

Minutes

Cabinet

Date: 25 March 2019

Venue: Mezzanine Rooms 1 & 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

Time: 10.30 am to 12.05 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr M Tett (in the Chair).

Mr M Appleyard, Mr N Brown, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mr M Shaw and Mr W Whyte

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs A Cranmer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms R Bennett, Mrs S Ashmead, Ms R Shimmin, Ms G Quinton, Mr M Dias, Ms S Payne and Mr A Rush

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing. Ms Mallen, Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing was also unable to attend. Mr M Tett, Leader invited Ms G Quinton, Executive Director for Communities, Health and Adult Social Care to present on behalf of the Cabinet Member under item 3.

Deputy Cabinet Member Mrs A Cranmer was in attendance.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2019 were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

4 HOT TOPICS

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment highlighted that there was one week until the introduction of charges at Household Waste Recycling Centres, the closure of the site at Bledlow and closure of Chesham, Burnham and Rabans Lane on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mr Chapple stated there was a need to charge for non-statutory waste in order to keep other sites open. He reiterated that there would still be no charge for normal rubbish and normal green waste and that charges related to DIY and wood items. There had been a strong communications campaign which would continue.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted an adoption information event in Chesham on 2 April and a fostering information event in Aylesbury on 10 April. There would be other events throughout the year and information could be found on the website.

Fostering: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/care-for-children-and-families/fostering/fostering-information-event/>

Adoption: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/care-for-children-and-families/adoption/becoming-an-adoptive-parent/>

Mr Whyte thanked Mr Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health for attending the recent event at Buckingham Library to celebrate its 70th year. Both Mr Whyte and Mr Brown remarked that the event was excellent.

Cabinet Member for Resources congratulated staff on the recent Digital Public Service Innovation of the Year nomination as part of the Digital Leaders Top 100 Awards, for the Council's new online reporting tool Fix My Street.

5 QUESTION TIME

There were none.

6 FORWARD PLAN FOR CABINET AND CABINET MEMBERS

RESOLVED: Cabinet **NOTED** the report.

7 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

RESOLVED: Cabinet **NOTED** the report.

8 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME & INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: Cabinet **NOTED** the report.

9 Q3 2018/19 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet received a summary report, scorecard and detailed measures for each of their portfolio areas and were asked to update on those areas that were being flagged as red.

The Leader

- There were no red statuses to report in The Leader portfolio.
- % of new floor space developed in enterprise zones relative to projected amount in plan (performance measure) – an error in dates was highlighted, Fit out is due to complete by December 2019 should have read December 2018.
- Mr Tett highlighted the achievements of three successful enterprise zones in the north of the county and stated that Silverstone was exceeding all expectations. Mr Tett congratulated the Local Enterprise Partnership on their work.

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health

- Number of clients screened by Live Well Stay Well was highlighted as a success.
- Red - % receiving an NHS Health Check of those who were offered an NHS Health Check – there had been some resistance by GPs to complete as questioned their value. The Council were offering the NHS support in order to achieve targets.
- Red - % of successful drug treatment completions of those in treatment – improvement actions were in place. It was a particular area of concern as impacts were widespread.
- Red - Total number of visitors to Bucks County Museum – this was due to better weather in October 2018 resulting in less people using the facility.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing – Ms G Quinton, Executive Director for Communities, Health and Adult Social Care provided an update

- Adult Social Care was currently going through a Transformation Programme.
- Admissions of older people (65+) into residential and nursing care was highlighted as an area of success. There had been an improvement due to the Transformation Programme having had an impact. Ms Quinton stated that although the numbers were dropping costs were not, due to the complex needs of clients.
- Red – Delayed transfers of care from hospital– this was a key national indicator and in comparison to other areas, Buckinghamshire were performing well and were amongst the best performing in the South East region. It was noted that it was a stretching target and improvements had already been made since the last report was published.
- Red - % Adult Social Care clients receiving an annual review – Ms Quinton stated that the numbers tended to improve as the year progressed. There was currently a significant shortage of social workers to carry out the assessments. It was noted that there was a plan to create a bespoke team to carry out the assessments. Mr Tett stated that this was a particular area of concern and asked that any support required be highlighted to Cabinet.
- Red - % of people re-abled with an outcome of Independence – Ms Quinton highlighted that at the beginning of the year it was 35% (now 41.5%) so on an upward trend. There had been a significant improvement in processes which included sign posting to a broader range of early help interventions.

- Red - Average length of stay in Residential/Nursing care. Rate of those going into residential care had dropped. Those in residential care had been there for a long time which impacted on the average length of stay.
- Ms Quinton also highlighted that the percentage of adults with learning difficulties in paid employment was slightly higher than the national average however there was still room for improvement. A deep dive into the service had been commissioned to see how it could be improved to allow people to live more independently.

Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:

- Concerns about lack of social interaction with people staying in their homes longer and asked what was being done to improve this for service users and carers. Ms Quinton stated that there was a new integrated service to make improvements, with a shared approach to prevention agreed by all key partners.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

- Percentage of Looked After Children seen in the last six weeks was highlighted as a success as this was now back above target.
- Amber - % repeat referrals within 12 months – pleased with rating as had sustained reduction so close to target.
- Red - % assessments completed in 45 working days. February had seen a slight increase. The focus was on quality of outcome for children rather than speed of assessment.
- Red - % ICPC (Initial Child Protection Conference) held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion – a deep dive had been carried out earlier in the year and improvements had been seen.
- Red - % of children waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family – Mr Whyte stated that this was a small cohort of children so only took a small group of siblings to effect the data. Mr Whyte highlighted the ongoing work to attract adoptive parents and hoped that the slight upward trend would be sustained. The Cabinet Member was asked how realistic the high target of 75% was when the national average was 50%. Mr Whyte said that this would be reviewed as part of the next reporting process.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

- Red - Permanent exclusion rate – primary and secondary. Mrs Cranmer stated that there had been an increase on last year but an overall decrease since the reporting process had started. Actions had been put in place which included 'Side by Side' a programme of those higher performing schools lending their expertise. A new behavioural programme and training were also being rolled out and supported by a toolkit. Mr Tett commented that exclusions were a much publicised issue and that there needed to be a balance between discipline in mainstream schools while allowing other students to still learn and progress.
- Green – Key Stage 1 - % of pupils reaching the expected standard in writing, many of which took a range of different exams.

- Green - Key Stage 1 - % of pupils reaching the expected standard in mathematics. Mrs Cranmer highlighted this as a good news story in the portfolio with Bucks performing above the national average.

Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:

- The target for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) seemed to be low and it was asked if a more challenging target should be set. Mrs Cranmer stated that there was a shortage of Educational Psychologists so there was currently a backlog, hence the lower target. The shortage of Educational Psychologists was a national problem.

Cabinet Member for Resources

- Green – both total capital spend across BCC and overall revenue were on target and there had been improvements in the level of unsecured debt.
- Red - % of BCC website pages that meet accessibility standards. Mr Chilver stated that there was an improvement programme in place. The Council's Society of Information Technology Managers (SOCTIM) rating had improved from 4 to 8.
- Red – Number of sickness absence days per FTE annually. Mr Chilver stated that this was partly due to seasonal impact. The Council were actively promoting staff wellbeing.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

- Mr Chapple highlighted a number of high performing areas including being on target for Sustainable Drainage planning applications processed even with minor ones from the Districts (from around 100 to 400). Another area of success was Country Park visitor numbers which would exceed 1m this year.
- Mr Chapple made reference to those rated as amber (% of waste collected for recycling and satisfaction of Rights of Way network) and stated that targets were set high and BCC were still way above national average.
- There had been funding allocated over the next four years for the footpath programme.
- Mr Chapple thanked residents, volunteers and staff for their work on keeping footpaths clear.

Cabinet Member for Transportation

- Delivery in the last three quarters had been fantastic in terms of road and footpath resurfacing and building safety barriers.
- Dealing with category 1 road defeats had risen from 43% after a bad winter to 99%.
- Public satisfaction survey, dealing with congestion – this was still disappointing with 43% against a target of 48%. Mr Shaw highlighted some of the issues were due to works being carried out by third parties such as utility firms which caused congestion. Mr Shaw reiterated the commitment to get people moving around the county. Mr Shaw asked that members of the public contact their local councillor to report particular problems and that councillor could view work in their area on Fix My Street.

Cabinet were asked to:

- 1. Come to a view on how the organisation is performing**
- 2. Take action to improve performance where necessary**

RESOLVED: Cabinet took a view on how the organisation was performing and discussed actions being taken to improve performance where necessary.

10 BREXIT UPDATE

Mr Tett introduced the item and stated that the County Council did not have a stance on Brexit and introduced Mr M Dias, Policy Officer, who attended the meeting to update Cabinet on the current position. Mr Dias highlighted the following:

- The presentation provided in the meeting agenda pack gave a summary of where the County Council was on its preparedness for Brexit.
- The national overview had changed since the publication of the presentation.
- Workforce analysis countywide had been undertaken.
- There had been lobbying of government to take into account the needs of businesses and the public sector post-Brexit.
- The second Buckinghamshire Brexit Summit had taken place on 6 March 2019.
- Focus on EU settlement scheme rollout and providing support to EU nationals.
- Campaign to further promote the EU Settlement Scheme started 25 March via various channels which included billboards, radio, TV and social media.
- Mr Dias went through the support the council were giving to the roll out of the scheme which included passport checking service, targeted communications and library staff ready to provide information.
- There was an employee and Community Leaders toolkit.
- There had so far been 150,000 applications with none so far being rejected.
- Mr Dias gave assurances that no deal preparations were also underway working with partners across the sector.

Mr Tett thanked Mr Dias for all his work in guiding the County Council and partners across all sectors. He also highlighted the work with Bucks Business First (BBF) who had also done a tremendous job in getting information out to businesses.

Cabinet are asked to:

- 1. To note and support the Council's work with partners, businesses, and voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure the resilience and preparedness of Buckinghamshire as a place**
- 2. To note and support the Council's role in supporting the roll out of the EU Settlement Scheme**
- 3. To note and support the Council's 'no deal preparations'**

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the above recommendations.

11 FUTURE LEGAL SERVICES

Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- The County Council, since 2016 had had a shared legal service with the London Borough of Harrow.
- Notice had been given and the contract was due to end in September 2019.
- Due to the creation of the new council in April 2020 there was an interim period between October 2019 and March 2020 where a hybrid model would be used in order to remain flexible and but provide continuity while reducing costs.
- The County Council was working collaboratively with all 4 district councils.

Mrs S Payne, Director of Policy, Communications and Performance attended the meeting to present the report to Cabinet. Mrs Payne highlighted the following points:

- The options had been designed with the new unitary authority in mind, maximising early opportunities to share with district councils as there were clear benefits of avoiding duplication, retaining specialist staff and minimising any potential redundancies later.
- The flexibility would allow the use of external provisions where appropriate.
- Business Units would continue to have transparency on legal work and costs and the continuity of support to relevant meetings.
- The business case set out a full range of options and due diligence had taken place.
- Mrs Payne thanked district colleagues for their collaboration which was the first step towards integration of back office services.

Cabinet raised and discussed the following points.

- Districts colleagues were commended for their collaborative work by Cabinet Members and it was hoped that it sent a strong message to all staff that there are big opportunities.
- Assurances were asked for a seamless transition and Mrs Payne stated that the existing children's team would transfer to the Council to ensure continuity. Mr Chilver also stated that a new case management software had recently been agreed which was the same used as HBPL and would be working on the license being carried forward into the new authority.
- Mrs Payne clarified that while option 5 was predominately in-house there would still be the option to outsource if there were the requirements for it.
- Mrs Payne confirmed that the preferred model was intended to contain costs.

Cabinet agreed there was no need to discuss the confidential appendices.

Cabinet were asked to:

- I. Agree to the implementation of the proposals set out in this report.**
- II. Delegate to the Executive Director for Resources, following agreement with the Cabinet Member for Resources, authority to execute an Inter Authority Agreement with the district councils and take any other necessary actions to give effect to the proposals.**
- III. Revoke the current delegations to the London Borough of Harrow for the discharge of the Council's legal function with effect from 30 September 2019, and delegate such authority thereafter in accordance with the new legal service model, including:**
 - a) To delegate the discharge of the Council's legal function to the Head of Legal & Compliance;**
 - b) To authorise the Head of Legal & Compliance to institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings and sign documents on behalf of the council.**

RESOLVED: Cabinet AGREED the recommendations as set out above.

12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

15 April 2019.

13 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)

14 FUTURE LEGAL SERVICES

There was no further discussion required.

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**