

**Cabinet****Thursday, 19 April 2018, County Hall, Worcester,  
10.00 am**

<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>Present:</b>	Mr S E Geraghty (Chairman), Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Mrs L C Hodgson, Ms K J May, Mr A P Miller, Dr K A Pollock and Mr A C Roberts
<b>Also attended:</b>	Mr M E Jenkins, Mr P M McDonald, Mrs F M Oborski and Mrs E B Tucker.
<b>Available papers</b>	The Members had before them:  A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated); and  B. The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2018 (previously circulated).
<b>1840 Apologies and Declarations of Interest (Agenda item 1)</b>	Apologies were received from Mr A T Amos and Mr J H Smith.  Mrs L C Hodgson declared an interest in Agenda item 6 as a Governor of the Heart of Worcestershire College.  Dr K Pollock declared an interest in Agenda item 6 as a Director of Malvern Hills Science Park.  Mr S E Geraghty and Ms K J May declared interests in Agenda item 6 as members of the Worcestershire LEP Board.
<b>1841 Public Participation (Agenda item 2)</b>	None.
<b>1842 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting (Agenda item 3)</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
<b>1843 Plastics and Non-Recyclable Cups - Notices of Motion from</b>	The Cabinet considered its response to the Notices of Motion on plastics and non-recyclable cups referred to it by Council at its meeting on 15 February 2018. The details were set out in the report.

**Council 15  
February 2018  
(Agenda item 4)**

In the ensuing debate the following principal points were raised:

- Members from outside the Cabinet welcomed the steps already being taken to reduce the amount of plastics and non-recyclable cups. The Council should take immediate symbolic action and provide a lead and act as a role for other organisations in the county
- A member from outside the Cabinet suggested that cup holders could be provided which could be funded through crowd-funding or possibly Worcestershire County Divisional Fund
- A member from outside the Cabinet suggested that plastic straws should no longer be used and plastic beakers no longer provided at water points at County Hall
- A member from outside the Cabinet queried whether the ban on the use of plastics by the end of the year being proposed by the Government would override the terms and conditions of the Council's contract with the caterer at County Hall. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services responded that although he was not aware of the details of the catering contract, most of the contracts entered into by the Council included a 'change of law' requirement for the contractor to comply with changes in legislation although there may be a cost
- The Cabinet Member for the Environment was pleased with progress made so far. He requested more time to allow a detailed report to be brought to the June 2018 meeting of the Cabinet which would set out options and costings to enable the right decision to be made. The catering contractor had indicated that they were not resistant to change
- The key for the Council was to determine its approach to the disposal of plastic waste, rather than taking potentially ineffective symbolic action. This Council had a good record in terms of its environmentally responsible approach to waste disposal but individuals needed to take responsibility for their own actions in terms of not dropping litter and ensuring proper disposal. The Council's EnviroSort and Energy from Waste facilities were vital
- The Leader of the Council commented that the Council needed to be proactive not only in terms of the disposal of its own waste but also encouraging sustainable behaviour in the

community and it was sensible to await a more comprehensive report.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) **the content of the Notices of Motion referred to it by Council in February 2018 and progress to date be noted; and**
- b) **a full and detailed report be made to the 14 June 2018 Cabinet meeting.**

**1844 Use of Children's Centre Buildings - Transfer of the Outreach Centre at The Grove Primary School, Malvern (Agenda item 5)**

The Cabinet considered proposals for the future use of the outreach children's centre building "Sunshine at the Grove", The Grove Primary School, Malvern. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing debate, the following principal points were raised:

- The Cabinet Member for Children and Families introduced the report and commented that The Grove Primary School was looking to act in an integrated way by leasing the children's centre building for the continued provision of early childhood services. The facility would provide a model for future provision. He had been impressed by the professional and enthusiastic approach of the nursery leader at the school
- This proposal would allow the school to benefit from being able to utilise a building that was no longer required for its original purpose and to extend early years provision for 2 year olds. In addition, parenting groups would benefit from the continued provision of support services for families at the Sunshine Children's Centre in Malvern and in the locality and through other community venues
- As a result of the consolidation of the services provided by Action for Children, support services for families would continue to be provided in the locality as well as other community venues and this was welcomed.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) **the proposals for the future use of the outreach children's centre building Sunshine at the Grove as outlined in paragraphs 5-7 in the report be approved; and**

**1845 Worcestershire  
5G Consortium  
(Agenda item 6)**

**b) the Director of Children, Families and Communities be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to the above.**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Worcestershire 5G Consortium. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing debate, the following principal points were raised:

- The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure introduced the report and commented that the DCMS had committed £4.81 to Phase One of the 5G Testbed and Trials Programme in the county. As a public body, the County Council would be able to claim back 100% of eligible costs incurred on the project. The programme was being led by the County Council with the support of the WLEP. Of the six successful bids nationally, Worcestershire 5G Consortium was the only site to be led by a County Council. This project could give Worcestershire businesses the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovative new technologies with the help of the WLEP and some of the bigger employers in the county. 5G would be an improvement over 4G with faster broadband
- The opportunity to bring employment to the Malvern area was welcomed. This was an exciting project and highlighted successful partnership working. It would show-case Worcestershire as a centre of excellence especially in relation to cyber security and robotics
- The Worcestershire 5G Consortium was the only project that included a unique blend of advanced manufacturing and cyber security, as well as the inclusion of an education element provided by the Heart of Worcestershire College. This project was at the forefront of new wave of technology and would provide a boost to productivity
- This project was a great example of using local employment and enterprise to generate wealth for the county
- A member from outside the Cabinet queried whether partner organisations had signed up to the financial commitment to the project. The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure confirmed that partnership funding was guaranteed
- A member from outside the Cabinet expressed

concern that the funding for the project from the DCMS would be received in arrears and queried whether there would be any implications for the Council's cash flow, limited reserves and the provision of services. The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure advised that it was usual practice to receive funding from the Government in this manner. The Council had adequate reserves and there would be no impact on the Council's resilience or the provision of services. The Leader of the Council gave an assurance that there would be no impact on any other projects. The Interim Chief Financial Officer commented that it was normal practice to incur expenditure before the money was received from Government. Cash flow was analysed on a daily basis and she was confident that the Council would be able to manage the project as outlined in the report

- In the context of the Council's overall expenditure, the associated costs of the project were relatively small
- The Leader of the Council welcomed the project. Technology had a significant impact on the economy and the Council wanted to take a lead role as part of the West Midlands engine. It was a good example of the public sector and business community working together to develop technology
- The Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure understood the concerns raised about cyber security but emphasised the important lead role that QinetiQ would be taking in the project in this respect.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) the work undertaken by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), Worcestershire County Council and other partners in the successful application and entry into the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Phase One of the 5G Testbed and Trials programme be endorsed;**
- b) the award of the grant from DCMS of £4.81m and the role of Worcestershire County Council as the lead partner and accountable body for WLEP, managing the programme, assuring and financing partners' claims and drawing**

**1846 Resources Report (Agenda item 7)**

down the funding be noted;

- c) **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to note the additional £4.81m income and matching expenditure that will form part of the Economy and Infrastructure revenue budget in 2018/19, for this project;**
- d) **both the potential opportunities and risks that are identified within this report be noted and accepted;**
- e) **the Director of Economy and Infrastructure be authorised in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to finalise and agree the necessary agreements to progress and support the programme; and**
- f) **the Director of Economy and Infrastructure be authorised to take necessary actions to progress and support the Worcestershire 5G Consortium, including support investigations for alternative funding sources to potentially extend the project.**

The Cabinet considered the Resources Report. The details were set out in the report.

In the ensuing debate, the following principal points were raised:

- The Leader of the Council introduced the report and made the following points:
  - There were continual pressures on the budget in respect of Children's and Adult Social Care. As a result, the Council had invested further in children's placements and the improvement journey. However the Council's finances were robust and sound
  - Framework-i would no longer be supported by the provider from December 2018 and therefore a replacement Social Care Management System was being sought. Council was therefore being requested to approve the addition of £2m to the Capital Programme for a replacement system
  - The outcome of the Government's Fair Funding consultation would feed into the Fair Funding Review. This consultation was vital because the Funding Formulae would influence the allocation of business rates and

impact on the sustainability of the Council in the future. The consultation looked at the key drivers of cost for the Council which included Children's and Adult Social Care and kilometres of road used by HGVs. A robust response was being prepared to ensure that the changes to the formulae took place in a timely fashion

- A Freedom of Information Request had been received and issues had been raised in the press concerning slides presented by CIPFA. These slides had been presented by CIPFA to an informal meeting of Cabinet members and the Strategic Leadership Team as part of the early budget-setting process in June 2017. Although the meeting itself had been public, the pressures disclosed in the subject matter of the slides had been made open to the public as part of the budget-setting process. These slides would be presented to the OSPB to provide an opportunity to discuss CIPFA's advice and reassure members of the robustness of the Council's developing finances. He would also welcome any early feedback from OSPB on the Council's budget. The Council faced similar demand pressures to other councils and these pressures would be continually monitored and any changes reported back
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that he hoped that a well-used, tried and tested and reliable system would be found to replace Framework-i. The process was complicated by the need to integrate aspects of Children's Social Care into any new system
- The general thrust of the Fair Funding consultation which concentrated on real cost drivers was supported. The current system needed to be simplified and should reflect the up to date population figures particularly in relation to the age profile as well as the rural nature of the County to ensure that the Council received the appropriate amount of funding
- It would seem that the Government's distribution of the Area Cost Adjustment was based on an entirely false premise using the PAYE system and therefore should be abolished or radically reformed
- The Cabinet Member for Children and Families commented that the pressures associated with Children's Social Care were being addressed in a

measured way with the introduction of a number of forward-looking preventative approaches

- A member from outside the Cabinet commented that it would be timely to make a renewed cross-party approach to the Government to lobby for changes to the Area Cost Adjustment. The Leader of the Council commented that this was a crucial and rare opportunity to influence the basis of the formulae. He welcomed the opportunity to form a cross-party group including local MPs to lobby Government
- As well as lobbying the Government on the Area Cost Adjustment on a local level, Council representatives should use their position on the County Council Network to lobby the Government collectively
- A member from outside the Cabinet expressed concern that the cost of the replacement Social Care Management System had not been included in the February budget. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care commented that the Council had had to amend its timetable for change in response to the supplier bringing forward the end date for Framework-I from December 2019 to December 2018.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance's conclusions concerning revenue budget monitoring up to 28 February 2018 be endorsed;**
- b) TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to approve the addition of £2 million to the Capital Programme for Social Care Case Management System replacement; and**
- c) the response to the Fair Funding consultation be noted.**

The meeting ended at 11.05am.

Chairman .....