

5. Reports of Cabinet 1 - 20

To consider a report on decisions required by Council (**yellow pages**) and on decisions taken by the Cabinet (**white pages**).

All Councillors will have a copy of the full Budget and Council Tax report and Appendices considered by the Cabinet on 2 February 2017 and are requested to bring it to Council.

6. Notices of Motion 21 - 24

To receive the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on any Notices of Motion received by him (**Lilac pages**). Councillors are asked to note that any Notices of Motion must be received by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services no later than noon on **Thursday, 2 February 2017**.

7. Question Time 25 - 26

To receive answers to any questions asked by Councillors (**Orange pages**).

(Members are reminded of the timescale adopted by Council for notice of questions. A Councillor may only ask a question if:

- It is delivered in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon on Monday 6 February 2017 or*
- If it relates to urgent business, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is notified at least half an hour before the start of the meeting.)*

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COUNCIL
9 FEBRUARY 2017**REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A
DECISION BY COUNCIL**

2016-17 Budget and Council Tax**Recommendation****1. The Leader and Cabinet recommend that:**

- a) the conclusions set out in the report concerning revenue budget monitoring up to 30 November 2016 be endorsed;
- b) the virement and transfers to Earmarked Reserves in paragraph 20 of the report to Cabinet on 2 February 2017 be endorsed;
- c) the budget requirement for 2017/18 be approved at £318.478 million including a transfer from earmarked reserves of £5.185 million;
- d) the Council Tax band D equivalent for 2017/18 be set at £1,155.31 which includes £44.05 relating to the ring-fenced Adult Social Care precept, and the Council Tax Requirement be set at £236.204 million;
- e) consistent with the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement that revenue cash limits be set for each Directorate:

	£m
Adult Services	130.999
Public Health*	0.101
Children, Families and Communities	82.766
Economy and Infrastructure	67.018
Commercial and Change / Finance	42.779
	<hr/>
	323.663

*Public Health services are funded by a £0.1 million budget as above plus a £29.9 million specific grant.

- f) the Council's Pay Policy Statement is recommended for approval as set out in Appendix 8;
- g) the conclusions set out in the report concerning capital budget monitoring up to 30 November 2016 be endorsed;
- h) the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 9 be approved;

- i) that £10 million be added to the Capital Programme to support the overall A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road improvements;
- j) the Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix 10 be approved;
- k) the Treasury Management Strategy set out in Appendix 11 be approved; and
- l) the Statement of Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Statement as set out in Appendix 12 be approved.

[NB Appendices referred to are those presented to 2 February 2017 Cabinet]

2. **All Councillors will have a copy of or access to the full report and Appendices considered by the Cabinet on 2 February 2017 and are referred to that report and requested to bring it to Council to inform Council's decision and allow full consideration of all the issues.**

Cabinet Report – 2 February 2017

3. The Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance which included details of:

- those decisions made by the Cabinet on the draft budget 2017/18 at its meeting on 15 December 2016
- details of the budget 2017/18 consultation and engagement. The Council had engaged with a wide range of individuals and organisations through various channels. The draft budget proposals were also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board and its response had been before the Cabinet
- confirmation of areas of investment in the Corporate Plan priorities of Open for Business, Children and Families, Health & Well-being and The Environment in 2017/18 and across the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- revenue budget monitoring for 2016/17. The outturn forecast at Month 8 indicated a cost pressure of £1 million against authorised cash limits, 0.3% of the overall budget. It was anticipated that this variance would be reduced by mitigation plans through to the end of the financial year so that the County Council delivered services within its cash limited budget alongside further potential flexibility in the County Council's financing transactions budget as interest rates remained at historic lows. The Adult Social Care budget was facing significant pressures in 2016/17 and the latest forecast cost pressure was £2.2 million after taking into account the planned use of earmarked reserves. The County Council had experienced significant growth in recent years on both the numbers of Looked after Children and the associated expenditure. Whilst there were signs that the financial recovery plan, overseen by the Director of Children, Families and Communities was beginning to gain traction with regard to Placement costs, there remained a risk that the plans did not deliver the required improvements in outcomes and reductions in costs as envisaged over the MTFP
- A Virement and transfer to earmarked reserves from the Financing Transactions budget of £0.6 million with regard to continuing the Councillors' Divisional Fund

scheme by a further year to the end of 2018/19 had been recommended by Cabinet. This proposal did not require alteration of the net cash limits approved by Full Council

- The work needed to close the forecast financial planning gap. The December 2016 Cabinet report set out a budget requirement of £319.7 million against funding from Central Government and Council Tax of £316.8 million leaving a forecast financial planning gap of £2.9 million. The report included details of the Leader's response to central Government's Provisional Settlement in January 2017. It was expected that Central Government would confirm the outcome of the consultation on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement during the first week of February 2017
- Council Tax. Following careful consideration, balancing the needs of Adult Social Care with the ability for residents to support a larger increase in Council Tax for 2017/18, Cabinet had recommended the approach outlined within the December 2016 Draft Budget and therefore were not proposing any further increase in Precept. Therefore, the proposed increase of 2.94% in Council Tax Precept, consistent with the Draft Budget was recommended to provide a total forecast income of approximately £236 million. This increase represented: 0.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with Corporate Plan, resident and business communities' priorities; and 2% Adult Social Care Precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to demographic changes and an increased demand for more complex services
- District Councils had confirmed during January 2017 increases to the Council Tax base of £4.5 million (2%) for 2017/18. In addition District Councils had declared an overall surplus in their Collection Funds of £2.5 million. The one off Collection Fund Surplus was proposed to be utilised in the following ways: £1.5 million Worcester A4440 Southern Link Road Phase 4 enabling works; £0.5 million in support of Council Tax Reduction Scheme shortfalls; £0.3 million addition to the Transformation Fund; and £0.2 million to support general services for one year only in 2017/18
- Approximately £60 million of the County Council's funding for 2017/18 would be received through the Business Rates Retention system
- For 2016/17 Specific Revenue Grants was estimated at £93.8 million. At the time of drafting this report, Central Government had confirmed around 83% or £77 million of Specific Grants for 2017/18. The Local Government Finance Settlement included a new Specific Grant for one year only, the Adult Social Care Support Grant. Whilst not included in the preceding Autumn Statement, Central Government had utilised some further savings from its reforms to the New Homes Bonus in providing a Specific Grant of £2.4 million to the County Council for 2017/18. The reduction for the County Council in New Homes Bonus was £0.2 million. In addition the reduction across Worcestershire's District Councils of £0.75 million was more significant and presented a potential challenge for delivering services in 2017/18. The Adult Services Support Grant, together with other funding streams had resulted in an increase in spending power of £9.0 million in the Adult Social Care Directorate for 2017/18

- The County Council renews its Section 75 partnership arrangements with Health for the Commissioning of Services on an annual basis. The total Better Care Fund revenue budget for 2017/18 was expected to be £33.9 million. The County Council was still awaiting confirmation of the Disabled Facilities Grant
- A further £2.6 million of Service Reforms and Budget Adjustments had developed since publication of the Draft Budget in support of delivering a balanced budget for 2017/18
- In overall terms the indicative Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocation for Worcestershire is £386.2 million. The County Council's allocation from this amount would be confirmed by the Education Funding Agency at a later date to reflect the up to date position of the number of academies and free schools
- It has been confirmed that the Education Services Grant (ESG) Retained Duties rate per pupil of £15 cash equivalent per pupil for all state funded schools had been transferred into the Schools Block DSG. The current ESG General Duties rate per pupil £77 per pupil or place for maintained schools, £288.75 per Pupil Referral Units and £327.75 for special schools would be withdrawn completely from September 2017. This was a direct reduction in funding for Councils without a reduction in duties. An increase in base budget was needed to be funded locally to take account of a reduction in grant funding for general statutory duties relating to maintained schools. Whilst there was a transitional protection available to cover the period April – August 2017, this was not at the current rate and as a result the pressure from the withdrawal was estimated to be £2.1 million in 2017/18 and £1.0 million in 2018/19
- The Department for Education deducted ESG from the County Council when an academy converts and passes this funding directly to the academy. There would be a review of all spend currently funded by ESG against the statutory regulations, when they are published. The provisional allocation to Worcestershire in 2017/18 is £1.2 million. This would change depending on the number of in year conversions
- Public Health Ring-fenced Grant. The specific grant for 2017/18 was £29.9 million, a reduction of £0.8 million from £30.7 million received in 2016/17. Public Health England indicated that further budget reductions and efficiencies would be phased in at 2.6% and flat cash in 2020/21. The County Council had discussed and consulted in some detail with partners plans for 2017/18 as the grant received is in line with expectations. Further reform targets of £1 million in 2017/18 and £0.5 million in 2018/19 had been agreed and work was continuing to identify areas of County Council base budget expenditure where public health impact could be maximised through the use of the Grant
- Independent Living Fund. The County Council received £3.1 million in grant in 2016/17 but there was expected to be an attrition rate applied of approximately 5% in 2017/18 with an estimated grant settlement of £2.9 million. The reduction in funding would need to be managed within the overall 2017/18 Adult Services budget
- New Homes Bonus. The key outcome of the consultation was that Central Government would implement a reduction in the length of the bonus payments

from the current six years to five years in 2017/18 and to four years in 2018/19. Additionally, despite over 80% of respondents rejecting the proposal, Central Government had introduced a growth baseline for 2017/18 of 0.4% beneath which no bonus would be paid, and reserves the right to change the baseline in future years. The bonus would also continue to be paid to Counties and Districts on the existing 20/80 ratio. The consultation response confirmed the amount of New Homes Bonus funding for 2017/18 at £3.2 million which would support the existing allocations of investments set out in previous budget reports. At this stage an estimate could be made of future income based on predicted house building growth across Worcestershire. After taking account of existing commitments this could deliver new funding of over £2 million per year until 2019/20. However this was a reduction from the previous scheme that delivered around £3 million per year

- Capital Programme Financial Position 2016/17 to 2017/18 and the medium term. The approved Capital Programme for 2016/17 was £157.2 million, which reflected new additions and revised cash flow forecasts approved since October 2016. The Capital Programme 2017/18 had been updated to reflect additions from the December 2016 Cabinet and the latest forecast for existing approved schemes. The major areas of capital expenditure related to Schools, the Local Transport Plan and other Economy and Infrastructure Directorate activities. A further addition to the capital programme of £1 million to support system improvements was proposed
- Cabinet has recommended the inclusion of the following schemes in the Capital Programme that were set out in the December Draft Budget Report: £2m Town Centre Improvements; £5m Capital Investment Fund for Cutting Congestion; and £6m Capital Investment Fund to support investment into Footpaths and Pavements
- The County Council received notification from the Department for Transport on 13 January 2017 of capital allocations to be spent in 2017/18 in relation to the following: £13.341 million - Confirmation of the Highways Maintenance Needs Block; £1.169 million - A new Pothole Action Fund; and £2.743 million - A new National Productivity Investment Fund. It was further proposed that £10 million was allocated in the Capital Programme to support the overall A4440 Worcester Southern Link improvements over the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan
- The approved capital programme already included an allocation for minor works and other lifecycle replacement for 2017/18 and a review would be undertaken to propose the extent of these allocations for future years
- The accumulated surpluses from investment in schemes through the Revolving Investment Fund over a 10 year period were forecast to be c. £10 million and it was proposed to ring-fence these, as part of the revised capital programme, for cash backed, rather than investment based on borrowing, future income generating investments

- The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Indicative Medium Term Financial Plan

£m	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total Funding Available	354.8	357.9	367.5	381.0
Service costs based on provisional 2017/18 budget	(381.3)	(389.8)	(389.2)	(403.0)
Sub-Total	(26.5)	(31.9)	(21.7)	(22.0)
Withdrawal from Earmarked Reserves	5.2	-	-	-
Reform plans developed	21.3	12.7	2.6	0.6
Funding Gap	-	19.2	19.1	21.4
Cumulative Funding Gap	-	19.2	38.3	59.7

The above table confirmed that £37.2 million reform plans had been identified across the MTFP planning period and were currently being progressed. The cumulative funding gap over the MTFP period was £59.7 million and would be challenging for the County Council to address. In addition to changes in Central Government funding streams, the MTFP contained the following: precept assumptions beyond 2017/18 include the 2% Adult Social Care Precept and a 0.94% increase for the non-Adult Social Care Precept; increases in Council Tax yield due to forecast growth in house-building; planning assumptions had been made on the extent to which the Improved Better Care Funding would be available; and planning contingencies had been reviewed.

- Risks and sensitivities over the medium term that might have a significant impact on the MTFP had remained consistent since a year ago taking account of future significant changes proposed by Central Government for funding over the medium term. The areas under review were Central Government Funding; Demographic Growth and demand pressures; Safeguarding Improvement Plan and Financial Recovery Plan – Children's Services; Medium Term implications of the Care Act; Inflation; Brexit; the current Business Rates Retention Scheme; and Reform to the Business Rates Retention Scheme
- the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities Statement for 2017/18
- the Council's statutory duties when setting the budget and precept
- Scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget proposals was undertaken by the Budget Scrutiny Task Group which met with key senior officers, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to complement the work already being undertaken by individual scrutiny panels. The key messages from that scrutiny had been reported through the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board
- the County Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in relation to setting the budget. An overarching strategic equality relevance assessment has been undertaken in respect of budget proposals for key transformational change programmes. As

many programmes were as yet at an early stage of development it was not yet possible to carry out more detailed equality impact analysis. Where necessary equality analysis would be undertaken and findings reported to Cabinet where key decisions were required.

4. Appendix 17 details specific feedback on the budget proposals that have arisen during the normal consultation engagement process since the agenda papers for Cabinet meeting on 2 February were despatched.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Note – members are reminded that all votes on the budget will be recorded in accordance with legislation

Supporting Information

Appendix 1	Key messages from Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board
Appendix 2	Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 consultation response
Appendix 3	Specific Revenue Grants 2017/18
Appendix 4a	Council Tax calculation
Appendix 4b	Council Tax Precept
Appendix 5	Revenue Budget 2017/18
Appendix 6	Analysis of budget variations
Appendix 7	Future Fit budget reductions, efficiencies and income generation opportunities
Appendix 8	Pay Policy statement
Appendix 9	Capital Programme
Appendix 10	Medium Term Financial Plan
Appendix 11	Treasury Management Strategy
Appendix 12	Statement of Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision
Appendix 13	Assessment of the County Council's Equalities Duty
Appendix 14	Directorate Revenue Budgets 2017/18
Appendix 15	General Balances Risk Review
Appendix 16	Dedicated Schools Grant
Appendix 17	Budget consultation feedback (Attached)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2 February 2017.

02/02/17 Cabinet 2017/18 Budget Report

Feedback from budget consultation meetings

VCS/Parishes

- We say that the "Environment" is a corporate priority – and mentioned investment in roads but what about investment in the natural environment?
- We talk about inspiring "Community Capacity" and enabling communities but there is no specific budget for this
- Divisional Funds for councillors – some concern that the funds weren't all spent
- Inherent cost in volunteering – training/recruiting volunteers and no budget for this
- Language in the budget report – one parish councillor said our recommendation about the adult social care precept re 2016/17 made it look like we were using next year's money to pay for the current year
- Language in the budget report - reference to pavements v footway v footpaths – we need to be clear what we mean
- We were asked about how we planned to bridge the gap – explained that this was being reviewed and there had been other announcements since the budget report in Dec

Schools

- Confirmation of additional resources going into children's social care requested
- A concern that some of the additional social care monies were only temporary
- Acknowledgement of the ESG funding and growth proposed in the Council budget for 2017/18
- Pressures experienced by schools in terms of general level of funding needs to be acknowledged
- Concerns about "losers" in the proposed new funding formula for 2018/19

Businesses

- Overall supportive and keen that the Council focuses on Economic Development as future income is being tied to the success of growing the Business Rates and Council Tax base locally
- Would want a focus on supportive innovation centres being developed across the County

Unions

- Welcomes in-house proposals around WRS and Children's Services Support Living proposals
- Queries whether the 1% pay inflation has been confirmed (agreed it has as part of the 2 year Pay Deal with Unions – 2016/17 and 2017/18)
- Queried whether mileage and travel rates should increase (reflected that rates were set when fuel costs were higher but no plans at this point)

Appendix 17

- Queried whether Precept should be maximised at 4.99%
- Queried the level of Specific Grants still outstanding (now below £10m)
- Staff Terms and Conditions into the future
- Suggested that we should review the Council's approach to Suspensions (The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development agreed to discuss with Unions)

COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2017 - Proposed Labour Group Budget Amendment:

The Labour Group is proposing the following amendments that will not affect the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 as set out in the February 2017 Cabinet Report.

- 1) A decrease in the proposed non-Adult Social Care Precept from 0.94% to 0%
To be met by:
- 2) A one off release from the Future Fit release of £2.145 million;
- 3) A reduction by two in the number of Cabinet Members; and
- 4) A reduction in the pay of the Chief Executive and Senior Officers to ensure that there are not any members of staff paid in excess of £100,000.

In addition, the following is proposed as a budget reallocation

- 5) A reduction in the fostering budget of £ 1million to recognise the savings that can be achieved by a further transfer of External Fostering Contracts to Internal Fostering Contracts; and
- 6) An increase in the Children's Centres budget of £1 million to reduce the reductions made in this service area during 2016/17.

Summary of Changes in the Net Revenue Budget £000	2017/18 (Part Year)	2018/19 (Full Year)
Reduction in General Precept from 0.94% to 0%	2,300	2,300
Increase in the budget for the provision of Children's Centres	1,000	1,000
Sub-Total	3,300	3,300
To be met by:		
Future Fit Reserve	(2,145)	-
Reduction in Fostering budget to take account of a further transfer from External Fostering contracts to Internal	(1,000)	(1,000)
Cabinet Members	(35)	(35)
Reductions in Pay for Chief Exec and Directors	(120)	(120)
Sub-Total	(3,300)	(1,155)
Total	-	2,145

Chief Financial Officer's assessment against the requirements of Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003

With regard to the requirements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the proposed amendment whilst achieving a balanced budget in cash terms in 2017/18 does include one off financial support of £2.1 million from the further release of earmarked reserves.

The proposed amendment does not set out how this one off financial support in 2017/18 will be replaced with ongoing increases to income or reforms in 2018/19. Therefore, the proposed amendment will increase the forecast financial gap in 2018/19.

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COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2017 - Proposed 2013 Group Budget Amendment:

2017/18 Budget amendment from the 2013 Group

Council recognises that the funding of Adult Social Care is in national crisis and this is reflected within our county of Worcestershire. The failure of central government to respond to the rising demographic pressures is a disgrace. It is left to us councillors to act to protect the more vulnerable members of our community. Accordingly we propose that the (unfair) mechanism of council tax be used this year to raise an additional £2.3m - to be dedicated entirely to the base budget of Adult Social Care. This would be an increase of 1% on Council Tax (equivalent to £11 pa at band D) over the Cabinet's recommended budget.

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The 2013 Group are proposing the following amendments that will not affect the Revenue Budget as set out in the February 2017 Cabinet Report.

- 1) An increase in the Base Budget for the Adult Social Care Directorate of £2.3 million; to be met by:
- 2) An increase in the proposed non-Adult Social Care Precept from 0.94% to 1.94%.

Summary of Changes in the Net Revenue Budget £000	2017/18 (Part Year)	2018/1 (Full Year)
An increase to the Adult Social Care Base Budget	2,300	2,300
To be met by		
An increase to the proposed non-Adult Social Care Precept	(2,300)	(2,300)
Total	-	-

Chief Financial Officer's assessment against the requirements of Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003

There is no impact on meeting the requirements set out within Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 from this proposal.

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COUNCIL
9 FEBRUARY 2017**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Outcome from the Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

1. Ofsted carry out inspections of Local Authority services with regard to the help, care and protection of children and young people. The inspections are carried out under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) which replaced previous children services inspection arrangements. The SIF covers inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after, care leavers and a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The inspection outcome has four possible judgements: inadequate, requires improvement to be good, good and outstanding. The judgements of the 116 Authorities where the results have been published to date show that 73% of authorities are inadequate or require improvement.
2. The overall judgement for Worcestershire was 'inadequate' and was published on 24 January 2017. This is a very disappointing judgement for Worcestershire's children and young people, as well as for the committed and hardworking staff within the service. Plans were already in place to deliver service improvement prior to the inspection and this work has continued and been further strengthened to form an improvement plan to cover all recommendations from Ofsted. The Local Children Safeguarding Board judgement was "requires improvement", as was the judgement for adoption. The report contained fourteen recommendations for the Council, with its partners, to implement.
3. The Council had been aware of shortcomings in services, which had led the Chief Executive to invite the Local Government Association to carry out a peer review of children's services in April 2015. Following the peer review report, which confirmed the challenges within the service, an improvement board and 'back to basics' plan for children's social work were implemented. The improvement plan has been refreshed in the light of the final Ofsted judgement.
4. In light of the Ofsted judgement and recognising that the pace of change can be accelerated through the availability of additional funding, Council will be asked to recommend a budget for 2017/18 that adds a further £800,000 per annum on an ongoing basis. In addition, there is a recommendation for a short-term allocation of £1m for 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (£2m in total). This would provide an additional £1.5m revenue for children's safeguarding and for services for care leavers on an ongoing basis. It also provides an additional revenue funding of £1m for each of the next two financial years and an addition to the capital programme of £1m to support improvements in social care IT systems to accelerate the pace of change required to ensure that children in Worcestershire in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers achieve the positive outcomes that they deserve.

5. There are a number of policies and strategies that are currently in need of refreshing and approving in order to ensure that the framework for the delivery of services is clear, effective and follows current best practice guidelines. Work is already underway to prepare these documents for formal approval by Cabinet later in 2017. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families will be asked to approve the following strategies during April 2017: Looked After Children Strategy, including the sufficiency plan, permanency plan, placement action plan, Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and Adoption Policy; Care Leavers' Strategy, including the handbook and action plan, and Proposals to review and co-produce with children and parents a transformation plan for services for Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs.

6. The Cabinet has noted the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection Report, noted and approved the improvement plan to tackle the areas of concern identified by Ofsted; and noted the key policy development and authorised the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families to take decisions upon them.

Scrutiny Report: Commissioning: Staff Terms and Conditions

7. The Cabinet has considered a Scrutiny Report on Commissioning: Staff Terms and Conditions. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were to examine and make recommendations on: What powers or duties the Council has when commissioning providers in relation to staff terms and conditions; Whether and how the Council monitors contractors' employment conditions; How the Council evaluates tenders and what account is taken of employee conditions; How the Council monitors the quality of services provided by contractors which may be affected by staffing quality or turnover; and How the Council ensures that there is a provider market.

8. The Scrutiny Task Group established to consider the issue has been mindful of what the County Council can and cannot influence and although not socially ideal, there is a clearer understanding that the County Council is the Commissioner and responsible for outcomes, the provider is responsible for delivery and both parties are responsible for monitoring performance. The Task Group had made a number of recommendations relating to domiciliary care providers and provision of the National Minimum Wage (NMW); home care contract rates; a Social Value Policy and Framework; transfer of trade union rights to new employers; a voluntary staff feedback scheme for staff who have been transferred; and sharing quality assurance information with Scrutiny.

9. The Cabinet has received the Scrutiny Report on Commissioning: Staff Terms and Conditions together with the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning. It has welcomed the Scrutiny Report and agreed to adopt the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility as the way forward.

Scrutiny Report: Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service

10. The Cabinet has considered a Scrutiny Report on the Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were to investigate: how the County Council, with partners (including the Police) is developing a prevention and recovery approach and an effective service to help reduce drug and alcohol misuse; and how effectively the Council is

working with other agencies to improve the help and advice provided to addicts and their families.

11. In drawing up the recommendations, the Task Group established to consider the issue, has been mindful of what the County Council can and cannot influence from a Public Health perspective. The Task Group had made a number of recommendations which were adopted by the OSPB relating to the effectiveness of services to reduce drug and alcohol misuse; commissioning of services; engagement and advice to the public; partnership working; and future funding and support – the bigger picture.

12. The Cabinet has received the Scrutiny Report on the Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service together with the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Commissioning. It has welcomed the Scrutiny Report and agreed to adopt the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility as the way forward.

Update Report of the Footways Overview and Scrutiny Task Group

13. The Cabinet has received the Update Report of the Footways Scrutiny Task Group produced following a Notice of Motion to Council in which Council recognised the importance of walking as part of a healthy lifestyle and that in addition, safe footways were especially important for the elderly to access local shops and services. At the time there were concerns that the county's footways revenue budget of £800,000 in 2014/15 and beyond would be inadequate to maintain footways and that the inspection criteria was insufficiently rigorous to identify where the surface was unsafe for less able walkers. Unfortunately, due to matters arising, the review had failed to reach a consensus over the content of the final report from the Task Group. It was therefore agreed that the Task Group would present an update report.

14. The Task Group established to consider the issue had made a number of recommendations which were adopted by OSPB relating to the level of funding; the Department for Transport Guidance on Well Managed Highways Infrastructure; an annual indicative programme of footways to be treated; budget spends around category 3 'Quiet Urban' footways; fining utility companies; and the inclusion of Footways on OSPB 2017/18 work programme.

15. The Cabinet has noted the Report's findings and recommendations and adopted them as the way forward.

Pilot Intergenerational Project (Homeshare)

16. The County Council is committed to reduce loneliness within the county and has driven this agenda through the development of a Social Impact Bond (SIB) working with CCG partners, the Big Lottery Fund and Cabinet Office. The SIB is an innovative outcomes-based payment driven project aimed at supporting the loneliest people within the county and using focussed interventions to reduce loneliness through the use of community organisations and volunteer support. This SIB model puts a large emphasis on provider performance/throughput and generating referrals to ensure that the maximum outcomes (and thus payments) are achieved. The intergenerational project aims to replicate this model through a similar outcomes-based payment mechanism.

17. The University of Worcester and Vestia Community Trust commenced discussions about the possibilities of a scheme like this some time ago. Partnership working was already in place between the Council and the University and tackling loneliness had already been identified as a priority of the Council. The proposal put forward is based on a European model called 'Homeshare' which matches older people (and couples) who have a spare room in their house and students who require accommodation whilst studying at University.

18. The Cabinet has approved the adoption of new policy decision to invest in the 'innovation concept' of the pilot Intergenerational Project Homeshare to reduce loneliness in older people. The Cabinet has supported the Council investing in the partnership with the University of Worcester to enable the development of the above innovation concept. The Cabinet has approved the maximum funding of £167,000 from Public Health Ring Fenced Grant for a period over 4 years in support of it. The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Public Health to take all appropriate steps to put the above decisions into effect.

A4440 Worcester Southern Link Road Dualling (SLR Dualling) – Final Phases

19. The Council has deployed the resources available to it, some c£17 million, to make as much progress as it can with Phase 3 of SLR Dualling. The Final Phases require the project team to maintain momentum with the securing of funding, necessary consents, securing possessions (Network Rail) and implementing works. Many of these issues will require the project team to be able to react quickly to a series of intense activities and events in the first 6 months of 2017.

20. The Cabinet has noted the physical progress made on the SLR Dualling to date and the continuing exploratory and preparatory work which is necessary to bring Phase 3c (Whittington to Norton – new railway bridge and new footbridge) and Phase 4 (Ketch to Powick including new bridge parallel to Carrington Bridge) (the Final Phases) of SLR Dualling to implementation. The Cabinet has noted the financial position in the February 2017 Cabinet Budget Report regarding the Final Phases. The Cabinet has approved subject to the receipt of all necessary consents and approvals the implementation of the Final Phases of SLR Dualling and subject to the approval of funding. The Cabinet has granted delegated authority to award contracts for the Final Phases of SLR Dualling to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with Chief Financial Officer and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure.

21. The Cabinet has approved the submission of a planning application for Phase 4 of SLR Dualling and applications for other relevant consents, including those relating to environment, utilities and rail, by the Council or by the relevant successful contractor as agent for the Council as Highway Authority. The Cabinet has authorised the acquisition of the land required for Phase 4 and the rights over the land including the making of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) in case it is not possible to acquire the land by negotiation. The Cabinet has authorised the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department for Transport in relation to SLR Phase 4, pursuant to the WEBTAG process for the approval of major highways infrastructure schemes. The Cabinet has authorised any public engagement necessary to inform residents about the proposals for the Final Phases and to respond to any concerns raised.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2 February 2017.

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COUNCIL
9 FEBRARY 2017**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he has received the following 5 Notices of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

Notice of Motion 1 – Inquiry into local government overview and scrutiny

3. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**
4. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mrs S Askin, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr T A L Wells and Prof J W Raine:

"The Communities and Local Government Select Committee has announced a new inquiry into the work of overview and scrutiny in local government and is inviting anyone with an opinion or case studies to provide a written submission before March 10, 2017.

The government is interested in a range of issues such as the effectiveness of scrutiny, best practices, procedures for selecting chairs, and support for scrutiny function from leadership among many other topics. We would strongly urge those working in overview and scrutiny to take some time to submit evidence to inquiry.

In view of shortcomings of our own scrutiny practice as illustrated by the findings in the Children's Services' OFSTED, this Council asks that a whole-council workshop be held to gather members' views and that evidence be submitted to the Select Committee on the Council's behalf."

Notice of Motion 2 – Recycling of unwanted furniture by charities

5. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**
6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P Denham, Ms P Agar, Mr R M Udall, Mr P M McDonald and Mr G J Vickery:

"Charities which collect unwanted furniture donated by households in order to provide it free of charge to local needy people, used to be able to dispose of unsuitable items at the County Landfill Recycling Centres (e.g. Hill and Moor). They are now being turned away and being asked to use private trade waste recycling companies. The charities have to pay about £120 on each occasion to dispose of the donated items which are unsuitable for giving away.

These new additional costs make the charities less sustainable, reduce the numbers of needy people they can help and could eventually put them out of business.

It is important that the County Council demonstrates its commitment to re-cycling in a tangible way as indeed it used to.

Council requests the CMR to ensure that non-charging charities which transfer unwanted furniture from some local households to other households who desperately need it are able to dispose of unsuitable items free of charge. One obvious solution would be to allow the charities concerned to take their household waste to household waste disposal sites like Perdiswell".

Notice of Motion 3 – State visit by the President of the United States of America

7. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

8. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr R M Udall, Mr G J Vickery, Ms P Agar, Mr P Denham and Mr P M McDonald:

"Council notes Worcestershire is the home of many residents who were born in or have dual citizenship with Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. Council is concerned by the recent decision of President Trump, who has discriminated against these residents with a potential travel ban to the United States. Council wishes to send a signal on behalf of all Worcestershire residents that his actions are not supported; noting his decision was announced on Holocaust Memorial Day. Therefore Council calls upon the Prime Minister to postpone the proposed State visit to the United Kingdom by President Trump, until the situation has been resolved, or until any Worcestershire residents cease to be disadvantaged by his decision".

Notice of Motion 4 – Safeguarding of Children

9. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

10. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P M McDonald, Mr P Denham, Ms P Agar, Mr G J Vickery and Mr R M Udall:

"This Council believes children in Worcestershire are not safe in the hands of this inadequate authority.

Such incompetence needs urgent intervention. Council calls upon the portfolio holder to consider seeking urgent intervention from the Secretary of State to restore confidence in safeguarding children in the county".

Notice of Motion 5 – Outcome of Ofsted Inspection

11. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

12. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Mr T A L Wells, Prof J W Raine, Mr M E Jenkins, Mrs F M Oborski and Mrs S Askin:

"Council recognises that the outcome of the recent OFSTED judgement on this Council's Children's Services performance reflects poorly on the responsibilities of every Member of Council.

Council therefore resolves:

- 1 To require every future Member of Council to participate in a programme of mandatory Corporate Parenting Training, which will properly inform them of their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents (and as set out in an updated Corporate Parenting Handbook).
- 2 To ensure that the Scrutiny Function is strengthened (with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel having access to professional staff support in the process of holding the Cabinet Member and Administration to account).
- 3 To empower the Corporate Parenting Board to scrutinise such elements of the Council's functions with regard to the services for Looked-After Children as are felt necessary to ensure effective oversight (and with regular reporting back to the Children and Young People's Panel).
- 4 To revise and regularly publish an appropriate framework of Key Performance Indicators to include qualitative and quantitative measure in order to enable better performance monitoring in relation to services to Vulnerable Children".

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

COUNCIL
9 FEBRUARY 2017**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Household Restricted View Mirrors

1. Mr A I Hardman will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways please advise what is the current policy with regard to Mirrors used to warn of traffic approaching a householder's drive where there is a restricted view, placed on either the Highway or private land? The use of these mirrors has grown in recent years, and I have a concern for road users and cyclists"

Question 2 – Fair Funding

2. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"In the light of this county being unable to secure fair funding for our schools does the Cabinet Member for Children and Families support West Sussex governors writing to MPs to warn they will refuse to carry out their services, including signing off budgets or carrying out supervisory work. The letter says they have been in "shock and incomprehension" about what funding cuts will mean for schools."

Question 3 – Adult Social Care Funding

3. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care:

"In its submission to the Treasury ahead of March's Budget, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (Adass) has urged ministers to deliver £1bn in emergency funding to prop up the social care system. The association argued that more elderly and disabled people would not get the care they need without extra money. Does the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care support Adass request for more funding."

Question 4 – Health Funding

4. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing, regret the suggestion made by the North Worcestershire CCG to tighten the criteria for performing replacement Hip and Knee joint surgery? Does he also agree that this

does not give a positive view of health provision in Worcestershire, either to local residents or the wider world?"

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