

**Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at The Council Chamber -  
The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on  
Thursday 7 June 2018 at 10.00 am**

**Present:** Councillor JG Lester, Leader of the Council (Chairperson)  
Councillor NE Shaw, Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors H Bramer, BA Durkin, DG Harlow, PD Price, P Rone and  
EJ Swinglehurst

Cabinet support members in attendance Councillors JA Hyde, AW Johnson and JF Johnson

Group leaders in attendance Councillors JM Bartlett, RI Matthews and AJW Powers

Scrutiny chairpersons in attendance Councillors PA Andrews and CA Gandy

Other councillors in attendance: Councillors ACR Chappell, PE Crockett and D Summers

Officers in attendance: Alistair Neill, Geoff Hughes, Chris Baird, Claire Ward, Andrew Lovegrove, Stephen Vickers and Adam Russell

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies from members of the cabinet.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions were received from members of the public.

**5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS (Pages 5 - 6)**

Questions received and responses given are attached as appendix 1 to the minutes.

## 6. LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY

The cabinet member health and wellbeing introduced the report and the interim director for adults and wellbeing and the senior commissioning officer set out the following key points:

- the figures in paragraph 31 of the report required correction, the total annual spend on health and social care services for adults with learning disabilities in Herefordshire was £30.7 million, broken down to £7.4 million from the CCG and £23.3 million from the council;
- the strategy aspired to enabling the same outcomes for people with learning disabilities as other residents;
- although there were no specific savings targets there was an understanding of the financial constraints and the need to use resources as efficiently as possible;
- the strategy had been produced in partnership with the CCG and the learning disability community, and both the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee and the children and young people scrutiny committee had considered the strategy;
- there was a need for a long term strategy as learning disabilities could be a lifelong condition, needs could range from those with minimal difficulties to those with profound and complex needs;
- adults services would work with people with learning disabilities from the age of 14 as they prepared for the transition to adulthood;
- there was a focus on the aspirations of people with learning disabilities in recognition that many wanted and expected to live as independently as possible and, for example, have paid employment.

Members of the cabinet expressed their support for the strategy and commended officers on the work that had gone into the document. In discussion of the item it was noted that:

- the learning disability partnership board would have a significant role in delivering the strategy and work would take place to raise their profile;
- work was underway with the communications team to put together a PR campaign for the strategy, which would include working with people with learning disabilities and an easy access version of the strategy;
- the strategy was designed to be as flexible as possible so that it could react to emerging issues, the implementation plan would be refreshed every 2 years;
- enabling people with learning disabilities to reduce their dependence on funded services could deliver efficiencies in the longer term and expand the range of opportunities;
- Herefordshire was a high spending authority due to having a high proportion of people with learning disabilities in residential care, thresholds having been lower for admission in the past and it being complex to transition service users to other care models;
- officers from the adults and children directorates had worked closely together on the strategy, particularly in the approach to young people preparing for adulthood, and this cross working would continue;
- the council needed to work harder to be an exemplar of inclusive employment practice.

The chairs of the relevant scrutiny committees gave feedback from their consideration of the item.

The adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee were very happy to support the strategy but highlighted the challenges of keeping all partners on the same path and managing demands on the budget in the future. They supported the comment that the council should do more to employ people with learning disabilities.

The chair of the children and young people scrutiny committee reported that the committee had heard testimony from a young person who had recently been through the transition process and who had very positive things to say about the strategy. The committee had also heard from the service quality director of Aspire about some of the everyday challenges facing people with learning disabilities.

It was noted that the majority of the recommendations from the children and young people scrutiny committee had been accepted. The committee recognised that recommendation (h) covered an area which was not a function of the executive but had wanted to highlight the importance of holding partners to account for those elements of the strategy for which they were responsible. It was also acknowledged that recommendation (f) was perhaps not very clear. The chair of the committee clarified that the intent was to encourage GPs to work with other partners to provide support for people with learning disabilities to evidence their disability so that they could more easily access bus passes and other transport schemes. The responses from the executive would be discussed with the scrutiny committee.

Group leaders were invited to give the views of their groups. There was widespread support for the strategy and those who had worked on it were commended. Concern was expressed about the impact efficiency savings might have should they be required. It was considered important that the implementation of the strategy be monitored and that the relevant scrutiny committees reviewed progress.

In response to points raised it was noted that:

- the council had implemented the requirements of the Care Act 2014 very successfully and was meeting its obligations, the new strategy was about meeting ongoing obligations and how to make sure that the right mix of services was in place at the right time ;
- the strategy had been designed to be flexible to manage any changes such as revisions to NHS budgets;
- the strategy was not viewed specifically as an adults directorate document and the close working between staff from the adults and children directorates would continue, all commissioners would be challenged to think more broadly;
- it was widely regarded that Herefordshire had an excellent record of enabling home ownership for people with learning disabilities and was ahead of many other councils in this respect.

It was noted that the reference in recommendation (a) should be to paragraph 40, not 38 as originally published.

**Resolved that:**

- (a) the executive's response to the recommendations of the children and young peoples' scrutiny committee at paragraph 40 be approved; and**
- (b) the Learning Disability Strategy 2018-2028 (Appendix 1) be approved.**

The meeting ended at 11.10 am

**Chairman**



## Councillors' questions at Cabinet – 7 June 2018

### Question 1

#### **Councillor RI Matthews, Herefordshire Independents**

##### **To: cabinet member, infrastructure**

The cabinet member for Infrastructure has repeatedly stated that a very costly Western Relief Road, together with an extra 16,500 new homes is what is required to provide a sound and prosperous economic future for this county.

Can he now please inform me who, of any relevance locally, support his views apart from those with a vested interest like the church commissioners. After all, local businesses see no merit in travelling thirty miles north along a highly dangerous A class road when they can access the motorway within ten minutes in the opposite direction.

#### **Response**

I am more than happy to remind Councillor Matthews again of those 'of any relevance' who support the by-pass – who are primarily the Herefordshire electorate.

I appreciate that as ward member for Credenhill, one of the wards directly affected by the new road, Councillor Matthews will rightly be seeking to represent the views of those residents whose own homes may be affected. However in addition to representing the views of constituents in a particular ward, all councillors have a responsibility to serve the citizens of Herefordshire as a whole and to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of not just their ward constituents but of those who live and work throughout the county.

In addition to the electorate, and those responding to the many consultations undertaken over many years who support a by-pass as an essential element of our plans for economic growth in Herefordshire, we have received considerable support including from both the county's MP's, the enterprise zone board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, Midlands Connect, the Herefordshire Business Board, the NMiTE university, and many local business whose operations are constrained by our current roads network.

The by-pass, the new homes that it will enable, together with many other activities which we are supporting will indeed assist in supporting the growth of Herefordshire, but our plans are not focussed solely on growth for its own sake. Economic prosperity is inextricably linked to overall health and wellbeing. Good quality jobs, good quality housing, effective transport systems supported by options that encourage cycling and walking and which reduce the impacts of air pollution in densely populated areas all contribute to ensuring the wellbeing of our residents – the most relevant local interests that I know of.

#### **Supplementary Question**

I disagree on a couple of points. I do not think that the public enthusiasm would be such if you had given them a democratic choice on which route to take. Secondly one of the county's MPs told me last week that he was still very much in favour of an eastern route. It is the view of a lot of people that large companies are not moving to Hereford because they have little or no confidence in the proposed infrastructure programme. Please explain your

views on this? The terrain where the western bypass is proposed to be constructed is extremely testing and trying. There was an overspend on a flat piece of road on the fringes of the city so I think it can be taken as read that the cost of the western bypass will be nearer £300 million than what has been proposed. Do you agree that if your proposals are to work satisfactory then you will need to provide 10 or 12,000 highly paid secure jobs for which you are building these houses for our bright and intelligent young people to remain locally?

### **Response**

You have given a lot of opinions but not a question. Please tell me what companies have inferred to you that they will not move to Hereford because I would like to know who they are. If you are referring to the city link road, there was no overspend on that project. At this moment in time we have no reason to suppose there will be an overspend of well over £100 million as you are suggesting. All the consultations we have had going back to the core strategy and the recent HTP consultations and route options consultation, the local public and the residents of this county have clearly said that they want us to deal with this problem and they are the relevant people. It is my view that the county MPs are supportive of the western route as I can only go by what I know and they do not tell me that they are supporting an eastern route.