

# Minutes

## Cabinet

Date: 27 March 2017

Venue: Large Dining Room, Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury

Time: 10.30 am to 12.00 pm

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr M Tett (in the Chair).

Mr M Appleyard, Mrs M Aston, Mr J Chilver, Lin Hazell, Mr Z Mohammed, Mr M Shaw and Mr W Whyte

### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr R Stuchbury

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms N Beagle, Mr R Ambrose, Ms S Ashmead, Ms R Shimmin and Mrs C Marriott

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ms R Shimmin. Mr N Gibson attended as substitute.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that Purdah would be in effect 27 March to 04 May 2017.

#### **3 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 06 February 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4 HOT TOPICS**

Cabinet's attention was brought to the following:

- Work place hero's awards ceremony took place last week, which recognised staff contributions and celebrated outstanding performance.
- Thames Valley Police were hosting an event 28 March focusing on Cyber and Digital Crime.
- Olio, the free food sharing app, was now live across Buckinghamshire and could be downloaded on Android and Apple devices via [www.olioex.com/bucks](http://www.olioex.com/bucks)
- A new food sharing app was now live and could be downloaded through Android and Apple app websites.
- Road resurfacing would shortly start up again. There was a planned spend of £16m on road repairs for the coming year.

## 5 QUESTION TIME

Mr R Stuchbury asked the Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing whether a report on Bucks Care would be going to full Council following the election.

Mr M Appleyard advised that he was not aware of any outstanding questions regarding Bucks Care which needed to be answered although was happy to address any. It was advised that there were some issues still to be addressed however these related to the personnel field and therefore were not suitable for public consultation. Mr Appleyard advised that he would be happy to provide a written response to any detailed questions.

Ms S Ashmead advised that as agreed as part of the Budget Scrutiny recommendations a review of lessons learned on the various Alternative Delivery Vehicles, including Bucks Care, was underway and due to be reported to Cabinet in June.

Mr Stuchbury asked the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills whether a written statement regarding the planned education funding for Buckinghamshire and the net impact of any changes would be circulated to all Members for information. It was noted that an update was provided at a recent Select Committee meeting.

Mr Mohammed advised that it was not possible to provide clarification on the net change of the funding to be provided to Buckinghamshire as there were two separate funding streams where changes were to occur;

- National Funding formula: provided directly to schools to help with day to day running.
- Education Services Grant: provided to the County Council to assist those schools in difficulty.

It was confirmed that the National Funding Formula consultation had recently closed and that the Secretary of State would now be required to make a decision. A statement, if any, would be made once the Secretary of State had reached a decision.

## 6 FORWARD PLAN FOR CABINET AND CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet noted the report.

## 7 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Cabinet noted the report.

## 8 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME & INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet noted the report.

## 9 Q3 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources and Mr R Ambrose, Director of Assurance, presented the report. During the discussion performance indicators were discussed and updates were provided as follows:

### Leader's Portfolio

Mr M Tett advised Cabinet that there was a slight overspend forecast.

- Performance indicators; 33% Green, 44% Amber and 22% Red
- Two Red risks:
  - Claim account in Bucks - the County Council were performing well nationally although falling short of target set internally due to skills issues.
  - Business Deaths - defined by the office of national statistics; this was slightly inflated compared to other areas, although Buckinghamshire had a higher number of businesses.

### Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Mr M Appleyard advised Cabinet that the portfolio budget was on target, which was an improvement from 2015/16 which had resulted in a £2m overspend.

- Performance indicators; 68% Green and 20% Red
- Red area's related to:
  - The County Council's Contact Centre, issues were being addressed.
  - NHS health checks.
  - Trading standards

### Cabinet Member for Childrens Services

Lin Hazell provided an overview to Cabinet highlighting the following:

- 108 cases were going through the courts which resulted in higher costs for legal fees.
- Green indicators; 3 related to timings of assessment's which were being closely monitored.
- Performance was above that of Buckinghamshire's statistical neighbours on the 45 day indicator, reporting at 96% compared to 77%as the south east average.
- **Contracts and Referrals (indicators 2,6 and 11):**

- Timings of decision making had improved.
- Repeat referrals remained a key concern, as targets were not being met and performance did not compare well to Buckinghamshire's statistical neighbours.
- There had been a significant rise in referrals for domestic abuse and substance misuse. In response process improvements had been identified as well as development and training with workers and managers. This would be closely monitored over the coming months.
- **Children in Need (indicators 3 and 5):**
- Performance had dipped during December 2016, as a result of the number of Children in Need increasing as well as the pressures on recruiting to social worker posts.
- Challenging targets had been set compared to the national indicator and the team was focusing on recruitment.
- **Child protection (indicators 4, 9 and 10):**
- The majority of children were being seen regularly with reviews being completed on time.
- An increase in the number of children at risk had impacted performance, this would continue to be monitored.
- **Looked after children (indicators 7, 8 and 9):**
- 100% of looked after children had their reviews on time.
- Availability of placements continued to be a struggle resulting in children being placed further from home.

Following discussion it was agreed that a more detailed report would be brought to a future Cabinet meeting, regarding the progress of the improvement journey within Children's Services.

**ACTION: Ms Lin Hazell**

#### Cabinet Member for Education & Skills

Mr Z Mohammed provided an overview to Cabinet highlighting the following:

- Performance indicators; 91% were Amber or Green
- The year 1 phonics gap was moving in the right direction
- Attainment gap at Key Stage 4 continued to remain wider than the national average. This was a priority and would be closely monitored going forward to make improvements.
- A forecast overspend was a concern, although this had been known for some time. Pressure areas included:
  - Home to school transport for SEN
  - Capital budget for emergency work for schools

#### Cabinet Member for Resources

Mr J Chilver provided an overview to Cabinet highlighting the following:

- There were no performance indicators showing as red.
- The forecast underspend of nearly £1m which related to new investment properties.

- Income from Investment projects had provided the budget to cover the overspend of £500k within the Mezzanine refurbishment project, third lift and Green Park improvements.
- The Mezzanine floor and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor refurbishment works were on target.

#### Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment

Mr W Whyte provided an overview to Cabinet highlighting the following:

- Slight underperformance in response to planning applications due to more applications being received than anticipated and staff shortages. This trend was improving.
- Recycling; was performing well above target and would continue to be monitored.
- The Energy for Waste plant is on target to have produced in excess of 134,000 MWh of energy by year end.

#### Cabinet Member for Transportation

Mr M Shaw provided an overview to Cabinet highlighting the following:

- Forecast overspend of £52k and steps were being taken to reduce this.
- Highways continued to be an area of challenge, although all vacancies had been filled with staff being mentored and provided with extra training which was extremely positive.

Cabinet noted the report.

## **10 SAFER BUCKS PLAN 2017-2020**

Mrs C Marriott, Communities and Safety Manager was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs M Aston, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health introduced the report. During discussions key points were raised as follows:

- The report reflected the positive working relationship with partners.
- Following public consultation a query was raised around why burglary and anti-social behaviour were not consulted on. It was noted that this was because these areas were deemed business as usual as and the Police had confirmed that they would continue to respond to this. The consultation had requested views on other emerging, high harm issues such as exploitation.
- A Cyber Crime event was being held in the coming week, led by Buckinghamshire, which would be attended by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the National Crime Agency as well as partners across the Thames Valley.
- A three year plan had been drafted instead of a one year plan as it was likely the issues highlighted would continue to be on the radar in year two and three.
- Partnership working provided better resilience so that the work and financial pressure did not rest on one agency alone.

## **Recommendation**

**Cabinet is requested to:**

- **Endorse the Safer Bucks Plan, 2017-20, the County Community Safety Agreement**
- **Note performance highlights against last year's Safer Bucks Plan**

## **RESOLVED**

**Cabinet AGREED to endorse the plan and noted the report.**

## **11 PROPERTY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - DREAMS KNAVES BEECH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Mr R Ambrose, Director of Assurance was welcomed to the meeting. Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member provided an introduction to the report. During discussion points were highlighted as follows:

- To replace the loss of government funding the County Council was commercially focused on investment to generate significant income.
- All property acquisitions were subject to a strict yield criteria and thorough due diligence.
- A large number of other local authorities were now adopting Investment programmes in order to continue to provide statutory services.

## **Recommendation**

**That Cabinet:**

- 1. Approve further formal due diligence and negotiations with the Standard Life Investments' agent.**

**Subject to agreement by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Director of Assurance, in consultation with the Leader, that Cabinet:**

- 2. Authorise to finance the proposal for the Council to include the purchase of the Property following a successful outcome from the process of due diligence and negotiations.**
- 3. Allows the Council to enter into agreements to facilitate the purchase.**

## **RESOLVED**

**Cabinet AGREED with the above recommendation.**

**12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

**That the press and public be excluded for the following item which is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)**

**13 PROPERTY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - DREAMS KNAVES BEECH  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Cabinet discussed and noted the Confidential Appendix.

**14 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24 April 2017.

**MARTIN TETT  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**