

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 October 2014

Present

Cabinet Members:

Councillors	Izzi Seccombe	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
	Peter Butlin	Transport & Planning
	Les Caborn	Community Safety
	Jeff Clarke	Environment
	Alan Cockburn	Deputy Leader
	Jose Compton	Adult Social Care
	Colin Hayfield	Education & Learning
	Kam Kaur	Customers
	Bob Stevens	Health

Other Councillors:

Councillors Boad, Fowler, Gifford, Hicks, Holland, Kondakor, Rickhards, Whitehouse, Williams

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Councillor Richard Chattaway
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
Councillor June Tandy

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

Councillor Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder – Community Safety) declared an interest regarding item 9 on the agenda. His interest was as Deputy Leader of Warwick District Council.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 and Matters Arising.

The minutes for the meeting held on 18 September 2014 were agreed as an accurate record for signing by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

(4) Public Speaking

No requests had been made to speak.

2. Safer Routes to Schools and 20 mph School Safety Initiatives

Councillor John Holland (Vice Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee) outlined the background to the review into safer routes to schools and 20mph school safety initiatives. Explaining that the task and finish group had met on four occasions to review evidence and develop recommendations he thanked officers and members for their efforts. Cabinet was informed that when the report and recommendations of the task and finish group had been considered by the

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee there had been extensive and healthy debate regarding the allocation of resources for 20mph advisory speed limits.

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder – Transport and Planning) presented revised recommendations to the meeting. He explained that Cabinet felt assured that the recommendations of the all-party task and finish group were supported by a body of evidence but there was less evidence to support those of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented subsequently. Councillor Bill Gifford explained that the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had spent considerable time reflecting on its recommendations but stressed the imperative to proceed with improvements to routes to school and 20mph limits.

Regarding advisory 20mph speed limits Councillor Peter Butlin agreed that the qualification threshold for pupils cycling or walking to school should be reduced from 50% to 30%. This was welcomed by members.

On the understanding that the position is reviewed after 2015 the amended recommendation was accepted by members. The need to encourage modal shift from cars was emphasised. Cabinet was informed of a school in the north of the County that had apparently forbidden its pupils from cycling to school. Monica Fogarty (Strategic Director – Communities) agreed to look into this.

Councillor John Whitehouse noted that the advisory 20mph pilot scheme in Burton Green had yet to commence despite assurances that it would do so from the start of the Autumn term. Councillor Peter Butlin agreed to look into this.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the three recommendations set out in the report of the Safer Routes to Schools and 20mph Initiatives Task and Finish Group subject to the qualification criteria in Appendix B being amended to 30% of pupils already walking or cycling to school.
2. Paying regard to the outcome of trials at Burton Green requests that the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the allocation of resources for 20mph advisory speed limits (flashing signs) after June 2015.

3. Capital Growth Fund – Bermuda Connectivity

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Deputy Leader of the Council) and Councillor Peter Butlin set out the background to this proposal as set out in the report. Local members were thanked for their contribution to the project. Councillor Bob Hicks furnished the meeting with further background information focusing on the impact of the scheme on the junction of Heath End Road and Bermuda Road. Issues with Heath End Road were expanded on by other members. It was acknowledged that addressing traffic issues at the junction of Heath End Road and Bermuda Road will present a challenge. In addition parking and traffic speeds will need to be carefully managed throughout the length of the scheme.

It was noted that the needs of cyclists should be taken account of especially with regards to access to the Coventry Canal.

In conclusion Councillor Peter Butlin stressed the need to ensure good connectivity as this will encourage businesses and jobs to the area.

Resolved

That Cabinet recommend that Council:

- 1) Approve an increase in the Transport & Highways capital programme by £3.702 million;
- 2) Approve the use of a maximum of £3.202 million of the Capital Growth Fund to part fund the project;
- 3) Agree that the funding allocated be reduced on a £ for £ basis if alternative sources of funding (over the £500,000 from the Growing Places Fund needed to fully fund the project) become available;
- 4) Support the provision that any additional funding above £3.702 million required to meet additional costs, is found from within the Transport and Highways capital programme;
- 5) Support the use of the car park income generated as a result of development of the Bermuda Railway Station car park to reimburse the Capital Growth Fund;
- 6) Agree that the viability of reimbursement to the Capital Growth Fund from developer contributions as part of planning conditions for future developments as a condition of the award be investigated; and
- 7) Support the development of a body of local evidence on the benefits of transport infrastructure investment that can be used as part of similar funding bids in the future.

4. 2014-18 One Organisational Plan – Update on Areas for Review

Councillor Alan Cockburn set out the background to the report explaining that six areas had been identified for additional work. Regarding the recently reported County Council underspend Councillor Sarah Boad (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) requested that work be undertaken to gain an understanding of how the position arose. In response she was informed that Corporate Board is already undertaking that work. It is expected that Leaders Liaison Group will consider a report on this.

Councillor John Whitehouse asked when members can expect to see pressure being taken off the school transport budget (Section 3 of the report). In response Councillor Peter Butlin stressed the need to proactively seek ways of saving resources and obtaining value for money. He added that any review of transport revision will look for inconsistencies and instances where some service users are benefitting at the expense of others.

Resolved

That Cabinet note the progress made on each of the issues.

5. Any Other Urgent Items

There were no items of urgent business.

6. 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 Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)

7. Consideration of the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet on 18 September 2014 and Matters Arising

The exempt minutes of the 18 September 2014 meeting were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising from them.

8. West Midlands Framework Agreement for the Provision of Children’s Residential Care

Councillor Bob Stevens (Portfolio Holder – Health) explained the background to the report which sought Cabinet agreement to the delegation of responsibility to senior officers for the letting of contracts for children’s home placements.

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

9. Declare Surplus and Dispose of 16 Old Square, Warwick

For this item Councillor Les Caborn left the room.

Councillor Alan Cockburn set out the background to this property disposal. Support for the proposal was expressed by a number of Councillors including the local member.

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

The meeting rose at 2.33pm

..... Chair