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27 January 2020

Dear Member,

Cabinet - Tuesday, 28 January 2020

Please find enclosed the following documents for consideration at the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 which were unavailable when the agenda was published.

- | Agenda No | Item |
|------------------|---|
| 2. | Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 8) |
| 4. | Approval of the County Council's Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2024/25 and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 (CAB12_19/20) – Annex 4 Comments and recommendations from Member Day and Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee (Pages 9 - 12) |

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

To all members of the Cabinet

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Cabinet

14 January 2020 – At a meeting of the Cabinet held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Marshall (Chairman)

Mr Crow, Mr Elkins, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Jupp, Mr Lanzer, Mrs Russell and Mrs Urquhart

Apologies were received from

Absent:

Also in attendance: Mr Barling, Mr Barrett-Miles, Mrs Dennis, Mr Jones and Mr Turner

Part I

24. Declarations of Interest

24.1 In accordance with the code of conduct the following personal interests were declared:

- Mrs Deborah Urquhart as the local member and ex-Chairman of Governors for Clapham and Patcham C of E Primary School in relation to agenda item 5a, Proposals for reorganisation of Rural and Small Schools in West Sussex.

25. Minutes

25.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 3 December 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

26. Urgent Matters

26.1 Mr Paul Marshall, The Leader, proposed the following changes to the order of the agenda:

- Item 6: Adults Services Improvement be postponed to allow for relevant scrutiny and governance.
- Item 7: Risk Management to be postponed to a future Cabinet meeting.
- Item 5a: Proposals for reorganisation of rural and small schools in West Sussex (CAB10_19/20) to be taken as the next agenda item given the public interest in the subject.

26.2 RESOLVED – that Cabinet agrees to the postponement of Item 6 and Item 7 and for Item 5a to be taken as the next agenda item.

27. Children's Commissioner's Report

Agenda Item 2

27.1 Mr Paul Marshall, The Leader, introduced the item. He highlighted the recommendations in the report in regards to the leadership, governance and culture of the County Council.

27.2 The Leader confirmed that John Coughlan had been appointed as commissioner for Children's Services and Hampshire County Council was partnering with the County Council to share best practice.

27.3 Mrs Jacqui Russell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted the actions that were taking place to improve Children's Services following the recommendations in the report and commented on an Ofsted monitoring visit which took place in December.

27.4 Mr Barling confirmed that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is reviewing the improvement progress at each of its meetings. The Committee supports the work the Cabinet and Leader are doing to address the recommendations and findings in the Commissioner's report.

27.5 Mrs Russell confirmed that the Corporate Parenting Panel will meet later in the month with the aim to refresh the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge (launch April 2020). A Member Day is being held on 29 January 2020. The voice of the child is being explored through the Care Council and engaging with the Youth Cabinet.

27.6 Mr Michael Jones, Leader of the Labour Group, commented on the potential financial impact the improvement work could have on other county council services and how the cultural issues identified in the report would be addressed. Mr Jones also questioned what the impact would be for staff if the responsibility for Children's Services moved to a Trust and how scrutiny of services would happen.

27.7 Becky Shaw, Chief Executive confirmed that she would be engaging with staff over the next few weeks to gain their views.

27.8 Cabinet Members noted the seriousness of the outcome of the report and how Cabinet leadership is important for the cultural changes required.

27.9 Cabinet Members thanked John Readman, Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning for the work he had done in the service.

27.10 The Leader thanked Lee Harris who had served as interim Chief Executive and other officers for the work they had carried out over the last few months. He emphasised that members need to be advocates for staff and recognise their expertise and knowledge to help members make decisions.

27.11 RESOLVED - Cabinet notes the Children's Commissioner's report and welcomes the steps being taken for the improvement of Children's Services and the wider corporate governance and leadership.

28. Key Decisions

28.1 Mr Paul Marshall, The Leader, introduced the item.

29. Proposals for reorganisation of rural and small schools in West Sussex (CAB10_19/20)

29.1 Cabinet considered a report by Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes).

29.2 Mr Nigel Jupp, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, introduced the report and thanked the members of the public for attending. He stated that alternative plans would be considered for those schools where closure was being proposed. The proposed timescale would allow for any proposals to be published and implemented prior to the next academic year (September 2020).

29.3 Mr David Barling, Chairman of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee advised that the Committee had recommended that the consultation on the closure of schools be postponed. Mr Barling suggested delaying the consultation by one month.

29.4 Mr Michael Jones, Leader of the Labour Group stated that his group felt the proposals were focused on finances and commented that details on the plans for the buildings following closure and any associated redundancy costs were not included in the report.

29.5 Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills, highlighted that academisation proposals (Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School) would not be considered by the Regional Schools Commission until a decision was made on the school's viability.

29.6 Cabinet Members agreed that the County Council should support and assist the schools as much as possible to enable them to develop alternative plans. Cabinet Members confirmed that the proposals were being driven by the School Effectiveness Strategy.

29.7 An amendment was moved by Mrs Urquhart and seconded by Mr Lanzer in regards to the recommendation for Clapham and Patching C of E School.

'Consult on: Closure of Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School by September 2020 whilst continuing to discuss academisation proposals which the County Council will encourage and support.'

29.8 The amendment was agreed by the Cabinet.

29.9 An amendment was moved by Mr Hunt and seconded by Mrs Jupp in regards to the recommendation for Stedham Primary School.

'Consult on: Closure of Stedham Primary School by September 2020, whilst continuing to encourage and assist the school in its discussion on federation which, if agreed by the end of the consultation period (16 March 2020), will result in the consultation ceasing.'

29.10 The amendment was agreed by the Cabinet.

29.11 RESOLVED: That Cabinet approves the proposals outlined in section 2 of the report going forward to:

1. Consult on:
 - a) Closure of Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School by September 2020 whilst continuing to discuss academisation proposals which the County Council will encourage and support.
 - b) Closure of Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School effective September 2020.
 - c) Relocation of Warninglid Primary School and the federation of the school by September 2021 (subject to developers progress).
 - d) Closure of Stedham Primary School by September 2020, whilst continuing to encourage and assist the school in its discussion on federation, which if agreed by the end of the consultation period (16 March 2020), will result in the consultation ceasing.
2. Progress the Federation proposals for:
 - Compton and Up Marden C of E Primary School.

30. Fees and Charges (CAB11_19/20)

30.1 Cabinet considered a report by Director of Finance and Support Services (copy appended to the signed minutes).

30.2 Mr Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report stating that the majority of the changes to fees and charges were in line with inflation or to recover costs of services provided.

30.3 Mrs Joy Dennis, Chairman of Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee stated that, when previewed by the Committee, the members were in favour of the proposals. The Committee had sought assurance that cost recovery charges were providing full cost recovery.

30.4 Mr Michael Jones, Leader of the Labour Group, challenged the increase in some charges and whether this was creating an income for the County Council.

30.5 Mr Hunt stated that benchmarking was done for all charges and was a key part of setting the revised charges each year.

30.6 RESOLVED that Cabinet approves –

1. The discretionary fees and charges as set out at Appendix A, to take effect from 1 April 2020 or as otherwise stated within the report.
2. That Directors, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Support Services and the relevant Cabinet Member/s are delegated authority to vary fees and charges in-year within their respective portfolios in support of achieving their income budgets, taking account of changes in service costs, the market environment, demand and/or service levels and any statutory constraints.

31. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

31.1 Cabinet considered a report by Director of Law and Assurance (copy appended to the signed minutes).

31.2 Mr Paul Marshall, The Leader, introduced the report that listed the future key decisions listed in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

31.3 RESOLVED - Cabinet notes the progress against the Forward Plan and the decisions identified for future Cabinet meetings.

32. Date of Next Meeting

32.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting of Cabinet was scheduled for 28 January 2020.

The meeting ended at 1.29 pm

Chairman

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Cabinet**28 January 2020****Comments from the Members Budget up-date session 16/01/20**

General comments on the revenue budget
Members raised a number of questions to clarify specific issues in the budget:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital receipts flexibility, • Financial resilience in relation to the amount of reserves • Loss of funding experienced over last 5yrs
Improvement Plans, Transformation and environmental targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes need to be made to the ethos of the Council in relation to becoming more efficient and using different working methods. The changes will need investment and the budget for this needs to be reflected in the Improvement Plans and Transformation Programme. • also the impact of environmental and sustainability targets need to be reflected in a clear strategy and closer working with other authorities to achieve these.
Adults and Health
Points raised about the review of direct payments and self-funders and needing better control over assessments and over-payments.
Children's Services
Members expressed concern over the review of Early Help and the savings to be made. Requested that the review includes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation with users and an understanding of the impact this will have on families and the need to manage the process so that families understand any proposed changes, • work with partner organisations to understand issues across the whole county, • work with schools to ensure they have the necessary support available, • transport links/issues to be considered, • effect on rural communities.
Environment, Highways and Communities
Members requested any change in service standards to be communicated to the public.
Fire and Rescue Service
Members supported the need to continue to lobby Government for a review of the funding formula and the development of the new training facilities at the Horsham site.

Capital Programme

Members raised the quality of the Council’s own assets as an issue and requested whether budget could be found to improve facilities.

Also requested whether thought could be given to using some of the budget set aside for Income Generating Initiatives (IGIs) to improve our own assets – buildings and highways and to meet the environmental/sustainability targets.

**Comments from Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee
22/01/2020**

National and Local Context and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

The committee supported the budget process that had been used to develop the 2020/21 budget and recommend that this process of early and improved Member engagement is repeated in future years.

The committee strongly supported the continuing lobbying of Government to undertake a funding review and provide fair funding to the County Council.

Recommended that the West Sussex Plan and priorities are reviewed by Cabinet and that the proposed plan is brought to PFSC for scrutiny as soon as possible.

Recognised the lack of transparency and complex nature over the future of Business Rates and supported the requirement to seek clarity over this.

The committee request that the Cabinet Member for Environment consider introducing methane targets and support the promotion of the food waste reduction programme following the results of the pilot project currently being undertaken.

The committee request that the Chief Executive provide a briefing on the requirements of the budget accountability for Executive Directors and Directors.

The committee recommend that the corporate risk register is reviewed by the scrutiny committee’s Business Planning Group meetings in order to identify future priorities for scrutiny.

Portfolio specific comments

Adults and Health

Committee supported the need to develop a long-term plan for the service and supported progressing the plans around independent living.

Children's and Young People Services and Education and Skills

The committee noted that the Children First Strategic Approach is still to be scrutinised and that PFSC Members would be invited to the CYPSSC meeting on 4th March to contribute to the debate.

Requested that officers provide further information on the split between permanent and temporary funding for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 included within the Children First improvement programme.

Recognised the pressures on home to school transport and support a review and scrutiny in this area whilst ensuring the needs of children are maintained.

Economy and Corporate Relations

The committee recognised that it will be receiving a report in March 2020 on the Whole Council Design Programme Review and future focus and requested that the report includes information on how much has been spent to date and the savings made as well as future spend and savings targets.

The committee also expressed concerns over the One Public Estate programme and the progress being made.

Highways and Infrastructure

The committee recommend that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure carry out a review on the systems and processes around the repair of pot holes including the quality of repairs, timeliness and inclusion of all repairs required in an area into one job.

Committee requested that when ECSSC scrutinise highways maintenance standards at a future meeting that pot holes, white lines, signage and cats eyes are included within the review. Also request that the committee examine the outcomes achieved of the £30m investment in highways undertaken approximately 5 years ago.

Capital Strategy

The committee requested that the Business Planning Group consider the effectiveness of using consultants to deliver the capital programme.

Recommended that the Cabinet Member for Finance reviews the resources needed to meet the Capital Programme.

Requested that the transparency and messaging around specific projects within the capital programme are improved.

The committee requested further information on the progress of community hubs and One Public Estate Projects be shared with the committee.

Requested that ECSSC review the funding of the backlog of highways works in the capital programme and review whether the capital budget is sufficient to meet need.

Agenda Item 4

In relation to the knowledge and training of capital programme project managers the committee request that appraisal monitoring figures are included within the future quarterly workforce reports to PFSC.