

Cabinet

3 July 2012 – At a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Goldsmith (Chairman), Mr Barnard, Mr Brown, Mr Catchpole, Mr Evans, Mrs Field, Mr Griffiths and Mr Montyn.

Members in attendance: Mr Tyler, Mr Dunn, Mrs Whitehead (Members of the Preparing for an Ageing Population Task and Finish Group) and Mrs Millson.

PART I

Declarations of Interest

1. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

2. Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

3. There were no urgent matters.

Preparing for an Ageing Population Task and Finish Group

4. The Leader welcomed the Members of the Task and Finish Group (TFG) to the meeting and invited Mr Tyler, the Chairman of the TFG, to present the report.
5. Mr Tyler informed Members that the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Services and the then Chairman of the Adults Services Select Committee had commissioned the TFG. He said that the policy (copy appended to the signed minutes) invited all services to look forward in how they would design and develop services for people who were elderly in 20 years time, rather than simply focus the current elderly population. He thanked the Members of the TFG and officers for their support in developing the policy.
6. Mr Griffiths declared a personal interest as a carer.
7. The Cabinet welcomed the policy and agreed that it should be presented to the West Sussex Cooperative and the Health and Wellbeing Board to seek the support of all partners. The Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Services would be asked to agree the policy in due course.

Improvement Plan Update

8. The Cabinet received the report from the Director of Children's Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Cabinet Member for Children and Families reported that the Ofsted inspection was still awaited and it could be as late as June 2013 before it was carried out. The meeting with the Minister of State for Children had been rearranged for 11 July 2012.
9. The Director of Children's Services said he was confident that the staff were working well but was not complacent about the forthcoming inspection. Staff wanted the inspection completed so that they could continue to develop a high quality service. The Director advised that if West Sussex was to come out of intervention, the probable outcome would be for it to be assessed as "adequate". He commented that other authorities that had been inspected after being in intervention had been assessed as "adequate", although the actual rating for West Sussex was entirely a matter for inspectors to judge.
10. The Director was pleased to inform the Cabinet that 24 new social workers had been appointed and would start by the end of September 2012. A new Head of Children's Social Care had also been appointed from a very strong field of candidates. The Director said it was reassuring that social workers saw coming to West Sussex as a positive move for their careers.

Total Performance Monitor to end of April 2012

11. Members received the report on the Total Performance Monitor to the end of April 2012 (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Leader thanked the Cabinet and officers for delivering the savings target of £79m.
12. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources reported that the accounts were expected to show a budget Outturn of £498m, £5.2m below the expected revenue budget. The under spend had been transferred to the Infrastructure Fund.
13. All but £18m of reserves had been allocated for specific purposes and the remainder were to cover unexpected expenditure on events such as the recent floods or new Government initiatives such as the Troubled Families Initiative.
14. Capital expenditure was £26m less than planned, due to improved phasing and management of projects, at £181m. Reductions in personnel had been greater than originally planned.
15. The accounts would be closed down by 6 July and it was anticipated that they would receive an unqualified opinion. It would be much more of a challenge to achieve the savings in the current year.

Report of Urgent Action

16. The Cabinet noted the action authorised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services under Standing Order 61, following consultation with the Leader of the Council:

- Approval as an Outside Body: New Company for the Adult and Community Learning Service;
- Appointment of Mr M Dunn to the Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 11.12 a.m.