

Cabinet

Thursday 12 May 2022

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Peter Butlin
Councillor Andy Crump
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Wallace Redford
Councillor Heather Timms

Others Present

Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Jonathan Chilvers
Councillor Judy Falp
Councillor Sarah Feeney
Councillor John Holland
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
Councillor Martin Watson

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillors Andy Jenns and Jeff Morgan

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

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(4) Public Speaking

None.

2. Education Schools Capital Programme 2022-23

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader of the Council) presented this item in the absence of Councillor Jeff Morgan. Councillor Butlin summarised the report which detailed seven projects for addition to the capital programme, plus one to agree a change of use to funds already agreed: Bridgetown Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon; Etone College, Nuneaton; Southam St James Primary School, Southam; Sunbeams Nursery (based at Radford Semele Primary School), Leamington Spa; The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone; Myton School, Warwick; and the countywide Disability and Access Block Header. Developer contributions of £0.116 million were available to fund the projects as outlined and an addition of £9.504 million to the capital programme to deliver the schemes was sought.

In response to a comment from Councillor Margaret Bell regarding the need to ensure that sufficiency projections were accurate so that building plans were fit for the long term and a question from Councillor Barbara Brown regarding the sufficiency of school places in Rugby, Councillor Butlin advised that work had been commissioned to determine where and when school places were needed so that future decisions were based on the latest accurate data.

Councillor Butlin advised that the delivery of the project at Oakley Grove was not without its challenges, but the project had to be delivered on the current site. The building design would pertain to the standards required by the government. He suggested that further questions from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers regarding building above minimum standard building regulations in terms of energy efficiency and from Councillor John Holland regarding school building plans in response to the district and borough councils' Local Plans would be more appropriate to the debate at Full Council.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Recommends to Council that £8.630 million be added to the capital programme to deliver the schemes at The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone and Myton School, Warwick, to be funded from Department for Education grant and third party contributions.
2. Approves the previously agreed allocation of £4.753m in respect of Etone College to deliver the amended scheme set out in Section 3 of the report, and approves the addition to the capital programme of £0.874m funded from the Department for Education grant and third party contributions to deliver the remaining schemes outlined in Section 3 of the report.
3. Authorises, subject to Council's agreement to the required addition to the capital programme, the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education, to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, or (where the scheme is school led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.



3. Integrated Delivery Plan

Councillor Isobel Seccombe (Leader of the Council) presented the proposed Integrated Delivery Plan which described key activity over the following two years and built on the strategic direction set out in the Council's refreshed new five year Council Plan approved by Full Council on the 8 February 2022. The Delivery Plan built upon the progress made with the Covid19 Recovery Plan and was set against the 7 Areas of Focus and objectives in the Council Plan. It was important to note that this was the first time an integrated view of activity had been mapped directly against the Council Plan and the process would become more mature as it developed. Councillor Seccombe noted that the current economic climate, inflationary pressures and rapidly changing demands would result in the need for some agility and flexibility in resource allocations and prioritisation of activity.

Councillor Kam Kaur welcomed the link with the new Performance Framework and the continuity with the performance measures on Power Bi. She considered it provided a very good basis to measure progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities and objectives.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse expressed the view that it was important that Overview and Scrutiny received performance reports through Chair and Spokesperson Meetings as proposed. He sought clarification as to whether periodic reporting would be static or live and it was agreed to clarify this point and advise Councillor Roodhouse accordingly.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Approves the Delivery Plan at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. Endorses the proposals for reporting progress against the Delivery Plan as set out in the report and involving quarterly performance reporting to Cabinet.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make such minor changes as may be required to ensure the Delivery Plan remains dynamic and responsive.

4. Levelling Up and Devolution for Warwickshire

Councillor Isobel Seccombe (Leader of the Council) introduced this report which provided an update on progress, highlighting the work to date, the direction of travel and key milestones for both Levelling Up and Devolution. The key aspects of the update were the levelling up focal points and the key emerging devolution themes as described in the report. Whilst there was still work to be done, good progress was being made with partners.

Resolved that Cabinet endorses the progress made and the overall direction on both Levelling Up, and the development of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire as set out in the report.

5. Reports Containing Exempt or Confidential Information

Resolved

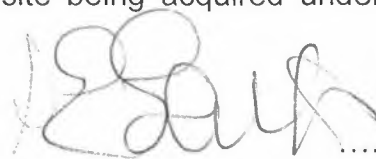
That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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6. Exempt Minutes of the 12 April 2022 Meeting of Cabinet

The exempt minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record subject to clarification of the name of the site being acquired under minute number 11 (Acquisition - Land at Warwick).

The meeting rose at 2.31pm

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Chair