

MINUTES OF CABINET

4 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors Stokes (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Mrs Parker, Ms Robbins and Mrs Timms.

Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Ms Edwards, Gillias, Lewis, Mrs O'Rourke, Roodhouse and Sandison were also in attendance.

30. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 of Part 1 – Warwickshire County Council Children's Centre Services – Councillors Mrs O'Rourke, Roodhouse and Mrs Timms (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Warwickshire County Councillors).

Item 5 of Part 1 – Warwickshire County Council Children's Centre Services – Councillor Ms Edwards (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Co-Chair of the Children's Centre Advisory Group).

32. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Growth and Investment Portfolio

33. WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning this Council's response to Warwickshire County Council's consultation on the future provision of children's centre services.

RESOLVED THAT - the response to the Warwickshire County Council proposals for the remodelling of Children's Centres, including Rugby borough provision before the deadline of 11 September 2017, as at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

34. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2017/18 – QUARTER 1

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning an overview of the Council's spending and performance position for 2017/18.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2017/18 be noted;
- (2) a supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £29,290 for 2017/18 be approved to fund a net increase in the Council's Business Rates payable on its own properties;
- (3) a General Fund revenue budget virement to Corporate Savings of £30,000 be approved following reduced awards made by the Grants Working Party;
- (4) a net nil Supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £12,340 for additional Housing Benefit staffing costs in 2017/18 be approved, wholly funded from external funding received for the Right Benefit Initiative Scheme;
- (5) a Supplementary General Fund capital budget of £46,440 be approved for the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants to be funded from additional external grant awarded in 2017/18; and
- (6) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -
 - (a) a net nil Supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £108,750 in 2017/18 and £36,250 in 2018/19 be approved for the Family Weight Management Scheme, to be met from external funding;
 - (b) a General Fund revenue budget virement of £59,840 be approved to transfer the budget for photocopier charges from Business Support to IT Services, following a transfer of responsibility between services;
 - (c) a General Fund revenue budget virement of £72,390 be approved for the transfer of three posts from the Work Services Unit to the Customer Support Services.
 - (d) a supplementary HRA capital budget of £147,500 be approved for 2017/18 for the purchase of Property Repairs Service vehicles previously categorised as a General Fund capital budget provision, to be funded from HRA Capital Investment Balances;
 - (e) the return of a £147,500 General Fund capital budget be approved, as a result of the re-categorisation of the Property Repairs Service vehicles scheme as a HRA budget; and
 - (f) performance summary and performance data included in Appendix 4 be considered and noted.

35. RATE RELIEF FOR RATEPAYERS

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning an update on rate relief for ratepayers in the Borough.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Communities and Homes Portfolio

36. HOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the proposed adoption of the countywide Financial Assistance Policy.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the Countywide Financial Assistance Policy be adopted as part of the HEART partnership; and
- (2) the existing Renovation Loans budget of £31,110 for 2017-18 be transferred across for use as part of the Warm and Safer Homes (WaSH) Grants; and
- (3) any changes to the policy that maintain the alignment with the Better Care Fund objectives be delegated to the Head of Communities and Homes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

37. HOMELESSNESS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning recommendations from the Homelessness Scrutiny Sub-Group following its review.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council focuses on early intervention through the Trailblazer project and works with partners to better understand the complex, multiple issues of people approaching the service;
- (2) an annual workshop with partners and organisations be introduced to promote joined up thinking and minimise gaps in services; and
- (3) the Council continues working with local landlords via the Private Sector Leasing Scheme to lessen the need for bed and breakfast accommodation.

Items considered en bloc

38. WOODSIDE PARK – SEWERAGE CHARGES/MOBILE HOMES REGULATIONS

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning an increase in charges at Woodside Park.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the new pitch fee of £116 per week be introduced with effect from 1st November 2017; and

(2) the Council uses RPI for the basis of increasing pitch fees in the future and has one pitch fee to cover all costs.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

39. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning the Council's risk management strategy.

RESOLVED THAT – the Risk Management Strategy, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

40. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECENT REVISIONS TO THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Environment and Public Realm (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning the establishment of a list of designated wheelchair accessible licensed vehicles in accordance with recent revisions to the Equality Act 2010.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the establishment of a list of designated wheelchair accessible licensed vehicles be approved; and

(2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(a) authority be delegated to the Head of Environment and Public Realm to approve any further vehicles to be added to the list of designated licensed vehicles, and to determine applications from drivers for a medical exemption from their duties; and

(b) the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

41. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

42. INSURANCE PORTFOLIO RENEWAL

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the renewal of the tender for the Council's insurance portfolio.

RESOLVED THAT –

(1) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the insurance portfolio be approved; and

(2) Verity Knighton, the Council's Risk Management and Insurance Officer, be thanked for her hard work in securing savings to the Council as a result of the tender process.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

43. REPLACEMENT OF CURRENT DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH AN INTEGRATED REVENUES AND BENEFITS SOLUTION

Cabinet considered the private report of the Heads of Corporate Resources and Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning the replacement of the Council's current document management system with an integrated revenues and benefits solution.

RESOLVED THAT –

(1) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a supplementary capital budget of £52,740 be approved for the 2017/2018 financial year funded from uncommitted government grant income; and

(2) the exemption to Contracts Standing Orders approved by the Head of Resources be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Environment and Public Realm Portfolio

44. RESOURCING THE COUNCIL'S SAFETY AND RESILIENCE TEAM

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 2 – agenda item 3) concerning proposed resourcing of the Council's Safety and Resilience team.

RESOLVED THAT – the proposed changes to the Council's Safety and Resilience team, as detailed in the report, be approved.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

CHAIRMAN