

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 19 November 2014.

Present:

Robert Gould (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)
Toni Coombs, Peter Finney, Colin Jamieson and Rebecca Knox.


John Wilson, Chairman of the County Council, attended under Standing Order 54(1).

Officers Attending: Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services), Fiona King (Public Relations Officer) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

For certain items, as appropriate

Sam Fox-Adams (Head of Policy, Partnerships and Communications), Patrick Myers (Head of Business Development) and Gill Smith (Senior Planning Officer).

(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: **25 November 2014**.

(2) The symbol () denotes that the item considered was a Key Decision and was included in the Forward Plan.

(3) 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 **17 December 2014**.)

Apologies for Absence

439. Apologies for absence were received from Spencer Flower (Chairman), Jill Haynes, David Phillips (Director of Public Health) and Debbie Ward (Chief Executive). Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health) attended the meeting on behalf of David Phillips.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

441. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 were confirmed and signed, subject to the wording in relation to minutes 398.3 and 398.4 being amended to reflect the views of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

Public Participation

Public Speaking

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

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

Petitions

442.3 There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

Draft Cabinet Forward Plan

443.1 The Cabinet considered the Draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and items planned to be considered in a private part of the meeting on or following the Cabinet meeting on 17 December 2014. The draft plan had been published on 18 November 2014.

443.2 The Director for Children's Services indicated that an item would be added to the Plan on 17 December 2014 in relation to the Sir John Colfox School and issues regarding its potential conversion to academy status as a former PFI school.

443.3 The Director for Environment and the Economy informed members that an item on the Plan in relation to parking service delivery had not progressed as expected due to staffing changes and it would be deferred until a later date.

443.4 It was also noted that consideration of Hurn Roundabout would be held in March 2015, and reference to a further report at the end of the Plan would be removed.

Resolved

444. That the Forward Plan be updated following the comments outlined in the minute above.

Panels and Boards

445.1 The minutes of the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee meeting held on 28 October 2014 were submitted for endorsement.

445.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources explained that there were some concerns regarding finance in respect of the Partnership, which the Joint Committee would be considering at its next meeting in order to deal with the situation as effectively as possible.

Resolved

446. That the minutes be received.

Forward Together Update

447.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources on the progress being made through the Forward Together Programme across the Council.

447.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources introduced the report and explained that future reports would build on the crucial thrust of the Forward Together Programme which would focus on transformation and re-profiling financial savings, and provide the opportunity to monitor and challenge progress. He also briefed the Cabinet on the consolidation of three major work streams that would seek to deliver the aims of the Programme. A corporate narrative was also welcomed which would help to deliver the messages of the Programme.

447.3 Members expressed support and confidence in the ambitious aims to drive culture change. Particular reference was made to the recent Ask Dorset events across Dorset which would inform the future direction of Forward Together as a result of extensive engagement with the public.

Resolved

448.1 That the progress outlined in the report be endorsed.

448.2 That reports on finance and the work streams within the Programme be considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet on 17 December 2014.

Reasons for Decisions

449. To ensure the Forward Together Programme was fully implemented to secure both the organisational benefits and financial savings necessary to deliver a balanced budget up to and beyond 2016/17.

Delivering Dorset's Potential: Dorset Growth Board's Transformation Challenge Award Bid

450.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council on an opportunity to bid for funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government to support economic growth through transformation by working with other local authorities on a Pan-Dorset basis.

450.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources summarised the joint working underway to date through the Leaders' Growth Board, which was coterminous with the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Local Enterprise Partnership. He explained that the bid had been submitted in October 2014 and the outcome would be known shortly.

Resolved

451. That the attached Transformation Challenge Award bid and associated programme be supported.

Reason for Decision

452. To ensure that members understood and supported the work of the Dorset Growth Board to facilitate economic growth in Dorset and further the ambitions of Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan.

Proposed Dorset County Council Response to the Department of Communities and Local Government Consultation – Planning and Travellers

453.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy on the Government's consultation on proposed changes to its planning policy on Gypsies and Travellers.

453.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy introduced the report and explained that the proposals included changing the definition of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for planning and housing need assessment purposes to exclude those who no longer travelled. It was noted that this could raise difficulties in interpretation and possible legal challenge.

453.3 The following comments were received in relation to the following responses in the consultation:

- **Question 1 – Do you agree that the planning definition of travellers should be amended to remove the words “or permanently” to limit it to those who have a nomadic habit of life? If not, why not?** The Cabinet discussed the impact of travellers who were deemed to live in a permanent location, and then subsequently decide to travel again. Officers clarified that this was a potential difficulty in defining whether someone was a traveller or not, and raised uncertainty, but essentially they would be counted as a traveller if they led a nomadic lifestyle.

- **Question 12 – Are there any other points that you wish to make in response to this consultation, in particular to inform the Government’s consideration of the potential impacts that the proposals in this paper may have on either the traveller community or the settled community?** The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy suggested that the wording in relation to the draft planning guidance should include a reference regarding the duty of all upper tier authorities to provide appropriate sites within in their localities. It was agreed that this was a suitable suggestion, with the addition of ‘within current primary legislation’.
- **Question 9 – Do you agree that unauthorised occupation causes harm to the planning system and community relations? If not, why not?** It was suggested that although no detail had been included on this question as a technical response, members felt that there should be detail included which related to the impact on communities, as members were community leaders and there was evidence to show that there was an adverse impact of unauthorised occupation. It was also noted that the consultation was open for the public, district, borough, town and parish councils to respond to separately to express their views.
- **Question 10 – Do you have evidence of the impact of harm caused by intentional unauthorised occupation?** In line with the comments above, it was agreed that reference to evidence of the impact of unauthorised occupation should be included in the response, together with the effective use of temporary transit sites in Dorset which provided the Police with the remit to use their powers of removal.

It was suggested that the response at paragraph 32 should start with ‘Yes’, and that reference be made to the responsible way that the Council has effective transit sites, which was good practice, whereas other authorities did not.

453.4 The Director for Environment and the Economy confirmed that the consultation response would be updated to incorporate the points raised in the minute above. It was therefore agreed that the Director would be granted delegated authority to prepare the wording after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy before submission on 23 November 2014.

453.5 It was noted that there was no detail of a timescale from Government in relation to the next steps, but further reports would be considered by the Cabinet depending on the outcome, or any further consultation. The Monitoring Officer highlighted that the purdah period in advance of the Parliamentary Elections on 7 May 2015 would need to be taken into account in any further consultation or decision making.

Resolved

454.1 That the “Proposed responses” set out in Appendix A of the Cabinet Members’ report and the minute above, as the Council’s response to the Government consultation on Planning and Travellers, be agreed.

454.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Director for Environment and the Economy to finalise the wording of the consultation response, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy.

Reason for Decisions

455. To ensure that the interests of the County Council as set out in the Corporate Plan (in particular the aim to enable economic growth) were reflected in the Government’s policy on Gypsies and Travellers.

Recommendation from the Children’s Services Overview Committee

456. The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Children’s Services Overview Committee held on 14 October 2014:

Recommendation 117 - Corporate Performance Monitoring Report First Quarter 2014-15 (1 April – 30 June 2014)

Resolved

457. That the revised measures and targets for Children Accessing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (appendix 1, page 2 of the report to the Children’s Services Overview Committee), with the Quarter 2 corporate performance monitoring report, be agreed.

Reason for Decision

458. To ensure members were aware of the County Council’s performance against the 2014-2015 Corporate Plan and Corporate Balanced Scorecard.

Questions from Members of the Council

459. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am – 10.40am