



Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 25 May 2016.

Present:

Robert Gould (Chairman)

Peter Finney, Robin Cook, Deborah Croney, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox.

Members Attending:

Andrew Cattaway, as Chairman of the Council under Standing Order 54

Toni Coombs, County Councillor for Verwood and Three Legged Cross

Beryl Ezzard, County Councillor for Wareham

Susan Jefferies, County Councillor for Corfe Mullen

William Trite, County Councillor for Swanage

Daryl Turner, County Councillor for Marshwood Vale

David Walsh, County Councillor for Gillingham

Officers Attending:

Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Patrick Ellis (Assistant Chief Executive), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services) and Helen Whitby (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

For certain items, as appropriate:

Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development), Tracey Old (Programme Manager - Forward Together for Children) and Stuart Riddle (Senior Manager - Change for Children).

(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, 31 May 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 **Wednesday, 29 June 2016.**)

Apologies for Absence

84 Apologies for absence were received from Colin Jamieson and Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health).

The Chairman welcomed Helen Coombes to her first Cabinet meeting as Director for Adult and Community Services.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

86 The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2016 were confirmed and signed.

Public Participation

87 Public Speaking

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

There were no public questions 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

- 88 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting. With regard to the expected Support Services Transformation Progress Update it was explained that as the first meeting of the Forward Together Support Services Programme Board would be held in early June, an update would be provided for the Cabinet's meeting on 29 June 2016 and six monthly thereafter.

Noted

Forward Together Update

- 89 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Organisational Development and Transformation on the progress of the Forward Together Programme which focused on Living and Learning Centres, community pathfinders and One Council – new services.

It was noted that seven areas had been identified for Learning Centres, community pathfinder pilots were to be held in Beaminster, Christchurch and Weymouth and seed funding had been received from the Department for Works and Pensions for a pilot project (the Local Family Offer) with the Chesil Partnership which it was hoped would be extended to other areas of high deprivation in future.

Members welcomed these developments but highlighted the need for community initiatives to be driven by local people, for local members to be engaged as early as possible as part of these initiatives, and for local people to be asked what the Council could do to help them not provide what it thought they needed.

There was also a plea for more joined up working as not only were the Council creating Living and Learning Centres but the Clinical Commissioning Group were also introducing hubs at the same time. The need for partners, public services and the voluntary sector to work together to reduce any duplication and provide joined up services was highlighted.

With regard to timescales and feedback on the pilots, members noted that these would be reported within future Forward Together updates on a six monthly basis.

Noted

Dorset Green Enterprise Zone

- 90 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth which set out progress in respect of the purchase of land and construction workspace at Dorset Green for the Enterprise Zone, the establishment of a Management Board and proposals for the construction of a Digital Hub and Innovation Centre and Development Company for the Enterprise Zone. The Zone would come into operation on 1 April 2017 and was being progressed in partnership with Purbeck District Council and the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership.

Members supported this project as it would play a key role in the economic growth

strategy. It was suggested that consideration be given to changing the Zone's name to something more appropriate.

With regard to financial monitoring, the Chief Financial Officer assured members that this would be done through the Management Board and by the Council as accountable body.

Resolved

1. That progress with respect to the purchase of land and construction of workspace at Dorset Green be noted.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth be appointed to represent the Council's interests on the Dorset Green Enterprise Zone Management Board.
3. That the proposals for the construction of a Digital Hub and Innovation Centre and Development Company for the Enterprise Zone be supported in principle.

Reason for Decisions

Successful delivery of the Dorset Green Enterprise Zone would make a significant contribution to the economic growth of Dorset, providing high quality and skilled jobs.

Dorset Minerals and Waste Development Scheme - Updated Milestones

- 91 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth which set out revised milestones for the Local Development Scheme, prior to public consultation on the Dorset Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.

Toni Coombs, County Councillor for Verwood, asked whether Hampshire County Council had shared their proposals with Dorset. The Director for Environment and the Economy confirmed that Hampshire had consulted Dorset but this had not been forwarded to consult local members for which he apologised. Members stressed the importance of local members having sight of such important documents as early as possible in future.

Resolved

1. That the proposed milestones for the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme be agreed.
2. That officers be authorised to make minor changes to the written contents of the Local Development Scheme including any changes needed to reflect the revised milestones.
3. That the scheme come into effect on 26 May 2016.

Reasons for Decisions

1. To ensure the scheme was compliant with legislative requirements in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
2. To ensure that the interests of the County Council as set out in the Corporate Plan (in particular the aim to enable economic growth) reflected the continued commitment to deliver up-to-date minerals and waste development plans, and to support equivalent aims in the corporate plans for Bournemouth and Poole.

Youth Centre - Asset Transfer

- 92 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Organisational Development and Transformation which set out details of the transfer of youth centre buildings to community bodies for community use.

The Cabinet Member for Organisational Development and Transformation reported that, following consideration of a change to youth service provision on 13 January 2016, nineteen communities had submitted business cases for the transfer of youth centre buildings for community use.

Susan Jefferies, County Councillor for Corfe Mullen, drew attention to the position

with regard to the Corfe Mullen Youth Centre and her disappointment that the Parish Council's bid had been ignored in favour of that from the local school. She highlighted several areas of concern; that there had been no discussion between the Parish Council, the Youth Club and the local school about a shared bid; that the Parish Council had received no help in the development of its bid; that advice given had been obstructive; the lack of member involvement in the evaluation of bids; that figures for Youth Club use were inaccurate; the Parish Council's ability to use their precept to support the Youth Club; and the support of the local community for the Youth Club. She asked the Cabinet to defer the decision in relation to Corfe Mullen Youth Centre to allow discussions between the Parish Council, the school and interested local parties to take. Officers responded to the areas of concern highlighted and in particular why the school bid had been recommended for acceptance over that from the Parish Council.

Attention was drawn to a letter sent to Cabinet Members by Councillor Paul Harrison with regard to the case of Corfe Mullen Youth Club and asking the Cabinet to let this lease to the Parish Council.

Having heard the concerns raised, members agreed that they needed more information on the Corfe Mullen Youth Centre in order to make an informed decision about its future. They also recognised that some facilitation might be needed between the interested parties and that a meeting of the Executive Advisory Panel might be needed. They agreed to defer the decision until the Cabinet meeting on 29 June 2016. The Monitoring Officer clarified that at that meeting the Cabinet would only be considering the asset transfer of Corfe Mullen Youth Club.

Councillor Toni Coombs, was concerned that the Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services which had been established to evaluate the business cases and consider risks and issues had not met to do so. As the County Councillor for Verwood she referred to the recommendation that where Youth clubs were on school sites they would be absorbed into the relevant school and highlighted the case of Verwood Club which was on a shared school campus and she asked for a lease arrangement rather than a freehold in order to make it easier should the school become an academy in due course. She also referred to transferred properties being sold at a later stage and the Council's intention about recouping 100% of any capital receipts. She also asked that local funds be included in the transfer of any assets.

It was clarified that no change to current policy and procedure had been made. The transfer would be on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy and the specific arrangements for any subsequent sale would normally be included in the legal agreement. He confirmed that for any asset enhanced by communities, the Council would not take 100% of any subsequent sale figure.

David Walsh, County Councillor for Gillingham, was concerned that the hard work involved in taking forward proposals for Gillingham would be put back if decisions were delayed.

Councillor Beryl Ezzard, County Council for Wareham, spoke in support of the case of Corfe Mullen Youth Centre being deferred.

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills highlighted the confusion by Youth Workers in Blandford about the ownership of the Youth Centre buildings and asked that, when devolving services in future, the Council provide as much support as possible in the transfer process.

The Leader confirmed that local centre funds and equipment would be retained by Youth Centres. It was also confirmed that Blandford Youth Centre formed part of the school which was owned by the Foundation Governors.

The Leader paid tribute to Councillor Toni Coombs and the officers involved in the successful outcome of the changes to youth service provision and welcomed the response by communities to take over responsibility. He hoped that lessons learned from the process would inform any future service delivery changes.

The Chairman of the Council added commented that there had been a high level of satisfaction with the outcome of the process and he hoped that this would be highlighted in a press release. Councillor Beryl Ezzard added that any press release should include an appreciation of the amount of work carried out by local communities.

Resolved

1. That the use of the County Council's general power of competence to grant a freehold transfer, assignment of lease, or long leasehold interest in the youth centre buildings at Somerford, Burton, Gillingham, Bridport, Dorchester, Crossways, Sherborne, Southill, STEPS, Verwood, Wareham and Swanage to the respective community bodies on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy, after consultation with the Director for Children's Service and the Monitoring Officer be approved.
2. That the surrender of the leasehold interests in the youth centre building at The Lighthouse, upon terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy be approved.
3. That the absorption of Sturminster Newton youth centre by the relevant school be approved.
4. That the actions recommended in respect of the youth centre buildings which have not been subject to business cases from community groups be approved.
5. That the transfer of local youth centre funds to community groups upon terms to be agreed by the Director for Children's Services be approved.
6. That the establishment of a new targeted youth service which will positive impact on the lives of young people, with particular focus on their emotional and mental wellbeing; education, employment, and training; personal safety; and ability to contribution to their community be noted.
7. That a decision with regard to the absorption of Corfe Mullen youth centre by the relevant school be deferred to allow local discussions to be held, a meeting of the Executive Advisory Panel to be arranged, if necessary, and a report to be provided for the Cabinet's next meeting.

Reasons for Decisions

To ensure that the County Council achieved a balanced budget.

To implement the decision at Cabinet on 13 January 2016.

To support the County Council aims:-

- Enabling economic growth
- Promoting health, wellbeing and safeguarding
- To contribute to the County Council asset management strategy of reducing the net floor area of the non-schools estate by 50% between April 2010 and March 2020.

Questions from County Councillors

93 No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20(2).

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.15 am

