

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held on
Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 6.00 pm in the **Conference Chamber West**
(FR1-09), West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Chair John Griffiths (Leader of the Council)

Vice Chair Sara Mildmay-White (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Sarah Broughton

Carol Bull

Andy Drummond

Robert Everitt

By invitation

[insert name]

Susan Glossop

Joanna Rayner

Peter Stevens

(Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
Committee)

[insert name]

(Chair of Performance and Audit
Scrutiny Committee)

In attendance:

Mike Chester, Ian Houlder,

David Nettleton, David Roach

and Marion Rushbrook

8. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

9. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on xxxx were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10. **Open Forum**

There were no non-Cabinet Members in attendance.

11. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance on this occasion.

12. **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 13 June 2019**

(Report No: CAB/WS/19/004)

The Cabinet received and noted this report, which informed Members of the following substantive items discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 13 June 2019:

- (1) Community Safety Monitoring Report.
- (2) Draft West Suffolk Annual Report (2018-2019).
- (3) Decisions Plan (1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020).
- (4) Appointments to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee (2019-2020).
- (5) Developing an Effective Scrutiny Work Programme.

Councillor David Nettleton, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

Councillor Nettleton specifically referred to Item (4) where the Committee had made recommendations for the West Suffolk Council representatives to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, for confirmation by Council on 16 July 2019, as follows:

Councillor Margaret Marks (Member)
Councillor Paul Hopfensperger (Substitute Member)

Councillor Nettleton informed the Cabinet of the content of an e-mail which had been sent from Councillor Paul Hopfensperger to various parties (both internal and external), expressing concern and disappointment that he had not been nominated as the full Member representative to the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Nettleton explained to the Cabinet that he had been upset by the content and tone of this e-mail. Therefore, he informed the Cabinet of his intention, at the Council meeting on 16 July 2019, to propose an amendment to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in that Councillor Paul Hopfensperger should no longer be nominated as the Council's Substitute Member to the Health Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Nettleton considered that this type of behaviour from an elected Member was unacceptable and also put the reputation of the Council into disrepute.

The Cabinet acknowledged the upset which this situation had caused Cllr Nettleton and their main concern must also be with protecting the reputation of the Council.

(Councillor Jo Rayner left the meeting at 6.35 pm, during the discussion on this item)

13. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 30 May 2019

(Report No: CAB/WS/19/005)

The Cabinet received and noted this report, which informed Members of the following substantive items discussed by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee at their meeting held on 31 May 2019:

- (1) 2018-2019 Performance Report – Year End Outturn.
- (2) West Suffolk Strategic Risk Register Quarterly Monitoring Report – March 2019.
- (3) Internal Audit Report (2018-2019).
- (4) Internal Audit Charter.
- (5) Internal Audit Plan (2019-2020).
- (6) Ernst and Young – 2019-2020 Indicative Fees.
- (7) Work Programme Update.
- (8) Appointments to the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee and the Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

14. Proposal to Establish a West Suffolk Rural Taskforce

(Report No: CAB/WS/19/006)

The Cabinet received this report which proposed that a Rural Taskforce be established to review the qualitative and quantitative evidence base relating to rural areas and to identify the key issues, assets and challenges.

This review would encompass all of West Suffolk's areas, in order to understand the issues and opportunities that all rural or all urban areas have in common, as well as those facing specific localities. The review would draw on existing evidence and research produced by other bodies. In response to this evidence review, the Taskforce would develop options both to directly address some of the issues identified and also to ensure rural considerations were taken into account in future Council processes and decision making.

The proposed outputs from the Taskforce were expected to be interim recommendations to Cabinet in September 2019 for how taking forward the lead options identified for addressing rural considerations in the Council's ways of working. The Taskforce would then make a final report to Cabinet in November 2019.

The proposed Terms of Reference for the West Suffolk Rural Taskforce were attached at Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. A Cabinet Taskforce be established to make recommendations on West Suffolk Council's approach to supporting rural areas.
2. The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce be approved, as set out in Appendix A to Report No: CAB/WS/19/006.

15. Review of West Suffolk Council Grants to External Organisations

(Report No: CAB/WS/19/007)

The Cabinet received this report which proposed the establishment of a Taskforce for carry out a review of West Suffolk Council's Grants to External Organisations.

The aim of the review was to ensure that locality budgets, grants and reliefs made from 1 April 2020 were aligned to the Council's strategic objectives and offer value for money.

The proposed review would only cover grant and relief schemes which were entirely discretionary or funded by West Suffolk Council and where the Council was not under a duty to have a scheme or operate the scheme in a certain way. Therefore, the review would cover the following existing schemes:

- Families and Communities grants
- Leisure and Culture grants
- Economic development grants
- Environment/sustainability grants

In order for the Taskforce to shape the Council's approach to locality budgets, grants and reliefs, the Cabinet would be informed of initial findings and feedback in September 2019. Final recommendations would be made to Cabinet in November 2019 in order to ensure that stakeholder and Member feedback could be fully taking into account.

The Terms of Reference for the proposed West Suffolk Council Grants to External Organisations Taskforce were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. A Cabinet Taskforce be established to carry out a review of West Suffolk Council's Grants to External Organisations.
2. The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce be approved, as set out in Report No: CAB/WS/19/007.

16. Decisions Plan: 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020

The Cabinet considered this report which was the Cabinet Decisions Plan covering the period 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020.

Members took the opportunity to review the intended forthcoming decisions of the Cabinet. However, no further information or amendments were requested on this occasion.

17. Exclusion of Press and Public

As Report No: CAB/WS/19/009 needed to be considered by the Cabinet in private session, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following items because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt categories of information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against each item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

18. **Exempt: Investing in our Commercial Asset Portfolio (para 3)**

(Report No: CAB/WS/19/009) (para 3)

The Cabinet received this report which advised of the opportunity to acquire a commercial property investment. It was considered that the commercial element of the property would complement the Council's existing commercial property portfolio. The overall investment would also be in line with the Council's principles of its Investing in Growth Strategy.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: (16 July 2019)

The recommendations, as set out in Exempt Report No: CAB/WS/19/009, were approved.

(This decision and associated papers will be available in the public domain in due course)

The meeting concluded at 7.08 pm

Signed by:

Chair
