



MINUTES of meeting of the Cabinet

Held on WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019

**PETER BUNGARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

CABINET MEETING	Gloucestershire County Council
24 July 2019	

Present:

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Leader of Council
Cllr Richard Boyles	Deputy Leader/Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years
Cllr Tim Harman	Public Health
Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Economy, Education and Skills
Cllr Nigel Moor	Environment and Planning
Cllr Dave Norman	Public Protection, Parking and Libraries
Cllr Vernon Smith	Highways and Flood
Cllr Roger Wilson	Adult Social Care Commissioning

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lynden Stowe (Cabinet Member for Finance and Change) and from Cllr Kathy Williams (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care: Delivery).

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 were confirmed and signed as a true record of that meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

4. Questions at Cabinet Meetings

A total of 16 public questions and 30 member questions were submitted for consideration in advance of the meeting.

Please refer to the link below to view the responses to the questions: -

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/b15994/Questions%20and%20Answers%20Wednesday%2024-Jul-2019%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>

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If unable to access the document at the link above, please go to the link below and select the 'Cabinet Questions and Answers' PDF document at the top of the web page: -

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=9229&x=1>

The following supplementary questions were asked at the meeting.

Public Questions:

Question 1: Linda Phillips

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Reiterating concerns about the national crisis affecting Care in the Community and the NHS, Ms Phillips asked the cabinet member to oppose the proposed closure of two 'unique and special care homes' in the Stroud District and provide support to The Orders of the St John Trust by investing in the two establishments.

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson informed Ms Phillips that the impact of these issues would be considered later in the meeting. Cllr Wilson confirmed that a number of issues raised today had 'been picked up'.

Question 2: Sally Powell

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Ms Powell asked how could Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) guarantee sufficient suitable provision in the Stroud area to meet the needs of both GCC funded and self funded residents given the lack of assessment information regarding each resident's care needs?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson confirmed that GCC officers had invested a huge amount of work into providing alternative places for the affected residents.

Question 4: Sally Powell

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Given the provision of respite and new NHS placements provided by Wyatt House, Ms Powell enquired whether the County Council had engaged with carers and care

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providers to assess the impact of the proposed closures and to discuss what alternative provisions could be made?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson confirmed that part of the consultation process, (pending the decision from today's meeting), would be for officers to consider the number of places available to residents. He confirmed there would be places available after the decision was made.

Question 8: Sally Powell

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Ms Powell requested details of the budgeted works proposed for Wyatt House and asked, 'on what basis had it been deemed necessary for the proposed works to the care homes be carried out and on the recommendation of which clinical body'?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Referring to details included in the detailed cabinet report, Cllr Wilson informed Ms Powell that various assessments, including assessments by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had been undertaken, in addition to assessments undertaken by the management team at The Order of the St John Care Trust themselves.

Question 9: Sally Powell

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Ms Powell asked, (if unable to provide the exact number of available nursing care beds), how would the County Council guarantee there would be sufficient dementia nursing care beds in the Stroud locality to meet the needs of both GCC funded, self funded and Continuing Health Care funded individuals?"

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson stated the number of dementia care beds varied on a day to day basis but officers were confident there was sufficient provision in the Stroud locality at the moment.

Member Questions:

Question 2: Cllr Stephen Robinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Robinson asked whether there were any homes where GCC had failed to place people on the grounds of cost?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson was not aware of any but agreed to find out.

Question 3: Cllr Stephen Robinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Robinson questioned why the decision to replace care homes had not been taken forward in 2007, (in accordance with the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for Older People)?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson explained that the decision at today's meeting did not take into consideration ancient history. He clarified his task was now to look to the future.

Question 4: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Williams questioned why the process for reviewing care homes, (referred to by the 2007 Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for Older People), had been started but not followed in relation to the proposed changes to Southfield House and Wyatt House Care Homes?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson reinforced the view of not taking into consideration ancient history but offered to meet with Cllr Williams to discuss past decisions in relation to proposed changes to Southfield House and Wyatt House Care Homes.

Question 5: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

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Cllr Williams asked why the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for Older People had not been reviewed during the past 12 years?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Stating that there was no obligation to undertake a review, Cllr Wilson reiterated that the decision at the meeting today was to focus on the future.

Question 6: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Williams asked why the proposed building works included in the council's strategy had not been carried out?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson clarified that he would discuss this with Cllr Williams at a later date.

Question 7: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Williams questioned why the issue had not been addressed before now?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson offered to meet with Cllr Williams after the meeting to discuss historic matters.

Question 9: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Williams asked what steps would be taken to ensure residents were supported and relocated in the right homes.

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson confirmed that every effort would be made to support the residents and families affected by the decision. Each resident would have access to a dedicated social worker, (plus an advocate, if this was required).

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Question 10: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Expressing concern about the limitations placed on the choice of care home from the amount of funding afforded by the County Council, Cllr Williams asked how many places had been ruled out?.

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson clarified that there would be individual negotiations with care homes.

Question 16: Cllr Lesley Williams

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Williams asked if there was an opportunity to re-purpose the homes, working with Stroud District Council to redevelop into accommodation for homeless people?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson assured members any proposal would be considered if it was appropriate.

Question 17: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Referring to the timescales and start date of the consultation, Cllr Hodgkinson questioned whether the cabinet member considered 24 hours notice for the resident and family meetings held in each care home sufficient?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson explained that the advice had been to take action as quickly as possible after the announcement was made to avoid increased anxiety levels amongst those affected by the decision. The decision to consider the future of care homes in Gloucestershire originated last year and was supported by the cabinet. The aim of the meetings had been to ensure everyone had an opportunity to attend one of the presentations as quickly as possible. Cllr Wilson was sorry if some people had not been able to attend.

Question 18: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Questioning that, given the decision on the proposed closure of the care homes had already been made, Cllr Hodgkinson asked what the potential changes from consulting on the impact of the closures might be?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson clarified that the consultation aimed to minimise the impact of the decisions by considering individual circumstances and consulting with each resident.

Question 19: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Questioning how the care homes had been informed of the proposed closures, Cllr Hodgkinson asked if the depth of feeling that had arisen from the proposals had been evident in previous consultations and if the cabinet member thought this had been the right process?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Referring to the petition he had received at Shire Hall earlier that morning, Cllr Wilson said he understood the depth of feeling the proposals had created. The Council was following due process: Cllr Wilson believed the decision was the right decision for the council to make.

Question 20: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Hodgkinson stressed the importance of friendship networks and the impact of the decision on friends and families. Questioning the detriment to the health of those affected by the decision, Cllr Hodgkinson asked if the decision had any bearing on the cabinet member's conscience?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson believed the matter had nothing to do with conscience. He said the decision was the right decision in relation to delivering Adult Social Care in the

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County. Acknowledging the importance of the friendship networks that existed at the care homes, Cllr Wilson confirmed that individual conversations would form part of the consultation and, wherever possible, friends would stay together.

Question 21: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Hodgkinson referred to the 'good' performance ratings accredited to the care homes by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Questioning the impact of the decision on the staff at the care homes, Cllr Hodgkinson asked if more investment in marketing the quality of care provided at the homes might achieve better occupancy levels?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson clarified that marketing the care homes was the role of the Order of the St John Trust, not GCC. Acknowledging the impact of the decision on staff at the care homes, Cllr Wilson accepted it was inevitable some staff members would seek employment elsewhere and need to be replaced by agency staff.

Question 22: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Noting the response to his original question, stating 'no council-funded resident would be worse off as a result of the changes', Cllr Hodgkinson asked if there were any guarantees no self-funding resident would be worse off?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson stated he could not give guarantees about self-funding residents. The choice of care home was the decision of individual residents. If they chose a more expensive care home, that would be their decision.

Question 23: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Hodgkinson asked if the cabinet member would commit to visiting the care homes again as part of the consultation?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

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Cllr Wilson confirmed he and cabinet colleague, Cllr Kathy Williams, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery, had visited the care homes already and would be happy to hear the views of the residents and their families.

Question 26: Cllr Eva Ward

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Ward reported that she had recently met with the Chief Executive Officer of The Order of the St John Trust and had enquired about the outcomes measurement to be used for the residents of the two care homes. Cllr Ward asked if an outcomes report would be published for members to scrutinise in 3 to 6 months time?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Referring to recent changes to the council's scrutiny process, including the creation of an Adult Social Care and Communities Committee, Cllr Wilson confirmed that the proposed closure of the care homes was entirely the sort of issue the committee could agree to scrutinise. Cllr Wilson said he would be pleased to report on this issue to the committee.

Question 28: Cllr Eva Ward

Agenda Item 6: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Ward asked if capital receipts from the disposal of the two properties would be ring-fenced for Stroud?

Response by: Cllr Roger Wilson (Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care: Commissioning)

Cllr Wilson said this was unusual; but that he would commend to cabinet to consider ring-fencing money to use in Adult Social Care.

Question 29: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Agenda Item 10: Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Referring to a motion at passed at the council meeting on 15 May 2019, committing the council to "consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids", Cllr Hodgkinson noted that no decision had been made on the suggestion that the Dynamic Purchasing System oblige all providers to report their carbon emissions, and questioned why the proposal had not formed part of the council's policies from the start?

Response by: Cllr Nigel Moor (Cabinet Member: Environment and Planning)

Cllr Moor confirmed that the timeline for the council's carbon and climate strategy would be considered later in the year, at the November cabinet meeting. The procurement policy to form part of the strategy.

5. Financial Monitoring Report 2019/20

In the absence of Cllr Lynden Stowe (Cabinet Member: Finance and Change), Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, gave an update on the year-end forecast for the 2019/20 County Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets. The update to reflect the financial position for the 2018/19 year end, showing a forecast revenue year end position of a £2.956 million overspend, (on a net budget of £429.661 million), representing 0.69% of the budget.

The Leader confirmed that the most significant change within the report was the net position forecast overspend in the Children and Families Budget, reported at £7.427 million. The Leader said the overspend reflected ongoing pressures attributed to the high cost of external placements and safeguarding staff budgets. An efficiency plan had been put in place to reduce the forecast overspend to below £5.0 million by the end of the year. The Leader advised that the council's investment aimed to address some of the issues experienced in delivering Children's and Families Services, issues not unique to Gloucestershire.

The Communities & Infrastructure Budget forecast reported an overspend of £0.310 million. This was largely due to an overspend of £0.357 million in the council's waste budgets, for which it was proposed should be offset by areas forecast to be on (or very close) to budget. The council continued to address a number of minor overspends in other budgets.

The Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service reported a forecast overspend of £0.213 million. This was mainly attributed to significant increases in employer superannuation costs for fire service pension schemes. Although a grant had been received to alleviate the increase, this had only represented 90 per cent of the costs. It was proposed that the overall overspend be off set by a number of underspends identified in corporate budgets.

The Leader advised that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was forecast to overspend by £4.842 million. This included a deficit carry forward of £2.884 million, primarily a consequence of cost pressures in the High Needs Block. Although there had been a temporary fix from government, without the necessary additional funding, it was unlikely the DSG grant would be brought back into balance in the near future, creating a potential financial risk to the Council. To reduce the risk, a 5 year recovery plan was underway. The Local Government Association (LGA) would also work with councils to highlight the impact of the cost pressures to the Government.

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In terms of capital, the Leader reported a forecast year end position of £122.684 million. This included an in year overspend of £1.147 million against the current budget. It was proposed that an increase of £1.147 million be added to the capital programme. Further other changes to be put forward during the next 6 to 8 months.

The Leader referred to Appendix A of the report, detailing financial support for subsidised admission and travel for school children to attend Skillzone from September 2019. The information was noted.

Cllr Richard Boyles, (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Early Years) promoted some of the good work being provided at Skillzone. Cllr Dave Norman, (Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Libraries and Parking), expressed disappointment at the number of members who had not yet visited Skillzone and urged everyone to take up the opportunity.

It was suggested any questions on the financial monitoring report be directed to Cllr Lynden Stowe.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

- 1. Note the forecast revenue year end position as at the end of May 2019 for the 2019/20 financial year as showing a net £2.956 million overspend against the revenue budget of £429.661 million.*
- 2. Note the one off transfer of £0.028 million to GFRS from the Transformation Reserve to subsidise travel on a targeted basis for key stage 2 and 3 children across Gloucestershire.*
- 3. Note the forecast capital year end position as at the end of May 2019 of £1.147million overspend against the current budget of £121.537 million*
- 4. Approve the addition of £1.147 million to the Highways capital budget funded from a variety of sources as outlined in the body of the report.*
- 5. Note the allocation of £1.209 million from the approved carriageway resurfacing budget to specific schemes as outlined in the body of the report.*

6. To Consider the Future Provision of Care Homes in Gloucestershire and the Relevant Consultation

Cllr Roger Wilson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, (Commissioning), gave a detailed account of the background and proposals relating to the proposed closures of Southfield House Care Home, Stroud, and Wyatt House Care Home, Stroud. In presenting the report, Cllr Wilson sought approval to undertake consultation on the impact of the closures.

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Cllr Wilson expressed the difficulty in making this decision, particularly in relation to the impact the decision would have on residents, families and staff at the two care homes. Noting the exceptional care and competency provided by the staff at the care homes, Cllr Wilson acknowledged the care homes not only provided care to the residents, but also represented their homes.

Cllr Wilson reported that, sadly, on the advice of The Orders of St John Care Trust, (the charity organisation running the care homes), both properties had been identified as unfit for purpose for the future. As a result of changing demands for care, the two properties were unable to attract sufficient self-funding residents and were therefore struggling to maintain full occupancy.

Furthermore, the cost of making improvements to upgrade the properties was considered too expensive, and even then, would not reach the high standard of care deemed appropriate for Gloucestershire in 2019.

Cllr Wilson confirmed he had visited both care homes and had spoken to staff and to residents. He was also aware of several other members, (from a range of political parties), who had visited the properties and expressed his appreciation for the diligence that was being attributed to this sensitive issue.

Reporting on some of the features of the properties that had identified the care homes as being unsuitable for future use, (single double-glazing/poor 1970's insulation), Cllr Wilson also referred to the out-dated design of the properties, expressing concern about the absence of en-suite facilities; the inappropriate size of bedrooms and corridors; and the inaccessible gardens, (although beautiful and well maintained), but without access for wheel chair users or residents with limited mobility.

Cllr Wilson recalled the cabinet decision taken on 19 June 2019, seeking approval of the Strategy for the Commissioning of Residential and Nursing Care Provision, where, under the requirements of the Care Act 2014, and in conjunction with the NHS, the Council was made accountable of the duty to provide the best and most suitable accommodation for elderly and vulnerable residents. In Gloucestershire, this decision had been against a backdrop of falling demand for residential care placements as more people remain in their homes for longer, rather than being admitted to care.

Responding to the question of why the decision to close the care homes needed to be taken at this time, and why it was not possible to allow the homes to remain open for existing residents, it was explained that the issue of retaining staff and providing quality care when the future of a care home is under question becomes much more challenging.

Acknowledging the impact on staff at the care homes and the inevitability of staff leaving to seek stable employment, Cllr Wilson referred to the difficulties of maintaining good quality care at the care homes during periods of instability, followed by the high cost of employing agency staff, and stated that keeping the care homes open was not an option he was able to support.

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Responding to questions on lessons learnt from the closures of care homes the previous year, Cllr Wilson informed members that, providing dedicated social worker support to support residents and their families had worked well. Combined with senior officer advice and leadership, the same level of support would be provided. Cllr Wilson assured members it was his primary intention to safeguard the welfare of the residents, their families and the staff at the care homes.

Having read the many representations of those affected by the decision and reporting that cabinet colleagues had been made aware of the comments and concerns, Cllr Wilson confirmed full consultation, (over a three month period prior to closure), would be undertaken involving all residents, families and staff, with each resident being offered the individual services of a social worker. The role of the social worker would be to minimise the potential disruption to the lives of those affected by the decision and to ensure the most suitable alternative accommodation was offered to the resident.

Cllr Wilson gave his assurance no council funded resident would lose out financially from the closures. Reinforcing his earlier statement that the welfare of residents, families and staff was his primary concern, he reported that, over the course of the past few months, time had been spent with each of the affected groups, and that he had engaged in discussions with local elected members and with The Orders of the St John Care Trust on making the transfer to new homes as smooth as possible. Clarifying that he and fellow Adult Social Care Cabinet Member, Cllr Kathy Williams, were committed to ensuring a successful transfer process, Cllr Wilson said he would do everything possible to maximise the wellbeing of residents.

Responding to questions, Cllr Wilson, gave detailed explanations on why the decision had been taken now, (rather than in the winter months), and how staff would be given assistance to seek alternative employment and in considering redundancy options.

Cllr Wilson agreed it was unusual to ring fence financial receipts from disposal of the care homes but would be open to all suggestions, including those from local members and MP's. Discussions with Stroud District Council had been held, where a range of options on how the financial credits could be used had been considered.

Explaining why the outdated properties were no longer suitable for providing high quality care to residents, Cllr Wilson elaborated on the amenities offered by 4 new care homes invested in by The Orders of the St John Care Trust. He also explained some of the fundamentals in seeking a balance in funding from self funding and council funded residents and why it was important to maximise occupancy levels of self funding residents to achieve the balance.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, acknowledged that the Adult Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for Older People published in 2007 was now 12 years old and that the demands on care homes had significantly changed since this time. The Leader confirmed consultation would be undertaken to ensure each person received the same level of care.

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Cllr Wilson reflected on the huge amount of work that had been undertaken in reaching this decision and thanked all those involved, including residents and staff.

Having considered all of the information, including the due regard statement, representations, known proposals, alternative options and the reasons for the recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

1. *Approve the closure of Southfield House Care Home, Stroud.*
2. *Agree that any capital receipts arising from the disposal of Southfield House Care Home will be ring-fenced for future developments for older people in the County.*
3. *Delegate authority to the Director of Integration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning, to:*
 - i) *Consult with residents and families of Southfield House Care Home on the impact of and arrangements for the closure of the care home.*
 - ii) *Facilitate moving the residents to an alternative care home that will meet their needs.*
4. *Approve the closure of Wyatt House Care Home.*
5. *Agree that any capital receipts arising from the disposal of the properties will be ring-fenced for future developments for older people in the County.*
6. *Delegate authority to the Director of Integration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning to:*
 - i) *Consult with residents and their families of Wyatt House on the impact of and arrangements for the closure of the care home.*
 - ii) *Facilitate moving the residents to an alternative care home that will meet their needs.*

7. Delivery of Structural Maintenance Works 2020-2022

Cllr Vernon Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, sought approval for the procurement and award of the council's contract for the delivery of structural maintenance works in April 2020.

In September 2017, a new delivery model was developed in consultation with Cabinet and a cross-party Cabinet Panel to take forward the way in which the council procured and delivered its highway contracts post April 2019. Building on the success of the previous year, Cllr Smith explained that the contract for delivery

of the council's structural maintenance works with effect from 1 April 2020 would help in delivering the council's £150 million investment in the county's highways.

Outlining a variety of projects (both completed and underway), Cllr Smith stressed the importance of considering the county's carbon footprint as part of the council's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions. He also stressed the value of the proposed contract in enabling the council to bid for the best evaluations.

Commending the smooth delivery of the council's resurfacing works during the past two years, Cllr Smith thanked the Highways Team for their hard work. Noting Cllr Smith's expression of appreciation to the public for its understanding of any disruptions that may have occurred during the delivery of major project works, Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, requested that consideration be given to the planning of any future schemes in conjunction with related works and schemes overseen by utility companies. The Leader stressed the importance of ensuring the county's roads avoided becoming gridlock.

Other cabinet members commended the work being undertaken.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Authorise the Lead Commissioner, Highways Authority, to:

- 1. Carry out a public procurement law compliant competitive tender process for the delivery of a two year single provider contract for the delivery of structural maintenance works commencing 1st April 2020, and*
- 2. Award such contract (following the conclusion of the said competitive tender process) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, to the preferred provider(s) evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for delivery of the required works.*

In the event that the preferred provider is either unable or unwilling to enter into that contract with the Council then the Lead Commissioner, Highways Authority shall be authorised to award such contract to the next willing highest scoring suitably qualified provider.

8. Children and Families Capital Programme Update

Cllr Patrick Molyneux, (Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills), sought to approve changes to the approved Children and Families Capital Programme.

Cllr Molyneux recalled that at the council meeting on 14 February 2018, the 2018/19 Children's & Families Capital Programme had been approved. The following year, on 13 February 2019, the 2019/20 Children's & Families Capital Programme had been approved. Cllr Molyneux confirmed that, since this time,

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schemes had been developed for a number of schools, for which the decision report gave an update on subsequent changes. The schemes represent part of the council's ongoing commitment to investing £100 million into new schools, improving school buildings and expanding facilities at schools across Gloucestershire.

Cllr Molyneux informed members that the council had worked collaboratively with the Diocese of Gloucester to ensure proposed works to provide additional school places and other improvements at the Prestbury St Mary's C of E Primary School were delivered in a coordinated way to i) deliver an efficient scheme and ii) minimise any disruption to the day to day running of the school.

It was noted that additional Section 106 Developer Contributions had been received for Cleeve Secondary Academy to help deliver improvements at the school, and to enable the school to cater for additional pupils arising from local housing.

Cllr Tim Harman, (Cabinet Member for Public Health), commended the council's investment in schools. Having attended an Air Quality Panel meeting the previous day, Cllr Harman referred to the good work that was being undertaken by officers to address this controversial issue? Cllr Molyneux confirmed Air Quality issues in Gloucestershire schools was a key priority.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Approve changes to the Children & Families Capital Programme as set out in the published decision report, to approve:

- 1. A new scheme for the provision of additional places at Prestbury St Mary's C of E Primary School, funded by the transfer of £0.270 million from the approved basic need provision, and*
- 2. An additional £0.206 million developer s106 contributions for Cleeve Secondary Academy.*

9. Targeted Family Support in Children and Family Centre Contract Extension

Cllr Richard Boyles, (Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years), explained that the purpose of the report was to seek approval to exercise the contractual option to extend the existing contracts for the provision of targeted family support services in Children and Families Centres located in Gloucester City, Forest of Dean and Stroud and in the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury localities from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022. Current contracts had the option to extend for a further period for up to two years. The contracts support the 'payment by results' work of the Troubled Families Programme.

Cllr Boyles informed members that the Children and Family Centres had exceeded targets for the last 2 years and in doing so had supported many more children and

families than anticipated and had made a larger contribution to the payment by results service of Families First that helped make up the current Early Help Service.

Broad consultation had been undertaken during the contract periods, with families encouraged to give their views on the services they received. The results of the consultations demonstrated how families felt services were accessible; that they felt engaged and that they had been listened to and valued. The overall partner and user feedback would be used to help shape the services going forward beyond the contract extension recommendation. The contracts would be robustly monitored and were currently performing well, sustaining positive outcomes for the children and families they supported.

Cllr Boyles informed members that in enabling the 2 year extension of the council's contracts would help sustain the continuity of care for some of the county's most vulnerable children and families. In the meantime, commissioners would work on the development of the council's longer term strategy for future provision, in line with the new Sufficiency Strategy, and with any national decision in relation to the future funding of the Troubled Families Programme.

It was noted that there was a resource implication in the extension of the contracts, with a shortfall of £252,000 from a budget of £7,250,964. To address this, Cllr Boyles advised that, built into the commissioning budget over the next 12 months would be measures to make savings from ensuring a more effective management of the contracts. This would neither affect the contract nor the budget.

Cllr Boyles proposed Cabinet adopt Option 2 of the options; to secure the 2 year extension whilst continuing to deliver continuity of care to the families needing support.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to exercise the option to extend the current contracts for the provision of targeted support services in the 16 Children and Family Centres located in Gloucester City, Forest of Dean, and Stroud, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury localities from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022.

10. Establishing a Dynamic Purchasing System for the Procurement of Transport Contracts

Presenting the first of two 'related' reports, Cllr Nigel Moor, (Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning), sought approval to conclude the process of establishing a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Transport Services.

The initial Transport DPS had been agreed by Cabinet in 2016. (This allowed the Integrated Transport Unit to use a web portal for the procurement of transport contracts for Home to School, Public Transport and Social Care).

Cllr Moor explained that the decision concluded the next iteration of the DPS. The system was the same as before, with the exception of the online marketplace now being split into lots (i.e. lot 1 for small taxis, lot 2 for larger taxis, lot 3 for school buses). This would allow the procurement of transport to meet different requirements.

The length of the proposed DPS had been extended to 10 years, (this would be flexible). Notice could be given without incurring financial penalty at any point during the 10 year period should the system no longer meet requirements. The ability to open new lots to meet legislation changes had been retained.

Cllr Moor drew members attention to the due regard statement that accompanied the decision and reported no concerns of those with protected characteristics. He confirmed all vehicles to be procured in this way would be fully compliant with all national accessibility regulations.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Delegate authority to the Lead Commissioner - Community Infrastructure to:

- 1) *Conduct a public procurement law compliant procurement process for the establishment of a ten year Dynamic Purchasing System (“DPS”) for the provision of passenger transport services commencing February 2020;*
- 2) *Admit or remove suppliers from the DPS during its ten year term in accordance with the selection criteria or any revised selection criteria set out in the DPS;*
- 3) *Procure transport services, using the DPS, from providers of Passenger Transport Services (including Home to School Transport Services and Social Care Transport Services) and award contracts for such services up to the value of £499,999 in aggregate in respect of any single contract award **PROVIDED** that the Lead Commissioner - Community Infrastructure reports back to Cabinet on an annual basis throughout the term of the DPS with details of the aggregate value of all contracts that were awarded using the DPS in the previous year and,*
- 4) *Procure contracts for the supply of transport services during financial year 2019/2020 (whose estimated aggregate values shall equal £18m) from operators admitted to the existing DPS and the proposed new DPS; contracts for transport services required by the council in subsequent financial years shall be the subject of separate Cabinet decisions.*

11. Tender and Award of Transport Contracts under the Dynamic Purchasing System for Transport

Cllr Nigel Moor, (Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning), sought approval to use the council's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to procure and award the passenger transport contracts referred to at Table 1 of the decision report and to provide feedback on the council's progress in implementing transport related decisions agreed in July 2018, (Table 2).

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Authorise the Lead Commissioner: Community Infrastructure to:

- 1) Use the TDPS in accordance with its terms to undertake in each case a legally compliant procurement process to procure contracts between July 2019 and July 2021 for the provision of each of the local bus services set out in Table 1 of the published decision report;*
- 2) Upon the conclusion of each of the procurement processes described in Recommendation 1 above, to award a contract to the highest scoring preferred provider in each case evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for delivery of the services in accordance with the TDPS requirements.*

In the event that a preferred provider for a contract is either unable or unwilling to enter into a contract with the Council then the Lead Commissioner: Community Infrastructure is authorised to enter into such contract with the next willing, highest scoring, suitably qualified provider.

12. Commissioning of a Positive Behaviour Support Service for Children and Young People with a Learning Disability/Autism

Cllr Richard Boyles, (Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years), sought approval to tender for the provision of an intensive Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBS) for children and young people with learning disabilities and/or with autism, and at risk of going into care.

Cllr Boyles informed members that the behaviour support service was an intensive programme of support, designed to help children and young people with challenging behaviour stay at home with their families.

The service to introduce a person-centred approach to ensure any actions taken would be directed at the unique needs of each individual child or young person. Such methods had been successfully implemented in other parts of the country and had been found to decrease the frequency and severity of challenging behaviour,

improve the quality of life for young people and their families and reduce the need for residential care.

Cllr Boyles believed a Positive Behaviour Support Service for Gloucestershire would improve the quality of life for young people with learning disabilities and/or with Autism. It would also avoid the cost to the council of expensive residential placements which, currently, were reported at around £220,000 per year per child. On average, 6 young people per year enter placements.

If approved, the Gloucestershire Positive Behaviour Support Service to commence in April 2020, supporting up to 14 children or young people with learning disabilities and/or with autism, displaying challenging behavior and at risk of entering full time residential care within 6 months. The PBS service to work intensively with 4-5 children at any one time for a period of up to 2 years. Young people would be referred to the service by a multi-agency panel.

Cllr Boyles explained that if the council was to use this Social Impact Bond model, there would be no need to provide up front investment for the project. GCC would be eligible to access £360,000 from the Life Chances Fund, (government funding used to encourage the development of Social Impact Bonds).

The contract between the council and the provider would be an outcomes based contract with payments made on the successful outcome of the providers work with the young person.

Savings of £4,320,000 were forecast, (covering the term of the programme).

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

- a) Approve the commissioning of an intensive positive behaviour support service for children and young people, to be facilitated by the Provider using a Social Impact Bond.*
- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to carry out an OJEU compliant competitive tender process and award a contract, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, for a positive behaviour support service for children and young people*
- c) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to develop a commissioning implementation plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years.*

13. A38/A419 Whitminster Roundabout Bridges and Canal Improvements (Contract Procurement and Ancillary Orders)

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

Cllr Vernon Smith, (Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood), sought authorisation for the Lead Commissioner, Highway Authority to receive funding from Highways England (via the Cotswold Canal Trust) for the proposes of procuring a contract for works in respect of the proposed A38/A419 Whitminster Roundabout Bridges and Canal Improvements Scheme.

Cllr Smith confirmed that the Cotswold Canal Trust had received two grants to support work on the Cotswold Canal Restoration Project. The grants comprised Heritage Lottery Funding and Highways England Funding. Total funding for the scheme was estimated at £4.5 million.

Outlining the options outlined in the cabinet decision report, Cllr Smith sought to authorise the Lead Commissioner: Highway Authority to progress the works, as described above.

Having considered all of the information, including known proposals, alternative options and reasons for recommendations, Cabinet noted the report and,

RESOLVED to:

Authorise the Lead Commissioner; Highway Authority to:

- (1) Receive £4.0m by way of funding from Highways England (via Cotswold Canal Trust) for the purpose of funding a contract for works in respect of the proposed A38/A419 Whitminster Roundabout Bridges and Canal Improvements described in this report (the “Contract for Improvement Works”);*
- (2) Permit the council to become the “Client” for the purposes of procuring the proposed Contract for Improvement Works;*
- (3) Conduct, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, a public procurement law compliant tender process for the purpose of awarding the proposed Contract for Improvement Works;*
- (4) Award and enter into the proposed Contract for Improvement Works with the preferred tenderer evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for delivery of the required works or, in the event that the preferred tenderer for the contract is either unable or unwilling to enter into that contract with the Council, to award and enter into such contract with the next willing highest scoring suitably qualified tenderer.*

14. Responding to the Climate Emergency: Draft Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25

Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, presented a detailed information report on how Gloucestershire County Council intends to respond to the Climate Change Emergency declared at the Full Council meeting on

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

15 May 2019 and the steps being taken to revise and strengthen the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy over the next 5 years.

Cllr Moor set out the key dates for the proposals, including the intention to submit a revised Climate Change Strategy to Cabinet for approval on 13 November 2019.

Working in conjunction with the Corporate Management Team, members to consider the anticipated resource implications for the work and feedback from the public engagement consultation undertaken during August and September 2019. To seek the views of young people, it is proposed a Youth Climate Panel be established and for the council to engage with schools during September 2019.

Thanking officers for their commitment in enabling the pace of work to accelerate, Cllr Moor confirmed briefings had been made to the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2019 and to the Corporate Management Team on 18 July 2019.

Further updates to be provided to the Environment Scrutiny Committee, prior to approval of the Climate Change Strategy by Cabinet on 13 November 2019 and adoption by Leadership Gloucestershire on 19 December 2019.

The information report was noted.

Leader of Council

Meeting concluded at 11.35am