

Cabinet**Thursday, 16 June 2016, County Hall, Worcester,
9.00 am****Present:****Minutes**

Mr M L Bayliss, Mr A N Blagg, Mrs S L Blagg,
Mr S E Geraghty (Chairman), Mr M J Hart,
Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr K A Pollock, Mr A C Roberts and
Mr J H Smith

Also attended:

Mrs L R Duffy, Mrs E A Eyre, Mr A Fry, Mr P Grove, Ms R
E Jenkins, Mr P M McDonald, Mr A P Miller, Mrs F M
Oborski, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall

Available Papers

The Members had before them:

- A. The Agenda Papers (previously circulated); and
- B. The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on
19 May 2016 (previously circulated).

A copy of document A will be attached to the signed
Minutes.

**1729 Apologies and
Declarations of
Interest
(Agenda item 1)**

Mr S E Geraghty declared an Other Disclosable Interest
in Agenda item 6 as a member of the Local Enterprise
Partnership which was contributing to the funding of the
scheme.

**1730 Public
Participation
(Agenda item 2)**

None.

**1731 Confirmation of
the Minutes of
the previous
meeting
(Agenda item 3)**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held
on 19 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and
signed by the Chairman.

**1732 Scrutiny
Report:
Increasing
Physical
Activity**

The Cabinet considered the findings of the Scrutiny
Report on Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire.
The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were
made:

(Agenda item 4)

- The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board introduced the Scrutiny report and commented that its main focus had been on policy development and in particular how things could be done differently to improve service provision. Some scrutiny work had been undertaken on the Olympic legacy and it was felt that a legacy had been achieved but not always in an obvious or visible way. The Task Group had looked at the National Walking Strategy and felt that the Council had an important role to encourage activity and prevent obesity. The Task Group had had valuable conversations with representatives from the London Borough of Camden and Suffolk County Council. It was recognised that the Council did not have responsibility for certain recommendations and therefore suggestions had been made where appropriate. It was requested that Cabinet Members reconsider their initial response to the members' divisional fund relating to the use of the fund for physical activity drawing on the support and advice of the Sports Partnership. The Council should encourage employees to be physically active and members should take a lead role
- The Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board welcomed the recognition by the Health and Well-being Board that physical activity was a major issue. The Task Group had been impressed with the work of the London Borough of Camden in changing levels of physical activity and as a result an improved relationship with work. The natural environment was available and free for everyone to use. The Government's approach had changed from funding large venues to encourage participation in everyday activities. The biggest challenge was to encourage adolescents to take part in physical activity
- The Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being thanked the OSPB for its report. He was generally supportive of the report. He considered that individual members had a better understanding of what was appropriate to spend in their local division and therefore the recommended 10% spend of Divisional Funds on physical activity was not accepted. It was also unnecessary to have a dedicated communications officer as existing communications staff would be able to respond accordingly. He was surprised that there was very little in the report about people acting on their own initiative to walk or cycle

- It was important to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children's fitness as well as for themselves. Prevention was the key issue in tackling obesity
- There were a number of different health walks, a park run and a Riverside walk to encourage people to take physical exercise. There were also local successful sportswomen in the county that provided good role models for the public
- It was not possible to separate eating healthily from physical activity as both needed to work in tandem to have an impact on people's lives
- It was up to the Sport Partnership to convince members how to spend their Divisional Fund
- The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board concluded that he understood the concerns about the use of Divisional Funds and noted that there was a difference of opinion on the proposed recommendations. Encouraging members to work with the Sports Partnership was the key issue and requested that it be included in the members' induction sessions. It was more a question of improving the Council's communications in relation to physical activity rather than requesting a dedicated communications officer. Support needed to be targeted on those individuals that faced an obstacle to accessing the countryside. Health walks were important activities but he would like to see them targeted at young people
- The Leader of the Council commented that his concern about the use of Divisional Funds was because it would set a precedent for the future. He would look at ways to increase awareness amongst members and link it into the member induction sessions. He supported the general aim of the report.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the Scrutiny Report on Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire be received, together with the response from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being, Transformation and Commissioning and Highways; and**
- b) the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation be noted and the response of**

1733 Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange (Agenda item 6)

the Cabinet Members with Responsibility be adopted as the way forward.

The Cabinet considered the delivery and funding of the Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange Railway Station. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- The Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure introduced the report and commented that this was an impartial initiative to promote links in and out of the county, and increased employment. There had been a problem with the acquisition of the land, which had required a compulsory purchase order, had now been resolved. However the projected start date of the scheme had had to be put back until March 2018. The project was being financed through a number of different sources including the Local Enterprise Partnership. It was anticipated that income would be sourced from the use of the car park by the train operating companies. The Council would charge a fixed rate to these companies for the use of the car park. The advantage of this arrangement was that it would encourage the operating companies to promote the use of the station and increase income
- The Leader of the Council underlined the importance of the project for the whole of the county and it was particularly welcomed by the business community. The difference in journey times would be significant particularly for cross-country journeys.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the delivery of the Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange Railway Station as shown on the attached plan be approved (Appendix 1) at an anticipated final cost not exceeding that set out in the attached Finance Report (Appendix 2);**
- b) funding the scheme through funds allocated by Worcestershire Local Transport Board, borrowing and existing resources as set out in the attached Finance Report be approved (Appendix 2);**

- c) the exempt Finance Report be noted (Appendix 2) and the virement proposed therein be agreed (and the Director of Economy and Infrastructure be authorised in consultation with the Leader to finalise the source of the virement from within existing resources) and Council be recommended to approve the addition to the Capital Programme set out in that Finance Report and that the capital cash limits are updated accordingly;
- d) the Finance Report be endorsed (Appendix 2) and that the scheme can be funded from a combination of external grant funding, capital funding and from the income received through fares and car park charges be noted;
- e) the decision on the award of a Design and Build contract and any enabling work contracts that are necessary for the delivery of the scheme be delegated to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure; and
- f) the proposed commercial agreements with the rail industry set out in Appendices 2 and 3 be noted, and the negotiation of all final terms and conditions necessary to complete the scheme be delegated to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Commercial and Change where appropriate, and authorisation to the Director of Commercial and Change to dispose of land including assets at an undervalue where considered appropriate to do so and in accordance with s.123 Local Government Act 1972.

1734 Optimising the Use of Children Centre Buildings (Agenda item 5)

The Cabinet considered the future plans for delivering effective prevention services for Children and Young People including optimising the use of Children's Centre Buildings. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- The Cabinet Member for Children and Families introduced the report and commented that it was recommended that the Council work with Early Help providers and public health nursing services

to transform service provision and move towards a new integrated approach. The Council faced significant financial challenges in the future which would mean that the service would need to work with providers to deliver services in a more cost effective way with continued focus on improving outcomes for children, particularly those in greatest need. Some current services might end or need delivering differently. However, it was not intended to close any Children's Centres but rather identify different uses for the buildings and therefore it was proposed that consultation arrangements be commenced where significant changes were proposed and the Council would continue to listen to the public and users. Some services might cease generally but continue in high need areas, with particular regard to NEET issues

- There would not be any County Council redundancies but there might be an impact on provider organisations but every attempt would be made to minimise that impact. The Early Help contracts had reduced to £4.5m and were expected to reduce to £3m by 2017/18. The use of a reserve from the Early Intervention Grant had helped protect services but would be exhausted in this financial year. An amendment was proposed that further consideration be given to a change of use of Brookside Children's Centre at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest and a formal decision be taken only following consultation
- The Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being emphasised that the significant proposals were only going out for consultation at this stage. It was encouraging that informal feedback from schools regarding the change of use of the buildings was positive as it would provide greater flexibility in the use of the buildings by schools. The service would change in the future and therefore it was important to target particular young people in need rather than across the board
- The Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel welcomed the opportunity for the Panel to meet the relevant Cabinet members at a future scrutiny meeting in July 2016
- It was important to use the funding envelope and resources available to target the most needy and vulnerable children in society
- For the proposals to be a success, it was vital that head teachers and governing bodies were fully

informed of the proposals in their school given their leading role

- The local member from outside the Cabinet welcomed the amendment to include Comberton Primary School in the consultation arrangements. There had been progress in tackling the number of NEETs and RONIs and it was important that these proposals did not impact on progress made to date. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families commented that it was important to continue to monitor the number of NEETS effectively and keep it as a priority
- A member from outside the Cabinet commented that the proposals represented a budget reduction to children's services and ignored the views of the majority of people who were satisfied with the current service provision. Services for children were a priority and should not be cut. He was concerned that leasing facilities to Academies could lead to charging in the future. People required face-to face interaction not a virtual service. To be meaningful, the consultation process should be held after the consideration by the Scrutiny Panel
- The Cabinet Member for Children and Families emphasised that there were no proposals to close any Children's Centres. The proposed leases would guarantee usage to a category appropriate to children's centres. It was not appropriate to delay the consultation process because the Scrutiny Panel would not meet until July which would mean that the consultation exercise would take place during the school holiday period which was far from ideal
- A member from outside the Cabinet expressed concern about the vague nature of the proposals and the potential staff redundancies. She also queried what provision would be made in the Bromsgrove area and in particular at Conkers at Hagley Primary School. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families responded that all members would be contacted about proposals in their division.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the outcome of the procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service set out in paragraph 3 of the report be noted;**
- b) the future plans for delivering effective**

prevention services, within the financial parameters set out in the report (particularly paragraphs 4 to 8 and 35 to 38) and the medium term financial plan be approved, subject to any required consultation as set out in the report;

- c) consultation on change of use for those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change as outlined in paragraph 26 (b) and Appendix 2 with the addition of Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be authorised;
- d) the proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required as outlined in paragraph 26 (c) and Appendix 2 other than in relation to Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest be approved;
- e) the summary of impact of the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 and the need for further equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes outlined in paragraph 40 be noted;
- f) the final decisions for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, be delegated to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analyses; and
- g) the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health be authorised to take all necessary steps within their respective responsibilities to give effect to the above including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and the Director of Commercial and Change be authorised to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.

The meeting ended at 10.00am.

Chairman