

CABINET

DRAFT MINUTES of a MEETING held in KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN on Tuesday, 21 April 2015.

Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Leader of the Council
Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills and Strategic Transport
Cllr Keith Humphries	Cabinet Member for Health (including Public Health) and Adult Social Care
Cllr Laura Mayes	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Cllr Jonathon Seed	Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding
Cllr Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning (strategic and development management), Property, Waste and Strategic Housing
Cllr Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Systems Thinking, Procurement and Welfare Reform
Cllr Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Hubs, Governance (including information management), Support Services (HR, Legal, ICT, Business Services, Democratic Services), Heritage & Arts and Customer Care
Cllr Philip Whitehead	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Also in Attendance:	Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Bill Moss and Cllr Horace Prickett

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

39 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Thomson.

40 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2015 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2015.

41 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

42 **Leader's announcements**

The Leader made the following announcements:

The Leader extended a warm welcome to Councillor Fred Westmoreland who was recovering from a recent injury.

The Leader announced that the Council's HR department had received an award at the 2015 PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards. The Leader noted that Barry Pirie chaired the national Public Service People Managers' Association. The Leader had on the Council's behalf, congratulated the HR team on their achievement.

The Leader had attended, along with Councillor Richard Gamble, the graduation ceremony for those students who had recently completed their Advanced Apprenticeship Scheme. Leader hoped this would become an annual event.

43 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

The Leader reported receipt of questions and statement from Councillor Chris Caswill and Mrs Marilyn Mackay as published prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any further supplementary questions.

(a) Cllr Chris Caswill

In response to a supplementary questions, Councillor Toby Sturgis stated that ~~the~~ a report on the Chippenham Sites Allocation would only be considered by Cabinet if the consultation responses raised issues of soundness; and that the responses were still being considered.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Keith Humphries stated that there had not been any safeguarding matters arising from the two CQC reports in question; and thus it was not necessary to discuss these formally at Cabinet. Cabinet members had been made aware of the contents of the reports. Furthermore a task group had been looking at issues around care home improvements and work was underway, in partnership with Healthwatch, to work with providers ahead of inspection.

Councillor Chris Caswill accepted the offer, made by Councillor Keith Humphries to visit some of the care providers.

Councillor Chris Caswill asked to reserve further comments on his question relating to the SWLEP until that item was discussed later on the agenda.

(b) Marilyn Mackay

The questions and statements were taken as read.

It was noted, in a correction to the written response given, that Councillor Toby Sturgis was not a member of the LEP Board.

44 **Actions to Recruit and Retain Social Workers - Update Report**

Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Laura Mayes and Keith Humphries, presented a report which provided Cabinet with a further update on all of the actions being taken and planned to improve the recruitment and retention of social workers across the council. This followed the agreement of the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) on 23 June 2014 to pay market supplements to specific social worker roles and a report to Cabinet on 7 October 2014 in which actions to recruit and retain social workers was outlined.

In the course of the presentation and the discussion, the issues discussed included: the difficulties faced nationally, in competing to recruit the best staff; the proactive marketing undertaken; the impact of new approaches on recruitment; that future challenges remain; that further information about Wiltshire Institute for Social Care (WISC) could be made available to Cabinet at its July meeting; the views of Scrutiny regarding the approach taken; how issues regarding caseloads in children's services had been addressed and could be maintained with fluctuating demands on the service; and that further work will be undertaken to address recruitment.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Chair of the Children's Select Committee, referred to the consideration of the matter by the Select Committee and stated that he was pleased to see the increase in recruitment and the decrease in reliance on agency staff. Furthermore he welcomed the reassurances given over the caseloads per social worker, but expressed concerned as to how caseloads could be kept to a reasonable size given that, by its very nature, social work is given to fluctuations in demand.

It was noted that work to increase awareness of Children's Sexual Exploitation (CSE), through theatre and film, had increased reporting; Cllr Hubbard also highlighted that 'Chelsea's Choice' would be performed at the Melksham Assembly Hall on 22 April and urged all Councillors to attend.

Resolved

That cabinet note the progress of the recruitment campaign to recruit social workers and support the further actions being taken and planned to recruit and retain social workers.

Reason for Decision:

To improve the recruitment and retention of experienced social workers and social work managers.

45 **Wiltshire Energy Resilience Board**

Councillor Toby Sturgis presented a report on progress in engaging with public and private sector partners to determine the viability of establishing a Wiltshire Energy Resilience Board, and to recommend a way forward on this matter.

In the course of the presentation and the discussion, the issues discussed included: consultation had been undertaken regarding the establishment of the Energy Resilience Board; how partners could be best engaged; that the Wiltshire Assembly was proposed to host the event, with further information shared periodically; the impact of resource implications on options to set up the Board; and what other options are available, other than the Wiltshire Assembly, to progress this matter.

Resolved

- 1. That the Chair of the Wiltshire Assembly be contacted to discuss the possibility of hosting an Wiltshire Energy Resilience Board; and**
- 2. That the Lead Member considers how alternative proposals, as necessary, could be brought forward in a timely manner.**

Reason for decision:

The resolution by Council on 21 October 2014 required Cabinet to report on progress in engaging with public and private sector partners to determine the viability of establishing a Wiltshire Energy Resilience Board, and to recommend a way forward on this matter.

46 **Wiltshire Alcohol Strategy 2014-18**

Councillor Keith Humphries presented the report which informed Cabinet members of the new Wiltshire Alcohol Strategy 2014-18, which has recently undergone a period of formal consultation.

In the course of the presentation and the discussion, the issues discussed included: what the personal, safe limits are for people's consumption of alcohol; the progress that has already been made on addressing drinking with children and young people; how addressing the underlying reasons for someone's drinking is important; how the focus of public health work has refocused on older people; the difficulty in identifying the underlying alcohol issues in health problems; concern that the safety of residential communities can be preserved in licensing; how national funding and national policy can focus on narcotics rather than alcohol; how the statutory licensing objectives do not include public health other than addressing preventing harm to children; the impact of the price of alcohol; how NHS England money, that is unallocated, could be reallocated to address local priorities; and how the strategy proposes to address

the alcohol harm including: integrating licensing within public health and raising awareness around alcohol abuse.

Councillor Keith Humphries stated, in response to a question from Cllr Chris Caswill, that the action plan was being developed; that the Strategy would be referred to the Licensing Committee for consideration; that the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning had been consulted; and that the Police had been consulted through the Community Safety Partnership.

In addition, Councillor Jane Scott stated that she would ask for the Action Plan to be considered at a future meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board; and that for officers to ask the Licensing to consider how they may be able to address the objectives of the Strategy.

Resolved

That Cabinet approve the strategy.

Reason for decision:

To ensure Cabinet are aware of the content of the strategy and its development process; prior to approval.

47 SWLEP Assurance Framework

Councillor Jane Scott OBE presented the report which outlined the key messages of the recently developed Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) Local Assurance Framework. The report also highlighted the changes to SWLEP governance, operation and decision making process that ensures accountable, transparent decision making in respect of devolved funds overseen by the SWLEP Board and included in the SWLEP Growth Deal.

The Leader stated, in response to a question from Councillor Chris Caswill, pointed out the requirement to submit the Assurance Framework to the Secretary of State by the end of March. Councillor Caswill referred to information published on the SWLEP website which the Leader undertook to look into, clarify and if required circulate a note of explanation to members.

The Leader stated, in response to a question from Councillor Chris Caswill, that the Associate Director for Economic Development worked closely with colleagues at the LEP but was not employed or line-managed by the LEP. Furthermore, the Chief Officer of the LEP was employed and managed by Wiltshire Council on behalf of the LEP.

The Leader stated, in response to a question from Councillor Chris Caswill, that all decisions in accordance with the Economic Strategy would be taken by the Leader Member, Fleur De-Rhe-Phillip, and that decisions that did not comply with the Strategy would be taken by Cabinet. Furthermore accountability and

transparency would be further assured through the public meeting of the Joint Strategic Economic Committee (JSEC) and the joint scrutiny arrangement. It was also noted that the s151 Officer had pivotal responsibilities for ensuring that the LEP met the financial regulations that Wiltshire Council followed.

In the course of the presentation and the discussion, the issues discussed included: That strengthening of transparency and accountability was welcomed; that a review of the number of sub-groups would be undertaken to ensure efficiency; that the Wiltshire and Swindon LEP was the first, and so far the only, to have established scrutiny arrangements; and that Government Ministers had offered praise for the approach being taken.

In response to an issue raised by Councillor John Hubbard, the Leader stated that whilst the wording of the Framework was for the LEP to decide, she would bring to the attention of the Board the importance of wording documents so that unrealistic expectations were not established.

Resolved

- 1. That Cabinet notes the work of officers in developing a strong and robust Local Assurance Framework in support of SWLEP activity and give its endorsement to the framework, its implementation and ongoing maintenance.**
- 2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Associate Director, Economic Development and Planning, following consultation with the Leader, Lead Member for Economic Development, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer, to develop and enter into the relevant legal agreements that will underpin the framework.**

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that public funds devolved to the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership are spent with regularity, propriety, transparency and value for money.

48 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 11.45 am)

These decisions were published on the 24/4/15 and will come into force on 5/5/15
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