

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 11 June 2019**

Present:

Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe OBE	Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Deputy Leader (Finance and Property)
	Les Caborn	Adult Social Care & Health
	Jeff Clarke	Transport & Planning
	Andy Crump	Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
	Colin Hayfield	Education and Learning
	Jeff Morgan	Children's Services
	Heather Timms	Environment and Heritage & Culture

Non-Voting Invitees:

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Other Councillors:

Councillors Adkins, Chilvers, Golby, P Williams, Kondakor, Olnor, Phillips, Rickhards, Webb

Public attendance:

None

Chair's Announcement

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) welcomed Councillor Heather Timms in her new role as Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Richard Chattaway

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

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2019 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Public Speaking

None

2. One Organisational Plan Quarterly Progress Report – April 2018 to March 2019

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader – Finance and Property) introduced the report thanking its authors for their hard work.

Referencing section 3.1 of the report Councillor Butlin pointed out a significant underspend of £17.560 million compared to a previously forecast underspend of £1.651 million as reported in January 2019. Cabinet was referred to page 28 of 37 and the table setting out the nature of the components making up the underspend. Of particular note was additional income above budget of £9.637 million. This, Councillor Butlin suggested, could be attributed to greater commercial awareness within the organisation and improved ability to bring money in. Other areas of underspend highlighted were unfilled vacancies, the late receipt of government grants, slippage of projects and the early delivery by officers of savings.

On the subject of financial management Councillor Peter Butlin observed that the level of underspends can have an impact on reserves and how they are managed. A report on this will be presented later in the year.

Councillor Bill Olnier observed that underspends have developed in part because projects are not progressing at a fast enough pace. He suggested that more should be done to address this.

Concerning delayed transfer of care (DTCO) as reported on page 11 of 37 of the report, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) asked that he be provided with a briefing note setting out more detail on changing patterns of delays. Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health) agreed to arrange for the briefing note to be provided. He added that levels of delayed transfers had fallen but this had revealed the more challenging areas that will require attention.

Regarding levels of self-harm Councillor Jerry Roodhouse reminded the meeting that it had been agreed that a Task and Finish Group to explore this area would be established. Progress, he added, had been too slow and he called on officers and members to expedite this quickly. In response Councillor Les Caborn acknowledged the need for pace but added that work with partners can bring delays.

Councillor Alan Webb called for vacant posts to be filled quickly. These vacancies, he suggested may be one of the reasons that projects are not proceeding as fast as they might otherwise do. In response, Cabinet was informed that the current employment market is very competitive and it can be difficult to attract good candidates. The most important consideration is that the right people should be appointed and there should be no compromise around this.

It was suggested that if additional funds are identified following year end then it would be useful to have a reserve list of projects that could quickly benefit from it.

Referencing page 17 of 37 of the report Councillor Keith Kondakor observed that there had been six fire related deaths in the County; a notable increase over previous years. A recent incident in Bedworth was cited where the fire appliance was not available to attend a fire as it was already at another incident. Cabinet was informed by Councillor Andy Crump (Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and

Community Safety) that Councillor Kondakor had received a separate briefing note on this.

Regarding employment levels as set out on page 19 of 37 it was suggested that the lag between collecting the data and reporting on it mean that is often out of date. Councillor Kondakor suggested that it might be better to collect and report on unemployment levels.

Councillor Jeff Morgan (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) observed that the number of child protection plans produced had decreased significantly in 2018/19. This was a good result attributable to a more rigorous approach being taken. The number of social workers remains an area of concern and whilst the service has been able to recruit staff, retention continues to be an issue.

In response to members' comments Councillor Peter Butlin observed that the rate at which projects progress is determined by many factors. For example, it is currently difficult to get contractors to tender for work as they are fully occupied elsewhere.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the progress of the delivery of the One Organisational Plan 2020 for the period as contained in the report;
- 2) Notes explanations for business unit spending variances, as outlined in Appendix A of the report;
- 3) Notes the 2018-19 revenue and capital outturn position and the cumulative performance against the savings plan, as outlined in background Annexes A to O;
- 4) Notes the level of reserves held by the Authority, as outlined in Appendix B of the report;
- 5) Notes the total movements in the revenue budget throughout the year as reported in quarterly OOP progress reports, as outlined in Appendix C of the report;
- 6) Approves the use of £2.595 million of reserves to support spending in 2019-20, as outlined in Table 2 of the Financial Commentary; and
- 7) Approves the approach to funding business unit overspends in 2018-19, as outlined in section 3.1 of the report.

3. Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund 2019-20 – Tranche 1 Allocations

Councillor Peter Butlin introduced the report outlining the two schemes that had been proposed for support.

Members were collectively supportive of both schemes.

Resolved

That Cabinet approve that the Enhanced Time Banking and Good Gym proposals are funded from the Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund at a cost of £148,000.

4. Warwickshire Major Road Network (MRN) – Proposed Programme and Priorities

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) set out the key elements of the report before proposing an amendment to the published recommendations. The amendment would see “ensuring effective engagement with local members” added to recommendation one.

Concerning the proposal for Avon Mill/Hunters Lane, Rugby Councillor Jerry Roodhouse stated that he would seek reassurance over the future operation of the household waste recycling centre. In addition, he asked that consideration be given to whether the route to Technology Drive could be made bus-only. Councillor Roodhouse welcomed the principle of the amendment to recommendation one but considered that it was not sufficient. He asked that the matter should be deferred until members had had more to me explore the proposals further.

Councillor Clive Rickhards expressed his concern that the A435 Alcester to Gorcott Hill had not been given greater priority. This road, he added, has experienced increasing traffic levels over many years and is now very congested.

In response to member concerns over levels of engagement Councillor Izzi Seccombe proposed that a member seminar be arranged so that all the schemes set out in the report can be considered. This was agreed.

Councillor Keith Kondakor welcomed a number of the elements of the schemes put forward but noted that they are focused on car usage and road building. Alternative modes of transport such as cycling and walking should also be considered. In addition, efforts should be made to improve air quality.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers (Leader of the Green Group) expressed surprise at the apparent order of priority of the schemes set out in the report. Regarding the proposed dualling of the A452 it was suggested that the indicative design has provided little evidence of the benefits it would bring to users. He asked that recommendations 1 and 3 be deferred pending further consideration by members.

Councillor Bill Olnier highlighted a number of challenges regarding traffic in Nuneaton town centre. Much of this traffic, Councillor Olnier observed, was crossing the town as there was no way round it.

Councillor Alan Webb welcomed the Avon Mill/Hunters lane scheme in Rugby but questioned whether something larger might be required.

Councillor Peter Butlin emphasised that the Major Routes Network initiative is country-wide. Its purpose is to identify highways where there are significant challenges. The Regional Evidence Base has been developed by Midlands Connect

with government providing most of the money for implementation. The primary consideration is the impact the schemes will have on the region's economy. Cabinet was reminded that poor air quality is often the result of traffic remaining stationary. Initiatives that assist traffic flow can serve to improve air quality.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Agrees the proposed Warwickshire Major Road Network (MRN) programme and priorities ensuring effective engagement with local members;
- 2) Approves the submission of a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the proposed A426/A4071 Avon Mill/Hunters Lane Improvement scheme in Rugby as the initial MRN priority for delivery during the period 2020-2025; and
- 3) Notes scheme development work already undertaken or in progress on the other initial priority schemes and proposed longer-term priorities for delivery during the next MRN period 2025-2030.
- 4) Agrees that a member seminar be arranged for details of the schemes referred to in the report to be explored.

5. Consultation on the Draft Warwickshire Careers Strategy

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) introduced the report informing Cabinet of a proposed change to the date for commencement of the consultation exercise. The original proposed start date was 24 June. This would now be the 19 June.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe emphasised the link between careers guidance and the Council's drive to develop skills for employment grow the economy. The consultation will involve engagement with young people, care leavers and adult learners as well as schools. Of particular importance is support for vulnerable people who may struggle to find work.

Councillor Bill Olnier stressed the need to engage with academies. Councillor Helen Adkins expressed her disappointment that careers advice in schools and colleges had reduced as funding had been cut.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the undertaking of a public consultation on the draft Warwickshire Careers Strategy to run from 19 June-26 July 2019.

6. Any Urgent Items

None

7. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)

8. Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2019

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

9. ICT Operating System

Cabinet considered the report as presented by Councillor Peter Butlin.

Resolved

Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

10. Employment of Staff in Adoption Central England (ACE) Proposed TUPE Arrangement

Cabinet considered the report as presented by Councillor Jeff Morgan.

Resolved

Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

11. Tender for Accommodation Based Housing Related Support for Young People aged 16-25

Cabinet considered the report as presented by Councillor Les Caborn.

Resolved

Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the exempt minutes.

The meeting rose at 15.12.

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