

**MINUTES of the meeting of Cabinet held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD on Thursday 18 March 2010 at 2.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillor RJ Phillips (Chairman)

**Councillors:** LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JP French, JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, PD Price and DB Wilcox

**In attendance:** Councillors PA Andrews, WLS Bowen, PJ Edwards and TM James

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor RI Matthews, Group Leader Herefordshire Independents.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**30. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to Minute 25 Shared Services, additional bullet point.

- It was noted that scoping of services had not yet been completed.

**31. SHARED SERVICES**

The Deputy Chief Executive (Interim) and the Interim Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic did a joint presentation updating Cabinet on the Shared Services programme and the evaluation method used against the three models. They referred to:

- Maintaining and improving customer services whilst creating efficiencies and building service improvements.
- The financial pressures due to the reduced public sector settlement.
- A strong sense of place whilst building partnerships and using innovative practices to provide quality services.

The three models considered were:

- Lead Partner
- Strategic Partner
- Public/Public Joint Venture

All three were evaluated and scored against business case design principles using legal advice and supporting information, with three rounds of scoring.

Cabinet was advised of:

- The advantages / disadvantages of all three models.
- That the Joint Venture (Public / Public) partnership was the preferred model.
- That partners needed to agree on the preferred model to enable proposals to be developed and progress to be made without delay.

Should the preferred model be approved by the partner organisations, during April to June 2010 there would be:

- Partnership terms to be negotiated and preparatory steps taken to create a Joint Venture Company (JVCo).
- Blueprints drafted for future service delivery.
- Work carried out with Heads of Service on shared service development.
- Staff and union consultation.

During June to September Cabinet and partner organisation will need to agree detailed terms for the JVCo. During October to December the JVCo is proposed to go live with a phased transfer of services.

Cabinet discussed:

- The timelines required and agreed it would both challenge staff and provide staff with the opportunity to improve services.
- A private sector partner would be considered as a later option.
- The supporting information and believed it set out clearly the three options and why the joint venture should be the preferred option.
- Partner organisations were in principle agreement. 25 March was the date of decision for the PCT Board. Following on from that date the Board and senior management team for HHT would then be making their decision.
- Shared services was seen by all as the first line of defence for frontline services.
- It was noted that Herefordshire was ahead of a number of other authorities in putting together a shared service programme of this nature.
- It was confirmed that the JVCo would be likely to be a company limited by guarantee, being the usual model for public / public corporate bodies.

The Leader invited the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny to speak and he spoke in support of the proposals but voiced concerns regarding delays in the timescales. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive reminded Cabinet that there had been an agreed pause in the processes, but added the work of Herefordshire Connects to date had resulted in significant savings for the partnership.

## **RESOLVED:**

### **THAT Cabinet:**

- (a) agreed the preferred option for the delivery and commissioning of the shared services to be a Joint Venture Company (representing a public / public partnership) involving the Council, NHS and HHT;**
- (b) authorised the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) to progress and take all necessary steps to establish a JVCo in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and Trust Boards; and**

- (c) seek a further report on the formal decision to agree the terms of the Council's participation in the JVCo to be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

**32. RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE SUPPORT TO CARERS IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

Cabinet received a report on the scrutiny review of the support to carers in Herefordshire and was reminded of the need for more joint partnership working in social care and health, particularly in light of the number of older people living in the county and of those retiring to the county.

Cabinet noted that this had been a detailed review but was concerned with the time lines in the action plan as the review had taken place in the autumn of 2009, but was only now coming before Cabinet for discussion and there had been some changes since the review with new legislation coming into place.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Chairman was invited to speak and he stated he was pleased that most of the recommendations from the review were being accepted but reiterated the request for representation to be made to the Minister of State for Pensions regarding the financial loss suffered by carers once they reached pensionable age. Cabinet was advised this was not an issue for the authority to take up but something to be dealt with through the Local Government Association.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT:**

- (a) the scrutiny review of support for carers in Herefordshire be noted;
- (b) the executive's response to the recommendations (see Appendix 1 to the report) be approved; and
- (c) an updated report be presented to the Cabinet Member in the autumn to reflect recent changes in legislation.

The meeting ended at 2.40 pm

**CHAIRMAN**