



Cabinet

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 13 January 2016

Present:

Robert Gould (Chairman)

Peter Finney, Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Colin Jamieson, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox

Members Attending

Steve Butler, County Councillor for Cranborne Chase

Mike Byatt, County Councillor for Weymouth Town

Andy Canning, County Councillor for Linden Lea

Barrie Cooper, County Councillor for Blandford

Janet Dover, County Councillor for Colehill and Stapehill

Beryl Ezzard, County Councillor for Wareham

Spencer Flower, County Councillor for Verwood and Three Legged Cross

Ian Gardner, County Councillor for Chickerell and Chesil Bank

Susan Jefferies, County Councillor for Corfe Mullen

Ros Kayes, County Councillor for Bridport

Paul Kimber, County Councillor for Portland Tophill

Mike Lovell, County Councillor for Purbeck Hills

Clare Sutton, County Councillor for Rodwell

Daryl Turner, County Councillor for Marshwood Vale

Peter Wharf, County Councillor for Egdon Heath

John Wilson, Chairman of the Council – Standing Order 54(1)

Officer Attending: Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Director of Environment and the Economy), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

For certain items, as appropriate

John Alexander (Policy and Performance Manager), Tracey Old (Project Manager - Children's Services), Stuart Riddle (Service Manager - Family Support), Peter Scarlett (Estate and Assets Service Manager) and Claire Shiels (Commissioning and Contracts Manager).

(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, 19 January 2016**

(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 **Thursday, 11 February 2016.**)

Apologies for Absence

1 Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Patrick Ellis (Assistant Chief Executive) and Nicky Cleave (Deputy Director of Public Health). Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development) attended the meeting in place of Patrick Ellis.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

3 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2016 were confirmed and signed.

Public Participation4 Public Speaking

There were 2 sets of public questions and 20 public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Orders 21(1) and 21(2) regarding Minute 6 'Youth Services – Strategic Outline Case'. The questions and answers, and statements are available via www.dorsetforyou.com/countycommittees.

Petitions

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

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) - update for Local Government finance settlement

5 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council which provided an update on the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Plan following the Government's detailed settlement received on 17 December 2015.

The Leader of the Council explained the update in detail which had significantly impacted on the forecasted budget position through a change in methodology which favoured financing of Metropolitan and London Authorities and created an additional £7.4m savings burden on top of the existing target of £13m to deliver a legally required balanced budget. Dorset was the most adversely affected County Council across the Country. On-going lobbying of MPs, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and taking part in the recent consultation was hoped to bring changes to the settlement which would be announced on 3 February 2016. A parliamentary backbench debate was also held on Monday 11 January 2016. As a result of the new announcement date, it would be necessary to change Cabinet and Council dates in February 2016 and all members would be informed in due course.

The Cabinet recognised the impending major impact on the Council's future budget, and was informed that a contingency plan was being developed to try to address the budget if no changes were made by Government to avoid immediate impact on front line services. It was noted that an additional ring-fenced 2% Council Tax precept funding for Social Care was introduced but this would only cover increases in pay awards, inflation, and to begin to introduce the national living wage.

Members acknowledged the County Council's very successful record in making savings and transformation of services to protect front line services through an ambitious programme. It was confirmed that the Authority should remain ambitious with forward thinking corporate objectives.

The Cabinet heard from a number of members about their concerns regarding the future financial situation facing the Council, which included an offer from the Labour Group to be more involved in the budget process, calls for more information on the national position when available, to increase local member engagement and leadership, not to make immediate large scale cuts, try as hard as possible to retain business rates to be self-financing, and provide clear messages and engagement with the public.

Resolved

That the broad content of the provisional settlement and its strategic impact on the County Council's planning for 2016/17 and beyond be noted.

Reason for Decision

To enable work to continue on refining and managing the County Council's budget plan for 2016/17 and the three years of the MTFP period, and beyond.

Youth Services – Strategic Outline Case

- 6 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Strategic Outline Case in relation to the future of Youth Services.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People welcomed a large number of public to the meeting and provided a detailed summary of the review of Youth Services to achieve savings of £1m, including the consultation undertaken and proposals from the Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) on Forward Together for Children's Services to change the service to provide targeted youth work for the most vulnerable, and to support communities to take on and manage Youth Centres in the future. Expressions of interest had been received from 19 of 22 youth centres in line with the review's timetable for receiving business cases by 31 March 2016, and to implement transfers of buildings from 1 September 2016. Member briefings had also been held throughout the review. Steve Butler, as the Chairman of the EAP, summarised the Panel's work and clarified the need to save £1m and to focus the service on the most vulnerable.

The following amendments were made to the detail within the report, although these did not materially change the outcome of the consultation:

- 19 responses omitted from public consultation. The former reported number of 375 responses was now 394. This resulted in a change in the percentages of people who felt proposals would meet the aims.
- Receipt of four petitions and additional comments.

In accordance with the Council's procedures for public speaking, the Cabinet received 2 sets of public questions and 20 public statements at the meeting in accordance with Standing Orders 21(1) and 21(2). The questions and answers, and statements are available via www.dorsetforyou.com/countycommittees.

The range of public questions and statements raised the following issues and concerns:

- The review was based on incorrect evidence (i.e. participation was higher than 10% in youth centres)
- The consultation was not representative of the reality of youth centres.
- Removal of open access was not acceptable as it would remove support for young people, resulting in a loss of opportunities, loss of a safe place to go and would have negative impacts on communities including increased anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy.
- The support arrangements and funding were inadequate.
- Many vulnerable children accessed centres.
- A final decision should be taken by County Council, not Cabinet.
- The future of youth provision in its current form was correct and should be maintained.
- The timescales for any change were not appropriate and should be extended.

A number of members addressed the Cabinet in turn to raise concerns and express suggestions, which included requests to not change youth services; slow down any changes to make sure any decisions were the right ones; extension of timescales to enable communities to better prepare business cases to run their own centres; increased engagement with local members; requests for retention of open access to be run by the Council or readdress the balance of open access and targeted access; appreciation for the need for targeted youth work; the possibility of missing children that were at risk of becoming vulnerable; centres should not be provided within schools; the £200k support fund was not adequate; the cost of running centres was

not feasible for communities; a call for the final decision to be made by the County Council; the Council must invest in young people; and employment of social work staff was perceived to be a barrier for communities.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and officers clarified that:

- The evidence used throughout the review was based on robust data including usage figures for all youth centres over a three year period which reflected 10% attendance, although there were centres which had higher attendance and needs than others;
- Youth work would not cease, it was valued, and it would change to a model which funded youth work and skills in more flexible ways and reach the most vulnerable in need of support;
- Youth work would not be primarily based in schools, but would use the information available through schools to benefit those in need of the service in the most appropriate place;
- The £200k support funding was used from the budget which paid for youth workers so any increase in funding would impact on the skills and recruitment available. The funding was based on matching crowd funding which would amplify the amount of funding available.
- The proposed model was a tried and tested model which was used across the Country and was successful.
- In relation to anti-social behaviour it was noted that the police had not objected to the consultation due to the inclusion of outreach and targeted youth work in the proposed model.
- Local members needed to be proactive in leading communities in their bids to create business cases and looking to manage buildings.
- The proposals were within the Council's policy and budget framework and the final decision was the responsibility of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet discussed the issues and concerns raised together with the evidence in the report in order to assess the impact on young people, on the service, and on the Council. It was felt that the proposed model would better align with the need to concentrate on early help and prevention. It was recognised that the model was successfully used across the Country and this was a pragmatic opportunity to change how the Council operated.

Concern was expressed by the Cabinet regarding the support needed regarding employment of youth workers for projects and the flexibility that could be afforded to communities if they were not able to develop business cases quickly enough. It was subsequently confirmed that advice and guidance would be provided regarding recruitment of youth workers, including affiliation with voluntary sector organisations, and that communities could be given flexibility for genuine reasons if they needed more time.

It was agreed that the proposals would provide the best service for young people and the vulnerable, which put the community at the centre of provision. The proposals would achieve savings which would contribute to addressing the Council's current budget pressures. It was also confirmed that the issues raised throughout the consultation and consideration by the Cabinet would be taken into account in modelling the future service.

The Cabinet thanked all attendees for their heartfelt views and contributions to the discussion, and it was recognised that any decision was very emotive, but also required robust evidence in looking at any change to the youth service.

Resolved

1. That Option 5 within the Strategic Outline Case be approved to provide a proactive targeted youth service, supporting local action, and support communities to provide places to go and things to do.
2. That the Council would no longer fund or provide open access, buildings based youth work, or transfer any undertaking.
3. That £200,000 be allocated to support communities that wish to provide places to go and things to do for young people and crowd funding is used to amplify this funding.
4. That buildings which are currently used as youth centres will be offered for community use, unless the Council has a strategic interest in retaining the building for other purposes following the timeline detailed within the Cabinet Member's report.
5. That any properties which are not transferred to community use will be added to the Forward Together "Way We Work" portfolio.

Reason for Decisions

The decisions met the strategic, economic, commercial and financial needs of the organisation as described in the Strategic Outline Case.

Cabinet Forward Plan

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

Noted**Panels and Boards**

- 8 The minutes and recommendations of the following meetings were considered.

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 14 December 2015**9 Resolved**

That the minutes be received and that recommendation 125 be approved.

Recommendation 125 - A Review of the Governance Structure of the Dorset Waste Partnership

1. *That partner councils be recommended to agree that:*
 - *The Joint Committee consists of 2 Councillors per partner.*
 - *The quorum for Joint Committee meetings be set at 6 councillors from 6 councils.*
 - *The terms of reference for the Joint Committee be amended to reflect a focus on strategy, major decisions and holding the Senior Management Team to account.*
 - *A Waste Partnership Scrutiny Committee be established comprising 1 councillor and 1 substitute from each partner Council, to support the Joint Committee by providing pre-decision scrutiny.*
 - *The Management Board be abolished with the link officers acting as commissioners of the services delegated to the Waste Partnership.*
 - *That the new governance arrangements outlined above be reviewed 12 months' following inception of the new arrangements.*
2. *That the revised draft Inter Authority Agreement be referred to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee before being signed of by the Cabinet.*

Reasons for Decisions

1. *To improve the governance arrangements of the Dorset Waste Partnership. These improvements were required to minimise the possibility of financial management difficulties in the future.*
2. *The recommendations involved rewriting the agreement between the partner Councils which needed the approval of all the partners.*

Executive Advisory Panel on Pathways to Independence - 17 December 201510 **Resolved**

That the minutes be received and that recommendations 12 and 15 be approved.

Recommendation 12 - The Disability Benefits Automatic Disregard for Non-Residential Care Services

That the Cabinet be asked to agree to a review to consider the future of the automatic disregard in the light of further moves towards personalisation.

Reason for recommendation

To help to secure a sustainable approach to the County Council's corporate area of focus on 'health, wellbeing and safeguarding'.

Recommendation 15 - Developing the Market to Improve Care and Support

That the Cabinet be asked to approve the approach and support consideration of the social care precept which would help the County Council to address a number of pressures which arose from a marked increase in the cost of care leading to an improved and sustainable market.

Reason for recommendation

To provide a basis for the further development and input into the development of specific recommendations arising from work outlined in the Director's report.

Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group - 18 December 201511 **Resolved**

That the minutes be received and that recommendation 24 be approved.

Recommendation 24 - Reserved Matter

That the three local authorities be asked to agree to the proposed delegation of authority and change set out in the exempt minute.

Forward Together Update

12 The Cabinet agreed that the report would be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 2 February 2016.

Noted**Corporate Performance Monitoring Report**

13 The Cabinet agreed that the report would be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 2 February 2016.

Noted**Contracted Passenger Transport Services: Extension to T102 Contracts**

14 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment on contracted Passenger Transport Services for the majority of mainstream home to school, special educational needs, and supported public transport provided by the County Council.

Resolved

That commencement of negotiations with contractors be authorised to agree the 1+1 years extension to T102 passenger transport contracts as appropriate and subject to a review of service needs on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy.

Reason for Decision

Improving efficiency in the delivery of passenger transport services would help support Corporate Aim 4 - safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support its local economy.

Funding arrangements for the replacement of Sidney Gale House, Bridport

- 15 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on the options to replace the Sidney Gale Residential Care Home in Bridport.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care summarised the opportunity to bring together facilities as a hub in Bridport. This included the replacement of the Sidney Gale House residential home on one site. The current site at the Bridport Highways Depot was the preferred site and further work was required to find a new alternative site for the depot. It was explained how the project included social capital funding through a new way of working which would attract funding and allow the partner to decide the preferred bidder for the design and construction of the new facilities, but the opportunity was time limited.

It was noted that any design and build project required an assessment of the benefits and risks associated with adopting this approach in comparison to a County Council led design before committing to the contract.

Resolved

1. That the County Council enters into the necessary contractual arrangements to enable a third party to provide a replacement care home and community hub building on the Fisherman's Arms site on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer.
2. That delegated authority be granted for any further decisions required in order to facilitate the transaction, including any which relate to the site, to the Director for Adult and Community Services and Chief Financial Officer, after consultation with the portfolio holders for Adult Social Care and Corporate Development.

Reason for Decision

The recommendations would contribute to the County Council's aims to:

1. Promote health, wellbeing and safeguarding;
2. Protect vulnerable adults from harm;
3. Respond positively to the views expressed through the public engagement and consultation exercise.

Commercialisation and Income Generation Policy

- 16 The Cabinet agreed that the report would be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 2 February 2016 and requested that both the policy and the strategy to which the policy refers should be included with the report.

Noted

Questions from County Councillors

- 17 A question was received from Councillor Susan Jefferies to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in relation to Youth Services – Strategic Outline Case, detailed at minute 6, and its impact on Youth Clubs across the County. The questions and answers can be viewed at www.dorsetforyou.com/countycommittees.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 1.30 pm