



Democratic Services
One Angel Square
Angel Street,
Northampton, NN1 1ED

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2018 at 2pm

Venue: The Covey Room, One Angel Square, Northampton (Meeting held in public)

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member

Councillor Matthew Golby
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor Michael Clarke
Councillor Dr Andrew Mercer

Councillor Ian Morris

Councillor Sandra Naden-Horley

Portfolio

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader & Public Health
Finance
Performance, Transformation & Local
Government Reform
Transport, Highways, Environment & Public
Protection
Adult Social Care

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

Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor James Hakewill
Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Winston Strachan

Councillor Lizzy Bowen
Councillor Julie Brookfield
Councillor Eileen Hales
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Michael Tye

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

Officer

Roy Boulton
Anna Earnshaw
Paul Hanson
Walter McCulloch
James Smith
Lucy Wightman
Susan Zeiss

Role

Assistant Director Environment and Planning
Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Democratic Services Manager
Executive Director, Children, Families and Education
Strategic Finance Business Partner & NCC Deputy S151 Officer
Director of Public Health
Monitoring Officer

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

108/18 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Victoria Perry and Theresa Grant.

109/18 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

110/18 Minutes of the meetings held in public on 10 July 2018

RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 10 July 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

In relation to the minutes of the previous meeting, Councillor Hales asked if there was an update on when the briefing referred to would take place and when the updated figures referred to would be available.

111/18 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

112/18 Announcements

The Chairman made the following points:

- A briefing on the outcome of the unitary consultation had been arranged for councillors at 5pm on Thursday 16th August; and
- Items 9 and 10 on the agenda had been deferred.

113/18 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) new capital scheme approvals

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

- The Council was pursuing a more cautious approach to committing capital expenditure;
- A new capital approval panel had been put in place to work alongside the existing capital board;
- As a result, fewer schemes were being brought forward, totalling just £7.1m to date, comprising phase B of the A43 Kettering to Northampton improvements and the Daventry Development Link Road;
- A further £16m was allowed for out of a discretionary spending pot of £75m;
- Once the unitary authorities had been put in place, it would be reassuring to them to inherit properly worked out plans whereby annual capital costs did not exceed 9% of revenue budget; and
- The report proposed that two small schemes be approved – a draw down on the HS2 grant of £82.5k and £32k to facilitate building work at Guilsborough School.

Councillors made the following points:

- A question was asked about the purpose of the £3m of funding set aside for community hubs, as referred to on page 22 of the report. It was felt that this could be of interest given the situation facing the county's libraries;
- It was suggested that information about capital disposals could be included within future reports;
- It was questioned whether, if the full £128.9m of borrowing set out in the report were to be taken up, the interest payments would exceed £4m;
- It was questioned why the Council was borrowing money to fund projects at academy schools; and

- It was suggested that the pool at Barry Road Primary School, which it was suggested was threatened with closure, could be handed over to the Trilogy Trust.

Councillor Clarke made the following points in response:

- Clarification would be provided on the issue of community hubs;
- He accepted the point raised about transparency and the disposal of capital assets; and
- He reiterated that borrowing would not exceed 9% of the revenue budget.

The Chairman advised Cabinet that he had asked Councillor Irving-Swift to look at the issue regarding Barry Road Primary School swimming pool. He also advised that the MP for Northampton South, Andrew Lewer, had raised the question as to why the Council is expected to fund extensions to academy schools.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed to:

- 1. Note the current forecast outturn capital expenditure of £114m for the financial year 2018-19.**
- 2. Approve and recommend the inclusion of one new scheme with capital investment totalling £82,500**
 - i. HS2 Road Safety Fund (feasibility stage) - £82,500**
- 3. Approve capital investment totalling £36,722 to promote one schemes from the Development Pool included in the Capital Strategy 2018-19**
 - i. Guilsborough Academy - £36,722**

114/18 Future Arrangements for the Treatment and Disposal of Residual Municipal Waste

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

- An extension to the contract was necessary in order to secure the future of the service;
- Discussions had taken place with district and borough council colleagues and the Council had asked to re-join the Northamptonshire waste partnership;
- The contract could be extended for up to five years, but work had to start now in order to agree the terms of the extension, as well as various legal details;
- Discussions with district and borough colleagues would continue in the meantime.

Councillors made the following points:

- Concern was expressed about the Council's previous record when working with district and borough councils or Milton Keynes Council on waste projects;
- The Cabinet Member was asked whether he was confident that waste recycled in good faith by residents was actually being recycled and not disposed of in other ways
- Work should be undertaken to establish a common refuse collection programme across the county and eliminate the current discrepancies between areas;
- The Council should set defined targets for waste recycling and should reinvest in waste education.

- The figures in the report appeared to have been rounded up or down and clarification was sought on the precise figures involved;
- Clarification was sought on the estimated cost of developing a new long-term strategy and it was questioned whether this figure (£500k) would be challenged and/or reduced;

In response, Councillor Morris indicated that the £500k cost of the long-term waste strategy was a two-year cost but indicated that he would work with officers to try to reduce this. He stated that recycling rates in the county were high but acknowledged that harmonising collection practices across the county would probably help increase the rate further.

RESOLVED That in respect of the arrangements for the treatment and disposal of residual municipal waste, Cabinet agreed to:

- 1. Note the short and long term needs for the management of the treatment and disposal of residual waste in Northamptonshire;**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Commercial, Place and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree terms for the extensions of the existing waste contracts in order to ensure continued service delivery (paragraphs 3.7 – 3.12 of the main report);**
- 3. Note that Cabinet will be asked to agree the extension and consequently enter into the necessary legal agreements related to the extensions at a later date;**
- 4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Commercial, Place and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Finance to commence development of a long term strategy for the treatment and disposal of residual waste in partnership with the District and Borough Councils (paragraphs 3.13 – 3.26 of the main report).**

115/18 Securing the long-term future of Longtown Outdoor Education Centre (OEC)

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that a charity - The Wilson Foundation – had agreed to purchase the centre as a going concern, thereby securing its long-term future. The Council would also benefit by receiving a capital receipt.

Councillors made the following points:

- Concern was expressed that the proposal represented a good deal for the purchaser but not for the citizens of the county;
- The opportunity to secure the long-term future of the site was welcomed, but it was suggested that the report lacked detail and did not do justice to the centre;
- A workers cooperative would be an alternative to selling the centre to a third party; and
- The question of whether the service continue exactly as it is under the Wilson Foundation was asked.

The Chairman advised those present that Cabinet would be working with the new Chief executive to improve the quality of committee reports.

In response, Councillor Morris said that the primary concern in finding a buyer for the centre was that it should carry on providing the services that it was known for. The Wilson Foundation intended to invest in the centre to improve it further and the focus of the centre would continue to be to benefit children in Northamptonshire. He explained that detailed financial information was not set out in the report for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed the sale of the Longtown Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) business to a third party (which will continue to operate it as an outdoor education centre) to ensure its long-term future.**
- 2. Delegated the authority to the Acting Executive Director Place & Commercial in consultation with the Cabinet Members for: Children, Families and Education; and Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection to negotiate, agree and authorise the execution or signing of the following:**
 - a. The agreement for sale and purchase of the business, its associated assets, and the freehold of the Longtown Centre;**
 - b. Indemnity provisions on TUPE matters as part of the disposal exercise;**
 - c. Local Government Pension Scheme – Admission Agreement and associated Bond; and**
- 3. All related and ancillary documents required in connection with the sale of the Longtown OEC business.**

116/18 Decision-Making Hierarchy for Prioritising the Use of Resources

It was agreed that this item be deferred.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred.

117/18 Devolution of non-statutory activity to Parish and Town Councils

It was agreed that this item be deferred.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.50PM

Paul Hanson
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

