinet had considered the Plan at its meeting on 24 July and had not proposed any amendments.

Councillor Clarke reminded members that the Council has a statutory duty to produce a Minerals Plan and that guidance requires that authorities plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals including aggregates. Councillor Clarke drew attention to the change in plan requirements for sand and gravel from 8.48 million tonnes to 6.525 million tonnes following a fall in the sales average from the Local Aggregates Assessment. The fall in requirement had therefore led to a need for further consultation of the plan based on the lower plan requirement and two sites had therefore been taken out of the plan. Councillor Clarke stated that the Plan would enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duties and was designed to enable sufficient supply across the County and minimise transportation miles. He added that each site would require consideration by the planning authority.

The following points were raised in debate:

- The Plan has to be based on where there are appropriate minerals (for example the north of the County is largely granite and not appropriate).
- Sand and gravel that is imported does not count towards the provision in the Plan, so not all of that allowed for in the Plan will be required.
- It would be helpful if the Plan made clear that the Council is opposed to underground coal gasification (which had once been proposed to East of Leamington) as it is not appropriate in inland areas, or at least it should not be referred to at all in the Plan.
- Recycling of aggregates has helped to reduce the level of extraction now required but there remains a question about the accuracy of the estimates of requirements. They appear to be based more on previous levels than accurate forward projections.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, expressed concerns with regard to proposed Site 4 (Wasperton/Barford) in that 50% of the land is top quality agricultural land which he did not believe would be restored at the end of the excavation and that, although the report states that there will not be excavation within 350m of the village of Barford, there will still be some people living much closer than the 350m limit and whose health may be put at risk. Councillor Chilvers requested that this be looked at again.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in seconding the proposals, advised Council that sites are

identified based on levels of sand and gravel but also the viability for landowners and extraction companies, and many sites are discarded in the process. In addition the Inspector will form a view on whether the estimated required level of sand and gravel is accurate.

Councillor Butlin assured the meeting that he did not support underground gasification as it was not yet proven to be suitable inland and it is unlikely that it would be viable in Warwickshire.

Councillor Jeff Clarke assured the Council that there would be suitable buffer zones around all the sites proposed in the Plan, to mitigate any adverse impacts. He added that all sites will be subject to full planning approval as will any conditions that may result from this.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were agreed as set out below. The vote was 39 for, 3 against and 6 abstentions.

### **Resolved**

That Council:

- 1) approves the proposed Warwickshire Minerals Plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the 2012 Regulations”);
- 2) authorises the Joint Managing Director (Communities) to:
  - (a) publish the proposed Plan (with any corrections of typographical errors) in accordance with Regulations 19 and 35 of the 2012 Regulations;
  - (b) determine, following the end of the publication period and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning and the Joint Managing Director (Resources), whether main modifications should be proposed or any other circumstances require further consideration by Cabinet and Council;
  - (c) provided that no such further consideration is required prepare the materials required for submission to the Secretary of State and submit the Plan to the Secretary of State;
  - (d) take all administrative and other steps which she considers necessary or desirable for the conduct of the Examination in Public and to enable Council to adopt a sound and compliant Plan (including for the avoidance of doubt proposing modifications following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning and the Joint Managing Director (Resources) that (taken together) do not materially affect the policies set out in the Plan).

## 5. Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2018-2019

Councillor Andy Crump, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety, presented the Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan for 2018-2019 which had been endorsed by Cabinet and proposed that it be adopted by the County Council. Councillor Heather Timms seconded the proposal.

Councillor Crump reminded members that this annual plan is a statutory requirement that sets out the performance of the Youth Justice Service over the previous year and how the Service intends to meet national objectives and local priorities throughout the coming year.

Councillor Crump welcomed the social return on investment of £12.85 for every £1 spent and highlighted the performance figures in the report, in particular that the level of reoffending; first time entrants to criminal youth justice service; and custodial need had all fallen. Councillor Crump commended the work of the partners involved in achieving this positive performance and in their positive work on local initiatives, such as substance advice and support, support for families of offenders, and support for victims of crime.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the Plan and commended the work of the Youth Justice Service but noted that there were increasing risks (such as the increase in substance misuse amongst young people and its impact on mental health) at a time when resources are contracting. Councillor Roodhouse was particularly concerned that partners were not retaining the funding level required for and that this will impact on the Service and on the delivery of prevention strategies in future.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, welcomed the Plan and the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service and commented that this illustrates how local authorities are good at providing local solutions to local problems. He added that it is important that the Service continues the good work but recognised there are pressures, including an increase in offending in some areas, and that all the agencies need to be taking it as seriously as the County Council does.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, referred to the commitment made by the Leader at the Council meeting in February 2018 to review the saving of £222,000 that is due to come out of the Youth Justice Service budget in 2019/20 and questioned how this review is being undertaken to ensure the service remains excellent as he did not believe the Service could sustain this cut without detriment to the service delivery.

Councillor Chilvers added that the Youth Justice Board grant arrangements are changing and this may result in money being diverted to other areas, such as cities facing increases in knife crime, which could result in another pressure on the budget of the Service and increases the need for a careful review of funding.

Councillor Heather Timms, in seconding the approval of the Plan, added her thanks to Lesley Tregear and her team for their excellent service and in particular the partnership working with other YOTs with regard to children visiting Warwickshire and the work with those with special educational needs and disabilities who may be at risk of offending.

Councillor Crump responded to the debate and gave his assurance that the saving of £220,000 would be reviewed.

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

### **Resolved**

That the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2018-19 be adopted by Warwickshire County Council.

## **6. Education Strategy: Consultation Findings and Proposed Strategy Documents**

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, presented the proposed Education Strategy which had been endorsed by Cabinet and was before Council for approval. Councillor David Reilly seconded the proposal to adopt the Strategy and, speaking later in the debate, highlighted the extensive consultation and partnership working that had been undertaken in order to produce the Strategy.

Councillor Hayfield reminded members that the strategy had been co-produced with a wide range of education stakeholders to produce a short accessible strategy with supporting plans.

Councillor Hayfield welcomed the input and support given by the Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and envisaged that the Committee may wish to review progress on the Strategy in future. Councillor Hayfield also envisaged there would be an annual public scrutiny of the Strategy to which those involved in Education would be invited and to also appoint four champions to take forward the Strategy.

The Leaders of each Group and other members welcomed the Strategy and in particular the co-production approach to its development.

The following points were raised in debate:

- The format of the Strategy, with a short few pages of strategy, and supporting plans is welcome and could be applied to other strategies.
- The co-production approach could be applied to other strategies.
- The Strategy recognises all learners should have a good education and having all schools as high performing has positive impact on other areas, for example it is positive for the environment to reduce transport of students.
- Area behavioural partnerships should be a means of keeping children in education and helping them with their difficulties.
- The Strategy recognises that children learn in different ways and should have equal opportunity to take appropriate educational route for them.

Councillor Hayfield responded to the debate and thanked all members who had taken part in the consultation to produce the Strategy. Councillor Hayfield agreed that it is important that children are helped to stay in education rather than sent from school to school and that area behavioural partnerships needed to be effective to help children with difficulties and ensure they have opportunities to develop. He added that there is

a challenge in planning ahead for the skills that will be needed in the future and that the Strategy would require input from other services in the Council.

The proposal to adopt the Education Strategy was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

### **Resolved**

That Council notes the outcomes of the consultation process and, in line with the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting of 14 June 2018:

- (1) That the Education Strategy in Appendices 1-6 of the report be approved; and
- (2) That Cabinet approves an annual update on the implementation of the Education Strategy, with the delivery plan and contextual documents being dynamic documents which are updated on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

## **7. Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2023**

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, presented the annual Education Sufficiency Strategy that had been agreed by Cabinet and requested that it be approved by Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Yousef Dahmash who supported the strategy and requested that there be engagement sessions within in each area of the County to provide information and an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

The following points were raised during the debate:

- The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places across the County, including in those schools not under the Council's control.
- Although the authority can have some influence on primary school provision (in projecting numbers required for new housing development and leverage of developer S106 funding), this does not apply to secondary schools which are free schools funded by the Department for Education and sites are identified by a free school provider rather than by the authority. It would be helpful to influence provision through identifying local solutions with local members.
- Home schooling has increased due to parents not getting the school of their choice.
- The number of special educational needs places appears to be growing and the solution presented is to provide more SEN schools. Is this because academies are not taking SEN children or is there an underlying social community problem?
- Pre-planning and timing of primary school building is critical. The schools need to be in early in housing developments or people may be deterred from purchase. In addition public need to be made aware of areas where there may not be provision or where there are pressures.
- Where possible primary schools that are split should be amalgamated as there are benefits from them being all-through schools (for example a child who has an

SEN assessment started in one school that is not completed has to start the process again in the next school).

- There are some schools that are not fit for purpose and part of the strategy should be to address these schools.
- There are some sites where a sustainable approach is being taken.
- Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee could hold a select committee scrutiny of this topic.

Councillor Hayfield responded to the debate and advised that plans were already underway to have a district based seminar in North Warwickshire with the intention of rolling this out to other district areas. This will be supported by a range of officers and will look at the current position and plans in place and also looking to the future. Councillor Hayfield added that it may be appropriate to have a scrutiny select committee after the conclusion of the district wide seminars first.

The proposal to approve the Strategy was put to the vote and was agreed with one abstention.

### **Resolved**

That Council approves the Education Sufficiency Strategy for the academic years 2018-2023.

## **8. Bermuda Connectivity Scheme, Nuneaton**

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, presented the recommendations from Cabinet seeking approval to add funding to the Capital Programme to take forward the Bermuda Connectivity Scheme in Nuneaton. Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Clarke explained that the scheme which will provide additional capacity and improved connectivity in Nuneaton by providing a 1.3 mile link between West Nuneaton and Griff Roundabout via the existing Bermuda Bridge over the A444 and will have a range of benefits as listed at paragraph 1.1 in the report including reducing congestion and improved access to Arbury and Stockingford.

Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed his opposition to the scheme for the following reasons:

- The project started four years ago as a £3.7m project with certain benefits but it is now a £9m project with few benefits.
- There is a traffic problem as recognised by two thirds of people who responded to the survey but two thirds of people also said that this is the wrong solution.
- There is a lot of other work in Nuneaton which will help alleviate congestion including the Coton Arches project (which will help relieve congestion on the A444), the College Street Project which is close to the Bermuda Bridge project and the planned Arbury Link Road and station at Stockingford.
- There has not been a traffic assessment. It is likely that the 2,000 people who it is said will benefit from use of the bridge will gain little time and just join the



queue on St Georges Way. Consideration of the scheme should therefore be deferred until the traffic assessment is available.

- The scheme does not include traffic signals at the exit to the Griff roundabout and at the other end of the scheme there is poor visibility. These factors, and the residential nature of the area (with parked cars), means it is unlikely that there will be time benefit for those using the bridge and there are safety risks.
- There are no pedestrian crossings and the one from the Bermuda Park Station will not be undertaken in the follow up project.
- The £9m would be better spent on casualty reduction schemes, safer routes to schools or highway improvements.
- It is too far from the town centre to have any impact on town centre congestion.

Councillor Bill Olnor spoke in favour of the project in that it would improve connectivity, including access to the station and remove pressure on College Street and those living in Heath End Road.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated that he remained unconvinced that the scheme was robust or value for money and was concerned that it would not be brought in on time and on budget. He added that there was no traffic analysis on which to make a judgement or convince him that the scheme should be supported.

Councillor Clare Golby, local member, expressed her opposition to the scheme and highlighted the following concerns:

- The scheme will run traffic through a village location.
- The contingency funding is not adequate.
- The Council's own modelling is that there will be over 200 vehicles per hour which is unacceptable.
- If it is passed there needs to be more crossings and safety measures for local residents (including not having yellow lines which increases traffic speeds).
- The area has been transformed into a desirable residential area.
- The time savings are minimal, for example in 2031 a 20 second time saving from Chapel End to Coventry and a maximum of 4.5 minutes from Galley Common.
- There will be other measures in place by 2031 and a number of lower cost changes to the existing highways network will have more impact, for example the suggested Arbury Link Road and a station at Stockingford.
- The planning permission for Bermuda Station Car Park states that there will be no modal shift if the bridge is opened, so defeating the objective of encouraging people off roads and on to trains.
- There has been no overwhelming response to the consultation in support of the proposal.

Councillor Jeff Morgan expressed support for the scheme which he considered was essential to help keep Nuneaton moving and to relieve the gridlock at Lower Heath End Road and to not use the funds available now would send a negative message for

future investment in Nuneaton. Councillor Morgan added that he appreciated there would be an impact for some people and he supported measures to mitigate this.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, added his support for the scheme in view of the need to improve traffic flow in Nuneaton and help the economy of the area.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in seconding the proposal, assured the meeting that he had looked very closely at this site and it was evident that the problem of congestion on the A444 was increasing and that investment was needed to help keep Nuneaton moving and improve connectivity which in turn would have economic benefits. The bridge will take traffic away from the A444, make better connectivity with the railway station and is supported by local businesses. Councillor Butlin explained that the scheme design had been re-evaluated to contain the cost but to ensure it meets appropriate highway standards.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, in responding to the debate, stated that the scheme will provide extra capacity to the West of Nuneaton, had a benefit cost ratio of 7 and had been assessed in conjunction with the Borough Council, taking account of their Local Plan. Councillor Clarke also gave his assurance that he would work with local members to ensure whatever possible mitigation measures are undertaken.

Councillor Keith Kondakor requested a recorded vote and was supported by two other members. The following vote was taken:

FOR the proposals (37):

Councillors Helen Adkins, Margaret Bell, Parminder Singh Birdi, Mike Brain, Peter Butlin, Les Caborn, Mark Cargill, Richard Chattaway, Jeff Clarke, Alan Cockburn, John Cooke, Andy Crump, Yousef Dahmash, Pete Gilbert, Colin Hayfield, John Holland, John Horner, Andy Jenns, Kam Kaur, Jeff Morgan, Bill Olnor, Maggie O'Rourke, Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Dave Parsons, Wallace Redford, David Reilly, Howard Roberts, Sargeant, Izzi Seccombe OBE, Dave Shilton, Jill Simpson-Vince, Bob Stevens, Heather Timms, Adrian Warwick, Alan Webb, Pam Williams and Andy Wright.

AGAINST: (10):

Councillors Sarah Boad, Jonathan Chilvers, Nicola Davies, Judith Falp, Jenny Fradgley, Bill Gifford, Clare Golby, Keith Kondakor, Kate Rolfe and Jerry Roodhouse.

The recommendations were agreed as set out below, the vote being 37 for and 10 against.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Council approves the addition of £1 million of further expenditure to the Capital Programme, to be fully funded by a capital grant contribution from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and the addition to the Programme of £4.198million from the Capital Investment Fund to deliver Bermuda Connectivity at a cost of £8.900million with the commitment that any further alternative sources of funding secured for the scheme result in a £ for £ reduction

in the Capital Investment Fund's contribution and that any further scheme cost increases are met from the Transport and Economy Business Unit's existing revenue resources;

(2) That Council authorises:

- (i) The Joint Managing Director (Communities) to finalise the design of the Scheme (including making minor modifications to the scheme as described in this report), and procure contractors for delivery, on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources), and to take all steps required to implement the scheme including the submission of applications for planning permission and any other consents and approvals;
- (ii) The Joint Managing Director (Resources) to acquire by agreement the land required for the implementation of the scheme; and
- (iii) The Joint Managing Directors to determine jointly whether the compulsory acquisition of interests in any such land that cannot be acquired by agreement is justified pursuant to sections 239, 240, 246 and 250 of the Highways Act 1980 and Section 2 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and, if they so determine, to make any compulsory purchase order(s) for the purpose of acquiring such interests in exercise of that power and to take any steps required to secure the confirmation of such order(s) and acquire such interests (whether by agreement or in exercise of such order(s)) including the determination of compensation and agreement of terms for the withdrawal of objections (including where appropriate the exclusion of land or new rights from the order(s)) and any other incidental or consequential arrangements.

## **9. Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18**

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, presented the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee which had been welcomed by Cabinet at its meeting on 24 July and proposed that it be approved by Council. Councillor Andy Crump seconded the proposal. Councillors Kaur and Crump thanked the Committee for their work and their report.

The report was approved unanimously.

### **Resolved**

That Council approves the Audit and Standards Annual Report 2017-18.

## **10. Annual Governance Statement 2017/18**

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, presented the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 which had been endorsed by both the Audit and Standards Committee and the Cabinet, and proposed that it be approved by Council. Councillor Andy Crump seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken and approval was agreed unanimously.

## **Resolved**

That Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2017-18.

### **11. Warwickshire Pension Fund Statement of Accounts 2017/18**

Councillor Bob Stevens, Chair of the Pension Fund Investment Sub-Committee, presented the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 and proposed that it be approved by Council. Councillor Peter Butlin seconded the proposal and thanked Councillor Stevens for his work.

Councillor Stevens reminded the Council that the Pension Fund is not the Council's money but the Council is responsible for administering the Pension Fund and ensuring it is able to meet all of its liabilities. He added that the Pension Fund is performing well and at the 2016 valuation the Fund could meet 80% of its liabilities and this has improved since then with a view to meeting 100% of liabilities by 2025. The Fund comprises employer and employee contributions (usually fixed for three year periods) and investment contributions. The Local Pension Board, established in 2016 and with an independent chair, scrutinises the performance of the Fund which is also reported to the Pension Investment Sub-Committee every quarter.

Councillor Stevens highlighted that the value of the Fund had increased from £1.983bn to £2.032bn in 2018 and that the Pension Fund Investment Sub Committee regularly reviews the investments. This review includes consideration of whether they meet the standards agreed by the Council and the standards set by the Border to Coast Pension Partnership (the partnership set up in accordance with the legislation requiring pooling of pensions with a view to making administrative savings and higher returns on investment). He added that the Partnership was now live, with a pooled fund of £50bn and that the first transfer of assets will take place later this year.

Councillor Stevens thanked members of the Sub-Committee for their work.

Members paid tribute to the work undertaken by Councillor Stevens as Chair of the Sub-Committee particularly during the establishment of the pooling arrangements.

Councillor Keith Kondakor observed the level of investment in dollar denominated investments and asked what plans had been made to offset any market turbulence caused by dollar values or the impact of Brexit.

Councillor Bob Stevens gave assurance that risk is mitigated by having a diverse range of investments but that risks were evaluated regularly which may mean that the investments in equities may change in future.

The proposal to approve the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

## **Resolved**

That Council approves the 2017-18 Pension Fund Statement of Accounts.

## **12. Statement of Accounts 2017/18**

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, presented the annual Statement of Accounts, as approved by the Audit and Standards Committee, and proposed that they be approved by Council. Councillor Kam Kaur seconded the proposal and added that the external auditors had commended the quality of the report.

Councillor Butlin referred to paragraph 2.1 of the report which explained the purpose of the narrative in the Statement and which stated that this is consistent with the budget information provided during the year and reconciles with the year- end financial position presented to Cabinet in June.

Councillor Bill Gifford thanked Vicki Barnard, Group Manager in Corporate Finance, for her work in producing a clear and accessible report. Councillor Gifford commended the report and added that the only change he would make would be to split children's services and schools.

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

### **Resolved**

That Council approves the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18.

## **13. S278 Highway Improvement Schemes at C30 Hillmorton Lane / Link Road to Houlton and The Kent, Rugby – Addition to the Capital Programme**

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, presented a report seeking approval for an addition to the Capital Programme and was seconded by Councillor Adrian Warwick, who welcomed the project and thanked the parish councils and the local borough member for their constructive support.

Councillor Butlin explained that this was developer funded scheme and that Homes England had offered to bring forward funding early to enable the link road to be built in advance of the housing.

Councillor Alan Webb welcomed the early start for this scheme but expressed concern that vehicles from Houlton will come through Butler's Leap, Brownsover area and he asked for an update on progress with improving the Hunter's Lane Junction.

Councillor Butlin, in responding to the debate, assured members that the cost in the report is the cost of the combined schemes and there has been no inflation on the costs. He added there is also mitigation for further schemes to pick up any traffic issues.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed with two abstentions.

### **Resolved**

That Council approves the addition of the following scheme to the 2018-19 capital programme at a value of £2.9m: C30 Hillmorton Lane / Link Road to Houlton and The Kent, Rugby. Developer - SUE GP LLP.

## 14. Notices of Motion

### (1) Rugby Parkway Station

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Alan Webb:

- A 'That, in view of the recent announcement about the unsuccessful bid to secure funding for the Rugby Parkway Station, the Leader of the Council makes urgent representations to the Department of Transport to secure national funding for the Rugby Parkway scheme as quickly as possible.'

Councillor O'Rourke referred to the concerns of residents in Rugby with regard to the traffic congestion and impact on air quality, including the congestion in residential streets near the current station which is just off the centre of town. Councillor O'Rourke added that Rugby is fast becoming a commuter town and the need for the Rugby Parkway station is increasing. Councillor O'Rourke appreciated the work undertaken by officers to obtain funding for the new station and welcomed the commitment to getting the station in place as soon as possible and encouraged the input of partners.

Councillor Peter Butlin proposed the following amendment to the motion and was seconded by Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince:

Add:

- B 'That the Council investigates all methods of financing Rugby Parkway Station and seeks to align the building of this station with the housing delivery on the Houlton site.'

Councillor Butlin agreed that the need for the Parkway Station will increase further once the additional 6200 houses are built and, unless the station is in place, people from Houlton will drive to the existing station, adding to the traffic congestion, access and parking issues. Councillor Butlin added that it was unfortunate that the housing was not in place early enough to obtain the funding for the station but that he wished to look at options for financing the Station.

Councillor Butlin agreed to a request from Councillor Maggie O'Rourke that there be a working group to look at the delivery of the Rugby Parkway Station.

Councillor Yousef Dahmash supported the proposal but also requested that there be improvements to the access to the current station.

Councillor Keith Kondakor requested that work also be undertaken with Network Rail to increase line speeds at the same time.

Councillor Jeff Clarke gave assurance that discussions are underway with Network Rail and the Rugby Rail Users Group to alleviate problems at Rugby Station.

Councillor Alan Webb, in seconding the motion, referred to improvements being considered in the town but stated that the Parkway scheme will provide the biggest improvement and encourage people to the new Houlton site.

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

### **Resolved**

- (1) That, in view of the recent announcement about the unsuccessful bid to secure funding for the Rugby Parkway Station, the Leader of the Council makes urgent representations to the Department of Transport to secure national funding for the Rugby Parkway scheme as quickly as possible.
  
- (2) That the Council investigates all methods of financing Rugby Parkway Station and seeks to align the building of this station with the housing delivery on the Houlton site.

*The Council adjourned at 12.55 pm and reconvened at 1.45pm*

### (2) Business Rates

Councillor Bill Olnier moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Richard Chattaway:

‘That the Council lobbies central Government to address the problem of business rate bills that make it difficult for town centre based businesses to compete with on-line shopping and to compensate local authorities for any subsequent loss of business rate income.’

Councillor Olnier referred to the pressure that business rates put on town centre small and medium sized businesses, and how this placed them in at a disadvantage compared to out of town warehouses and on-line businesses which did not pay business rates. Councillor Olnier requested that a fairer system be introduced.

The following points were made during the debate on the motion:

- The rateable values of premises can be a measure of success and attract businesses but measures are needed to make it easier for independent businesses to survive.
- Small businesses have to operate within the same legislative boundaries as large businesses but not all have the resources (such as hr departments).
- Car drivers need to be able to access towns or people will shop out of town.
- Towns need people living in them to help businesses thrive.
- Towns need to provide an experience for visitors, and not be just for shopping

- Business rates should come down when situations change and land valuation tax should be used to discourage sites being left unused.
- Office square footage as a means of valuation is no longer reflective of how businesses operate or indicative of their financial value.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, observed that there is a second industrial revolution taking place, with growth in on-line shopping and agreed that it is time to create an equality in the system. Councillor Seccombe added that there was still uncertainty regarding the level of business rate retention and this and the impact of on line growth are issues being considered by the Local Government Association.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, in seconding the motion, emphasised that the nature of shopping had changed and could not be reversed but this motion sought to provide a more equal playing field and is one way of helping to address pressure on town centres.

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

### **Resolved**

That the Council lobbies central Government to address the problem of business rate bills that make it difficult for town centre based businesses to compete with on-line shopping and to compensate local authorities for any subsequent loss of business rate income.

### (3) Universal Credit

Councillor John Holland moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Dave Parsons:

‘That the Council notes the National Audit Office report of 15 June 2018 "Rolling Out Universal Credit" and urges the Secretary of State to implement the recommendations of that report in order to support Warwickshire residents, in particular improving the tracking and transparency of progress towards Universal Credit's intended benefits and working with delivery partners to establish a shared evidence base for how Universal Credit is working in practice’.

Councillor John Holland explained that he had brought this motion to Council in view of the impact that the introduction of Universal Credit was likely to be having on many Warwickshire residents and also because the National Audit Office had made recommendations to address the problems it had identified.

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

### **Resolved**

That the Council notes the National Audit Office report of 15 June 2018 "Rolling Out Universal Credit" and urges the Secretary of State to implement the recommendations of that report in order to support Warwickshire residents, in particular improving the tracking and transparency of progress towards Universal



Credit's intended benefits and working with delivery partners to establish a shared evidence base for how Universal Credit is working in practice.

(4) Town Centre working group

Councillor Richard Chattaway announced that he had withdrawn this motion following discussion with the Leader regarding the establishment of the working group.

**15. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)**

(1) Old Park Avenue, Attleborough, Nuneaton

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Health, what is happening with the Old Park Avenue site where the building has become a target of vandalism and is in a poor state of repair.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that disposal of the site had been agreed in July 2013 and a contract had been agreed to develop the site for use by disabled people. This did not come about and a legal process is underway to take back ownership of the site. The preference is for the site to be used either for elderly people needing support or for those with disabilities as there is a need for such provision in the area.

Councillor Caborn added that there would be consultation with local members and that he would ensure all members are informed of progress.

(2) Conversion of statements to EHCP Plans

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning:

- what is the up to date position for conversions, draft issued and fully complete how many are left to determine and convert?
- what is the current length of time being taken from start to finish of converting statements to EHCPs?
- what can parents expect from WCC in length of time?
- How many appeals have been made over statements and now EHCPs over the last 5 years and of these how many went to tribunal.
- Has and does WCC use external lawyers for any of these? In particular Baker Small Solicitors.

Councillor Hayfield replied that at 20<sup>th</sup> July 99.9% of conversions had been completed. There were three written that had yet to be finalised following revisions, but all were expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Councillor Hayfield added that it had taken longer than the Government had hoped but it had been an enormous task (which was recognised in addition of resources in the budget) but the focus has been on ensuring quality. In 2015, 5 cases had resulted in tribunal hearings and this increased to 15 in 2017. In 2015, 15 cases went to formal mediation and increased to 42 in 2017 but the number of

plans had increased from 2962 in 2015 to 3509 in 2017. The result is that Warwickshire County Council has one of the lowest percentages of cases going to tribunal or formal mediation.

Councillor Hayfield added that the Council generally uses its own lawyers but has used external lawyers if there has not been the capacity to meet demand and could provide details if needed.

Councillor Roodhouse asked that the Portfolio Holder confirm that Baker Small Solicitors had not been used and also asked whether he was confident that the 20 week completion date would be met at the same time as maintaining high quality.

Councillor Hayfield responded that not all cases had been completed within 20 weeks for a number of reasons but he hoped that capacity would increase now that the conversions had reached completion, but focus would continue to be on quality. Councillor Hayfield added that overview and scrutiny committee may wish to monitor this.

### (3) Nuneaton-Bedworth-Ricoh Cycle Route

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether the Portfolio Holder would give his assurance that he would be ensuring that the proposal for a Nuneaton-Bedworth-Ricoh cycle route is given priority.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that officers were working on a funding bid to meet the deadline of 31 August 2018 and that the Leader would be asked to give formal agreement to its submission. He added that he fully supported this and did consider it to be a priority.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked how long it would take to construct the cycle way and Councillor Jeff Clarke undertook to provide this information.

### (4) Waste Management

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor David Reilly, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture, what the financial impact is for the County Council of Rugby Borough Council charging for green waste collection and what actions the County Council is taking. He also asked whether the Portfolio Holder would confirm how much Rugby Borough Council gets in recycling credits from the County Council.

Councillor David Reilly replied that the net impact on the County Council was £360,000 in 2017/18 and that the County Council was in discussion with Rugby Borough Council to look at ways of mitigating their costs and was also in discussion with the other four district and borough councils to discuss options to ensure waste is managed in the most efficient and environmentally sound way. Councillor Reilly added that the overall value of the credits paid to Rugby Borough Council in 2017/18 was £473,781 but this was not just green waste, but all recycled waste.

Councillor Reilly added that over half of the residual waste in the bin of average householder can be recycled and that the majority of this is food waste and he called upon members to sign up to the waste charter and to champion projects to reduce waste.

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked whether the Borough Council were obtaining an unfair subsidy and whether there is a way of levelling the playing field.

Councillor Reilly replied that the County Council has a statutory duty to recycle credits and these are paid to each of the collection authorities.

(5) Race Leys School, Bedworth – Safe Route to School

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, what plans were in place for children to travel to Race Leys School safely, given that a proposed route had not proved acceptable in the area.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that a scheme had been considered but it did not meet the criteria and an alternative was consulted on but was not supported by residents. He added that there were no plans at present to introduce engineering measures on Sutherland Drive but that he was always willing to consider ideas from residents.

(6) Acid Attack

Councillor Dave Shilton asked Councillor Andy Crump ( Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety) whether, in view of the recent acid attack on a three year old child in Worcester, he would write to all Warwickshire MPs seeking their support of the Worcestershire MP Robin Walker's call for a zero tolerance approach towards acid attacks.

Councillor Andy Crump replied that he would support this and would also join the campaign for checks on the sale of corrosive substances.

(7) Nuneaton Railway Station

Councillor Caroline Phillips asked Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) when he intended to bring a report to Cabinet regarding an alternative route into Nuneaton Railway Station for an addition to the capital programme.

Councillor Clarke replied that he did support the scheme which would enhance the frontage and hopefully provide additional access to the station but the project was at an early stage and a feasibility study would be taken over the next few months with a view to bringing a report to members next year.

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked why there had been a delay in costing the scheme and when the cost and value of any developer contributions would be known. Councillor Clarke responded that this would depend on the outcome of the feasibility study.

## (8) Homelessness

Councillor Dave Parsons asked Councillor Les Caborn, (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) whether, following reports that the rent arrears had risen alarmingly since the roll out of universal credit in Nuneaton and Bedworth, the Portfolio Holder could clarify the position with regard to current rent arrears in local authority housing and also housing association and private sector rent arrears within the County. Councillor Parsons also asked whether the numbers of individuals registered as homeless within the County was rising or falling.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that the data regarding arrears was held by the district and boroughs and they had not responded to him to date. He added that each district and borough were at different stages of the roll out of universal credit and therefore a full year picture across the County would not be available until next year. Homelessness across the County had fallen since 2015 and there were 659 homeless at the end of 2017. In addition there were 49 rough sleepers (an increase of 10 on the previous year) but that this was below the peak.

Councillor Caborn updated the meeting on the work underway with partners to tackle homelessness, including mental health outreach for rough sleepers, a countywide conference on 27 September to finalise approach to homelessness prevention and the audit work being undertaken.

Councillor Les Caborn undertook to circulate a full briefing note to all members.

## (9) Hospital Admissions

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, for the following data:

How does Warwickshire County Council by District compare to the England average for Hospital admissions:-

- as a result of self harm.
- caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children 0 to 14 and 15 to 24 years of age.

Councillor Les Caborn replied that the national average for self -harm admissions was 185. This compares with the following figures for Warwickshire:

North Warwickshire	- 156
Nuneaton & Bedworth	- 189
Rugby	- 179
Warwick & Stratford	- below the English average

The data regarding injuries in children 0-14 put Rugby higher than average with all other boroughs and districts similar to the national average.

The data regarding unintentional and deliberate injuries in 15-24 year olds shows that Warwickshire is not as good as the national average. North Warwickshire and Warwick are similar but the other districts and boroughs are worse than the national average.

Councillor Caborn added that a lot of work is underway with partners on unintentional and self-harm injuries across the Coventry and Warwickshire footprint. The County Council is also working on a range of initiatives including on suicide prevention, mental health and wellbeing, and working with hospitals on admissions of children under five.

Councillor Caborn undertook to circulate a full briefing note to all members.

(10) Boarding schools offer of places for 'at risk' children

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, given that boarding schools were to offer funded places for 'at risk' children under a government-backed scheme, will all the places offered at Rugby School be made available to Warwickshire Children?

Councillor Jeff Morgan replied that the government backed scheme followed a study of the outcomes of 52 children in need placed in boarding schools by Norfolk County Council over a period of 10 years. Prior to this County Council officers had been speaking to independent schools are considering placing two looked after children from September 2018. Councillor Morgan emphasised that this approach would only be taken where there is the right school for the right child and that although there are savings (it costs around £52,000 per annum to foster a child out of the County compared to average boarding school fees of around £35,000) but it will only be done where it is appropriate for the child. He added that there had been discussion with Rugby School but that it was highly unlikely that all places will be for Warwickshire children.

(11) Public Sector Pay Review

Councillor John Horner asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, whether there were contingency plans to meet the costs of the proposed increase in public sector pay.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that allowance had been made in the budget of 2% for the current year. Councillor Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, added that she would let members know the implications of the Government's recent announcement.

(12) Kenilworth Station Formal Opening

Councillor Sarah Boad asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, why she had been told that invitations to the formal opening of Kenilworth Station had been limited due to security reasons.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that she would ask the Strategic Director to advise on this but that she also understood there would be a wider opening at a later date.

(13) Dementia

Councillor Bill Gifford asked Councillor Les Caborn, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, how the County Council is responding to the Government Guidance "After diagnosis of dementia: what to expect from health and care services."

Councillor Caborn replied that this was being considered and that he would circulate a response as soon as available.

(14) Bermuda Connectivity

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would be provided with the traffic and environmental assessments for the Bermuda Connectivity project.

Councillor Jeff Clarke replied that he would.

(15) Bedworth Town Centre Working Group

Councillor Seb Gran asked Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, for an update on progress with the establishment of the working group.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe replied that there had been a meeting with the Leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and work was underway to establish business buy-in and the capacity of the Borough Council and the County Council and she was aware that local members would be involved in carrying this forward.

(16) Fosse Way

Councillor Bob Stevens asked Councillor Peter Butlin, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, whether he could give his assurance given that funding had been agreed, that the work on the Fosse Way and in particular the Harbury Road Junction, would be implemented this year.

Councillor Peter Butlin confirmed that the funding had been approved and Councillor Jeff Clarke undertook to provide Councillor Stevens with a written update on the timing of the work.

(17) Coventry Road/School Lane Junction

Councillor Parminder Singh Pandher referred to incidents at this junction and a recent serious accident and asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he would look into this issue particularly as it is a route to school.

Councillor Jeff Clarke said he would investigate this and respond to Councillor Singh Pandher.

Councillor Richard Chattaway referred to information available on this issue and asked whether there could be a report back.

**16. Any other items of urgent business.**

None

**17. 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.

**18. Property Rationalisation Programme - Montague Road, Warwick**

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, presented a report on proposal to dispose of the Council's site at Montague Road in Warwick. Councillor Izzi Seccombe seconded the proposals.

Following a debate the Council agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

**19. Proposed Operating Model and Leadership Team Structure**

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation presented a report setting out proposals for a new Leadership Team Structure and was seconded by Councillor Izzi Seccombe.

The Council considered the proposals and agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

.....  
Chair