

**COUNCIL**  
**19 JULY 2018****REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

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**Plastics and Non-Recyclable Cups – Notices of Motion from Council 15 February 2018**

1. In February 2018, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion 1 to Cabinet for determination:

"This Council recognises that discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups are a major environmental pollutant.

Council therefore resolved to:

1. Cease the use of single plastic water cups and replace them with washable, reusable alternatives
2. Request our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives."

The Cabinet did not adopt Notice of Motion 1 given the content of the report to Cabinet and actions being taken but supported the general principles behind it.

2. At the same meeting, the Council also agreed the following Notice of Motion 2 and asked Cabinet to consider the request:

"That this Council asks Cabinet to join others in the battle against single-use plastic by encouraging the use of alternative materials for cups, bottles, cutlery and straws at all its buildings, cafes and public events."

The Cabinet recognised that in relation to Notice of Motion 2, the Council had already endorsed the importance of these issues to residents and employees and was actively engaged in identifying alternatives to single use plastics within its direct operations as referenced in the report to Cabinet.

3. The Cabinet intended that Council commissioners should use all reasonable endeavours to consider issues relating to the disposal of plastics in specifying, procuring and contracting for goods and services.

**Council-Provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability and Connect Short-term Service**

4. In November 2017, the Cabinet approved the recommendations to carry out pre-consultation engagement with people using services, family carers, staff and other stakeholders to explore options for future delivery in relation to Council-Provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability and the Connect Short-term Service. Pre-

consultation engagement commenced on 29 January 2018 and continued to the end of April 2018. The Cabinet has noted the results and feedback to date.

5. The Cabinet has noted the engagement findings in relation to the value and impact of the Connect Short-term Service for adults with lower and medium levels of need, and endorsed the intention to explore options for remodelling the service, including exploring in detail the option of aligning the service with the ongoing development of the Three Conversation Model; this would also include options for the Wyre Forest Connect reception desk service and the Wyre Forest Connect drop-in services.

6. The Cabinet has endorsed the intention, in relation to the Council's four Resource Centres, for commissioners to work with the Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services to develop strategies for cost reduction and/or income generation in order to reduce the gap between the cost of the in-house services and the external sector.

7. The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Adult Services to finalise consultation documentation and commence formal consultation with people using services and carers on the proposal to close the Wyre Forest Connect Long-term Learning Disability Day Service and the re-provision of services for the seven individuals who currently use this service; consultation to commence in early July 2018 for a proposed period of 12 weeks.

8. The Cabinet has endorsed the intention, in relation to the other six Connect Learning Disability Day Services, Connect Drop-in Services and Leisure Link, for commissioners to work with the Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services to produce options to develop strategies for cost reduction and/or income generation to reduce the gap between the cost of the in-house services and the external sector.

9. The Cabinet has approved the permanent relocation of Connect Droitwich, previously based at Kingfields in Droitwich, to the Wendron Centre, Bromsgrove. The Cabinet has requested that a further report/reports be brought to Cabinet by November 2018 to include the results of the work outlined in paragraph 5 above, with consequent recommendations for formal consultation as required, and the results of the formal consultation outlined in paragraph 5 above.

### **Future Provision of Replacement Care (Overnight Respite) Services for Adults with a Learning Disability**

10. On 8 February 2018, the Cabinet approved the recommendation to carry out pre-consultation engagement with individuals using replacement care services, family carers, professionals and wider stakeholders, on how learning disability replacement care services should be delivered in the future. Pre-consultation engagement commenced on 27 March 2018 and continued to end of April 2018. The Cabinet has noted the aim of improving outcomes and efficiency of replacement care (overnight respite) provision for adults with a Learning Disability, together with the results and feedback received to date which has identified the importance of replacement care for people using services and their carers and generated many ideas about how services could be organised differently in the future.

11. The Cabinet has endorsed the approach to achieving that aim, with the intention that the Director of Adult Services and her commissioners work with the providers of the

commissioned replacement care services to remodel the way services were provided in order to meet eligible care needs now and in the future, ensuring maximum value for money, by exploring the options set out in the Cabinet report and then implementing improvements as appropriate.

12. The Cabinet has noted that to the extent that any future proposals for service change require formal consultation, proposals would be brought back to Cabinet to seek permission to consult at a future date as required.

### **Streetscape Design Guide**

13. It is considered to be good practice for a Local Highway Authority to have an up to date guidance document to assist developers with local requirements which tailor designs to meet the aspirations of this Council and the Local Planning Authorities. The Streetscape Design Guide has evolved as a guidance document supporting the aims of LTP4 to reflect opinions expressed from the development sector representing both public and private organisations. A draft Streetscape Design Guide was the subject of a consultation on 19 October 2017 for a period of 6 weeks. The Streetscape Design Guide has been reviewed and adjusted to reflect where practical the comments received through the consultation process. The Cabinet has agreed to adopt the Streetscape Design Guide for Worcestershire.

14. It is anticipated that the Streetscape Design Guide will be a living document and subject to regular review to reflect Local and National changes in policies and to reflect other planning decisions by the Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate, as appropriate. The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility to review the above Guide annually and routinely update it as appropriate from time to time, short of fundamental change to it.

### **Resources Report**

15. The work to finalise the management accounts has been completed on time and the draft statutory accounts have been published on the Council's website open for public inspection as planned and part of the usual final accounts process. The County Council's External Auditors have begun the main part of their independent verification work which is scheduled to conclude in time for approval by the July meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee. The Cabinet has endorsed the unaudited Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts 2017/18.

16. The County Council's £323.7 million budget faced a number of cost pressures during 2017/18 which totalled a net £5.9 million at the end of the financial year, a reduction of £0.4 million since Month 11. These costs pressures have been mitigated in the main through reduced borrowing and pension costs, and capitalising highways expenditure. The final outturn position is a surplus of £0.188 million. The Cabinet has endorsed the financial performance for the year ending 31 March 2018.

17. The overall Children, Families and Communities Directorate overspend at the end of the financial year was £8.3 million. The service has faced significant cost pressures during the year of £7.6 million relating to an increased number and complexity of Placements and Provision costs, £0.6 million relating to safeguarding services as agency staff cover vacancies, and £0.4 million on education and skills services relating

to short breaks transport costs, vacant building costs and a temporary delay in achieving reductions in contract expenditure.

18. The Adult Services Directorate outturn for the last finance year was a net overspend of £1.9 million. During the year Older People services faced cost pressures of £2.1 million residential and nursing placements, and £1.9 million relating to home care due to increasing demand for services and increasing complexity of care.

19. The Public Health Service manages a c.£30 million specific grant and a core County Council budget of £0.1 million. At the end of the financial year the service achieved a small underspend of £0.1 million which contributed to costs pressures elsewhere across the County Council. The Economy and Infrastructure Directorate underspent its £67 million budget by £4 million last financial year as a result of capitalising £5 million of highways expenditure. The overall outturn position for Commercial and Change/Finance Directorates was an underspend of £6.3 million following a managed process and accounting adjustments to support cost pressures arising across the County Council.

20. The County Council spent £86.8 million on Capital Expenditure in 2017/18 which included £16.6 million spent on school projects, £65.0 million on local transport infrastructure and £5.2 million on other County Council services.

21. For 2017/18 the Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund had an operating surplus of £114.8 million, an increase of £80.3 million from the surplus of £34.5 million for 2016/17. This was mainly due to a number of employer bodies paying early their 3 years contributions up to the next valuation in 2019 to the value of £71.2 million. The Pension Fund's Actuary has calculated that the Council's liabilities exceed its share of the assets by £360 million at 31 March 2018.

22. The balance of the insurance reserve is currently deemed to be adequate and stands at £8.1 million at 31 March 2018. The majority of the Council's reserves are earmarked for commitments that have already been made, held on behalf of Central Government until that specific grant is spent or held on behalf of schools or other third parties. The County Council will also carry forward reserves to cater for risk and uncertainty despite the value of these reserves falling marginally over 2017/18. General balances following the financial outturn for the 2017/18 financial year stood at £12.2m.

23. The County Council is required, as part of its annual review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, to produce an Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18. The Cabinet has considered the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 which will be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and final approval sought from the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2018.

**Mr S E Geraghty**  
**Chairman**

## **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) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 June 2018