

Cabinet

26 November 2013 - 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 Lanzer and Mr Montyn.

PART I

Declarations of Interest

11. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

12. Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

13. There were no urgent matters.

Commissioning Strategy

14. The Cabinet received the report by the Director for Strategic Development on the proposed Commissioning Strategy for the County Council and a revised copy of the Strategy was tabled (copies appended to the signed minutes).

15. Members acknowledged that while the County Council had always put residents at the heart of what it did, the Strategy articulated how that would be done in the changed circumstances the Council now faces. Further work would be undertaken with Members and partners to deliver the outcomes.

16. Members agreed that overall the "digital by default" approach was appropriate but recognised that not all residents would be able to access County Council services in this way. The commissioning of new services would need to be sophisticated enough to enable all residents, to be able to access Council services and co-design with them was essential.

17. It was noted that the recent Peer Challenge had commented on the use of language in Council documents. Members requested that all documents should be in plain English. The Director of Strategic Development commented that the Strategy was a document with a specific audience internally with staff and externally with partners and suppliers. He agreed to produce a simplified version for the public.

18. Resolved

That the West Sussex Commissioning Strategy be approved.

Total Performance Monitor to the end of September 2013

19. The Cabinet noted the Total Performance Monitor to the end of September 2013 (copy appended to the signed minutes).
20. The Cabinet Member for Finance was pleased to report good progress in achieving the targets half way through the financial year. In particular he commented on:
- The Revenue account was underspent by £11.6m, an increase of £4.2m since August
 - A carry forward of an underspend by Children's Services to assist with the implementation of the Adoption Reform Grant has been agreed and this reduced the underspend to £10.6m
 - All portfolios were at or below the expected budget subject to the agreed mitigations in Adults' Services taking effect and the third year savings were on track
 - The total three year savings would be in excess of £100m by the end of March 2014.
 - The Capital Programme was showing some signs of improvement
 - The Links College staff had transferred out of County Council control, reducing the number of full time equivalent staff to 4700
 - Only 2 risks would remain red at the next monitor relating to the fire fighters' and teachers' strikes respectively
21. Regarding the amber target on cardiovascular health, Members were pleased to note that a local campaign would now be established, as a proposed national campaign did not happen and also the progress with pharmacies to promote the benefit of health checks.
22. The target for highways volunteers was being reviewed by the Cabinet Members for Residents Services and for Highways and Transport as the original target was misdirected towards volume of activity rather than effectiveness.

Dates of Future Meetings

23. The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 28 January 2013.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 10.30 a.m.