

# THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 10.00am.

## PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

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

Junior Cabinet members:  
Cllr G Frascini  
Cllr M Pullin

**Other Members present:** Cllr S Coles, Cllr H Davies, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr L Redman.

**Apologies for absence:** None

### 194 **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 F Purbrick – Yeovil Town Council

Cllr Mike Pullin further declared a personal interest as a Friend of the Somerset Young Carers

### 195 **Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019** - agenda item 3

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

### 196 **Public Question Time (PQT)** – agenda item 4

The Cabinet received a petition from Mr Michael Oliver regarding vegetation encroaching on public footways.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr John Woodman responded to the points raised noting: the risk-based approach; and that enforcement action can be implemented where required. Cllr Woodman further offered to send Mr Oliver a written response.

### 197 **Future Support Arrangements for Young Carers** – agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson introduced the report, noting: the large number of young carers in the

County; the importance of supporting young carers; and the importance of the third sector. Cllr Nicholson further noted the Friends of Somerset Young Carers supported the proposals.

The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting: exploring the capacity of the voluntary sector; thinking creatively to ensure services reach more young carers; the removal of the requirement for a direct assessment before support can be accessed; and the importance of supporting young carers range of needs.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report, points raised included: a young carers brand; ensuring a smooth transition to the new service; the number of young carers in the County; the importance of identifying if young carers need additional support; and confidence that support can be provided to all young carers identified.

The Director of Children's Services responded to the points raised, noting: some young carers don't want to be identified; the importance of the timing of groups and activities; ensuring the right level of support is offered; the importance of working with schools; changes to the ICT system used by schools; and the importance of clearly defining what constitutes a young carer.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott, proposed amending recommendation 3 to clarify that the Council will assist outside agencies and partners, and this was seconded by Cllr Faye Purbrick.

The Cabinet proceeded to vote and resolved unanimously to amend the recommendation as proposed.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill, expressed concern that the detail contained within the Cabinet report had not been made available to the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee at their recent meeting.

The Leader of the Scrutiny for Children and Families Committee, Cllr Leigh Redman raised a number of questions regarding: the internal report consultation process; the importance of young carers branding; monitoring service improvements; and the importance of identifying young carers.

The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge, highlighted that the Cabinet meeting arrangements allow all members to present their views.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill opened the debate to other members present, points raised included: the importance of identifying young carers; the importance of communication with schools; the expectation placed upon schools; voluntary sector grants; and the availability of external funding.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill proceeded to summarise the debate, further noting that the original young carers savings proposal had not been progressed, and the need to consider future funding arrangements if voluntary sector funding cannot be found.

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

- 1. That £120,000 of the £248,000 of the budget available is used to commission support for young carers who have more complex challenges through the Level 3 adolescent support services.**
- 2. That £53,000 of the £248,000 available is used as a grant scheme plus its administration cost, to be utilised to run locality-based support groups for all young carers to access.**
- 3. That £75,000 of the £248,000 available is used to develop a “community alliance” building capacity and infrastructure by increasing community resources, skills and knowledge to meet support needs locally where appropriate and maximise social value by assisting outside agencies and partners in securing additional funding and resources from other sources.**
- 4. That the Director of Children’s Services is authorised to take forward all necessary actions in order to support the delivery of the above recommendations.**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

**198 County Council Business Plan 2019+ - agenda item 6**

The Director of Corporate Affairs, Simon Clifford, introduced the report noting: the Business Plan translates the Council’s vision into action; improving lives; the Council’s corporate priorities; and the potential for future climate change work.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill, thanked officers for their work.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited views from other members present. Points raised included: the number of Council owned properties across the County; the potential to hold the Council’s committee meetings at other venues across the County; team around a school; the importance of data sharing; strengthening the link between formal decision making and the Council’s Business Plan; the Recycle More project; and fly tipping rates.

The Director of Corporate Affairs, Simon Clifford further noted work to include Social Value in future Council contracts.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure clarified that there had been no overall increase in rates of fly tipping in the Recycle More trial areas.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill thanked officers for their work.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendix and discussion the Cabinet:

**1. Approved the Business Plan 2019/20 as the County Council's vehicle for delivering the County Council Vision, subject to activities included in the Business Plan going through the Council's decision-making processes as required.**

**2. Endorses the requirement for all Council decisions and impact assessments to have regard to the Business Plan**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

199 **The Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan 2019-2022 – agenda item 7**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson, introduced the report, commended the work of officers and highlighted the inclusion of children's views.

The Director of Children's Services, Cllr Julian Wooster, further noted that the plan had been written in the context of wanting to achieve good and excellent service.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited views from other members present. Points raised included: meeting the aspirations of the plan; ownership of the plan; and the challenging statistics regarding bullying, not feeling safe outside of school and increases in self harm.

The Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee, Cllr Leigh Redman highlighted the importance of monitoring progress against the plan and further thanked Cllr Rod Williams for his work as the Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Vice-Chair.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill thanked members and officers for their work.

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

- **Approve 'Our Plan' – Somerset's Plan for Children, Young People & Families 2019 – 2022**
- **Recommend Full Council to endorse 'Our Plan' – Somerset's Plan for Children, Young People & Families 2019 – 2022**
- **Requested that relevant partner agencies (as set out in S11 Children Act 2004) formerly endorse the plan through their executive arrangements**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

200 **Any other business** – agenda item 8

There were no items raised.

(The meeting ended at 12.10pm)

**CHAIR**