

THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 18 February 2018 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 Fraschini
Cllr G Verdon

Other Members present: Cllr S Coles, Cllr H Davies, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Munt, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr R Williams

Apologies for absence: Cllr F Purbrick

69 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – agenda item 1

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
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70 **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2018** - agenda item 2

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

71 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (PQT)** – agenda item 3

There were a number of members of the public who wished to speak about agenda items 5 and 6 regarding the Learning Disability and Provider Service (LDPS) and who had submitted questions by the deadline. The chair noted that their questions would be considered as a part of the relevant agenda items.

72 **DEVELOPMENT OF A FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE FOR SOMERSET – PHASE 1** - agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson, introduced the report, highlighting: the consultation results and equalities impact assessment; the importance of working with partners; ensuring support is easily accessible; and the importance of integrated services.

The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting: the independent consultation completed by Dialogue; building strong children; that last year 30% of children did not show good development at the early years foundation stage; the move to integrated delivery; bringing together Public Health nursing and Get Set services; the importance of understanding communities differing needs; and meeting needs as early as possible. The Director further highlighted that the proposals should allow for available resources to be better invested in service delivery and the importance of children's well-being.

The Managing Director of Dialogue, John Woodhouse, outlined a summary of the consultation report and responses to the Cabinet: the importance of ensuring peoples voices are heard; that workshops had been provided for vulnerable people; the responses to an on-line questionnaire had been analysed; more than 1000 people had contributed to the consultation; there was support for the idea of an integrated service, but less enthusiasm for the de-designation of Children's Centres; the reduction in services from 5 – 7 years ago; the removal of buildings was thought by some people to result in a reduction in service delivery; the continued need for local solutions; the importance of information being available on-line, as opposed to on-line service delivery; the importance of targeted services; ensuring services link to schools; and the importance of consistent and reliable support.

The Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance, Phillipa Granthier, further noted: the importance of a detailed community offer; that any decision taken today would be subject to a period of implementation; and that nursery's which operate from Children's Centres will continue unchanged.

The Chairman invited the public speakers to put their questions and statements to the Cabinet.

The Committee heard from Nigel Behan, who raised a number of questions regarding: risk implications, costs, benefits and issues logs; the views of parents; ensuring the consultation responses are taken into account; and improving trust.

In response to the points raised by Nigel Behan, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded, noting: the importance of ensuring the availability of the right support; the end of the Health Visiting Partnership contract in March 2019; budget reductions; ensuring support is appropriate to need; accepting that there have been some previous reductions; the importance of voluntary bodies and groups; the importance of people not buildings; and that

feedback will be used to help form the development of services.

The Committee heard from Katherine See who raised a number of points including: the cost of the consultation; taking the views of the consultation into account; the perceived lack of detail in the Council's proposal; providing the public with assurances; de-designating centres; and justifying changes in light of increasing child poverty and decreasing social mobility.

In response to the points raised by Katherine See, Cllr Frances Nicholson highlighted: the importance of: ensuring issues are addressed; ensuring the continued availability of support; and ensuring services meet local needs.

The Committee heard from Siobhan Lennon-Patience who raised a number of points including: her son has a disability; services have been cut from Get-Set provision; she had set-up the Jump Start group for parents of children with additional needs; and that there is no requirement for de-designated centres to provide detailed records.

In response to the points raised by Siobhan Lennon-Patience Cllr Frances Nicholson responded, noting that the consultation focused on universal services as opposed to specific support. Cllr Nicholson further applauded Siobhan work setting up the Jump Start group.

The Chair highlighted the Report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee on Family Support Services.

Cllr Nicholson undertook to provide full written responses to all public questions in consultation with the Director of Children's Services.

Further points raised in debate included: the requirement for parents to travel to services; working with One Public Estate; parking at Reckleford Children's Centre; and reconsidering provision in Chard.

The Chair summarised the points raised in debate noting: discussion of the consultation feedback; that buildings are not always in the most appropriate location; and the aim to achieve better outcomes for children and that services would not be reduced.

The Chair highlighted that 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, the Scrutiny Committee for Polices, Children and Families report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

- Consider the consultation report and the council response as outlined in appendices 1 and 2
- Agree to proceed with the original proposals and to implement Phase 1 of the proposed integrated Family Support Service (subject to capital funding being allocated by Full Council in February 2018) and specifically:
- Consider the Family Support Service offer providing support and

services across Somerset as detailed in appendix 3, noting that the service offer is regularly reviewed and responds to the needs of the local community.

- Approve the revenue funding proposals to deliver the Family Support Service, including the Children's Centres that retain their Sure Start designation as outlined in section 1.5.3 and appendix 4.
- Approve the development of plans for future consideration by Cabinet regarding Minehead, Wellington, Chard and Yeovil as outlined in appendix 4.
- Approve the changed status of the following buildings by de-designating the following buildings as Sure Start Children's Centres, and the proposed management changes noting that they continue to provide early childhood services as shown in section 1.5.4 below and appendix 4:
 - Victoria Park, Bridgwater
 - Hamp, Bridgwater
 - Brock House, Norton Fitzwarren
 - The Hollies, Taunton
 - Wellington
 - Bishop's Lydeard
 - Alcombe, Minehead
 - Little Vikings, Watchet
 - Birchfield, Yeovil
 - Oaklands, Yeovil
 - Chard
 - Little Marsh, Ilchester
 - Balsam Centre, Wincanton
 - The Bridge Centre, Frome
 - The Link Centre, Coleford
 - The House, Shepton Mallet
- Agree to delegate any further decisions regarding the operational implementation of the proposals in this report to the Director of Children's Services and Director of Public Health, with support from the Commercial and Business Services Director.
- Request that the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Public Health report back to Cabinet to seek approval for Phase 3 of the proposals.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE – PHASE 2 DELIVERY APRIL 2019 ONWARDS – agenda item 6

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Christine Lawrence introduced the report highlighting: the options appraisal work and liaison with the current provider of these services; the importance of better outcomes for children; ensuring the right support is available in the right location at the right time; the current Health Visiting and School Nursing Contract ends in 2019; and that it was felt that bringing services together was the best way forward.

The Director of Public Health, Trudi Grant, added to the points raised by Cllr Lawrence, noting: using this opportunity to strengthen services; the consideration of both in-house and external options; the in-house option offered the greatest flexibility; the importance of considering social and environmental impacts on health; the importance of mitigating against any risks; the importance of robust clinical governance arrangements; and discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver a service that remains connected to health services.

The Chairman invited the speakers to put their questions and statements to the Cabinet.

The Committee heard from Penina Caswell, who raised a number of questions regarding ensuring the professional integrity of Health Visitors and School Nurses, further noting that she had worked for the NHS since 1985 and had been a health visitor since 2004. Penina Caswell further highlighted: work with other organisations; caseload allocations based on geographical boundaries as opposed to Doctors surgery's; and that her work was regulated by the Nursing and Mid-Wifery Council.

In response to the points raised by Penina Caswell, Cllr Christine Lawrence responded, noting that Public Health Nurses would be able to retain their profession registration, and the Council would enable re-validation with professional bodies.

The Committee heard from Tracey Milton, who raised a number of points including: that Public Health nurses proactively identify health issues for the whole family; and the importance of protecting the Public Health Nursing budget.

In response to the points raised by Tracey Milton, Cllr Christine Lawrence highlighted that the Council had honoured the ring fence of the Public Health Grant.

The Committee heard from Julia Smith, who highlighted that she was both a parent and a health visitor, and questioned if proposed changes had been shared with partner agencies.

In response Cllr Christine Lawrence noted that the proposals had been shared with various other bodies and the CCG had endorsed the approach.

The Committee heard from Sharon Petit, who informed the committee that: she was a Health Visitor with 25 years' experience; the consultation only included a very small percentage of the population; and the consultation did not specifically include Public Health nursing staff transferring into Somerset County Council. In summary Sharon Petit questioned if the consultation was fair and accurate.

Cllr Lawrence responded to the points raised by Sharon Petit noting that the public consultation had been live for 10 weeks through various channels.

The Committee heard from Sheralynn Bigwood who informed the Committee that: she was a nurse who had worked for the NHS for 36 years; she worked out of a GP surgery; that Health Visitors visit every baby in Somerset, and identify the health needs of their community; that parents trust Health Visitors; and that she believes Health Visitors need to be a part of the NHS to retain their effectiveness.

Cllr Lawrence responded to the points raised noting the good work in Minehead, and her appreciation of Sheralynn's work

The Committee heard from Louise Webb who spoke on behalf of Sarah House noting: the work of Health Visitors; and joined up multi-professional working. Louise Webb further questioned if the consultation was impartial and open.

In response to the points raised, Cllr Christine Lawrence highlighted that the Council fully appreciates the work of Health Visitors and the Get Set Service.

Cllr Lawrence undertook to provide full written responses to all public questions in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Public Health.

Further points raised in debate included: responsibility for Public Health nursing; Devon County Council contracting services to Virgin Care and them now taking the decision to now bring these back in house to LA; working in partnership with the NHS; ensuring clinical governance and commissioning is robust; ensuring ring-fenced grants continue to be honoured; business rates retention; the importance of supporting community groups; ensuring Health Visitors can continue to prescribe medicines and access medical records; ensuring Somerset Partnership release the required equipment; and Public Health financial savings targets.

In response to the points raised in debate, officers noted: the importance of strengthening clinical governance arrangements; the benefits of community and universal services being accessible in the same locations as early help services; the national consultation regarding nurse prescribing; support to re-validate with professional bodies; and the recent reduction in monies paid to Somerset Partnership for adult Mental Health budget overheads.

The Chair summarised the points raised in debate noting: the recommendation to internalise Public Health Nursing Services; the importance of reassuring staff; and the fear of change.

The Chair highlighted that 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:

1. In principle to support bringing Public Health Nursing Services into Somerset County Council and develop the new Family Support Service in-house, from existing Getset Services and public health nursing, on the basis outlined in this report and the options appraisal (Appendix 1).
2. Authorise officers to complete all necessary work in order to report back the Full Business Case to the Director of Public Health and the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Children and Families and Public Health and Well-Being, to enable the preferred option to be progressed and to develop a detailed implementation plan with our partners for delivery of the Family Support Service
3. Agrees the case for exempt information for Appendix 3 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.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

74 2018/19 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME – agenda item 7

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report, highlighted: the significant investment in schools and highways; growth in the Somerset Economy; and proposed borrowing and associated low interest rates.

The Director of Finance and Performance noted that: the programme included planned expenditure for 3 years; there had been a considerable reduction in Department for Education grants; and that a cautious approach had been adopted for future years forecasting.

Further points raised in debate included: investment in schools; capital receipts targets; third party contributions to new school developments; traffic signals expenditure; library service redesign; the cost of new borrowing, and comparisons with the interest rate paid on existing debt; the future use of A block; the Walton and Ashcott by-pass; allowing community and voluntary groups to re-use the Council's old IT equipment; and ICT investment.

In response to the questions regarding library service redesign, Cllr David Hall highlighted that the Library Services consultation was on-going.

The Chief Executive, Patrick Flaherty, noted that new road building schemes required packages of funding, and that as such it was not possible to proceed with the Walton and Ashcott by-pass proposal at the current time.

The Chair summarised the points raised in debate noting that it had been a difficult choice to recommend increasing the Council's borrowing, but this would enable delivering the Council's priorities and support the necessary investment required to in 24 new schools.

The Chair highlighted that 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. A Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19 of £91.973m shown in Appendix A. Full details of individual schemes are available online as background papers;
2. That the Chief Executive and relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer(s) following appropriate consultation and after giving due regard to the information contained within any associated impact assessments, are given delegated authority to decide on the specific individual projects to be delivered within generic approvals for their area of control and to secure any necessary decisions in order to implement the projects;
3. Prudential Code Indicators as shown in Section 5 & Appendix C.
4. That the statement on the Minimum Revenue Provision be endorsed for the 2018/19 financial year (section 4)

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

75 **2018/19 – 2021/22 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN** – agenda item 8

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report, highlighting: the consultation with the Scrutiny Committees; the impact assessment; that over several years of Government funding reductions the Council's revenue budget had been reduced by in excess of £100m; the proposed 5.99% increase in Council tax including a 3% Adult Social Care precept; the proposed £10.6m savings targets; and future savings requirements.

The Director of Finance and Performance further highlighted an additional £2m of funding including a £1.5m Adult Social Care support grant and a £500k un-ringfenced rural services delivery grant.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Somerset MPs who had worked with the Council regarding local government funding.

Further points raised in debate included: the importance of rural services; ensuring savings targets are achieved; addressing the 2017/18 budget overspend; staffing impacts of budget reductions; the concerns of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place committee regarding meeting budget savings targets; and ICT infrastructure resilience.

In response to the points raised in debate, officers noted: staffing reductions would primarily be managed through voluntary redundancy and the removal of existing vacant posts; the £100k investment in information governance; and on-going work to upgrade the Council's ICT network and servers, and the increased security and resilience of a cloud hosted approach.

The Chair summarised the points raised in debate: noting the savings targets; the proposed Council Tax increase and continued efforts to lobby central government regarding Council funding.

The Chair highlighted that 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 and recommend to Full Council:

1. The 2018/19 Revenue Budget which sets:
 - a. Net Revenue Budget of £316,881,900;
 - b. Council Tax Requirement of £230,250,000;
 - c. A Council Tax increase of 5.99% (including a 3% precept for Adult Social Care) giving a Band D value of £1,192.16;
 - d. Specific savings targets as shown in Appendix A after having due regards to the potential impacts identified in this report and its appendices
2. Continuing the Council Tax precept of £12.84 within the base budget for the shadow Somerset Rivers Authority (representing no increase). This results in a Council Tax Requirement of £2,506,900;
3. Delegation of powers to the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer to finalise budget proposals and recommendations to Full Council on the 21st February 2018 if changes are required to reflect the Final Local Government Financial Settlement and ensure that a balanced budget is considered at Full Council.

Cabinet further noted that whilst the Council is able to present a balanced budget for 2018/19, it is on the basis that all savings proposals included are achieved.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

76 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19** – agenda item 9

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report noting the requirement for Full Council to approve the Treasury Management Strategy alongside the Council's budget at its meeting on 21 February.

Further points raised in debate included derivative investments. The Director of Finance and Performance confirmed that the Council's does not use derivative investments and any future use would require full Council approval.

Cllr Liz Leyson and Cllr Tessa Munt paid tribute to the work of officers.

The Chair highlighted that 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 endorse the following and recommend approval by Council on 21st February 2018:

- The adoption of the Treasury Management Strategy (as shown in Section 2 of the report).
- The approval of the Annual Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 3 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to the report).

The Cabinet further RESOLVED to:

- Note the Prudential Treasury Indicators at point 4.8.
- Note the current Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) attached at Appendix D to the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

77 **PROPOSED NEW SECONDARY PROVISION FOR SELWORTHY SCHOOL ON THE FORMER ST AUGUSTINES SCHOOL SITE** – agenda item 10

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families introduced the report highlighted that the expansion of Selworthy School was much needed, and the importance of having the right SEND provision.

The Project Manager – Communications & Social Values, Carol Bond, and the Service Manager – Specialist Provision & School Transport, Phil Curd, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson noting: the expansion included 10 new classrooms and therapy spaces; that the first floor accommodation was only for staff and administration use; the importance of ensuring all spaces are useable and accessible to pupils; that the application would be taken to the 5th April 2018 Regulation Committee for planning approval; the

proposed development would provide sufficient SEND places for the next 10 – 15 years; and that space had been set aside for a future phase 2 if required.

Further points raised in debate included: the importance of natural light in classrooms; ensuring sufficient places are available for future need; the proposed use of a flat roof; environmental considerations including solar panel and ground source heat; allowing future pupils to visit and observe the site; and contingency funding.

The Chair highlighted that there was support for the proposal and both the junior cabinet members and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the appointment of Willmott Dixon through the Scape Framework to proceed with the delivery of the secondary provision for Selworthy School, Taunton for September 2019 at a gross maximum project cost.
2. Approve the gross maximum project cost of £9 million.
3. Delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Property to finalise contract negotiations and to instruct the County Solicitor to execute all necessary contractual documents in order for SCC to enter into contract with the selected contractor.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

78 **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOR 2018/19 – agenda item 11**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families introduced the report, noting: the hard work of officers; and the importance of having the right admission arrangements for Somerset.

The Head of Outcomes and Sufficiency, Dave Farrow, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson noting: the requirement to review the admission arrangements on an annual basis; and that there had been no responses to the public consultation.

Further points raised in debate included: using the child benefit receipt as proof of address; and considering the proximity to existing schooling arrangements when allocating places.

The Chair highlighted that there was support for the proposal and both the junior cabinet members and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to agree the determination of the Admission Arrangements for all Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for 2019/20 as set out in the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

79 **QUARTER 3 2017/18 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT –**
agenda item 12

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report, noting that £0.6m had been brought forward to accelerate ICT improvements.

Further points raised in debate included the level of capital receipts from the sale of County Farms during 2017/18. The Director of Commercial and Business Services undertook to confirm this to Cllr Hall and Cllr Munt.

The Chair highlighted that 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 a virement of £0.6m from the Core Council Programme to ICT as per section 2.3.3 of this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

80 **QUARTER 3 2017/18 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT –**
agenda item 13

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report noting: the low level of reserves held by the Council; and the importance of ensuring savings delivery.

Further points raised in debate included the importance of robust budget monitoring.

The Chair highlighted that there was support for the proposal and both the junior cabinet members and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Note the contents of this report and specifically the Forecast Outturn Position for the year (section 3-9), the current Aged Debt Analysis (Section 10) and the projected delivery of the MTFP savings (Section 11).
2. Approve the drawdown from earmarked reserves as specified in sections 4 and 7 and Appendix A.
3. Approve £0.093m transfer from earmarked contingency for the Local Assistance Scheme (Section 4.3).

4. Approve the transfer of £5.888m from contingency to support the additional spend in Children's Services (Section 8.1).
5. Approve the use of the flexibilities on capital receipts to fund £1.068m of transformational costs in Learning Disabilities and the planned overspend element of the Core Council programme of £1.173m (Section 7).
6. Approve the transfer of £1m from the revenue backed Capital Fund and £0.958m from other earmarked reserves to support the in-year position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

81 **QUARTER 2017/18 PERFORMANCE UPDATE** – agenda item 14

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report noting that the two areas rated as red, Safer Children and Better Care and Managing Our Business were both stable, and that following the recent OFSTED inspection Safer Children and Better Care would be upgraded. The Cabinet Member further highlighted the LED street light replacement programme; and the increase in the number of apprentices working for the Council.

The Chair further highlighted the improvement in the theme Safer Children and Better Care.

The Chair highlighted that 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:

1. Considered the information contained within this report specifically those areas identified as a potential concern under Section 3.0 of this report and the "issues for consideration" section of Appendix A.
2. Considered that the proposed management actions are adequate to improve performance to the desired level.
3. Agreed this report and Appendix A as the latest position for Somerset County Council against its County Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

82 **RETENDERING FOR INSURANCE COVER FOR ALL EXTERNAL POLICIES** – agenda item 15

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report noting: the importance of having appropriate insurance arrangements in place to manage risks; work to assess assets and values; the reduced premium costs; and flexibility regarding potential contract extension periods.

Further points raised in debate included: potential contract extension options; school's insurance; ensuring sufficient financial cover

The Strategic Manager – Finance Governance noted that the contract extension options offered the greatest possible flexibility, and was at a lower cost to the Council than existing cover arrangements.

The Chair thanked officers for their work, and highlighted that there was support for the proposal and both the junior cabinet members and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to agree:

1. The case for applying the exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore to treat the attached Appendix A in confidence, as it contains commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.
2. The successful tenderers for each Lot as set out in Appendix A are appointed to provide insurance cover.
3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Finance, Legal and Governance to complete any necessary steps to complete the procurement and contractual process and put in place insurance cover from 1st April 2018, including the possible contract extensions for the periods set out in this report and its appendix.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

83 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 16

There was no other business.

(The meeting ended at 13.48am)

CHAIR