

## **Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 22 April 2010**

### **Present**

#### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillors	Alan Farnell (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet)
	Bob Stevens (Deputy Leader)
	Alan Cockburn (Environment)
	Peter Fowler (Economic Development)
	Colin Hayfield (Adult Social Care)
	Martin Heatley (Resources)
	Richard Hobbs (Community Safety)
	Chris Saint (Leisure, Culture and Housing)
	Izzi Seccombe (Children, Young People and Families)
	Heather Timms (Customers, Workforce and Partnerships)

#### **Non-Voting Invitees:**

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)  
Councillor June Tandy (Leader of the Labour Group)

#### **Other Members:**

Councillors John Appleton, Sarah Boad, Les Caborn, Chris Davis, Jim Foster, Eithne Goode, Robin Hazelton, Clare Hopkinson, Tim Naylor, Carolyn Robbins, John Whitehouse and Chris Williams.

### **Former Councillor Haydn Thomas**

Councillor Alan Farnell reported that he has just been advised of the death of former Councillor Haydn Thomas. Members expressed their sadness at this news and stood in silent remembrance.

#### **1. General**

##### **(1) Apologies for absence.**

None.

##### **(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest as an Non-Executive Director of NHS Warwickshire (PCT).

Councillor Bob Stevens declared a personal interest as Associate Non-Executive Director of NHS Warwickshire (PCT).

### Item 3 – Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan 2010/11

Councillor Colin Hayfield declared a personal interest as a member of Warwickshire Magistrates Bench.

Councillors Izzi Seccombe and Richard Hobbs declared personal interests as members of the Warwickshire Police Authority.

### Item 4 – High Speed Rail: Preferred route announcement and exceptional hardship scheme.

Councillor Richard Hobbs declared a prejudicial interest as his sister-in-law was likely to be affected due to proximity to the preferred route. Councillor Hobbs left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Peter Fowler declared a prejudicial interest due to the proximity of the preferred route to his house. Councillor Fowler left the meeting for this item.

### Item 8 – Proposal for a Public Service Centre in Kenilworth

Councillor Alan Cockburn declared a personal interest as a member of Kenilworth Town Council.

## **(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 March 2010**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 March be approved as a correct record.

Councillor John Whitehouse requested that he be forwarded the information regarding the disposal of the Kenilworth site, as referred to at minute 7.

## **2. LPSA 2 – Allocation of Remaining Reward Grant**

Councillor Heather Timms (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customers, Workforce and Partnerships) presented a report requesting Cabinet to allocate the remaining LPSA2 Reward Grant monies. Councillor Timms stressed that, although there was every expectation that the grant money would come through, if it did not then the allocation would need to be reviewed.

During discussion Councillor Timms gave assurance that PSB partners had been consulted on the sub-group proposed allocations.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet allocates the remainder of the Local Public Service Agreement 2 Reward Grant in keeping with the proposals of the Sub-Group.
- (2) That partners and grant recipients be advised that allocations may need to be reviewed should the expected level of reward grant not be achieved.

### **3. Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan 2010/11**

Councillor Richard Hobbs (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety) presented the draft Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan for 2010/11 for Cabinet consideration prior to consideration and approval by Council in May and highlighted the reduction in young people committing offences which helped the reduction in overall crime levels experienced in the County. Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families), added that this was a continuation of the very good record in Warwickshire for reducing both first time and re-offending, reflected in the overachievement on the performance targets.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet approves the draft Youth Justice Plan 2010/11 as appended to the report, for local use.
- (2) That Cabinet recommends that Council approve the Plan at its meeting on 18 May 2010.

### **4. High Speed Rail (HS2): Preferred Route Announcement and Exceptional Hardship Scheme**

Councillors Richard Hobbs and Peter Fowler declared prejudicial interests in this item and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment) presented a report regarding the Government announced plans for a High Speed Railway (HS2) from London to Birmingham and beyond and the process for consultation on the Government's proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme for residential owner-occupiers affected by the announcement of the preferred route. The report was before Cabinet to discuss the Exceptional Hardship Scheme prior to consideration by a special meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 April and final agreement to a response to Government by the Portfolio Holder on 30 April.

Councillor Cockburn referred to a meeting of those affected by the scheme and advised that an alternative hardship scheme had been developed by an action group (HS2 Action Alliance Group). Councillor Cockburn agreed that this be circulated to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Spokespersons.

During discussion it was noted that the consultation on the hardship scheme ended on 20 May. Councillor Bob Stevens suggested that the response include a request for extension of this consultation period, given the period spans the pre-election period. Councillor Stevens also suggested that the hardship scheme apply to small businesses.

Cabinet discussed the dissemination of information to the public, expressing reservations about producing material that could soon be out of date but still circulating in communities. Members were also concerned that they should not be seen to promoting the scheme but recognised that the public did look to local

government for information. To this end, staff in one stop shops/customer centres should be briefed and ideally, there should be a cross county co-ordination with district and borough partners.

Councillor John Whitehouse requested that the dissemination of information and advice on HS2 route include progress on the Exceptional Hardship Scheme and also that consideration be given to how to assist the larger town and parish councils who may not have the capacity to disseminate information.

Councillor Alan Cockburn agreed that the town and parish councils be approached about the best way of disseminating information.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Warwickshire County Council engages with HS2 Ltd during the pre consultation period to help achieve maximum benefit from the formal public consultation planned for the High-Speed Rail proposals to start in Autumn 2010.
- (2) That the Portfolio Holder responsible for transport leads a 'HS2 Working Group' of County Councillors.
- (3) That, as far as possible, officers ensure that information and advice on HS2's preferred route, the Exceptional Hardship Scheme and the Council's engagement with HS2 Ltd, is available to the public, especially the communities directly affected, including those without internet access, working through parish and town councils as well as borough and district councils.
- (4) That the Portfolio Holder – Environment be authorised to finalise the response to the Government's consultation on its proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme on behalf of the Council. In finalising that response on 30 April 2010, the Portfolio Holder shall include the views of Cabinet, supporting the principle of the Scheme subject to it extending the scope to include small businesses and urging that it be brought into effect as soon as possible, and have regard to the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 April 2010.

## **5. Carbon Management Action Plan – Revisited**

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment) presented a report setting out an approach for the County Council to reduce carbon emissions from its own operations and an associated programme of investment over the next five years. Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, sought assurance that the 15% reduction level had been benchmarked against other bodies to sure it was a reasonable level. Councillor Cockburn advised that Warwickshire had been a pilot some years back and that this was based on the early understanding of carbon management gained through this. Councillor Cockburn also agreed to a request from Councillor Whitehouse that the resolution be explicit in continuing the

measurement of CO2 emissions as per full time equivalent headcount.

Councillor John Appleton welcomed the achievement to date and welcomed further progress, particularly in encouraging and working with schools to make school buildings more efficient.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet notes the infrastructure investment and behavioural change work undertaken to date on reducing the Council's own CO2 emissions.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees the challenging target of 15% reduction in Corporate CO2 emissions (measured on per full time equivalent headcount) by 2015 from our baseline in 2002/3.
- (3) That Cabinet receives further reports regarding the funding for and delivery of future programmes of work in order to achieve the target for 2012-15.

## **6. Warwickshire County Council's Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Policy**

Councillor Chris Saint (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Housing) presented a report setting out an interim Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Policy. Councillor June Tandy, Leader of the Labour Group, questioned whether this was supported by district and borough councils and how this fitted with the CSW core strategy. Councillor Chris Saint replied that this was not necessarily linked with the core strategy. Councillor Colin Hayfield added that there were areas that needed to be better reflected in the document (for example the recognition of supporting people partnership) but that he supported this as a working document that would become more of a Warwickshire document.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet agrees the Strategy outlined in this report and the next steps/implementation plan described in section 4 of the report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves and adopts the Affordable Housing Policy at Appendix A as an interim document.
- (3) That the policy be reviewed in six months time in consultation with overview and scrutiny, and a report brought back to Cabinet on proposals for any revisions to the strategy and policy.

## **7. Disposal of Land at Ilmington for Rural Affordable Housing**

Councillor Martin Heatley (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources) presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to dispose of approximately 0.28 Hectares of land at Mabel's Farm, Ilmington to a Housing Association to develop rural affordable housing. It was noted that there was reference to the previous affordable housing

policy but that this did not require approval of that policy for this scheme to be approved.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That, notwithstanding the Council's Policy regarding the disposal of freehold / leasehold interests approved by Cabinet on 19 December 2002, Cabinet agree to declare surplus and dispose of approximately 0.28 hectares of land, shown hatched on the attached plan as Appendix 1, forming part of the Mabel's Farm smallholding off Armscote Road, Ilmington by way of a 125 year ground lease to Warwickshire Rural Housing Association on terms and conditions to be approved by the Strategic Director of Resources, Strategic Director of Environment and Economy and the Strategic Director of Customers Workforce and Governance which are in accordance with the Affordable Housing Policy April 2010.
- (2) That a lease premium is paid to reflect current agricultural / pony paddock values (approximately £13,000 for the site).

## **8. Proposal for a Public Service Centre in Kenilworth**

Councillor Martin Heatley (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources) presented a report outlining the progress made on developing a scheme for a Public Service Centre for Kenilworth and invited Cabinet to approve an amended scheme, as proposed by Warwick Area Committee. It was noted that the scheme would be dependent on each partner submitting funding and on Cabinet approval of a satisfactory business case.

Councillor June Tandy expressed concern that the project was being progressed in advance of the outcome of the library review and Councillor Tim Naylor was concerned at the cost of undertaking further work on a business case and what would be cut to meet the £20,000 contribution. It was noted that the £20,000 would be funded by the Customers, Workforce and Governance Directorate.

Councillor John Whitehouse requested that options be more broadly defined but was advised that it was necessary to focus on this way forward to get progress on this project.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Warwick Area Committee, to proceed to a new scheme for the development of a Public Service Centre in Kenilworth that excludes the Talisman Theatre element but allows for its provision to be reconsidered in the future, subject to the conditions around funding made by the Strategic Director of Customers, Workforce and Governance.
- (2) That further participation and funding will be subject to a satisfactory business case agreed by Cabinet.

**9. Any Other Items**

**None**

The Cabinet rose at 2.51 pm

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Chairman