


CABINET

MINUTES of a MEETING held in COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL,
TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN on Thursday, 15 May 2014.

Cllr Keith Humphries	Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (exc strategic housing)
Cllr Laura Mayes	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills and Strategic Transport
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Leader of the Council
Cllr Jonathon Seed	Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding
Cllr Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property, Waste
Cllr John Thomson	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband
Cllr Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform
Cllr Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage & Arts, Governance (including information management), Support Services (HR, Legal, ICT, Business Services, Democratic Services)

Also in Attendance: Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead and Cllr Jerry Wickham

Key Decisions Matters defined as 'Key' Decisions and included in the Council's Forward Work Plan are shown as 

51 Apologies

All members were present.

52 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53 Leader's announcements


There were no announcements.

54 Public participation

The Leader reported receipt of questions from Peter Williams and Rosie Spencer Russell, details of which were circulated in a supplement to the agenda along with responses from Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services, copy attached to the signed copy of these minutes and available on the Council's website along with the agenda for this meeting.

The Leader explained that as usual, contributions would be welcome from those present.

55 New operating model for open access youth service (review of positive leisure-time activities for young people)

 This meeting was well attended by over 70 young people, youth workers and back bench Councillors. For the benefit of the public in attendance, the Leader introduced the Cabinet members and officers. The Leader explained that this was a specially arranged meeting to ensure there was sufficient time to consider the submitted report in detail and to consider all views expressed at the meeting.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the implementation of a new community-led operating model for meeting the council's statutory duty to secure for young people aged 13-19 (so far as reasonably practicable) access to sufficient positive leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their wellbeing, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Cllr Mayes gave a presentation to explain the main features of what was being proposed and moved the proposals and this was duly seconded.

A report had been previously considered by Cabinet in January 2014 when it was agreed to consult on four options. The consultation measures had included a Sparksite survey, direct texts to 20,000 young people, website coverage, various focus groups and participatory budget events, presentations at Area Boards and generally through the media. There had been an extremely good response to the consultation with 1,770 young people having completed a survey; 500 young people took part in focus groups, 6 groups presented ideas at Area Boards, 5 petitions were received (total c3,500 signatures); 38 letters and 26 responses from voluntary groups; 12 responses from Town and Parish Councils and a response from the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The outcomes of the consultation were detailed in the report presented to Cabinet.

The report proposed the development of a community-led approach which would empower communities via area boards, with funding from the Council, to develop and make available positive leisure-time activities within their local area. If agreed by Cabinet, this new model would be in place in October 2014 and fully embedded by April 2015.

Under this proposal, young people and the members of the community would design a tailored and varied menu of youth activities in each area. Trained Community Youth Officers (CYO) would help co-ordinate, design, develop and quality assure a unique youth offer tailored to their needs. The aim would be to have a named CYO for each Area Board area and Area Boards would receive funding to support this. The report also detailed three other options which had been considered.

Cllr Mayes explained that young people had during their consultation feedback, made clear what they wanted. She explained that the community led model would ensure that young people would continue to have a trained and trusted adult; more young people would have access to a wider variety of activities; the youth offer would reflect community needs, the voluntary and community sector would have better opportunities to develop provision for young people, young people and community partners would have greater influence over design of local youth provision and safeguarding would be enhanced through the Targeted Youth Workers. The aim was to have more young people, having more influence and joining in with more activities in their communities.

The Leader introduced Cllr Jon Hubbard, Chairman of the Children's Select Committee who presented the report of the Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People Task Group as agreed by the Children's Select Committee. Cllr Hubbard raised a number of questions and concerns which he considered had not been addressed in the report presented. He asked how many staff would be employed under the new scheme; would they be dedicated to a particular area or shared; how would the service be managed; who would line manage the CYOs and who would set their objectives and how many open access centres were proposed.

Cllr Mayes responded to the points raised.

The Leader invited those present to express their views. Several of the young people present addressed Cabinet on the proposals, highlighting their areas of particular concern. The Leader, Cllr Mayes and officers responded to the questions raised.

Cllr Mayes emphasised that given the financial constraints mainly due to continued reductions from central Government, the Council had no option but to review how the youth service was delivered. She compared Wiltshire to other authorities where they had simply cut their youth service. This Council was endeavouring to shape the way the service was provided to ensure it was tailored to meet the needs of each community. Area Boards would play a huge

part in determining the level of service required for its area and fund it accordingly.

Cllr Seed commented that the current service was not reaching the majority of young people and the proposals presented would provide the opportunity to put youth services on a much firmer footing.

The report advised that all Councillors should consider the equality issues and impacts of the proposal in the decision making process and satisfy themselves that the Council's Public Sector Equality Duties were being met as shown in Appendix 2 of the report presented. These issues were also raised and discussed within the public discussion. In addition, the risks associated with the proposals as detailed in the risk register as shown at Appendix 4 of the report should also be considered.

The Leader thanked all those present for their attendance, the excellent contributions made at the meeting and for their feedback during the consultation exercise.

The Leader explained the proposals as moved by Cllr Mayes and seconded by a member of Cabinet to ensure all those present were clear on what was being proposed. Following a lengthy debate, it was

Resolved:

- (a) That Cabinet agrees to implement a new community-led operating model for meeting the council's statutory duty to secure positive activities for young people aged 13-19¹.**
- (b) That in so doing, Cabinet approves the following:**
 - i) Adopt the key principles for a new operating model as set out in this report;**
 - ii) Authorise implementation of the community-led model for youth activities to increase the opportunities for young people's involvement and engagement;**
 - iii) Approve that the community-led operating model for youth activities maximises the amount of funding available to community area boards and local coordination;**
 - iv) Delegate authority to Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and senior officers to develop and implement**

¹ Up to age 24 for young people with a learning difficulty.

the new operating model, taking account of i)-iii) above and the recommendations of the scrutiny task group.

Reason for Decision

The council has been considering how positive leisure-time activities for young people can be maintained while improving value for money – with the aim to safeguard a youth offer for the future that is sustainable, protects the most vulnerable, enables the council to meet its statutory duties, and responds to the modern lives of young people, increasing their participation and involvement in youth activities.

The proposed new community-led operating model represents the most appropriate way to supporting the council's overall vision, taking into account the outcomes of an extensive public consultation, and ensures that young people will continue to be able to access a range of opportunities, enabled by trained Community Youth Officers. The actions identified and contained within the Equalities Impact assessment will ensure that the Council both in the decision and in the implementation phase meets its public sector equality duties to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations for protected characteristics (age, sex, disability and religion).

56 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

Appendix

Questions and responses

(Duration of meeting: 4.00 - 6.00 pm)

These decisions were published on the 2 June 2014 and will come into force on 10 June 2014.

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718024 or e-mail yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk
Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

15 May 2014

Public Participation

New operating model for open access youth service (review of positive leisure-time activities for young people)

**Questions from Peter Williams & Responses from
Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services**

Question 1

The model refers to "community-led"; what is being proposed is not a delegation to the community but delegation to the Local Area Boards. Would it not be more meaningful to refer to it a "locally-led"?

Response

Section 5.13 of the cabinet report outlines key features of the proposed community-led operating model. As stated, community area boards will be the focus for delivery and support for positive activities for young people in their community. Funding will be devolved to community area boards to develop and support activities. This is the rationale for describing the proposed operating model as "community-led".

Question 2

The proposed operating model includes the implementation of a quality mark scheme. What example has the Council in mind when putting this forward, how will it be introduced, how will it contribute to the arrangements for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the service, and how will the Council ensure that it delivers improved outcomes and contributes to the desire for continuous improvement?

Response

Section 6 of the cabinet report states that *'Local Youth Networks, a quality mark scheme and improved internal commissioning arrangements will help facilitate high quality youth work and activities across all providers, leading to improved outcomes for young people'*.

It is our aspiration that the proposed quality mark scheme will be developed as part of the implementation process by the community-led governance and impact working group outlined in section 5.23 of the cabinet report. This will be comprised of key officers from across the council. The contribution of the voluntary and community sector and other key partners will be encouraged.

As part of the quality mark scheme the council will not recommend specific providers of positive activities but will develop a directory which providers can register to be part of. As well as contact details and an outline of the activities they offer, providers will be asked to confirm they meet certain criteria covering health & safety, equalities, safeguarding, policies and governance etc.

The council has already developed a similar scheme for personalised learning providers, which schools use to select providers which meet certain criteria.

Question 3

The report suggests that the model is likely to attract additional funding (ref 11.7), implying that applications could be submitted to external bodies. How does the Council plan to assure all voluntary groups and stakeholders that it will not seek to gain funding in competition with their fundraising efforts?

Response

Section 5.7 of the cabinet report provides information on key findings from the consultation. One key finding is that the voluntary and community sector should play a greater role in the provision of positive activities, with support from the council and better coordination of local provision.

As stated in section 5.13 of the cabinet report the proposed new operating model will include Local Youth Network's seeking out opportunities for closer partnership working to avoid overlap and duplication, as well as exploit possibilities for income generation.

It is our aspiration that through the enabling function of community youth officers voluntary and community groups will be supported to maximise their fundraising efforts as well as seek out other sources of funding. We believe that the Local Youth Networks will facilitate collaboration and not competition, encouraging providers to work together for the benefit of young people.

Public Participation

New operating model for open access youth service (review of positive leisure-time activities for young people)

**Question from Rosie Spencer Russell & Responses from
Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services**

Question

*At the first consultation, in Trowbridge on the 10th of February, I specifically made a point of asking whether there would be youth services available locally until the new campus is accessible. Jane Scott herself responded to this by stating that the current youth service will definitely be available until alternatives are ready. We have video evidence to confirm this point. It has now been made clear to us that you intend to close the current youth services by the end of September. This statement is clearly contradicting the earlier assurance. The campus is not scheduled to be complete until at least the end of 2015. How do you propose to uphold the promise you have made to young people, to keep youth services open, when the campus will not be completed until many months after youth services close?

*At both the consultation in Trowbridge and the area board meeting on the 13th of March, we as young people made it clear that the one aspect of the youth service we did not want to be changed was the presence of professional, paid youth workers. The option you have chosen states there will only be one worker per area and these roles will not be youth workers. You have said that you wanted young people involved in these decisions; however you have ignored the feedback from both us and the area board. Why have you decided to implement this option when we, the young people were meant to be involved; but everything we have requested has not been taken into account?

In the surveys you made available to the young people and other members of the public there was no 'other' option, how do you suppose that anyone would be happy with decisions you have implemented when you tried your very hardest to not give us the opportunity to offer our own suggestions?

Have you considered the emotional damage that may occur to the young people; not as a whole but on an individual level to those who use these youth services currently when they are removed? If so how do propose compensate this damage without the presence youth workers and the current model of youth service that exists today?

The areas currently used for youth centres allow young musicians the space to rehearse, with equipment for a very cheap price as little as one pound a session. With the campus not due to be open until late 2015 at the earliest, and the current youth centres being closed/moved where do you propose that these young people can further their musical talents in an environment as cheap and as encouraging as the places such as Grosvenor House?

Response

Ms Russell has raised a number of issues regarding the proposals to Cabinet including the provision of services to young people, the need for professionally trained staff, the use of buildings as youth centres, and the special need for young musicians to rehearse.

Although the proposal presented to Cabinet does not propose that the current service should remain unchanged, the recommendations are designed to ensure that all young people will have access to a varied and innovative range of activities, shaped by them and their communities. Each area will have and well trained and named community youth officer to co-ordinate and facilitate these services. Each area board will have a budget to spend on youth services that will be guided by a new body to be called a Local Youth Network in which young people will have a leading voice.

In addition to the community youth officers, a number of specialist youth workers will ensure that those who are vulnerable will also get the right help when they need it to enable them to tackle problems before they reach crisis point, meaning they are more likely to achieve positive outcomes.

These proposals reflect the results of the recent consultation in which a community-led model was the most popular option with young people. It also responds to the fact that young people said they valued contact with a named professional person and wanted access to a wider range of activities. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to meet all the wishes of those who responded to the consultation but I believe the proposals are a fair compromise.

With regard to youth centres, the Full Council Amendment agreed on 25 February requires an audit of all properties which have been used to deliver youth work in order to yield some savings in advance of any campuses being established which can be put into the wider youth work budget. This and other measures have reduced the savings required from the overall youth budget by £250,000. The amendment modified the position that the council had previously taken, to which Jane Scott had referred in her comments earlier in February.

The audit is likely to result in some buildings closing in some areas where the cost of running them is disproportionate. Where this occurs, the council is committed to

ensuring that viable and local alternative premises can be used. This alternative might be in other council buildings or could involve community or voluntary sector facilities. In any event, the council is committed to open communication in each area to ensure that key stakeholders, including young people, are fully engaged with the issues.

It is too soon to know if Grosvenor House might be recommended for closure before Base Connection moves into the new Salisbury Campus. If such a recommendation is made, the area board may chose to retain the building using the funds available to it. Alternatively, other premises may become available in the area so that important youth activities can continue.

This page is intentionally left blank