

# THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 10am.

## PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

Cllr A Groskop  
Cllr D Hall  
Cllr D Huxtable  
Cllr C Lawrence  
Cllr F Nicholson  
Cllr J Woodman

Junior Cabinet members:  
Cllr C Aparicio Paul  
Cllr F Purbrick  
Cllr Fraschini  
Cllr G Verdon

**Other Members present:** Cllr H Davies, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr T Munt, Cllr L Redman and Cllr B Revans

**Apologies for absence:** None

## 56 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – agenda item 2

Members of the Cabinet declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a District, City/Town or Parish Council:

Cllr A Groskop	South Somerset District Council
Cllr J Woodman	Sedgemoor District Council

Junior Cabinet Members declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a District, City/Town or Parish Council:

Cllr C Aparicio Paul	South Somerset District Council
Cllr F Purbrick	Yeovil Town Council

## 57 **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2017** - agenda item 3

The Cabinet agreed the minutes and the Chair signed these as a correct record of the proceedings.

## 58 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (PQT)** – agenda item 4

There were no public questions.

**DECISION TO CONCLUDE THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT COLLEY LANE SOUTHERN ACCESS ROAD** - agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman, introduced the report, noting that: the new road was in the South of Bridgwater; included two new bridges; and would reduce congestion. The Cabinet Member further noted that he was pleased to recommend the proposals to Cabinet.

The Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Commissioning, Paula Hewitt, informed Members that: a robust procurement process had been completed; a funding package was in place; the proposal had been in development for some time; and that subject to Cabinet's approval work would start in early 2018, with a projected summer 2019 completion.

The Strategic Commissioning Manager – Highways and Transport further emphasised that the contract award had been subject to a robust procurement process.

Further points raised in debate included: timescales for project delivery; ensuring prompt payment of Section 106 monies; the process for ensuring the financial stability of potential contractors; social value and apprentices; links to service plans; recognition that traffic often originates or ends elsewhere; and S106 mitigation packages with particular reference to the Stockmoor and Willstock developments park and ride provision and bus services.

In response to the points raised in debate officers confirmed: there was a robust process in place regarding the receipt of S106 monies; contractors were subject to a robust due diligence process and payments were made in arrears; and that social value had been considered and outreach work with local schools was being undertaken, along with best endeavours to ensure the use of local labour and apprenticeships.

The Chair summarised the points raised in debate and noted that he was delighted that the proposals were being brought before the Cabinet today. The Chair further asked if there was support for the proposal and it was noted that both the junior cabinet members and the cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report, confidential appendix and discussion the Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree to award a contract for highway improvements and associated works to deliver the Colley Lane Southern Access Road to the supplier identified in Appendix A, following a competitive process.
2. Agree to allocate a maximum sum of £4.004m towards the scheme funded from the Council's capital programme to ensure scheme

construction can commence whilst other funding sources continue to be explored. A proportion of this is contingency funding released from other major transport projects.

3. Agree the case for exempt information for Appendix A to be treated in confidence, as public disclosure of the commercially sensitive data contained within would prejudice the Council's position in ensuring competitiveness of future tender processes.
4. To note that the County Council reserves the right to not proceed with the award of a contract should new information come to light during the standstill period and/or before entering into a contract. In this instance, it is recommended that the ECI Commissioning Director and the Director of Commercial and Business Services be given joint delegated authority to take any necessary action to protect the Council interests - this could include a decision not to enter into a contract and go back out to market.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

## 60 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS** – agenda item 6

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson, introduced the report noting that: Somerset was in the bottom 40 funded LAs for education; the Secretary of State had published a 'soft' national funding formula, but this was expected to be fully implemented in time; Somerset has received a 3% increase, but this was from a low base point; the funding changes were more significant for secondary schools; Schools Forum supported the proposals; and schools were guaranteed at 0.5% per pupil increase, but this would be limited by a cap.

The Strategic Finance Manager – Adults, Children and Public Health added to the points noted by Cllr Nicholson, highlighting that: a further paper regarding the final funding allocations would be brought to the Cabinet's January meeting; the Council would continue to lobby government regarding the removal of the funding cap; all schools had been consulted; and that the recommendations were currently only for the 2018/19 financial year. The Strategic Manager further noted that Appendix A included details of the consultation response and that Appendix B detailed the timetable for implementation.

Further points raised in the debate included: the importance of continuing to lobby government; clarification of the terminology 'disapplying'; and ensuring that middle schools are not disadvantaged.

In response to the points raised in debate, officers clarified that: 'disapplying' was central government terminology; and that middle schools would not be disadvantaged and would receive a proportion of primary and secondary school funding.

The Chair further asked if there was support for the proposal and both the junior cabinet members and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion the Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve:

1. The approach recommended by Somerset Schools Forum on 21 November 2017 in relation to funding for Schools and High Needs for 2018/19, the final values of which will require approval by Cabinet on 17 January once values are published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 2017.
2. Application to the Department for Education (DfE) to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee calculation for Pupil Referral Units in 2018/19 (see paragraph 1.16)

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

61 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 7

At the Chair's invitation, the Cabinet took the opportunity to wish Cllr David Huxtable a happy birthday.

**(The meeting ended at 10.32am)**

**CHAIR**