

THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the meeting room, Taunton Library, on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

Cllr M Chilcott

Cllr D Hall

Cllr D Huxtable

Cllr C Lawrence

Cllr F Nicholson

Cllr F Purbrick

Cllr J Woodman

Junior Cabinet members:

Cllr G Fraschini

Cllr M Pullin

Other Members present: Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr A Wedderkopp

Apologies for absence: None

226 **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 J Woodman – Sedgemoor District Council

227 **Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th September 2019** - agenda item 3

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

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

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill, noted that no public questions had been submitted.

229 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** – agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Christine Lawrence, introduced the report, noting: the importance of this work; the importance of working collaboratively; helping to reduce inequality; and the

work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Director of Public Health, Trudi Grant, and the Service Manager – Public Health, Pip Tucker, added to the points raised by Cllr Lawrence, noting: the Somerset Intelligence website; the importance of data integration; that one quarter of primary aged children are overweight; that one quarter of primary aged children have decayed or missing teeth; and that an information governance panel was planned.

The Associate Director Business Strategy, Allison Nation, presented a number of slides regarding the Somerset Integrated Digital eRecord (SIDeR) Programme, highlighting: it was hoped the programme would include the Fire and Rescue Service and care homes; and the importance of shared care records.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: the potential to expand the programme on a national level; digitalisation and records; the negative public perception of information sharing; ensuring data sharing delivers results; the out of hours service; and consideration of the importance of GDPR.

The Associate Director - Somerset CCG, Allison Nation, responded to the points raised, noting: the programme had not been adopted on a national scale; how the move to digital records would take some time to complete; the involvement of relevant groups including parent carer forums; and working on a regional level.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted the fundamental importance of this work, and highlighted the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet approved:

1. 'Somerset: Our County' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019 - Data Integration.

2. The responsibility for managing and balancing the risks associated with data integration being taken on by the Health and Wellbeing Board in setting up the Information Governance Panel.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

230 **Quarter 1 + 1 Performance Report** - agenda item 6

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill introduced the report and highlighted the improved performance across the Council and further noted there were some areas where further improvement was required.

The Director of Corporate Affairs, Simon Clifford highlighted that not all service measures include a direction of travel indicator, and that indicators are continually being updated.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: flu immunisation; visiting the Council's Contact Centre; the importance of businesses moving on from innovation centres; delayed transfers of care; and if the location of Energy and Innovation Centres was influenced by broadband availability

The Director of Public Health, Trudi Grant, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure responded to the points raised, noting: flu causes significant demand on the health service; flu immunisation rates; care staff working on zero-hour contracts and choosing not to work during school holidays; that centres were located where the market had demonstrated they were required, and where there was supply chain demand.

The Cabinet received a presentation on Energy and Innovation Centres from The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure, points raised included: the importance of working with business located in the Centres; and recognition that the Hinkley Point C build is time limited.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet:

1. Considered and commented on the information contained within this report.

2. Considered the proposed management actions already in place are adequate to improve performance to the desired level.

3. Agreed this report and any appendices as the latest position for Somerset County Council against its Council Vision.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

231 **Month 4 (Q1+1) Revenue Budget Monitoring** – agenda item 7

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report, noting: seasonal demands and resultant impacts on the Council's budgets; the current balanced budget position; the £6m contingency balance and how this will be used to enhance the Council's longer term resilience if not called upon; government spending announcements are for a single year; and how uncertainty remains beyond the current additional funding.

The Strategic Finance Manager – Corporate and Deputy S151 Officer, Elizabeth Watkin added to the points raised by Cllr Chilcott, noting: the increase in savings delivery; and that the provisional government financial settlement was not expected until late Autumn.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: the £290k loss attributed to Dillington House, and associated management actions; and the potential for other upper tier Councils to approach SCC for financial advice.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation responded, noting: work to reduce the Dillington House overspend, and that Dillington House did not fit comfortably with the rest of the Council; and that SCC was working with other Councils regarding the value for money shown in the new School Build Programme.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted that Dillington House is a legacy asset, but the Council needs to ensure it is financially sustainable. Cllr Fothergill proceeded to highlight the recommendations as detailed in the officer report.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet:

1. Approved the transfer of £0.175m of Corporate Contingency to allocate the grant funding for Brexit to a specific Brexit budget within Economy Community and Infrastructure (section 4.7).

2. Noted the forecast balanced budget position for the end of 2019/20

3. Noted that £6.033m of the corporate contingency remains unallocated if the above recommendation is approved and this is expected to increase as management actions on service variances are confirmed

4. Noted the delivery of £16.990m savings by Month 4 and the forecast delivery of £21.485m by the year end of the total target of £21.547m.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

232 **Month 4 Capital Budget Monitoring**

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report, noting: the £730m of schemes included in previous budgets; £134m of expenditure was added in February 2019; the programme was currently £1.355m underspent as some schemes had been delivered at a lower cost than were anticipated; strengthening the Somerset economy; and new road developments.

The Strategic Finance Manager – Corporate and Deputy S151 Officer, Elizabeth Watkin highlighted the differing funding sources for the Capital Programme.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: the increased costs for some new school developments; changing demand for school places; and borrowing to fund developments.

The Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure Highlighted: that both archaeology and ground conditions had played a part in the increased school build costs; and that S106 contributions, whilst due at certain completion points can be re-negotiated by developers.

The Strategic Finance Manager – Corporate and Deputy S151 Officer, Elizabeth Watkin noted the importance of managing the Council's cash flow to ensure financial needs can be met.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill highlighted the recommendations as detailed in the officer report.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet noted 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

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

There was no other business.

(The meeting ended at 11.28am)

CHAIR