



### Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,  
Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 5 September 2018.

#### Present:

Jill Haynes	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Care
Steve Butler	Cabinet Member for Safeguarding
Andrew Parry	Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Education, Learning and Skills
Tony Ferrari	Cabinet Member for Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment
Peter Wharf	Cabinet Member for Workforce

#### Members Attending:

Hilary Cox, As Chairman of the County Council and County Councillor for Winterborne  
Jon Andrews, County Councillor for Sherborne Town  
Jean Dunseith, County Councillor for Chickerell and Chesil Bank  
Nick Ireland, County Councillor for Linden Lea

#### Officers Attending:

Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Nick Jarman (Corporate Director for Children's Services),  
Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Mike Harries (Corporate Director for Environment and  
Economy), Grace Evans (Legal Services Manager), Andrew Martin (Service Director - Highways  
and Emergency Planning), Kirstie Snow (Senior Communications Officer) and Fiona King (Senior  
Democratic Services Officer).

#### For certain items, as appropriate:

- (Notes:(1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date.  
Publication Date: **Tuesday, 11 September 2018.**
- (2) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **Wednesday, 17 October 2018.**
- (3) **RECOMMENDED** in this type denotes that a decision of County Council is required.)

#### **Apologies for Absence**

94 An apology for absence was received from Rebecca Knox.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Jill Haynes chaired the meeting.

#### **Code of Conduct**

95 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

#### **Minutes**

96 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July were confirmed and signed.

**Public Participation**97 Public Speaking

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

**Cabinet Forward Plan**

98 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Resources advised members that it was likely that the Quarterly Asset Management report was likely to be withdrawn for the 26 September 2018 meeting as it had no substantial content.

**Panels and Boards**

99 The following minutes were received:-

**Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee**

100 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2018 were noted.

The Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment highlighted the Finance and Performance Report and noted the forward worry in respect of the budget.

**Noted****Recommendations from Committees**

101 The Cabinet considered the following recommendations:-

**Approval of the Youth Justice Plan for 2018/19**

101a Cllr Haynes advised members that this paper would also be presented to the Shadow Executive for approval as this was an ongoing cost for the new Council. She also raised concerns about reductions in government funding for the Youth Justice Service going forwards.

**RECOMMENDED**

That the recommendation of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 July 2018 be recommended to County Council for approval as set out below:

*Recommendation 37 – Approval of the Youth Justice Plan for 2018/19*

*That Cabinet be asked to recommend the County Council to approve the Youth Justice Plan for 2018-19.*

*Reason for Recommendation*

*The draft Youth Justice Plan meets statutory requirements. The Plan reviewed achievements in the previous year, details the structure, governance and resources of the Youth Offending Service, and sets out the priorities for 2018-19.*

**Homelessness in Dorset: Review of Evidence**

101b The Cabinet Member for Health and Care noted that a lot of hard work had been put into understanding homelessness in Dorset. In respect of the Emergency Local Assistance funding this was no longer available in the Adults' budget for the next

financial year and would need to be agreed by the Shadow Authority. There would need to be discussion on this fund at both the Budget Task and Finish Group and the Shadow Executive Committee.

Cllr Hilary Cox as the Chairman of the County Council commended the efforts that had been put into this piece of work and Cabinet agreed this was a very important area of work and noted that a full report had been produced.

Following a comment from Cllr Steve Butler as the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding regarding funding through the housing budget with the district and borough councils, Cllr Haynes advised she was not aware of any joint work as yet with the new Council in this regard.

### **Resolved**

That the recommendation from the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 July 2018 be approved as set out below:-

#### *Recommendation 35 – Homelessness in Dorset: review of Evidence*

*That the County Council's Cabinet and Dorset Shadow Executive consider the Committee's recommendation that the Emergency Local Assistance Funding be renewed.*

### **Social Isolation: Final Report of the Member Working Group**

#### 101c **Resolved**

That the recommendation of the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 July 2018 be approved as set out below:-

#### *Recommendation 38 – Social Isolation: Final Report of the Member Working Group*

- 1. That the Committee agreed that the key issues identified in the report and addressing them at a strategic level across council activities and expenditure will combat social isolation and was recommended to the Cabinet (as set out in Appendix 1, paragraph 4.3 of the report).*
- 2. That the Cabinet's attention be drawn to the potential benefit of further action being taken on a corporate basis informed by the toolkit of the Campaign to End Loneliness (asset out in Appendix 1, paragraph 6.1b of the report).*
- 3. That the Cabinet consider the recommendations with a view to drawing these findings and associated action to the attention of the Shadow Executive for the new Dorset Council and to the Health and Wellbeing Board (as set out in Appendix 1, paragraph 6.2 of the report).*

### **Questions from County Councillors**

- 102 Two questions were received from Cllr Nick Ireland, one to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Education, Learning and Skills in respect of the 'Partners in Practice' initiative and one to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment regarding school transport.

Both questions and answers are attached as an annexure to these minutes.

In respect of the question regarding the joining of the 'Partners in Practice' initiative, Cllr Haynes advised that at the Cabinet meeting in July 2018 a report on Special Educational Needs was discussed and the Director for Children's Services asked Cabinet if it was appropriate for Children's Services to work with Essex County Council. The Cabinet agreed this should be investigated further. It was confirmed that there would be no additional cost to the County Council.

Cllr Daryl Turner as the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment advised

members that he had recently received an email in respect of Cllr Ireland's question concerning school transport which he undertook to share with members outside of the meeting. He added that the school transport team worked extremely hard to achieve the transporting of school children to their destinations with relatively few problems. He also shared with members a recent compliment that had been received by the team with regards to school travel in the Beaminster area.

### **Exempt Business**

#### **103 Resolved**

That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minute 104 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

### **Provision of Additional Funding for Highway Maintenance**

104 The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment which articulated the need for additional funding to be allocated to both the revenue and capital budgets to arrest the deterioration in condition now being experienced across the highway network.

A Policy Development Panel (PDP) had been established, from members of the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to examine the current funding strategy in relation to the management of highway maintenance and this report and recommendations was the culmination of a series of meetings with officers from within the highway service.

The Chief Financial Officer advised members that the financial resilience of local authorities was under very close scrutiny. The £1.4m funding was not in the current budget and would either increase the overspend or reduce the general balances which would adversely affect the County Council's position. This report would also be presented to the Shadow Executive Committee as approval of the recommendations would affect the new Council going forward.

Cllr Haynes added that the repairs and work done now could save money for the new Council in the future.

Cllr Jon Andrews, was a member of the PDP, and supported the need for the immediate cash injection of £1.4 million for the current financial year. He supported the proposal going forward to the Shadow Executive for the additional year on year funding for highways and believed that if the council did not support this it would cost more in the long run. Every one of the council's customers (council tax payers) when they step out of their front doors stepped on to a service that the County Council provided. He continued that as most, if not all councillors, would tell you their email inboxes were full of complaints about the highways and pavements. Year after year the decline in the standards of our roads, due to the lack of preventative maintenance and the decline of our major infrastructure, due to the fact that the Council was spending capital money on revenue requirements and at the same time the loan repayment of approximately £1million per year was coming out of highways budget and not the corporate budget. The report spelled out quite clearly what investment was needed to prevent Dorset's roads very quickly becoming unsafe. This would not be good for the Council's economic future as attracting business and tourists was so important. He therefore implored the Cabinet to support the recommendations as set out in the report.

Cllr Hilary Cox as the Chairman of the County Council also strongly supported the recommendations, especially the outcomes set out at paragraph 5.1 of the exempt

report.

Cllr Dunseith was also a member of the PDP and supported the recommendations. In respect of the £1.4m requested she felt it showed some visible support to the majority of council tax residents. This would affect thousands of Dorset residents and she felt they would thank the Council for making their lives that little bit better.

Cllr Tony Ferrari as the Cabinet Member for Communities and Resources highlighted the expectation that there would be a mix of both capital and revenue budget used for the additional funding but the recommendations were not explicit from which area it came from.

Cllr Wharf whilst supporting the recommendations was encouraged to see cross-party support for the recommendations and hoped this would continue when the report was discussed at the Shadow Council.

Cllr Haynes added that she felt Dorset roads were not as bad as many others she had encountered and thanked the Service Director and his team for the quality of our roads and for the work that they did.

### **Recommended**

1. That additional funding totalling £1.4 million within 2018/19, to address the current highway network condition and surface water issues be approved following consultation with the Shadow Dorset Council's Executive Committee.
2. That the Shadow Executive Committee consider the contents of the Policy Development Panel's report within future budget development work.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

To address concerns about the current levels of maintenance and condition of the highway network.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 10.34 am

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## **Question from Nick Ireland to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills in relation to partnership work with Essex County Council**

### Question

A recent email from the Interim Director of Children's Services to all members (swiftly followed by a press release) announced the positive news that Dorset County Council, "*with Cabinet approval*", are joining the **Partners in Practice** initiative. At which Cabinet meeting was this discussed and approved?

### Answer

The email which went out to members contained a small mistake. The decision to take up the opportunity to work partner with Essex County Council was made at the Organisational Transformation Board and not Cabinet as stated inadvertently. The Director of Children's Services apologises for not spotting this rudimentary error when he reviewed the email prior to its release.

## **Question from Nick Ireland to the Cabinet Member for Natural; and Built Environment in relation to school transport**

### Question

With the current yearly deluge of bus passes being sent out by our hard working staff to children entitled to DCC provided school transport, it appears from evidence arising from complaints I have received from constituents and also from discussions I have had with officers, that there has been a significant increase in scholars required to walk further to their designated bus stops, with many distances of over a mile and often on unlit roads with no footpaths. Is this the result of a change in DCC transport policy or the outcome of the lack of control over the routing decisions of the **One School, One Operator** contractors?

### Answer

Dorset Travel who lead on transport within the County Council have been aware about a few calls about routes where parents have expressed concern. We are not aware of any which are outside of policy, as we work closely with the operators and still maintain contact with parents who raise concerns to us. The concerns raised are not contrary to the policy which is from the start of the public highway not the threshold of the property. Gate to gate not door to door.

Colleagues in Transport planning work very closely with Dorset Travel for Walk Route Assessments to ensure that there is an independent review of routes which are expressed as a concern. They also highlight the policy that primary age children should be accompanied along routes and any necessary PPE should be considered. Personal protective equipment (**PPE**) refers to high visibility clothing which will greatly increase the safety of the children and parent/carers.

The Service Director responsible for transport has communicated with Cllr Ireland and has offered to discuss any specific issues outside of the meeting. The team continue to liaise with all members of the County Council.

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