

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 23 February 2016 at 2.00 pm in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Councillors Colin Noble (Chairman), James Finch, Tony Goldson, Beccy Hopfensperger, Matthew Hicks, Christopher Hudson, Tony Goldson, Gordon Jones, and Sarah Stamp

Also present: Councillors Peter Beer, Tony Brown, Mary Evans, John Field, Sandra Gage, David Hudson, Leonard Jacklin, Inga Lockington, Sandy Martin, Bill Mountford, Alan Murray, Graham Newman, Penny Otton, Bert Poole, Reg Silvester, Joanna Spicer, Jane Storey and David Wood

Supporting officers present: Susan Cassedy (Democratic Services Officer)

#### **78. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Smith MVO, Cabinet Member for Finance.

#### **79. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

#### **80. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **81. Public Questions**

There were no public questions received.

#### **82. Standing Item – Update from the Scrutiny Chairman**

At Agenda Item 5 the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee provided the Cabinet with an update on the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 January 2016, the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22 January 2016 and the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 February 2016.

**Decision:** The Cabinet noted the Scrutiny Update.

**Reason for decision:** The Cabinet recognised the importance of the Scrutiny function.

**Comments by other councillors:** With regard to the item “Development of Devolution Proposals Direction of Travel” which was considered at the Scrutiny Committee on 10 February 2016, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet

Member for Economic Development advised that the Devolution agenda was moving very fast and once a proposal was put forward there would be a need to consult and get people's involvement.

**Alternative options:** None considered.

**Declarations of interest:** None declared.

**Dispensations:** None reported.

### **83. Syrian Resettlement Programme Casework Support**

A report at Agenda Item 6, by the Director of Public Health, invited the Cabinet to give retrospective approval to enter into a direct contract with the organisation Suffolk Refugee Support (SRS) for a period of one year in order that casework support could be put in place in time to bring refugees to Suffolk in the Spring of 2016. The Cabinet was also invited to give approval to a tender process to select the casework support provider for years two to five of the programme.

**Decision:** The Cabinet agreed:

- i) to give retrospective approval for Officers entering into a direct contract for c£90,000 with Suffolk Refugee Support for one year to deliver the casework support element of the Syrian Resettlement Programme; and
- ii) that a tender process should be run to select the casework support provider for years two to five of the programme.

**Reason for decision:** The Equality Impact Assessment demonstrated that the implementation of this programme would have a positive impact on participants. Due to the small number of families arriving at any one time, there was not expected to be a negative impact on the wider community.

**Comments by other councillors:** Councillors were in support of the recommendations. Councillors were provided with the following information in response to their comments, concerns and questions:

- i) The Council would be required to provide the casework support element of the Programme and discussion was also underway with the Home Office on what other services may be required for those traumatised families that would arrive in Suffolk which were currently an unknown.
- ii) With around 2 million people having been displaced it was recognised that some held the opinion that the support being provided by central government was not enough, however the Council would be playing its part. The Council was very fortunate to have SRS which was an organisation skilled in this type of casework and also had very strong links with all other agencies.
- iii) The Home Office resettlement programme had a mechanism in place to support refugees moving from their placements to other areas for such reasons as when family members were located.
- iv) Whilst the Mental Health Trust did not sit on the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' Group, the CCGs did. It was the CCGs that commissioned from the Mental Health Trust as a provider of services. Therefore there was

the necessary representation at the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' Group to discuss the mental health support which would be required for both adults and children.

- v) The refugees would be given leave to remain in the country for five years and the funding from central government would be phased over that time period. There was an issue around young people, having lived in the country for five years and not knowing anything else, being deported back to their country of origin. Central government was currently being lobbied in order that this issue could be addressed as just because someone was 'safe' was not the same as being able to function in a country they knew nothing of.
- vi) The refugees would initially be placed in or around the Ipswich area as this was where the support was located, however this did not mean that other settlement areas would be ruled out.
- vii) The value of the services that Bangladeshi Support Centre provided, including providing English language courses to 15 different nationalities, was recognised by the Council. As it was withdrawing its funding to the organisation, the Council would support it to identify other forms of income/funding streams. The Council had a very close working relationship with the Centre in supporting it to become resilient and to continue the good work it was doing.

**Alternative options:** None considered.

**Declarations of interest:** None declared.

**Dispensations:** None reported.

#### **84. To Determine the Admission Arrangements to Schools in Suffolk for the 2017/2018 School Year**

A report at Agenda Item 7, by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services, invited the Cabinet to determine the Admission Arrangements to Schools in Suffolk for the 2017/2018 School Year.

**Decision:** The Cabinet:

- i) noted the overview of proposed Admissions Arrangements to Schools for the 2017/2018 School Year;
- ii) approved the admissions oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix 1, pages 4 to 7 of the report having taken account of the alternative option to give priority in the oversubscription criteria for the children of all school staff;
- iii) approved the revised Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Schools in Suffolk 2017/2018 which sets out the admissions procedures for all maintained, academy, foundation and free schools in Suffolk as set out in Appendix 1, pages 8 to 26 of the report;
- iv) approved the revised Fair Access Protocol which supports the admission of unplaced young people who live in Suffolk, especially the most

vulnerable, so that they were offered a suitable school place as quickly as possible as set out in Appendix 1, pages 27 to 41 of the report;

- v) approved the proposed Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for Suffolk's community and voluntary controlled schools and noted the PANS for own admission authority schools as set out in Appendix 1, pages 42 to 49 of the report; and
- vi) approved the Supplementary Information Form to support applications for admission under the religious grounds criterion to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools as set out in Appendix 1, pages 50 and 51 of the report.

**Reason for decision:** The Council was required to comply with the School Admissions Code (December 2014) and legislation and had to determine the Admission Arrangements for the School Year 2017/2018 by 28 February 2016.

**Comments by other councillors:** The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills confirmed that the admission arrangements would be made very clear to parents.

A Councillor asked a question about the discussion which had taken place nationally regarding changing school admission dates for younger children born in the summer months. In response the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised that the Council was keeping an open mind on the current arrangements realising that they had only been in place for a relatively short period of time.

**Alternative options:** None considered.

**Declarations of interest:** None declared.

**Dispensations:** None reported.

## **85. 2015/16 Budget Monitoring for Revenue and Capital Spending**

A report at Agenda Item 8, by the Director of Resource Management, informed Cabinet of the Council's overall financial position against the approved budget.

**Decision:** The Cabinet:

- i) agreed that the budget was being appropriately managed by Officers to remain within the resource limit agreed by the Council; and
- ii) noted the significant transfers (virements) in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

**Reason for decision:** The paper presented a forecast for the 2015/16 revenue and capital budget based on expenditure trends and information available at the end of December 2015.

**Comments by other councillors:** A Councillor was advised that he would receive a written response to his question on how many unfilled job posts the Council currently had.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Care advised that the Council would be picking up its pace on acquiring the Health and Social Integration monies from the CCGs and that this agreement was a directive from central government. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care agreed to provide the Councillor information on

the number of people with ill health and frailty that the Adult and Community Services had supported in the last 2 years.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport advised that the reasons for the highways variances were set out in paragraph 38 of the report.

**Alternative options:** None considered.

**Declarations of interest:** None declared.

**Dispensations:** None reported.

**86. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business reported.

*The meeting closed at 2.55pm.*

Chairman

