

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Warwickshire County Council held on 13 December 2018**

Present:  
Councillor John Cooke (Chair)

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

The Chair welcomed Councillor Clive Rickhards to the meeting following his post operation recuperation and also welcomed Councillor Howard Roberts and Councillor Andy Wright whom had been unwell.

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

None.

### **(3) Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

### **(4) Announcements**

#### **1) Former County Councillor John Ross**

The Chair advised the Council that former county councillor John Ross had passed away on 16 October 2018.

John Ross represented Bulkington Division from 2005 - 2013 and was a member of a number of overview and scrutiny committees, including being vice-chair of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. John also served on Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to John Ross' particularly strong passion for ensuring children, through education, have the best chances in life, which was reflected in his support of his own family. Councillor Pete Gilbert also paid tribute to John Ross's strong political commitment as well as commitment to his family.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, highlighted John Ross' strong convictions which were evident in his contribution to debate in overview and scrutiny but also in his strong support for his community, for which he will be missed.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, paid tribute to John Ross' support for the George Eliot Hospital and of his community and the many people he had helped as a member of Bedworth Lions Club.

The Council stood in silent tribute to former councillor John Ross.

## 2) Shire Hall Open Evening

The Chairman thanked all who had attended the open evening on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## 3) Welcome to new interim Assistant Directors

The Chair welcomed the following two recently appointed Interim Assistant Directors:

### Paul Senior, Assistant Director for Education Services

Paul has an extensive background in roles in strategic and operational services areas of Education, Community, Commissioning, Adults and Children's Services. Paul's most recent assignments have been in Wokingham Borough Council, Camden Council, Suffolk Council, London Borough of Haringey and Barnet Council.

### Stuart Jackson, Assistant Director for Environment Services.

Stuart has worked previously in a number of interim and permanent senior leadership roles including Stockport Council, Carlisle City Council, Birmingham City Council and most recently at the London Borough of Harrow.

## 4) John Betts – Assistant Director Finance and ICT

The Chair announced that John Betts, Assistant Director of Finance and ICT, would be leaving the authority in January 2019.

John joined the County Council in 2000 as Finance Manager for the Local Education Authority, having worked previously at Coventry City Council and Solihull MBC. He had several promotions before becoming Head of Resources for Children, Young People and Families in 2006 and then Head of Corporate Finance in Resources Directorate in 2010. John represented county

councils in relation to education funding shortly after arriving in Warwickshire and extended this to all of children's services funding. His national standing is evident and he is currently President of the Society of County Treasurers having previously been both Secretary and Vice President.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Council, for the astute advice and steerage that John Betts had provided to the authority, ensuring that the Council is financially sound in challenging times. Councillor Butlin added that John had been a pleasure to work with and thanked him for his support to him as Cabinet Portfolio Holder as well as his support for the Council.

Councillor Alan Cockburn, added his thanks to John for the support he had provided to him as Cabinet Portfolio Holder during 2013/17 and the sound financial advice he had provided.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, expressed his appreciation on behalf of his Group, for the support John had given the authority and for the skill he had demonstrated in presenting hard choices in a fair and open way. He added that John is held in high regard by the County Council Network and that John has helped the Council in particular in shaping how the Council takes its budget decisions, during difficult times.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, paid tribute to the respect that John Betts has nationally and for the strong, independent advice he had given to members, all of whom he treated equally, which would be greatly missed.

The Council wished John Betts well for the future.

#### 5) Marketing and Communications Team

The Chair announced that the Marketing and Communications Team had received two awards at the 'Comms2point0 Unawards' (which recognises excellence in public sector marketing, communications and public relations).

The team had won Best Communications Team and Jayne Surman, Marketing and Communications Manager, won the Lifetime Achievement Award Category, both of which were open to a public vote

Councillor Kam Kaur, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation, expressed her appreciation to the Team for their success. Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group and Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group also congratulated the Team

#### 6) Celebration of achievements in 2018 - video

The Chair urged members to view the video playing in the ante chamber which highlighted some of the Council's achievements over the past year and which was a tribute to the work of the Council's staff, including the Communications Team in producing the video.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe added her thanks to the staff and invited members to share the video with their residents.

#### 7) Christmas Hampers

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, announced that Norma Wilson, a placement support worker with the Council, puts together Christmas hampers for care leavers including unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Norma has been doing this for 18 years and this year was assisted by Kerry Clifft (fostering social worker) and Katherine Walker (a care leaver who also works for the Council). Councillor Morgan added that Norma raises all of the donations and funding herself from individuals and businesses around Warwickshire. This has increased each year and last year Norma achieved 180 different hampers.

The Council expressed its thanks to Norma and all of the team who had helped her.

#### **(5) Petition – NHS: Coventry and Warwickshire ‘Better Health, Better Care, Better Value’ (formerly ‘Sustainability and Transformation Plan’ – STP)**

Anna Pollert, presented a petition of 1425 signatures regarding the NHS: Coventry and Warwickshire ‘Better Health, Better Care, Better Value’ (formerly ‘Sustainability and Transformation Plan’-STP). The petition called on elected representatives to ‘require Andy Hardy, (the NHS STP Lead) to respond to a petition handed to him on 11 September 2017 requesting him to publish full details of the financial, workforce and site plans of the STP.’

The points raised by Anna Pollert are summarised below:

- NHS and public services generally, are seriously underfunded and the local STP published in 2016 stated that £267m needed to be saved across Coventry and Warwickshire, over 5 years.
- The Plan did not contain any details and requests have been made for more information and transparency but these have not come forward.
- Local authorities are supposed to be part of the Plan but have been marginalised.
- Some areas of the country have withdrawn from the integrated care system due to concerns about lack of transparency.

Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, thanked Anna Pollert for presenting the petition. Councillor Caborn commented that the County Council is open and transparent and that it is the Council's duty to be so. Councillor Caborn added that the Council had wanted an independent chair for the STP, and this was soon to be achieved with the appointment of Chris Ham, former Chair of the Kings Fund, who would be taking up the chair of the STP from 1 January 2019.

## **(6) Public Speaking**

None.

### **2. Election of County Councillor for Stratford North Division**

The Council welcomed Councillor Dominic Skinner as the newly elected member for Stratford North Division.

### **3. County Councillor Dispensations**

The Chair advised the meeting that Councillor Chris Williams had undergone surgery and is undergoing treatment and has been unable to attend Council meetings. The Chair moved that the Council approve the absence of Councillor Chris Williams and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Morgan.

The Council agreed this as set out below:

#### **Resolved**

That the Council approves the absence of Councillor Chris Williams from meetings of the authority on the grounds of ill health.

### **4. Police and Crime Commissioner Representation**

The Chair announced that this item had been deferred to the meeting of Council on 19 March 2019 and that the meeting of the Dispensations Sub-Committee scheduled for this day would no longer be required.

### **5. Warwickshire Early Help Strategy 2018-2023**

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, presented the Early Help Strategy for approval by the Council and was seconded by Councillor Jo Barker.

Councillor Morgan explained that the strategy had been developed in response to findings of the Ofsted Inspection in May 2017 and the outcome of a subsequent peer review by the Local Government Association (at the invitation of the Council in partnership with the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board). This had resulted in an action plan with priority being given to the multi-agency formulation of the Early Help Strategy incorporating wide consultation and input from parents and carers.

Councillor Jo Barker, in seconding the approval of the Strategy later in the debate stressed that it is a complex area and that it is the role of local councillors to help residents understand the process and how to access services. Councillor Barker added that taking a negative approach undermines confidence of parents when they should be receiving reassurance. Councillor Barker also expressed the view that the

country is in a period of high employment and wage growth which indicated that this is not an issue of finance.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, raised the following points:

- There should be a date for the production of the Action Plan (with timescales) and it would be useful for the Action Plan to be considered and monitored by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- There is good work in the MASH and in other areas, but there is an increasing number of dysfunctional families and complex needs and also examples where need is not being supported by services, which is putting pressure on teachers in particular.
- There is still work to be done in ensuring integration of services.
- The Children in Care Council have a role to play in improving the interaction with the County Council and with the NHS.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, commented that the increase in referrals is good as it gives confidence that concerns are coming forward. Councillor Seccombe added that 14 children centres are being kept with support also being provided through a number of peppercorn rents. Councillor Seccombe stressed that the strategy is designed to ensure the voice of children is heard and acted upon and agreed that the action plan would be important.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, expressed concern that not enough progress had been made since the Ofsted report but at the same time the savings plans for Children's Services will not be achieved.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, welcomed the Strategy, the stepped approach and the good work within Children Services but raised the following points:

- There should be reference to work on how to ensure people know how to access services, in particular for parents of children in their first 1000 days before they go to the next stage of accessing nursery places.
- Increasingly, nursery school places and schools were being expected to be the gateway into services which is increasing pressure on teachers and the strategy should include support for nurseries and schools in doing this social work role.
- There is no recognition that the same services cannot be provided when half of the budget has been removed. The strategy should state the extra resource required to deliver the strategy and then look for opportunities to obtain the funding.

The following issues were also raised in debate:

- That there are people who are not clear where to access services since the closure of children centres (e.g. in Studley where services moved to Alcester).
- There is a predicted 29% real terms reduction in Government funding for local authority early intervention between 2016/17- 2019/20.

- The MASH has been successful in getting referrals but there is now a move to reduce the numbers by not dealing with those who ring about small issues but it is not clear whether they will know where to go and with the added reduction in health visitors this may mean some people slip through the net.
- The waiting times for access to mental health services remains a concern.
- There is an increase in families in need, due to a number of factors, including the roll out of universal credit, a housing crisis, and reduction in funding for local authorities.

Councillor Jeff Morgan made the following points in response to the debate:

- The timescales for the Action Plan is important and he welcomed the input of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in monitoring this.
- The intention is that the integration of services should largely happen in the children centres.
- There is a lot of information within existing centres and elsewhere signposting services but if any member could identify there is a lack of information then he would look into it.
- There has never been a children's centre in every area but the approach now is to strengthen the network of children and family centres and target resources.
- The report gives many examples of what is good and of positive feedback.
- Ofsted had said there were areas that required improvement and these are being worked on with a view to being good at the next inspection.
- Social worker caseloads are reducing (just over 18 at present) and improving.
- Schools are gateways and it is hoped to address the issue of support in the budget.
- The service will be different but targeted.

The recommendation was put to the vote and was agreed as follows:

### **Resolved**

That the Council approves the Warwickshire Early Help Strategy 2018-2023.

## **6. Developer-Funded Scheme Approvals**

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, proposed that the Council approve the addition of schemes to the Capital Programme, as recommended by Cabinet and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning.

Councillor Keith Kondakor expressed his opposition to the Coventry Highway scheme as it would not assist with modal shift and he was concerned that these large schemes proved difficult to deliver on time or to budget.

Councillor Clive Rickhards, as the local member for Studley, commented that the need

for the developer to implement a traffic controlled junction on the A4023, was evidence of traffic being generated by the Gateway development in an area that already has severe traffic congestion and he hoped the County Council would look to addressing this in the near future.

Councillor Peter Butlin reminded members that the County Council has a duty to ensure there is adequate highway capacity to support developments. Councillor Butlin added that although the money is allocated in the capital programme, delivery may be some time away which gives the impression of slippage. Work is underway to better match the funding allocation to delivery timescales.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were carried as set out below:

## **Resolved**

That the Council approves:

- 1) The addition of the following scheme to the 2018-19 Capital Programme, subject to the applicable (Highways Act, 1980) Section 278 Agreement being signed with the Developer which will provide for 100% of the funding:
  - A4023 Coventry Highway, Mappleborough Green. Developer – Redditch Gateway Infrastructure Ltd. Approximate value £2.5 million
- 2) An increase in the 2018-19 capital programme allocation for the S278 scheme at C8 Trinity Road, Kingsbury, to £2.3 million with 100% of the funding being provided by the Developer.

## **7. A47 Hinckley Road Corridor Scheme**

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, moved the following recommendation (as set out in the report) and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

- A 'That Council approves the allocation of £0.596m funding from the Capital Investment Fund to contribute towards the A47 Hinckley Road Corridor scheme and add the project to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £3.485m.'

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Caroline Phillips:

- B Add the words: 'and that an accurate time table for completion is published as soon as possible. It also requests that, as part of the consultation process, a road show is held in the town centre on market days.'

Councillor Chattaway explained that he supported the scheme and that the purpose of the amendment was to ensure there is an accurate timescale for the scheme, so that public expectations can be managed and that consultations are held at a time and place people can access easily.



Councillor Caroline Phillips added that the residents had been told the disused bridge would be removed 'as soon as possible' but this had not happened and the traffic congestion caused by lorries hitting the bridge continued. There was therefore a need to be more accurate in communication with the press on the timing of projects.

Councillor Clive Rickhards requested that there be a comprehensive strategy for 'A' roads given the different sources of funding now available (including the use of Capital Investment Fund for road safety improvements and major routes funding coming from Government).

Councillor Keith Kondakor welcomed the inclusion in the scheme of a high quality cycle route for both sides of the road and requested that pedestrian crossings be placed where people wish to cross.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, in seconding the recommendation, noted that this was a much needed scheme given the significant developments in the area. He added that the County Council did not own the disused bridge but that ownership is being transferred and a survey of the bridge is underway. Councillor Clarke agreed to consider a briefing for members on the wider issue of a strategy for 'A' roads.

Councillor Peter Butlin accepted the amendment set out at B above and the amended recommendation was put to the vote and carried unanimously as set out below.

## **Resolved**

That the Council approves the allocation of £0.596m funding from the Capital Investment Fund to contribute towards the A47 Hinckley Road Corridor scheme and add the project to the Capital Programme at a full cost of £3.485m and that an accurate time table for completion is published as soon as possible. It also requests that, as part of the consultation process, a road show is held in the town centre on market days.

## **8. Local Transport Capital Block Funding Addition to the 2018-19 Capital Programme**

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, proposed the recommendation in the report (set out below at A) and was seconded by Councillor John Horner.

- A 'That Council approves the addition of £5.741m of Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Pothole Action Fund) to the 2018-19 Capital Programme to be used for the purposes stipulated by the Department for Transport.'

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, moved the following amendments and was seconded by Councillor Alan Webb:

B add the words:

‘That

- (1) The amount is allocated on this occasion equally between each district area.
- (2) Members are consulted on their priorities for spend within their division.
- (3) A review of the current formula takes place in time for the new financial year.’

Councillor Richard Chattaway explained that the motion sought an even allocation of the new funding across the County, with a view to completing schemes that residents and local members have been waiting for, and to also review the criteria for future allocation, possibly reverting to the approach of taking account of both road length and traffic volume. Councillor Chattaway added that he did not consider it fair that half of the current expenditure was in one area of the County and that more consideration was needed of funding urban areas where there is wear and tear. Councillor Alan Webb, in seconding the amendments later in the debate, emphasised that account should be taken of increasing populations in some areas (such as Rugby) that was putting pressure on local roads and that it was now time to review the formula for allocation.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Leader of the Green Group, welcomed the ability to allocate funding from this pot to pavement repairs and sought assurance that some of this funding would be used to repair pavements.

The following points were raised in debate:

- The additional funding presented an opportunity to tackle roads which have become rat runs and which need resurfacing.
- The current allocation of funding is based on need, which is fair, and Highways engineers understand where the need is.
- The consultation proposed in the amendment would cause delay.
- The timescale of spending the money by the end of March is challenging, but assurance has been given that local authorities will have flexibility to enable them to deliver the work over the months, given that it is often not possible to undertake certain works during the winter months.

Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, emphasised that it is important that repairs are undertaken according to need and to ensure the safety of the public and that he could not therefore support the amendment. Councillor Clarke added that there is already the provision for members to use their delegated budgets for schemes and for members to notify the Council of problem areas.

## VOTE

The amendment at 'B' above was put to the vote and LOST, the vote being eight for, more against and two abstentions.

The original recommendation at 'A' above was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously as set out below:

### **Resolved**

That Council approves the addition of £5.741m of Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Pothole Action Fund) to the 2018-19 Capital Programme to be used for the purposes stipulated by the Department for Transport.

## **9. Notices of Motion**

### **(1) County Housing Land Disposal**

Councillor Alan Webb proposed the following motion:

- A 'Recognising the shortfall in genuinely affordable housing and social housing being achieved throughout the County, Warwickshire County Council resolves to stipulate a guaranteed minimum content of 40% of such housing on any County-owned housing land to be developed by or in collaboration with any of our districts.'

Councillor Alan Webb stated that this motion was about Warwickshire taking a lead and getting commitment from developers to deliver to national guidelines of 40% and ideally that 40% would be social housing. Councillor Webb added that he would support a higher percentage if this was possible.

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke, in seconding the motion, stated that public owned land should be used to help address the current housing crisis, adding that no district council in Warwickshire was currently achieving the 40% national guideline for affordable housing and therefore the County Council should be working as much as possible with district councils as they were unable to afford to purchase land for housing themselves and also looking at examples in devolved councils elsewhere in the country where up to 75% of public land was being used for housing.

Councillor Bill Gifford proposed the following amendment:

- B Delete '40%' and replace with '50%' and delete wording after 'developed'.

Councillor Bill Gifford emphasised the importance of providing affordable housing and how it is possible to achieve 50%, citing the example of the 70% affordable and social housing achieved by Warwick District Council in the area near the station in Leamington and that there is 37% granted planning permission in that district.

Councillor Dominic Skinner, in seconding the amendment, added that developers tend to argue against affordable housing on a business case and prefer shared

ownership but he did not consider this is effective as the cost of this is often as much as a set mortgage and young people were finding it extremely hard to obtain a mortgage and are therefore trapped in the rental market. Councillor Skinner added that the County Council should become a benchmark of good practice.

## DEBATE

The following points were made in support of the motion and amendment:

- The lack of affordable and social housing is leading to increase in use of bed and breakfast, homelessness and rough sleeping.
- There are stipulations for 40% allocations for affordable housing in local plans but these are not adhered to.
- There is a lack of housing of the type required for young and older people.
- It would be helpful if affordable housing elements of new developments were completed first and they include provision for a range of demographic need.
- Now is the time to work more closely with district and boroughs to tackle the housing problem.
- People on reasonable incomes are being locked out of the housing market as well as those on low incomes.
- The County Council has stewardship of land and duty to support the whole of Warwickshire and can change the housing market in Warwickshire.

The following points were made in opposition to the motion and amendment:

- The County Council is not the planning authority and it is the district and borough councils who have control over housing.
- The Council has a budget to manage and has a duty to obtain the maximum it can from sale of land. Land sold for social housing realises less income and therefore less money is then available to support other services.
- There is a national standard calculation for viability of social housing for a development and developers can go to appeal, which can lead to fines against councils.
- The intention of the amendment is a good one but it would have unintended consequences of devaluing land and would not achieve what it aims to. At present the Council does apply its assets to obtain social value, for instance in providing 640 extra care units and a school on County Council land.

## VOTE

The amendment at B was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 18 for and 28 against.

The motion at A was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 18 for and 28 against.

*The Council adjourned at 1pm, during the debate on item 9 (1)) and reconvened at 2pm.*

## **(2) Passenger Assistants**

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

‘That Council explores the options for delaying the phased withdrawal of passenger assistants on buses and asks that the retention of passenger assistants in taxis and buses be considered by Groups as part of the 2019/20 revenue budget.’

Councillor Corinne Davies referred to the issues raised by the petitioner at the meeting of Council in October, in particular concern that the removal of assistants puts the safety of (often very young) children, at risk.

Councillor Dave Parsons, in seconding the motion, stressed that the driver cannot be responsible for the children and also drive the bus and that there is a particular risk if the driver becomes ill or there is an incident. In addition the assistants provide respite for parents who are carers

The following points were also made in support of the motion:

- Children taken out of school during the school day have to have both a teacher and a driver. The same should apply to transport to and from school.
- The issue is being raised now (rather than earlier in the decision making process) because residents have come forward with concerns.
- As there is an increase in EHCPs the need for assistants is going to rise.

Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, advised the Council that the decision to remove the passenger assistants had been taken after consultation, including consideration by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council when there had been the opportunity to raise these issues. Councillor Hayfield added that other authorities had taken the same course of action and that the removal from taxis had already taken place in Warwickshire without difficulty.

Councillor Hayfield reminded members that assistants on buses would still be available to children with an Education and Health Plan and added if there is a particular issue with a route it is probable that a service will be maintained on that route.

## VOTE

The motion was put to the vote and was LOST, the vote being 17 for and 28 against.

### **(3) Bus Services**

Councillor John Holland proposed the following motion (as amended by wording proposed by Councillor Bill Gifford and indicated in italics) and was seconded by Councillor Caroline Phillips:

‘Stagecoach has registered proposals for significant cuts in bus services across Warwickshire to take effect on 5 January 2019. *These cuts will affect and isolate communities in rural areas as well as the elderly and vulnerable in urban communities - discouraging rather than encouraging bus use.*

The Council urges Stagecoach to delay implementation of its proposals so that the impact of the proposals on the local communities affected and any steps to mitigate such impact can be further considered by Stagecoach in dialogue with the Council. *The Council will also investigate ways of making it easier for alternative providers to tender for existing bus services which are under threat.*

Councillor John Holland emphasised the need to retain bus services as part of retaining and improving the health and wellbeing of people in Warwickshire. Councillor Bill Gifford added that he would also like to see Johnsons competing for routes as a way of maintaining services but this is difficult for routes that have been ‘chopped up’ by Stagecoach. Councillor Holland added that he appreciated that there were difficulties for bus operators with the increase in traffic reducing frequency of buses and this indicated a need for better road network management.

Councillors thanked officers for their rapid response to the news that routes were being cut.

## VOTE

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

### **Resolved**

Stagecoach has registered proposals for significant cuts in bus services across Warwickshire to take effect on 5 January 2019. These cuts will affect and isolate communities in rural areas as well as the elderly and vulnerable in urban communities – discouraging rather than encouraging bus use. The Council urges Stagecoach to delay implementation of its proposals so that the impact of the proposals on the local communities affected and any steps to mitigate such impact can be further considered by Stagecoach in dialogue with the Council.

The Council will also investigate ways of making it easier for alternative providers to tender for existing bus services which are under threat.

#### (4) Nuneaton Projects

Councillor Corinne Davies moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Caroline Phillips:

- A 'That the Council agrees to an assessment, with a view to using the County's Capital Investment Fund for the following two important projects:
- (i) To prioritise the completion of the Nuneaton Ring Road
  - (ii) To support the development of the George Eliot visitor centre.'

Councillor Corinne Davies explained that the George Eliot Fellowship is seeking support to develop outbuildings at Griff House, which was formerly the home of George Eliot and is currently owned by Whitbread. The plan is to conserve the buildings and provide a meeting and study rooms, as well as display of fellowship artefacts. Whitbread has pledged some funding but it is estimated that a further £77k is required.

Councillor Caroline Phillips, in seconding the motion, explained that the completion of the Nuneaton Ring Road is a priority to address the poor air quality in the area, particularly for the children attending the nursery and primary school.

- B Councillor Peter Butlin moved the following amendment (amendments shown in italics) and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke:

'That the Council agrees to an assessment *using the Capital Investment Fund criteria* for the following two important projects:

- (i) *Works to the Nuneaton Ring Road as part of the Nuneaton Town Centre regeneration project.*
- (ii) The development of the George Eliot Visitor Centre *subject to a viable proposal being identified.*

Councillor Peter Butlin explained that the amendment in relation to the George Eliot Visitor Centre was needed as care should be taken when allocating public money into privately owned land and therefore the business case needed to be looked at before a decision is taken. In addition the amendment regarding the Nuneaton Ring Road is to make clear that this is part of the wider regeneration project.

Councillor Jeff Clarke in seconding the amendment, recognised that there were members who had already expressed their support for the proposed George Eliot Visitor Centre which he also supported, subject to a viable business case being made.

Councillor Keith Kondakor stated his support for the George Eliot Visitor Centre but opposed the Nuneaton Ring Road as he considered this would lead to an increase

in traffic through the town centre, increases in pollution and that, instead, there should be sustainable and affordable public transport and a clean travel plan.

Councillor Peter Butlin, in responding to the debate, explained that the Nuneaton Ring Road was part of a wider scheme and would improve traffic flows, thereby reducing pollution.

## VOTE

Councillor Corinne Davies accepted the amendments proposed at B and the motion was put to the vote as amended and agreed (with two abstentions) as set out below:

### **Resolved**

That the Council agrees to an assessment using the Capital Investment Fund criteria for the following two important projects

- (i) Works to the Nuneaton Ring Road as part of the Nuneaton Town Centre regeneration project.
- (ii) The development of the George Eliot Visitor Centre subject to a viable proposal being identified.

## **(5) Use of Plastic Cups**

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke moved the following motion and was seconded by Councillor Richard Chattaway:

- A 'That this Council supports the Sky Ocean Rescue campaign's aim of reducing the amount of plastic in the waste stream and asks that a report is brought back to Cabinet by July 2019 to explore what practical steps, such as banning the provision of plastic cups in council premises, the Council could take in this respect.'

Councillor Maggie O'Rourke outlined some key points highlighted by the Sky Ocean Rescue campaign, including that each year there is the equivalent of 76kg of waste plastic produced per person and 7.7bn plastic water bottles used in the UK. The damage caused to the environment through disposal of plastic is now recognised and the campaign illustrates how important small changes can be. Councillor O'Rourke urged councillors to each use sustainable alternatives to plastic and that the Council look at ways of reducing plastic in the waste stream, through both its own procurement and those of partners.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, in seconding the motion, emphasised the importance of the County Council leading by example.



Councillor Jonathan Chilvers moved the following amendment (amended words shown in italics) and was seconded by Councillor Kate Rolfe:

- B 'That this Council supports the Sky Ocean Rescue campaign's aim of reducing the amount of plastic in the waste stream *and commits to achieving Single Use 'plastic free' accreditation*; and asks that a report is brought back to Cabinet *by November 2019 setting out how the organisation can work towards installing public water refill points and eliminating all non-essential single-use plastic over the next two years.*'

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers advised that there is already an audit underway in the Council on the use of single use plastic across the authority and this proposal adds strength and commitment to this work. Councillor Chilvers added that the accreditation will enable the Council to demonstrate to the public that it is taking the lead and the target of eliminating all non-essential single use plastic over two years should be achievable as alternative products come on line.

Councillor Kate Rolfe, in seconding the proposal, stated that she would like to have seen removal of plastic cups and spoons within a few weeks and that she was aware that some departments are already working on this.

Councillor Keith Kondakor added that the amount of waste in Warwickshire is the same in tonnage as 12 and a half years ago but the content has changed with increase in plastic that gets into the environment and eventually into the food chain. Councillor Kondakor added that he wished to see more places to refill water bottles as part of the process. Councillor Kondakor stressed that Warwickshire has achieved a lot but asked that the authority cease to give away plastic pens etc. at events.

## VOTE

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

## Resolved

That this Council supports the Sky Ocean Rescue campaign's aim of reducing the amount of plastic in the waste stream and commits to achieving Single Use 'plastic free' accreditation; and asks that a report is brought back to Cabinet by November 2019 setting out how the organisation can work towards installing public water refill points and eliminating all non-essential single-use plastic over the next two years.

## (6) Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Funding

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

'This council is disappointed that its recent funding bids to Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise partnership for the cycle route from Nuneaton

Griff to Coventry via Bedworth and to transform Leamington station forecourt have been rejected.

This council requests that the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership refine its priorities so that high quality sustainable travel bids have a more reasonable chance of success in the bidding process.'

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers expressed concern that over previous months four bids put to the CWLEP had all been unsuccessful but five Coventry based bids had been accepted. Councillor Chilvers acknowledged that there had been a recent focus on bids for the City of Culture but added that an analysis over the last five years shows that 72% of funding had been awarded to Coventry based projects and only 28% to Warwickshire projects, despite Warwickshire having the larger population. Councillor Chilvers therefore proposed that the CWLEP be urged to change their criteria but also to ensure there is a greater success rate for higher quality sustainable travel bids. Councillor Chilvers noted that over the previous five years, 50% of the successful bids had been for road projects, 38% for skills but only 12% for funding of sustainable travel bids.

Councillor Chilvers added that as well as ensuring the County Council is submitting bids of a high quality, there should be a fund that would give the County more leverage to obtain funding.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, in seconding the motion later in the debate, commented that a very good case (good value and low cost) for the funding for cycle ways, particularly around Bedworth accessing industrial estates had been rejected even though it fit the criteria.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the Council, agreed that the award of bids had not been fair to Warwickshire and this point had been made clear to the CWLEP and that she had not yet had a satisfactory response. Councillor Seccombe suggested that Martin Yardley, Chief Executive of the CWLEP, be invited to Warwickshire to a member seminar to explain the criteria and what we can do better to ensure successful bids. Councillor Seccombe added that Mark Ryder, Assistant Director of Communities, is now a member on the board that analyses bids which is a step forward.

Councillor Richard Chattaway, Leader of the Labour Group, considered the bids put forward by Warwickshire were professional and well thought out but that the CWLEP was no longer fulfilling its purpose and there were a lot of resources (both LEP and the County Council) being wasted in putting together and considering bids that did not get approved. Councillor Chattaway suggested that the Chair of the CWLEP should also attend and explain why Warwickshire is bidding to the criteria but not succeeding in obtaining a fair share of funding.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, commented that Warwickshire is a key player in ensuring the CWLEP punches above its weight

but that the CWLEP was not focused on delivery for both Coventry and Warwickshire citizens. Councillor Roodhouse welcomed the proposal to invite the CWLEP to answer these points.

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, advised that at the last meeting of the CWLEP Board he had expressed his concerns that the last tranche of awards had been diverted to support the City of Culture. Councillor Butlin added that, whilst he supported the City of Culture, he did not support this change in application of the CWLEP criteria which should be for supporting the economy of both Coventry and Warwickshire.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, in responding the debate, commented that the issue was not just about the last tranche of funding, and that he considered Warwickshire had not received a fair allocation over the last five years.

## VOTE

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

## Resolved

That this council is disappointed that its recent funding bids to Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise partnership for the cycle route from Nuneaton Griff to Coventry via Bedworth and to transform Leamington station forecourt have been rejected.

This council requests that the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership refines its priorities so that high quality sustainable travel bids have a more reasonable chance of success in the bidding process

## 10. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

### (1) Concessionary Travel

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, to state how much the under spend is on Concessionary Travel, and whether he could confirm that this funding is not ring fenced and can be used to support local bus services.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that there is a forecasted £777,000 underspend for 2018/19 but that demands on the service can be variable and the underlying structural underspend is expected to be around £500,000. Funding is not ring fenced and could be used to support local bus services.

**(2) Electric Charging Points**

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, how many fast charging electric charge points there are in Warwickshire similar to the newly installed ones in Coventry city centre.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that there are 37 fast charging points but these are being added regularly and Cabinet has also agreed to progress these across Warwickshire.

**(3) Older People Pathways**

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Les Caborn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health, whether he would agree that the recently published CQC report on Older Peoples Pathway for Warwickshire presents a mixed picture of Warwickshire and what parts of the report give cause for greatest concern.

Councillor Les Caborn responded that the report was an inspection of all partners and agreed it was a mixed picture but there is 'performing well' ratings in critical areas, including a decrease in admissions to residential care homes; satisfaction with social care; control of adult social care staffing vacancies; GP extended access; emergency admissions; delayed transfer of care (down from 80 to around 40) ; post reablement service delivering independence.

Councillor Caborn added that there are areas of concerns which are being tackled: nursing bed capacity (a new joint strategy will be brought forward); direct payments (the introduction of pre- payment cards in 2019); working with partners on staffing turnover; review of criteria to address the low number of people receiving reablement; working with care homes to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions by accessing other services; social prescribing and other actions to prevent admissions into acute services.

Councillor Caborn advised that there would be a report back to the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on actions taken to address the issues raised in the report.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked whether the Portfolio Holder would hold a public interest debate on health and social care and that an invite be extended to the new Chair of the STP and that a report on the challenges be brought forward for that debate.

Councillor Les Caborn gave his assurance that this was in hand.

**(4) Waste and Recycling**

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked Councillor Dave Reilly, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture, whether he would confirm which local authorities are charging for green waste in Warwickshire and what is the financial impact on the budget and also whether the Council is working with Waste Resources Action Programme and if so on what areas of waste reduction.

Councillor Dave Reilly responded that Rugby Borough Council had been charging for green waste since 2017 and that officers had been working hard to mitigate the impact of their decision and at present it was costing Warwickshire County Council around £100,000 per annum. This cost will increase if other councils start charging and it will become harder to mitigate the impact, particularly for food waste. Councillor Reilly reminded members that half of the content of the average waste bin in Warwickshire can be recycled and this must be tackled. If another local authority decides to charge for green waste then how will the food waste be disposed of that currently is in the green bin and also meet targets.

Councillor Reilly added that the Council is working with WRAP alongside partners, particularly on campaign material.

**(5) Charges for Green Waste collections**

Councillor Keith Kondakor asked Councillor Dave Reilly, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture, whether in cases where a district charges more than £30 for disposal of garden waste, can the County Council charge for composting and also whether community groups or other operators collect garden waste and use our composters for free.

Councillor Dave Reilly responded that the County Council has a duty to dispose of green waste but districts and boroughs do not have a duty to collect, but if they do they can charge. Councillor Reilly commented that it would be preferable to encourage people to home compost. Councillor Reilly said that he would look at the options for community groups or others to use Warwickshire County Council compost facilities.

**(6) Cycle Path, Weddington**

Councillor Keith Kondakor referred to the proposed removal of lighting on a cycle path which had been installed in error on a new development and asked Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, whether he could ensure that the developer and borough council get together to ensure the lighting is retained.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that the matter is one for the Borough Council but that he would undertake to see what could be done and report back to Councillor Kondakor.

**(7) Local Government Financial Settlement**

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked the Leader of the Council when the Local Government Financial Settlement was expected. Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that an announcement had been made that afternoon and that a briefing paper would be circulated to members once the detail was known.

**(8) Pupil Premium and School Funding**

Councillor Jenny Fragley asked Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, whether he would revisit the work being undertaken to ensure the flow of appropriate data between district and borough councils and the County Council to ensure schools receive appropriate pupil premium funding.

Councillor Colin Hayfield responded that this is a long standing problem and relies on parents who are eligible signing up for free school meals, which many do not do, and unfortunately the proposed inclusion of a tick box on benefit claims forms had not proved possible. Councillor Hayfield agreed that he would revisit this issue.

**(9) Pothole Action Fund**

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers asked whether Councillor Jeff Clarke, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, would investigate the level of allocation that could be made from the new pothole fund to repair pavements.

Councillor Jeff Clarke responded that he would investigate this and advise members.

**(10) Land Sale at Stratford Park and Ride site**

Councillor Dominic Skinner asked Councillor Peter Butlin whether there could be a full briefing on sale of the land at the Stratford Park and Ride Site as he was concerned about the possible impact on the long term viability of the Park and Ride.

Councillor Peter Butlin responded that the proposals in relation to this land should not impact on the operation of the Park and Ride.

**(11) Impact of Brexit**

Councillor Nicola Davies asked the Leader whether she had a timescale for the agreed report to Council on the impact of Brexit for Warwickshire. Councillor Izzi Secombe responded that the report would come to the Council on 19 March.

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

None

**12. 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 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**13. Exempt minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018**

**Resolved**

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

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Chair