



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of a **MEETING of the CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 7th March 2023 at 10:00am

PRESENT: Councillor L Stephenson Councillor R Powell
Councillor S Harvey Councillor D Wilby

ABSENT: Councillor K Payne

OFFICERS PRESENT: Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director for Resources
Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director of Children's Services
Penny Sharp Strategic Director for Places
John Morley Strategic Director for Adults and Health
Angela Wakefield Director of Legal & Governance,
(Monitoring Officer)
David Ebbage Governance Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K Payne.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements made.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Harvey declared a personal interest in Report No.31/2023 as she made use of the Household Support Fund Policy. Councillor Harvey would leave the meeting at that point.

4 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the record of decisions made following the meeting of Cabinet on 14 February 2023.

RESOLVED

- a) That the record of decisions made at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 February 2023 be **APPROVED**.

5 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

No items were received.

6 SACRE AND THE AGREED SYLLABUS 2023-28

Report No.44/2023 was introduced by Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services.

Rutland SACRE agreed to work on the agreed syllabus alongside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SACRE's as they had done in the current agreed syllabus 2018-23.

The new Syllabus would be formally launched on the 15th June 2023 and would become effective from 1 September. Further events to support the introduction of the Syllabus in schools would take place during the academic years 2023-2025 for all schools in Rutland.

SACRE would monitor and support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus over the next 5 years.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Amanda Fitton and her team for the amount of work gone into producing the syllabus.

The Leader welcomed that this report would be mentioned in the portfolio briefings at Full Council so people appreciated the value of this academic subject.

It was proposed by Councillor D Wilby that the recommendations of report No. 44/2023 be agreed, this was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** the agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2023-28.

7 SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report No.44/2023 was introduced by Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services.

The report was a key milestone action relating to the Schools Capital Programme, to enable the local authority to meet its statutory obligation, to provide sufficient secondary schools places within Rutland. This would be achieved by expanding Catmose College, Oakham to deliver additional places through the development of an 8 Form Entry Secondary School.

The report provided an update of progress to date and the ongoing actions required to complete the project successfully.

Building works for the new build element of the school expansion commenced in November 2022 and were scheduled for completion in September 2023. The current

forecasts showed that the £5.5m budget would be sufficient to complete all aspects of the project.

Members were very impressed that the project was being carried out within the projected timeframes and within budget especially with the climate we current are faced with.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the progress of the Schools Capital Programme.

8 REVIEW OF DIRECT PAYMENT RATES FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

Report No.41/2023 was introduced by Councillor Samantha Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing, Adult Care and Leisure.

The reports set out the current position of the Council's Direct Payments used to pay Personal Assistants for support by both children's families and adults, and requested approval for an uplift to the current rate.

The proposed rate for the Direct Payment for Personal Assistants from April 2023 was £15.00, an increase of 30%, c2.5% increase per year since the £11.50 was set. As a comparator, by April National Living Wage would have increased by an average of 5.5% per year since it was introduced in 2016.

It was explained to Members that these rates had not been neglected, plans were in place on a number of occasions previously but were not supported in the past.

It was proposed by Councillor S Harvey that the recommendations of report No. 41/2023 be agreed, this was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** an uplift to the current rate of Direct Payments for individuals and families to employ a Personal Assistant to provide care and support.

9 CONTRACT FOR THE SCHOOLS ADMISSION SYSTEM

Report No.40/2023 was introduced by Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services.

The report asked Cabinet for approval to award the hosting and maintenance contract to Capita Ltd (Capita) to ensure the optimum running and support of the school admission and other software products until the end of March 2027.

The Capita system was the software system for the Schools Admission service. In addition, the Council also had some software from Capita around eStart and IYSS under the same contract.

The current 5 year contract which commenced 1st April 2019 was due to expire at the end of March 2024. The scope of this contract was the support and maintenance of the schools admission, eStart and IYSS software and in addition the remote hosting of most of this software by Capita.

Annual costs had risen by inflation and for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and would expect to rise to £114,904 from 1st April 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor D Wilby that the recommendations of report No. 40/2023 be agreed, this was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** the direct award of the Annual Hosting and Maintenance contract at an estimated 4 year cost of £354,952, subject to inflation, from 1/4/2023 to 31/3/2027 in accordance with Regulation 33 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- b) **NOTED** that the award would give an ongoing saving of around £26,000 per annum from 1st April 2023.

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At 10.24am, Councillor S Harvey left the meeting.

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10 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND POLICY

Report No.31/2023 was introduced by the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Economy and Culture.

The report asked approval from Cabinet for the Director for Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for finance to finalise the Council's policy in relation to the Household Support Fund and any future Fund should the scheme continue in future years.

The provision of delegated authority would allow the Council to finalise its policy and make any further amendments as required and to proceed to make targeted payments and invite applications from those in need. In the context of the cost of living crisis, the Council was eager to let residents know that support was available and to make awards as soon as possible.

It was pointed out to Members that the amendment made at Full Council last week with regards to the extra allocation of funds was included within the policy.

It was proposed by Councillor L Stephenson that the recommendations of report No. 31/2023 be agreed, this was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **AUTHORISED** the Director for Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with portfolio for finance to finalise the Council's Household Support Fund Policy for 2023/24 and to make any further changes and finalise any future policies should the scheme continue beyond 2023/24.

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At 10.27am, Councillor S Harvey re-joined the meeting

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11 NORTH LUFFENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report No.42/2023 was introduced by Councillor Rosemary Powell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways, Transport and Environment, Climate Change and Community Safety.

The report was to seek Cabinet's authorisation to carry out consultation on the proposed North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan, followed by submission of that plan to an independent examiner.

The draft North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to the County Council for statutory consultation and subsequent independent examination.

Councillor Powell thanked the volunteers from the village with the amount of work that had been undertaken in putting this plan together.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Powell to remove the wording 'and finance' in recommendations 4 and 5. This was seconded and upon being put to the vote the amendment was unanimously agreed.

It was proposed by Councillor R Powell that the recommendations of report No. 42/2023 be agreed, this was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet **AGREED**:

- a) The draft North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan was published for public consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- b) Following public consultation, the draft plan and representations received were submitted for independent examination.
- c) The Strategic Director of Places be authorised to appoint an independent examiner in consultation with the North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- d) That following receipt of the examiner's report that the Strategic Director of Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning be authorised to publish the County Council's decision notice, update the North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan and undertake a referendum.

- e) Subject to the outcome of the referendum that the Strategic Director of Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning be authorised to make the North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Rutland.

12 ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 4th April 2023.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.32am

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