

# THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 10am.

## PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

Cllr M Chilcott  
Cllr D Hall  
Cllr C Lawrence  
Cllr F Nicholson  
Cllr F Purbrick  
Cllr J Woodman

Junior Cabinet members:  
Cllr G Frascini  
Cllr M Pullin

**Other Members present:** Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Broom, Cllr B Burrige-Clayton, Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Dance, Cllr H Davies, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Munt, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr R Williams

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr D Huxtable

## 117 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 M Chilcott	West 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 M Pullin	Mendip District Council
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Cllr M Pullin further declared a personal interest as a trustee of Somerset Young Carers.

Cllr D Fothergill declared a personal interest in respect of the Citizens Advice Bureau proposals for change.

Cllr Liz Leyshon sought clarification that the Cabinet was quorate.

Cllr Linda Vijeh sought clarification that the full audio recording of today's meeting would be uploaded to the Council's website.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge, confirmed the Cabinet was quorate, and that the audio recording would be publicly available.

118 **Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 July 2018** - agenda item 3

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

119 **Public Question Time (PQT)** – agenda item 4

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted that public questions would be considered as a part of the relevant agenda item.

120 **Month 4 2018/19 Revenue Budget Report and Proposals for Change** - agenda item 5

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill introduced the item and made a number of points including: thanking the members and officers who attended the Scrutiny for Policies and Place meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September; the difficult decisions being considered today; the loss of government funding; increased demand on Council services; the failure of the Government funding model; work with ministers and MPs regarding funding for rural authorities; the legal requirement to balance the Council's budget; the £11.4m budget gap in 2018/19; the level of reserves held by the Council; developing a better model to offer young carers support; and deferring the young carers proposals until February 2019.

Cllr David Fothergill proposed the removal of the young carers savings proposal, reference CAF 20, and this was seconded by Cllr Frances Nicholson. The removal of this proposal was unanimously agreed.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report, highlighting: the projected £11.4m overspend; the importance of ensuring the budget is balanced; managing public expectations; spending needing to be reduced by the equivalent of £2m per month; the lack of alternative savings proposals; the level of reserves held by the Council; the cost of Children's Services improvements; work to better understand the Children's Services budget; Capital Receipt flexibility; minimising the impact for residents; and ensuring the Council's financial sustainability.

The Leader of the Council highlighted: the proposals included in appendix C2a were being considered for decision, and that the proposals in appendix C2b were being considered for consultation; the Council's duties under the Equalities Act 2010; the inclusion of equalities impact assessments; and members due regard of the impact assessments.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge read a statement on behalf of Brett Walker, points raised included: the high salaries paid to directors; the accountabilities held by directors; and responsibility for the Children's Services budget overspend.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill responded to the points

raised, noting: the importance keeping vulnerable children safe; ensuring appropriate social care support is available; increased demand; the national picture regarding Children's Services budgets; and that senior managers and directors are held to account.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge read a series of questions on behalf of B Burnstall, points raised included: the cost of employing a temporary director; the salary of the new permanent finance director; and the size of the Council's Senior Leadership Team.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill responded to the questions noting: the market rate for a high quality interim appointment; the work of the Interim Finance Director; the extension of duties of the Resources Director post; the removal of the Business Services Director post; and that size of the Council's Senior Leadership Team was comparable with other local authorities.

The Cabinet heard from David Orr, who read a statement regarding the Council's finances, points raised included: the Council tax freeze and impact on the Council's base budget; maintaining investment; the limited reduction in management costs; commissioning structures; the cost of Taunton's park and ride; the tiers of local government; and fairer funding for Somerset.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded to the statement, noting: the Council's financial future; the legal obligation to set a balanced budget; the pressure on all Local Authorities; and the Council's financial sustainability. The Interim Finance Director, Peter Lewis added to the points raised by Cllr Chilcott, noting: reviewing the Council's capital and revenue programmes; and seeking basic needs grant to fund school places capacity.

The Cabinet heard from Alan Debenham, who raised a number of points including: local government funding; the removal of the revenue support grant; extreme right-wing politics; the Conservative party conference; and alternative economic policies.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded to Mr Debenhams written statement, noting: the Council has approached the Government on numerous occasions regarding funding; the Adult Social Care precept; the Council's proven record of delivering savings; increased demand; and the expectation that further savings will be required.

The Cabinet heard from Nigel Behan who read two questions on behalf of Patricia Rowe regarding the Council's projected overspend and unfunded posts.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded noting that all recruitment required director level sign-off.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge read a letter submitted by Bob Ashford, points raised included: the impact of proposed cuts to Adults and Children's services to residents of Frome; the role of the Think Frome charity; the impact of changes to targeted services including Sure Start; and

balancing a reducing budget.

The Junior Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr Giuseppe Frascini responded to the points raised, noting: the tremendous impact of Think Frome's work; the loss of local government funding; the £11.4m budget gap; the Council's legal duty to balance its budget; and the published impact assessments.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge read Statement on behalf of Liz Simmonds, points raised included: supporting the work of the voluntary sector across Somerset; concern at today's budget proposals; the short timescales allowed to consider the proposals; reductions in advice service funding; the importance of preventative services; and protecting the most vulnerable people in society.

The Junior Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr Giuseppe Frascini responded to the points raised, noting: that the Citizens Advice Service is disproportionately reliant on SCC for funding; working with the Citizens Advice Service to redesign provision; and that SCC would continue to provide £135k funding to Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) during 2018/19. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson added to the points raised by Cllr Frascini, noting: the benefits of preventative early help services; the Council must set a balanced budget; and early help services will continue in areas which will reduce the need for social care involvement

The Cabinet heard from Lyn Goodfellow, who raised a number of points including: the work of Fair Frome; the services provided by the CAB; the importance of adequately funding the CAB; the CAB helped 29,000 people in Somerset last year; and that SCC do not disproportionately fund the CAB. Lyn Goodfellow presented Cllr Fothergill with a petition.

The Junior Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr Giuseppe Frascini responded to the points raised, noting that the Council wants to work with the CAB to find a way forward.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge read statement on behalf of Jane Snow, points raised included: cuts to crisis services, dementia day care and pathways to employment; and contingency plans to help the most vulnerable.

The Junior Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr Giuseppe Frascini responded to the statement, noting: a commitment to provide appropriate intervention; updating the services offered; and ensuring the best outcomes for individuals.

The Cabinet heard from Alison Campbell who raised a number of points including: the support her child receives; that her child has a life long disability; her hopes for her child's future; Education Health and Care Plans; and difficulties in ensuring her child's needs are met.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised noting: her thanks to Allison Campbell for

attending today's meeting; an offer to meet Allison outside of this meeting to discuss her experience; the Council's vision to allow all children to have the best possible opportunities; that Education Health and Care Plans are monitored through annual reviews; and the work of SENDAS and the Parent Carer Forum.

The Cabinet heard from Sarah Baker who raised a number of points including: her own experiences as a parent; preventing isolation; Education Health and Care Plans; the involvement of families in caring for children with complex needs; the Local Authorities responsibilities, and that the Council could be tried for corporate manslaughter under the Care Act.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting: her thanks to Sarah Baker for her attendance today; an offer to meet in private to discuss her child's specific case; that there was no proposal to change short breaks provision for children; and the importance of inclusion in Somerset.

The Cabinet heard from Sarah Baker, speaking on behalf of Victoria Barrett who raised a number of points including: her daughters very specific condition; the transfer of her daughter from a Statement to an Education Health and Care Plan; that her daughter was unable to attend the colleague of her choice as it was not named in her Education Health and Care Plan; and difficulties accessing transport.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting: sadness that the issues raised had not been resolved; and an offer to meet with Victoria Barrett to endeavour to find an appropriate resolution.

The Cabinet heard from Ruth Hobbs speaking on behalf of Neil Richards, who raised a number of points including: unpaid carers in Somerset; the lack of discussion regarding the young carers proposals; pressure on Social Workers; and the long-term cost of neglecting young carers.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill highlighted the removal of the young carers proposal.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting: the intention to work with all partners to ensure that young carers are supported.

Cllr Tessa Munt, speaking on behalf of Neil Richards further noted an on-line petition which had been signed by 1358 people.

The Cabinet heard from Ruth Hobbs, who raised a number of points including: the length of the proposal documents; accessing the Council's website; the use of jargon and acronyms; the Council's duty to ensure people are able to participate in decision making; the United Nations Convention on the right of the child; impact assessments; and effective scrutiny of the proposals.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson

responded to the points raised, noting: the public question submission deadline extension; that it was not proposed to reduce the children's service to the statutory minimum; and that all proposals have been through comprehensive governance process, and are accompanied by impact assessments which include mitigating actions.

The Cabinet heard from Elizabeth Burden speaking on behalf Tom Kennedy Hughes, who raised a number of points including: the caseload figures quoted; the parenting programmes which form part of Get Set; and the importance informed decision making.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting the Cabinets work to scrutinise all proposals. The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster added to Cllr Nicholson's points highlighting that: the Get Set staffing levels had been considered in light of the Council's financial position; and analysis had been completed based on current activity within the service.

The Cabinet heard from Eileen Tipper, who raised a number of points including: her role as a school governor and a co-opted member of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee; the statutory role of scrutiny committees; the Council's democratic process; the Council's moral duty to support young carers; increased health care costs for the cared-for; and evidence of completing a robust impact assessment regarding Get-Set services.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Woodridge provided reassurance of full compliance with the Council's Democratic process. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson further highlighted: future work regarding the young carers savings proposals; and that impact assessments have been robustly completed.

The Cabinet heard from Nigel Behan, who raised several points regarding: the removal of preventative services, and potential future costs; the transfer of Health Visitors to the Council; and the use of earmarked reserves and the Discovery contract, and resultant impact on the current budget gap.

Cllr David Fothergill noted that all impact assessments had been published on the Council's website and that all Cabinet Members had been issued with a full copy.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting: previous responses regarding early help provision; that the transfer of Health Visitors would continue; and the importance of integration. The Junior Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr Giuseppe Frascini, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting that there would be no further draw on the reserve until further work had been completed.

The Cabinet heard from Beverly Lister speaking on behalf of Kirsty McCrory who raised a number of points regarding: the DSG reserve contribution for SEND independent placements; her experience of applying for an EHCP for her daughter; and that her daughter did not have a suitable education

placement

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to the points raised, noting: that £34m had been invested in special schools and ASD resource bases.

The Cabinet heard from Ruth Hobbs speaking on behalf of Ann Adams who raised a number of points including: changing the structure of schools in Ilminster and Crewkerne; that a three-tier schooling system was not sustainable; austerity; and supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation, Cllr Faye Purbrick responded to the points raised noting: any change to the school structure in Ilminster and could not be implemented until 2020; and the Council's intention to complete a full review of education provision in the area.

The Cabinet heard from Kris Black, speaking on behalf of Unison, who raised several points including: concern regarding the proposal for staff to take 2 days unpaid leave; the potential for the Council to be charged with corporate manslaughter; and ensuring the Council meets its statutory duties.

The Cabinet Member for Resources responded to the points raised, noting: on-going consultation with unions; the importance of mitigating actions; and that all proposals had been examined by the Council's Legal Services department. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport further highlighted that Council would continue to meet its statutory duty regarding road gritting.

The Cabinet heard from David Redgewell, who raised a number of points including: subsidies for rural bus services; reliance on public transport; the importance of the Council involving relevant forums; and the importance of lobbying government.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman further responded to the points raised, noting the current position regarding funding for the Taunton Park and Ride facilities.

The Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, Cllr Anna Groskop addressed the Cabinet to provide feedback following the Committee's meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Points raised included: discussions regarding Youth Services, Get Set and consultation with schools; the importance of considering the impact on Somerset's residents; the consideration of risks and consequences; the potential for stepped decreases in Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) funding to allow the organisation to undertake its own transformation; and the importance of spending money to the best benefit of the people of Somerset.

Cllr John Hunt informed the Cabinet that Cllr Groskop's views regarding the CAB do not reflect the views of the entire committee.

At the Leaders of the Council's invitation Cllr Giuseppe Frascini introduced the proposals related to Adult Social Care, highlighting: the CAB savings

included statutory Adult Social Care core grants and local assistance grants; that proposals were both evidence and data led; promoting independence and the associated reduction in block beds; consideration of the impact of all proposals; Adult Social Care's clear funding strategy; and work with the voluntary and care sector to where possible mitigate any impacts.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill sought further clarification regarding the potential for stepped decreases to CAB funding.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Stephen Chandler responded, noting that: CAB core funding and local assistance scheme administration funding was being reduced; the administration of the local assistance scheme funding was highly inefficient; that the CAB's core activity was not a statutory Council responsibility; promoting independence; and the responsibility of Adult Social Care to provide budget savings.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Christine Lawrence noted that she had been commended regarding the work of the Home First team.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Stephen Chandler further noted that: the local assistance grant was not being removed; and the importance of managing demand at the earliest possible point, and how this results in less reliance on Local Authority funding.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation noted the importance of managing communication to ensure relevant support can be accessed.

The Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies Adults and Health Committee, Cllr Hazel Prior Sankey noted: she did not agree to the use of Special Urgency regarding today's decisions; the Scrutiny for Policies Adults and Health Committee did not have time to fully consider the proposals; the low Council tax base; and potential impacts on other services.

Further points raised in debate regarding the Adult Social Care proposals included: CAB funding; the proposal to work with the CAB to build a sustainable service; talking cafes; potential impacts on Somerset Direct; the equalisation reserve; the lack of involvement of the Scrutiny for Adults and Health Committee; the Council Tax freeze; the local government funding model; Discovery contract compliance; the removal of the young carers savings proposal and the requirement to for alternative savings to be realised; the work of the Martock 'Our Place' scheme, and associated parish delivery models; income generation; block bed reductions and impacts on rest bite care; working with District Councils; and the effect of savings which are not realised and impacts on future savings levels.

The Director of Adult Social Care responded to the points raised, noting: the CAB proposal is evidence led; Public Health funding for the CAB will continue; the Better Care fund priorities, including supporting the sustainability of Adult Social Care within the Council; and reductions in work to maintain independence.



The Interim Director of Finance, Peter Lewis explained the previous use of the equalisation reserve, noting that this approach had now been paused.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted: the Council has 760 statutory responsibilities and was working with District Councils where possible.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott highlighted that: the Council must set a balanced budget; and the importance of transparent decision making.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted: that no decision had been taken regarding libraries; and that freezing Council tax was the right decision at the time.

(The Cabinet broke for lunch at 13.30, returning at 14.20)

At the Leader of the Council's invitation Cllr Frances Nicholson introduced the proposals related to Children and Families, highlighting: the benefits of early help services; that organisations outside of the Council benefit from early help services, but don't provide enough funding; that the Council must provide statutory services, and will provide early help support to avoid social care intervention; the increased demand on high needs DSG funding; the importance of investing in extra analytical power; and working with the voluntary and community sector.

The Cabinet Member for Transformation, Cllr Faye Purbrick, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting: there were no specific saving proposals related to education; that mainstream schools must try to reduce the need for specialist provision; and that a number of vacant education posts were being held.

The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster added to the points raised, noting: statutory minimum provision, with some additional elements; that other Local Authorities were experiencing similar difficulties; and the importance of controlling home to school transport costs.

The Cabinet Members proceeded to debate the proposals related to Children and Families, points raised included: ensuring children receive the best possible service given the available resources; the importance of protecting the vulnerable and considering any cumulative impact; and borrowing for new school developments; and confidence regarding savings involving the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster confirmed that none of the Council's core safeguarding duties would be affected, and that children with the highest level of need would continue to receive support.

The Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee, Cllr Leigh Redman noted: his support for the removal of the young carers proposal; the dramatic impact of the proposals; the small number of members taking decisions today; the importance of robust, open and transparent scrutiny; ensuring the best placement for the child is offered;

and confidence levels in the information which underpins the proposals. Cllr Redman made reference to a number of specific proposals: CAF 10, requesting that the Cabinet Member for Children and Families consider amending the proposal to ensure that the best possible opportunity in education is considered above cost; CAF 14, and the associated closure of Children's Centres; CAF 16, and contingency plans if voluntary providers cannot fill the gap; and CAF 21, potentially creating increased level 3 needs.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that all members were invited to the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee meeting held yesterday, and that it was usual practice for this committee to oversee the budget scrutiny.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson responded to Cllr Redman's points, noting: the Council has a duty to live within its means; the importance of ensuring the right provision and the best use of resources; and the on-going building programme for special schools and ASD bases. In summary Cllr Nicholson highlighted that she was confident to take the decisions today. The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting: the efficient use of resources was detailed in statute; the importance of consulting both parents and children; and that there was no clear evidence regarding Early Help Services saving resources elsewhere within Children's Social Care.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill requested Cllr Redman repeat his proposed amendment. Cabinet Members did not propose or second the amendment.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill proceeded to open debate to all members present, debate included: the; why the proposed cuts had not been taken sooner if they don't offset statutory provision; the number of individual cases raised by public speakers today; the high needs funding overspend; the availability of special school places in Mendip and the wider County; Youth Service proposals; and reliance on the voluntary sector.

Cllr John Hunt proposed the removal of CAF 21 regarding the Youth Service to allow further scrutiny of the proposal. Cabinet Members did not propose or second the amendment.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott highlighted that a revised proposal regarding 2 days staff unpaid leave would be presented to the Unions on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, and that it was proposed this would protect the lowest paid staff.

At the Leader of the Council's invitation Cllr Faye Purbrick introduced the proposals related to the Corporate Centre, highlighting: the capital receipts flexibility; that staff costs would return to revenue budgets as transformation projects end; reducing the number of software licences; and that the Head of ICT post had been deleted.

The Cabinet Members proceeded to debate the proposals related to the Corporate Centre, points raised included: the use of Skype by the Legal Services Department; email security; and disappointment at the removal of

the Staff Awards.

The Director of Corporate Affairs, Simon Clifford confirmed that the Council's email system is secure, and that today's decision was to defer the implementation of enhanced security features.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill proceeded to open debate to all members present, debate included: the removal of administration and support roles in Commercial and Procurement; the confidence levels attributed to proposal DS 02 Democratic Services Income Recovery and Generation; and the potential to share legal research publications and tools with neighbouring Local Authorities.

Cllr Liz Leyshon proposed members special responsibility allowances be reduced by 1/26<sup>th</sup> to generate a saving of £8,800 which could be used to reinstate the staff award scheme. Cabinet Members did not propose or second the amendment.

At the Leader of the Council's invitation Cllr John Woodman introduced the proposals related to the Highways and Transport, highlighting: the impact of all proposals had been considered and mitigated where possible; and the Council would continue to meet its statutory duty and safety standards.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure highlighted proposal ECI 18 flood and water management, noting continuing work with partners regarding SRA funding and precepting potential. Cllr Hall further paid tribute to David Warburton MP for his work in this area.

The Cabinet Members proceeded to debate the proposals related to Highways and Transport, points raised included: proposal ECI 71 road salting, and associated plans in extreme weather events; the removal of the gully jetting budget; the removal of grit bins and bags and the potential to work with parish councils; and the potential to install warning signs on un-gritted routes.

The Cabinet Member for Highways responded to the points raised, noting: there was no change proposed to the response if an extreme weather event occurs; that jetting would only be completed on a reactive, safety basis. The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure further noted that the engagement work continued which seeks approval for the SRA to become a precepting authority.

The Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations Director confirmed that gritting would be undertaken in accordance with the Highways Code of Practice.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman, further highlighted work regarding the Park and Ride, noting that both site would now be funded by Taunton Deane Borough Council.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill proceeded to open debate to all members present, debate included: delaying ECI 07m Highways fee

structure and reducing the fee charged to Parish Council's; setting a balanced budget; the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members leaving the Conservative Party; putting Somerset's residents first; ensuring that reductions in professional training do not impact on Council employees professional qualifications; the Somerset Rivers Authority future work programme; and fully utilising the Slinky vehicle fleet.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure confirmed that the Somerset Rivers Authority offered additional functions and did not replace the work of its partners.

The Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations Director confirmed that ECI 07m would primarily affect utility companies. The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted that the charges levied on Parish Councils would be noted as a concern.

Cllr Tessa Munt proposed the removal of the Parish Council element of ECI 07m. Cabinet Members did not propose or second the amendment, and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman noted difficulties in aligning a separate parish council charging structure to the Skanska contract.

Cllr Jane Lock raised a point of order, noting concern that recommendation 8, would allow decisions to be taken without member involvement. The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge confirmed that any decisions taken would be subject to the Council's standard consultation requirements and subject to the Council's Officer Scheme of Delegation.

Cllr James Hunt raised a point of order as he felt the vote appeared planned and undemocratic.

The County Solicitor, Honor Clarke confirmed that she had no concerns regarding the vote.

**Following consideration of the public and elected member representations, the officer report and appendices, equalities impact assessments, risk implications and discussion the Cabinet resolved to:**

- 1. Note the challenging financial circumstances of Somerset County Council and understand the impacts of the projected revenue budget outturn overspend position for 2018/19, the current Aged Debt Analysis and the projected delivery of the current MTFP savings.**
- 2. Note and support the significant management actions and development of proposals for change to address the projected financial overspend during the remainder of 2018/19 and beyond.**
- 3. Consider the proposals for change set out in Appendices C2a and C2b and have due regard to any equalities implications identified and risks implications prior to any decisions being taken.**
- 4. Agree the withdrawal of CAF 20 – Remodelling of support to Young**

**Carers from Appendix C2a (proposals for decision).**

**5. Agree the proposals for change set out in Appendix C2a and approve their implementation by the relevant Director(s).**

**6. Approve for consultation the proposals for change set out in Appendix C2b and delegate the implementation of those proposals to officers following due process.**

**7. Note that the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Resources, Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer will oversee and monitor the delivery of the proposals for change and report on progress as part of the budget monitoring reports.**

**8. Delegate authority for the development of any additional alternative proposals for change that may be necessary to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and relevant Director(s)**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report and as part of public and elected member representations and debate at the meeting

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

Cllr Mike Rigby noted: concern at the proposals being considered today; concern at the process by which the proposals had been brought for consideration; and presented the Leader of the Council with a request for an extraordinary meeting of the Council to discuss an extraordinary budget.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge, acknowledged receipt of the request and undertook to pass this to the Chair of Council to consider.

121 **Capital Investment Programme 2018/19 – Quarter 1 Report – agenda item 6**

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report.

The Interim Director of Finance, Peter Lewis, noted: the capital programme sits alongside the revenue programme and governs investment in infrastructure within the County; the programme was both significant and ambitious; the role of grants and S106 funds; the slippage of some schemes; and the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill proceeded to open debate to all members present, debate included: the Council's ability to provide necessary school places.

The Director of Children's Services highlighted that there currently were sufficient school places across the County and that plans were in place to manage future demand.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott proposed the recommendations.

**Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion the Cabinet resolved to note the contents of this report.**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

122 **Adoption of the 'Well managed highway infrastructure' Code of Practice by Somerset County Council – agenda item 7**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman introduced the report and noted: the Code of Practices influences everything the Council does on the highway; and mitigates some additional risks.

The Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations Director added to the points raised by Cllr Woodman, noting: moving to an asset-based approach; responding to demand; it was important to maintain high standards; and the adoption of the Code of Practice was expected to be largely cost neutral.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill sought clarification that all changes could be accommodated within the Skanska contract.

The Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations Director confirmed there was flexibility within the Skanska contract.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill highlighted the appended impact assessment and Cabinet confirmed they had given due regards to this, and noted that the adoption of the Code of Practice would align Somerset with neighbouring authorities.

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

- 1. Adopt of the new Code of Practice, its recommendations and the “risk based approach” for the management of the highway network.**
- 2. Adopt a new Highways Safety Inspection Manual that meets the recommendations of the new CoP and safety inspection documents for Public Rights of Way, Structures, Street Lighting and Traffic Signals.**
- 3. Update the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy (HIAMP) and the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy (HIAMS) to reference and incorporate the recommendations of the CoP.**
- 4. Amend other supporting documents and policies to reference and incorporate the recommendations of the new CoP.**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

123 **Any other urgent items of business** – agenda item 8

There was no other business.

**(The meeting ended at 16.45pm)**

**CHAIR**