



Democratic Services
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1DN

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 at 2:00pm

Venue: The Blue Room, County Hall, Northampton (Meeting held in public)

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Councillor Heather Smith	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage	Deputy Leader & Public Protection
Councillor Robin Brown	Finance
Councillor Sylvia Hughes	Public Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Ian Morris	Transport, Highways & Environment
Councillor Bill Parker	Adult Care Delivery
Councillor Suresh Patel	Corporate Parenting

OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Councillor Adam Collyer	Councillor Elizabeth Coombe
Councillor Gareth Eales	Councillor Christopher Groome
Councillor James Hakewill	Councillor Eileen Hales
Councillor Stan Heggs	Councillor Dudley Hughes
Councillor Phil Larratt	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Malcolm Longley	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Bob Scott	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Danielle Stone	Councillor Winston Strachan

ALSO PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Officer	Role
Dr Akeem Ali	Corporate Director People Commissioning
Matt Bowmer	Director of Finance
Tony Ciaburro	Corporate Director Place Commissioning
Daren Dovy	Chief Fire Officer
Barbel Gale	Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Laurie Gould	Monitoring Officer
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Dr Carolyn Kus	Director of Adult Social Care & Managing Director of Olympus Care Services Ltd
Damon Lawrenson	NCC Director of Finance
Jonathan Lewis	Assistant Director Learning Skills & Education

There were 5 members of the press and public in attendance.

95/16 Apologies for non attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Matthew Golby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Dr Paul Blantern, Chief Executive

96/16 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

97/16 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 10 May 2016

RESOLVED: The minutes of meetings held in public on 10 May 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.

98/16 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

99/16 Announcements

The Chairman held a minutes silence in memory of Honorary Alderman John Bailey, who died on Monday 11 July.

She noted that in 1970, he was elected to Northamptonshire County Council where he served until 2013, when he stood down and was made an Honorary Alderman of the County. During that time, John acted as Chairman of the Council (2012 to 2013), Vice-Chairman of the County Council (1989 to 1991 and 2011 to 2012), Chair of the Leisure and Libraries Committee (1985 to 1989), Vice-Chairman of Strategic Support Services Scrutiny Committee (2005 to 2006) and Vice Chairman of Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (2011 to 2012). He also served on the Education, Health, and Police Committees, as well as the Pensions Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Archives Advisory Panel.

His commitment to the community he served was reflected in the 2016 New Year's Honours List, when he was awarded an MBE for services to the community in Wellingborough. The funeral had not yet been arranged and condolences had been extended to Barbara and his family. The flag outside County Hall had been lowered in his memory.

On a more personal note the Chairman explained that she would always remember him with great fondness and he always made her smile.

Other members of the Council also gave their condolences to Honorary Alderman John Bailey's family.

The Chairman noted that there would be an additional Cabinet meeting being held on Monday 1 August 2016.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery were passed on to the Councillor Mary Butcher.

101/16 Monthly Financial Report as at the end of June for the financial year ending 31 March 2017

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Brown, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The red risk areas equated to 9% of the savings proposed and there was a £29.8m risk of non delivery of services;
- There was a need to identify additional action to bring the situation to a balance by October 2016; and
- A Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee working group meeting was being held on Friday 15 July to discuss some of the current pressures.

Councillors made the following points:

- The pressures in People Services were noted and it was queried how those pressures would be address and would the situation improve by October 2016;
- There was concern that there was a shortfall regarding the Better Care Fund;
- It was noted the Nourish service had closed earlier than anticipated and queried what was happening to the assets and were the children still being provided with free meals;
- The Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee was holding a working group meeting on Friday 15th July to consider the 1st quarter of the financial year and an invitation to attend was extended to all members; and
- It was felt that the draft budget should be supplied earlier and members should be able to view the alternative budget options.

Councillor Brown made the following points in response:

- An effort had been made to highlight the current financial position based on risks;
- Regarding getting the draft budget earlier, he noted that central Government dictated when the financial information was available; and
- The Council now had a 4 year budget to manage.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the current financial position.

102/16 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) as at the end of May 2016 (Period 2) for the financial year ending 31 March 2017

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Brown, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- There had been some significant changes to the forecast expenditure;
- The forecast expenditure for Radstone Fields, Brackley and Pineham Barns Primary had been reduced due to the delay in starting works; and
- He asked that Cabinet noted the report and approved the recommendations including Malcolm Arnold Academy Highways Work, the Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund and the Pothole Action Fund.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services welcomed the schools schemes in the programme including the Northampton International Academy.

RESOLVED: Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the current capital forecast expenditure outturn of £177m for the financial year 2016-17 and the expenditure and funding of subsequent financial years.**
- 2. Approved and recommend to Council the inclusion of three new schemes with investment totalling £1,699,000 to enable entry into the Council's Committed Capital Programme (detailed in section 9)**
 - I. Malcolm Arnold Academy Highways Work £132,000**
 - II. Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund 2016-17 £856,000**
 - III. Pothole Action Fund £711,000**
- 3. Approved capital investment totalling £10,986,357 to promote five schemes included in the Capital Strategy 2016-17 (detailed in section 9) :**
 - I. budget extension of scheme - PCC Funded Local Road Safety Improvements uplift £98,000**
 - II. promotion of scheme Wootton Hall Park School temporary accommodation £3,085,996**
 - III. budget extension of scheme - Northampton International Academy uplift £5,626,361**
 - IV. promotion of scheme IT Infrastructure £330,000**
 - V. promotion of scheme Project Angel and Next Generation Working IT £1,846,000**

following recommendations from the Capital Investment Board to enable entry into the Council's Committed Capital Programme.

103/16 Commissioning of Public Health, First for Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Services

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Care Delivery, Councillor Parker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that it was a joint report between Adult Social Care and Public Health Services to seek approval to extend the current contracts along with seeking approval to re-procure at the appropriate time.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was welcomed and it was important to get stability going forward;
- It was queried what the shortfall of specialist public health nurses was going forward as there was a need to ensure standards were maintained throughout;
- A suggestion was made that 'smoking while pregnant' was added to the contract;
- Regarding First for Wellbeing contracts it was felt that a strategy should be developed to establish a holistic approach;
- Any consultation carried out would reshape the re-provision of service;
- It was felt that the development of shisha in Northampton was a threat going forward; and
- Fast food outlets near school were causing equalities issues.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care Delivery to extend the contracts for Adult Social Care services as set out in Appendix 1 A.**
- 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning (who is also the Director of Public Health) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to extend the contracts for Public Health for a further 18 months from their existing expiry dates as set out in Appendix 1 C.**
- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to extend the contracts novated to First for Wellbeing for periods between 6 months and 2 years as set out in Appendix 1, B1 and B2.**
- 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care Delivery to develop and implement the commissioning and procurement arrangements and the subsequent award to the Council's preferred bidder/s of contract/s for**
 - a. Adult Social Care related Prevention Service for, Independent Advocacy Service commencing on 1 April 2017 for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further two years**
 - b. Adult Social Care related Prevention Service Integrated Community Equipment commencing on 1 April 2017 for a period of 5 years with an option to extend for a further two years**
 - c. for Home Care Services commencing on or before 1 April 2018 for a period of 4 years with an option to extend for a further one year.**
- 5. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to secure through First For Wellbeing**
 - a. services for School Nursing, Breastfeeding, Family Nurse Partnership and Health Visiting as set out in paragraph 1.7**
 - b. Integrated Sexual Health Services and contracts for Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) (subject to a review and subsequent agreement that the LARC and EHC contracts are novated to First for Wellbeing) as set out in paragraph 1.8**
 - c. Falls Service, Oral Health Promotion, NHS Health Checks, TCR software to support NHS Health Checks, Nicotine Replacement Therapy provision through a Dynamic Purchasing System and Small Grants for local community projects as set out in paragraph 1.9**
 - d. a Lifestyle Weight Management Service which First For Wellbeing is to procure through a Dynamic Purchasing System as set out in paragraph 1.10.**
- 6. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to secure through First for Wellbeing the procurement of Community Wellbeing Service from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 with option to extend for a further two years and to award contracts following the competitive procurement process as set out.**
- 7. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of People Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for**

Public Health and Wellbeing to secure that First for Wellbeing formalise the contractual arrangements with the GPs that are currently delivering Nicotene Replacement Therapy service to 30 September 2016. until the new NRT Dynamic Purchasing System is in place as outlined in paragraph 5.9.

- 8. Agreed to report to a future meeting of Cabinet on any issues that require further discussion and/or consideration.**

104/16 Shaping the Future Accommodation for Older People

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Care Delivery, Councillor Parker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- Consultation had been carried out with the families and residents of the care homes;
- The amount of money needed to bring the Ecton Brook care home up to required standard was why it was subject to closure;
- All but 6 of the residents at Ecton Brook care home had already found alternative accommodation;
- The closure was trying to be managed in a positive way to reduce the stress and many of the available options had been considered and they had tried to keep people together where possible; and
- Business plans would be brought back to Cabinet regarding the remaining 5 care homes.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was welcomed and it was a sound strategy for all the buildings;
- The timescales for the new build in Daventry were sought;
- It was felt that the long term plan was to privatise the care homes going forward;
- The costs for maintaining a building once it had been shut down were queried;
- Staff at the care homes were thanked and their views had been taken into account when drafting the proposals;
- Could more information be provided on what the care need was in the county and how it would be met;
- It was queried what the level of standard was that should be maintained;
- After the home had been closed there was a need to monitor its residents to check their wellbeing;
- The Council should engage with people with learning disabilities to gain an understanding of their accommodation needs;
- Scrutiny was looking at the Accommodation Strategy and all input was welcomed;
- A comprehensive consultation process had been carried out, the results of which had fed into the proposals being discussed at the meeting; and
- There was no suggestion that care homes would be privatised and there was confidence that choice would be given to those who used the home and the Council would work with all partners for the best options available for people including staying in their own home.

Councillor Parker made the following points:

- No timescales were available for the new build in Daventry;

- The quality of service in the Ecton Brook care home was excellent however it needed lots of money spent on it to bring the building up to standard;
- The way that the staff had dealt with the closure was positive and there were only 6 residents who needed to find new accommodation;
- The Council was looking to keep its care homes and to provide the type of accommodation the people needed and sort out the right care package for them.

The Chairman thanked everyone who took part of the consultation process and Cabinet had studied the results before coming to its decision.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Takes into consideration the consultation carried out with regard to the proposed closure of Ecton Brook.**
- 2. Agreed to the recommendation to begin the closure process of Ecton Brook over a period of three months.**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Director for Adult Social Care Services in consultation with the LGSS Director of Finance, and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to take forward any recommendations with regard to the future use of the property.**
- 4. Takes into consideration the consultation carried out over the past three months with regard to the future of the remaining five Olympus Care Homes for Older People.**
- 5. Delegated authority to the Director for Adult Social Care Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to take forward the recommendations outlined for each of the five remaining Olympus Care Homes: Evelyn Wright, Boniface House, Southfields House, Obelisk House and Ridgway House.**

105/16 Local Growth Deal update

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The report provided detail on where the Council was with the schemes; and
- The Council was proud to be working the District and Borough Council's to get as much funding as possible for those schemes.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried how the Council would deliver the project with the countries removal from Europe and how would it affect funding;
- It was felt that the Kettering Eastern Relief Road, which was a scheme not submitted, could not cope with the amount of traffic going forward;
- The A509 was a crucial road with regards to the development of other roads and the development of Wellingborough North, it was a road that was at the limit of it's capacity during busy times;
- It was felt that Pytchley became a rat run when there were problems on the A509;
- The Northampton Orbital project was crucial to Northampton; and
- It was queried who paid for the Wootton Hall access road to be built.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage made the following points in response:

- The Wootton Hall Park access road was a mixture of Growth Fund and the Police Commissioner fund;
- The northern routes were critical;
- The A509 was still a priority but the Council was unable to fund as previously so there was a need to look for alternative funding; and
- European funding was out of the Council's control and any applications would still be honoured.

The Chairman explained that the Council would work with the Local Enterprise Partnerships going forward.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Welcomed the significant progress made developing and delivering the Northamptonshire Local Growth Deal projects, including the recent opening of the Wootton Hall Park Access Improvements;**
- 2. Supported the activities identified in Sections 4 and 5 of the main report to continue this momentum;**
- 3. Agreed the programme of infrastructure priorities identified for Local Growth Deal funding as outlined in Section 6 of the main report;**
- 4. Agreed that the County Council works with the Transport Catapult, LEPs, the University of Northampton and others to seek to establish the area as a test-bed for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles; and**
- 5. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder and Director of Finance, to authorise Local Growth Fund investments, including related funding agreements, to enable progress through the Council's capital governance arrangements.**

106/16 A509 Wellingborough Development Link

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) who explained that recommendation 2 should be altered to include consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection rather than the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried if there was a facility to renew the compulsory purchase orders;
- The difference in the land values between 2010 to 2016 was queried;
- It was queried if the project was based on receiving the £10m funding that a bid had been submitted for and should the funding be acquired before carrying out the compulsory purchase orders.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage made the following points in response:

- If the compulsory purchase orders were not in place then the Council would not qualify for the funding;
- It was a significant scheme therefore there was a need to ascertain where the Council could bid for money from and it would be a combined effort going forward; and
- Regarding Pytchley, the contractor would develop smoothing into the scheme.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

1. **Noted the progress made in delivering the A509 Wellingborough Development Link scheme.**
2. **Delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to commence a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the land for the Phase 1 road (Isham Bypass) as outlined in Section 4 of this report.**
3. **Welcomed the recent bid for a further £10m of Growth Deal funding to ensure delivery of the Phase 1 road scheme.**

107/16 Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service - Service Review and Blue-Light Collaboration update

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The service was doing a lot of work with its blue light partners;
- The fire reform agenda was announced in June 2016;
- The service was in a time of change and positive progress had been made across all work streams identifying further opportunities for wider review; and
- A saving of £3.1m had been achieved through a reduction of headcount rather than a reduction of service.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried if the savings posed a risk to facilities;
- It was queried if scrutiny would be reviewing the proposed plan;
- A lot of scrutiny meetings had been held over the last year and it was hoped that all the efficiencies and savings had been met because there was a need to protect the services provided;
- The Council should listen to the staff of the Fire Service because they were the experts; and
- It was queried if the public consultation would be listened too.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage made the following points in response:

- He explained that the service would link up services and co-habit buildings here it made sense to do so;
- All parties wished to work smartly together;
- Good community work was essential; and
- Public safety was the top priority but the budget would be adhered to.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that a special meeting had been set up to discuss collaboration working and he felt the Unions were supportive of the proposals. The Fire Service would add value across the wider social services agenda.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. **Noted the contents of this report; and**
2. **Agreed the next steps and way forward as outlined in section 6 of this report.**

108/16 West Midlands Rail Ltd – Collaboration Agreement

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways & Environment, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The key idea of rail devolution in the West Midlands was to deliver a more locally focused service;
- West Midlands Rail Limited involved a consortium of 14 authorities including the Council and centred around services from Birmingham;
- The relationship was formalised through a company limited by guarantee called West Midlands Rail Ltd of which the Council was a member;
- The collaboration document being considered was the key document in managing that relationship;
- The franchise would look to start around October 2017; and
- He proposed to amend recommendation 2 to include the addition of the word 'Member' to read that it was 'agreed that the Council 'member' (as a Member of West Midlands Rail Ltd) Votes in favour.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried how the vast changes to the franchise and the changes in Government would affect deadlines ; and
- Concern was expressed at the time period between the contract award and the franchise commencement and it was felt that it should be a longer period of 6 months rather than 4 months.

Councillor Morris explained that the franchise would start in October 2017 and he didn't believe that would change.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted progress being made by West Midlands Rail Ltd towards meeting the objectives of the company;**
- 2. Agreed that the Council Member (as a Member of West Midlands Rail Ltd) votes in favour of the special resolution that is necessary under Article 8.3 of West Midlands Rail Limited (WMR Ltd) Articles of Association to authorise the signing of the Collaboration Agreement (included with this report as appendix A), whether that resolution is passed in writing or at a general meeting of the Company.**

109/16 HS2 – Qualifying Authority and Delegated Powers

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways & Environment, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- He pointed out that through the Council's involvement and the HS2 Liaison Group, all the parishes along the route and the involvement of the Northampton South MP, Andrea Leadsom, the Council had aided the parishes through the petitioning route and had petitioned itself and had received specific assurances as a result of the negotiations that the County would not have got if it hadn't been involved from the start;

- For instance the Chipping Warden relief road was being provided as a result of the Council's negotiations with HS2 Ltd with the Council contributing £2m of capital funds;
- The HS2 liaison group had done a good job negotiating along with our officers Esme Cushing and Chris Wragg and he thanked them for the work carried out; and
- The Council now needed to apply to be a qualifying authority so that the Council could have control over the routing of HS2 construction traffic and the disposal of soil and waste from the site to ensure that the work would have to be done in accordance with the plans that the Council approved.

Councillors made the following points:

- The Council applying to become a qualifying authority was welcomed;
- A preference was expressed that the powers were delegated to a specific sub committee rather than delegating them to officers;
- It was queried what effect the petition had had on the reduction in the number of platforms available at Euston station;
- Concerns were expressed about the reduction at Euston station, it would become a big issue for people travelling there and could have an impact on people's ability to get to Euston; and
- Thanks was given to the hard work of the officers involved in the proposals.

Councillor Morris explained that the details regarding Euston station were not clear but he agreed that the situation needed to be resolved.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed:

- 1. That the County Council becomes a Qualifying Authority in relation to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill currently before Parliament;**
- 2. That the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning be delegated to sign the Planning Memorandum and to take all other steps they think fit in order to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect;**
- 3. That the County Council enter into the Service Level Agreement on terms and conditions acceptable to the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning;**
- 4. That upon the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill receiving Royal Assent, delegated authority be given:**
 - a. For the Development Control Committee, subject to the delegations of the Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Transport, to issue consents and approvals in exercise of the County Council's functions within the consequent Act of Parliament;**
 - b. For the Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Transport to issue consents and approvals in exercise of the County Council's functions within the consequent Act of Parliament, except where the Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Transport considers the application should be assessed by the Development Control Committee or be referred to the Committee for determination;**

and that these delegated powers be included in the County Council's scheme of delegation at the next appropriate revision following Royal Assent

110/16 Annual review of the Council's Policy on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and he confirmed that the County Council had not used in the last 12 months.

Councillors queried if the guidance notes on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers had been updated.

The Corporate Director for Place Commissioning explained that the guidance notes were still in the early stages of development but it would be completed by the end of the financial year.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage explained that they were updated on a regular basis.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the policy (Appendix 1) on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

111/16 Corporate Performance Report – Dashboard: 2015-16 Quarter 4

The Chairman introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and invited each of the Cabinet Members to make comments which are highlighted below:

- Since April 1st 2016 16 schools had been inspected by Ofsted and 8 of those who were previous rated as 'required improvement' had now moved to 'Good'. 12 out of those 16 schools were now rated as 'good' and 1 had moved from 'required improvement' to 'Outstanding';
- One of the key priorities was the outcomes of Looked after Children (LAC) and he was pleased to announce that one of them had received a first class honours degree in social work and had been awarded a place at the Council's Social Work Academy;
- Good engagement with the Fire & Rescue Service who worked well in partnership with the East Midlands Ambulance Services;
- The Council had recorded its highest number of visits to its Country Parks; and
- The document was an impressive visual document which put across a lot of information without the need for lots of text.

Councillors made the following points:

- The news regarding the Ofsted results was welcomed;
- It was felt there was a need to address the low wage and no ambition context in which the schools were working;
- What support was being given to early years settings that were rated as 'inadequate';
- Regarding MASH referrals it was queried if the referrals were more appropriate now;
- It was queried if the transfer of providers was affecting the NEETs;

- It was queried how many unauthorised absences in schools had been fined;
- It was felt that older people liked to remain at home and recovered better, therefore there was a need to look at adaptations in peoples homes which needed to become easier and quicker;
- It was felt that the County was not advocating low wage low aspiration and hundreds of jobs were being created in the county;
- Regarding the early years settings 87% were now good or outstanding and the team was working hard to improve this;
- High targets were set regarding NEETs and a report was being discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board; and
- Adaptations were very important and the funding came from the Better Care Fund.

The Chairman explained that there had been some clear misunderstanding about what the Better Care Fund was about and she was going to write to all the District and Borough Council Leaders to raise the issue and have suggested that they hold some of the money back to offset what could be anticipated would be clawed back funding if not used at the end of the year. She explained that the Council was ambitious for all the children of the county.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the contents of the 2015-16 Quarter 4 performance report at Appendix 1**
- 2. Considered if the report requires any further information or analysis on areas of concern or special interest.**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled for Monday 1 August 2016 and Tuesday 6 September 2016.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.50PM

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

