

<b>CABINET</b>	<i>Gloucestershire County Council</i>
<b>11 November 2020</b>	
<b>Minutes</b>	

**PRESENT**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE    | - Leader of Council  |
| Cllr Richard Boyles        | - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years |
| Cllr Carole Allaway Martin | - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning                           |
| Cllr Tim Harman            | - Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities                             |
| Cllr Patrick Molyneux      | - Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills                             |
| Cllr Nigel Moor            | - Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning                                  |
| Cllr David Norman MBE      | - Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries                  |
| Cllr Vernon Smith          | - Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood  |
| Cllr Lynden Stowe          | - Cabinet Member for Finance and Change  |
| Cllr Kathy Williams        | - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Delivery)                              |

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record at the meeting.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**4. Questions at Cabinet Meetings**

A total of 17 member questions were submitted for consideration in advance of the meeting.

No public questions were submitted.

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

The following supplementary questions were asked at the meeting.

Question 1: Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Dobie outlined his support for the new school at Warden Hill but expressed concern with the apparent lack of communication with councillors, residents and parents. He asked if the Cabinet Member regretted withholding information until now?

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that he didn't feel information had been withheld and he emphasised the hard work carried out in this area.

Question 2: Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Dobie asked whether the target was for the new primary school in Warden Hill to open in September 2022.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux stated that a school took approximately 2 to 2.5 years to build but it would be delivered as fast as possible. He noted the impact of Covid-19 and potential disruption caused by the pandemic.

Question 3: Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Dobie asked whether local representatives would be involved in a public view of the school.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that the Council would work with the school to see what was the best approach in how to engage with the local area.

Question 4: Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Dobie asked whether there was a clear commitment to offset all CO2 emissions from construction of the new school and for it to be zero carbon once built.

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

Cllr Patrick Molyneux stated that the Council was committed to trying to achieve that.

Question 5: Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Dobie asked whether the Cabinet Member would commit to funding living green walls for the new school as proposed in the School Street motion to full Council in June.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that the Council would try and do everything it could to be zero carbon and that would include green walls if appropriate.

Question 6: Cllr Colin Hay

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Hay referred to school capacity pressures in Bishops Cleeve and asked whether existing school sites would be taken into account when choosing a new site for a school. He emphasised the importance of not being in a situation where parents felt the need to drive their children to school.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux explained that pupil numbers coming through the system were taken into account. Work was underway to ensure the best provision in place and to resolve any issues around the site. He was hopeful something would be announced shortly.

Question 7: Cllr Colin Hay

**Agenda Item 6: Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Hay asked the Cabinet Member to be clear around commitments for the school to be zero carbon, in relation not just to its running but also in the way it would be built.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that the Council would be as ambitious as it could be in terms of this and would look at the issues expressed by the member.

Question 8: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

**Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

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

Cllr Hodgkinson asked what was currently projected to be the council's overspend at the end of the year including what was being spent on the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr Lynden Stowe explained that the impact on the Council's finances was outlined within the financial monitoring report. He stated that it appeared that the Council was being adequately funded for the measures it was taking.

Question 9: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

### **Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Hodgkinson asked whether the Cabinet had 'missed the boat' in terms of encouraging the public to consider other transport options during the Covid-19 pandemic. He referred to the wait to the second tranche of Emergency Active Travel Fund money.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that he shared the member's frustrations on carbon emissions from cars and wished to see the encouragement of healthy active travel. He stated that Cllr Moor had put an enormous amount of work into it and he would be best placed to provide further detail.

Question 11: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

### **Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Hodgkinson noted the spend on the ash dieback scheme. He asked that given that those trees had been cut down could it be confirmed that, of the 1 million commitment to plant 1 million trees given 11 months previous, the Council was down a net 2,200 trees.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that Cllr Moor could update the member on the scheme to plant 35 million trees but that this was an important ten-year plan.

Question 13 Cllr Iain Dobie

### **Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Dobie referred to recent restrictions on visits to care homes and outlined the new Covid-19 safe visiting areas encouraged by government. He asked if additional funding would be provided to care homes to help them deliver this.

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Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that budgets were devolved down to care homes for them to make their own decisions on how best to use the funding in relation to Covid-19. A more detailed response would be provided by the relevant Cabinet Member.

Question 14 Cllr Iain Dobie

**Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Dobie asked whether the Council would commit to providing test kits to care homes so that not only resident and staff but also key visitors could be tested.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that he understood the member's concerns and frustrations and that a more detailed response would be provided by the relevant cabinet member.

Question 16: Cllr Colin Hay

**Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Hay asked whether the continued overspending in the Children and Families budget over the previous three and a half years represented poor financial planning. He asked when the Council could expect a children's services budget that could cope with the growth in demand?

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that the budget was set to reflect potential demands and was as accurate as possible, but it was difficult to predict the number of children who would come into care in a twelve month period or to predict the costs around external placements. He explained that due to prudent financial control across the whole Council, in year issues were able to be managed.

Question 17 Cllr Colin Hay

**Agenda Item 7: Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Hay asked that given the overspends in the Children's budget over a number of years did the Cabinet Member agree that the budgets had been woefully underfunded in this area when the Council had been put in special measures on this issue?

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that he did not agree with this and stated that the Council's ability to manage in year issues and reflect that in future years' budget was proven. He emphasised that no budget could be a bottomless pit and that budgeting was robust. He looked forward to scrutiny input into the future year's budget and asked members to provide the challenge they deemed necessary.

**5. Gloucestershire Youth Offending Service:: Response to Covid 19 - Recovery Plan 2020/21**

Cllr Richard Boyles, Deputy Leader/ Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet's approval to recommend that the County Council approve Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service Recovery Plan detailed within the report and appendix.

It was explained that there was a statutory requirement for localities to bring forward an annual Youth Justice Plan for their area. As part of the national response to Covid, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) had relaxed this requirement for 2020/21. In its place the YJB had required each Youth Offending Service to complete a Recovery Plan, setting out how localities will transition from a response to recovery at the point health risks are declared negligible.

The Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service Recovery Plan provided an overview of how the service had responded to Covid, including any lessons learned and how those may be incorporated within future provision. He outlined that there had been extensive collaborative working with all the statutory agencies as well as non-statutory bodies.

As the Youth Justice Plan formed part of the Council's policy framework, it was required to be approved by Council, following its consideration by Cabinet.

Having considered all of the information, Cabinet noted the report and,

**RESOLVED to: -**

Recommend that County Council approve Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service Recovery Plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

**6. Children and Families Capital Programme Update**

Cllr Patrick Molyneux, Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills, sought Cabinet's approval for the changes to the previously approved Children and Families Capital Programme 2020/21.

It was explained that full Council had approved the Children and Families Capital Programme for 2020/21 on 12 February 2020. The schemes represented part of the ongoing commitment to investing £100 million into new schools, improving buildings and expanding facilities at schools across Gloucestershire to ensure all children and young people benefitted from high quality and appropriate education.

The Council was committed to ensuring the right provision and facilities were available for all children and young people including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. He referenced the £2.25m in the report to approve the scheme for a new SEMH school.

The additional condition capital funding for the scheme for Warden Hill Primary School would enable the Council to replace the tired, poor quality provision with up to date, sustainable and efficient accommodation and provide fit for purpose high quality facilities for years to come.

There had been some Section 106 Developer Contributions received from housing developments, which would be used towards specific expansion schemes.

The application seeking a Judicial Review of the planning application for the new High School in Leckhampton had been considered by the courts and been rejected. The Council had received confirmation that the claimant had made an application to challenge the refusal. A date for the oral hearing had been confirmed by the court for 15 December 2020. The Council's position would be robustly defended and it was hoped that the matter would be successfully concluded at the hearing.

He explained that there had been some Covid-19 impact on some of the programmes but the teams were working hard to mitigate the long-term impact.

Members discussed the importance of quality, fit for purpose facilities for education and emphasised how the report emphasised that commitment with the investment being put in place. Of the £100m investment into the programme around £40m was earmarked for Cheltenham development. The Cabinet Member thanked the officers for helping to bring this work together.

Having considered all of the information, Cabinet noted the report and,

**RESOLVED to: -**

Approve the changes to the Children & Families Capital Programme as set out in the report:

1. An addition of £2.250 million to the approved scheme for the new SEMH School, funded from the approved Basic Need Provision.
2. An addition of £1.000 million to the approved scheme for Warden Hill Primary School, funded from the approved School's Condition Allocation.
3. An addition of £0.146 million developer S106 contribution for The John

Moore Primary to replace allocated basic need funding.

4. An addition of £0.107 million developer S106 contribution for Winchcombe Secondary School to replace allocated basic need funding.

5. An addition of £0.147 million developer S106 contribution for Severn Vale School to replace allocated basic need funding.

6. An addition of £0.024 million developer S106 contribution for Rednock School.

7. An addition of £0.152 million developer S106 contribution for Christ Church C of E Primary School, Cheltenham.

8. An addition of £0.152 million developer S106 contribution for Gloucester Road Primary School.

9. An addition of £0.100 million developer S106 contribution for Farmors School.

10. An addition of £0.022 million developer S106 contribution for Cirencester Kingshill School.

11. An addition of £2.139 million School Condition Grant Allocation for 2020/21 to the Children and Families Capital Programme.

## **7. Financial Monitoring Report (Nov 2020)**

Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cllr Lynden Stowe, gave an update on the year-end forecasts for the County Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets 2020/21.

The forecast excluding Covid-19 expenditure was a £4.115 million overspend – this was largely due to a £7.422 million overspend in Children and Families which was partially offset by £3.056 million underspend in Technical & Countywide budgets. The overspend in Children and Families reflected the continuing pressure on external placements and home to school transport.

The forecast cost of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic was £34.959 million, which exceeded the emergency grant allocation received of £31.425 million. A claim for lost income in the first 4 months of the financial year had now been submitted under the income reimbursement scheme for income lost as a direct result of COVID restrictions.

For Capital, the forecast year end position is £126.838 million – this was giving in year forecast slippage of £3.036 million. In total an additional £249.193 million increase in the capital programme and associated funding was recommended for approval in the report.



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Cabinet members thanked the Finance Team for their hard work in maintaining the financial position during a difficult year.

Having considered all of the information, Cabinet noted the report and,

**RESOLVED to :-**

1. Note the forecast revenue year end position based on actual expenditure as at the end of August 2020 and September 2020 (Period 6) forecasts for the 2020/21 financial year including Covid-19 forecast is an overspend of £7.649 million. The forecast excluding Covid-19 is an overspend £4.115 million.

2. Note the forecast capital year end position as at the end of August 2020 of £126.838 million against the current budget of £129.874 million.

3. Approve the £249.193 million increase to the capital programme as outlined in Section B of the report and approves the re-profiling of current year budgets to reflect the current forecast.

4. Approve the transfer of £700k from Corporate Insurance Reserves to a new Ash Die Back Reserve.

**Leader of Council**

Meeting concluded at 10.40 am