



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting of the Cabinet

Held on Wednesday 14 December 2016

**PETER BUNGARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| CABINET MINUTES | Gloucestershire County Council |
| 14 December 2016 | |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE | Leader of Council |
| Cllr Ray Theodoulou | Deputy Leader: Cabinet Member for Finance and Change |
| Cllr Dorcas Binns | Older People |
| Cllr Andrew Gravells | Public Health and Communities |
| Cllr Paul McLain | Children & Young People and Strategic Commissioning |
| Cllr Nigel Moor | Fire, Planning and Infrastructure |
| Cllr Vernon Smith | Highways & Flood |
| Cllr Kathy Williams | Long-term Care |

1. Apologies

There were no apologies at the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

4. Questions at Cabinet Meetings

Public Questions

No public questions were submitted.

Member Questions

A total of 38 (member) questions were submitted in advance of the meeting.

Please refer to the following link to view the responses to the questions

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MId=8222&Ver=4>

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

If you are unable to view the questions at the above link, please go to the link below and select 'Cabinet Questions and Responses'.

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/b12467/Cabinet%20Questions%20and%20Answers%20Wednesday%2014-Dec-2016%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>

The following supplementary questions were asked at the meeting.

Question 2: Cllr Tracy Millard

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

How many staff redundancies have resulted in grievances and tribunals?

Response by: Cllr Ray Theodoulou

Cllr Theodoulou agreed to provide a full answer to the question after the meeting.

Question 3: Cllr Tracy Millard

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

At the last Children and Families Scrutiny Committee meeting, it was reported that the overspend in Children's Services was due to redundancies. Can the Cabinet Member explain why the Transformation Reserve was not used to address this overspend?

Response by: Cllr Ray Theodoulou

Cllr Theodoulou agreed to provide a full answer to the question after the meeting.

Questions 6 to 9: Cllr Lesley Williams

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cllr Williams thanked Cllr Theodoulou for his responses to questions 6 to 9, (and to question 37), and requested that she be given an opportunity to meet with cabinet members after the meeting to discuss specific budgetary issues in a little more detail.

Response by: Cllr Ray Theodoulou

It was agreed cabinet members would meet with Cllr Williams after the meeting to discuss specific budgetary issues.

Question 11: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

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

By my calculations, you should have addressed the £80m backlog, (pot hole repairs), in 22 years. Is this accurate and do you agree?

Response by: Cllr Vernon Smith

Your question implies Utopia. Road maintenance is an ongoing activity. With over 200,000 miles of roads, the need to maintain roads is on-going. I believe the current strategy is correct, enabling the council to deal with issues slowly, over time. We can only use the funds available to us.

Question 14: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

With the cuts and policy changes that have been implemented, do you think savings will be made? What savings have been made?

Response by: Cllr Nigel Moor

Yes. The savings will be implemented over the next 12 months. .

Question 15: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

How many actual false alarms attendances are represented by this percentage?
How many medium or high risk commercial properties are included?

Response by: Cllr Nigel Moor

Cllr Moor stated he was comfortable with the risk assessment that had been carried out on the number of false alarm calls the fire service received and agreed to provide the requested figures after the meeting.

Question 17: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cllr Kirby requested more details on the proposed targeted £430k savings for customer services? He also asked – ‘How can a specific sum be set without knowing how to achieve it’?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

We’re always happy to share more details as the programme changes. We are looking at different ways in which savings can be met. One example is the rollout of new digital equipment at the Bishop’s Cleeve Library. This investment will not only reduce costs but will also enhance customer experience. Targeted savings form part of an overall programme, the details of which I will share at a later date.

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

Question 20: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Police and Crime Commissioner has suggested, (to the Police Crime Panel), that Gloucestershire County Council has 'withdrawn all meaningful financial contributions' to the Road Safety Partnership. Can this still be considered an equitable partnership?

Response by: Cllr Nigel Moor

Very much so. The County Council provides a huge financial resource and is very much involved with the Road Safety Partnership. All our work is aimed at making a safer environment. I think this was a bad call from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Question 21: Cllr Barry Kirby

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

To be more specific, where did the £300k savings target come from?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

The sum resulted from an error in the 2015/16 budget. Cllr Hawthorne agreed to provide a more detailed response to the question after the meeting.

Question 22: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

The council has been a Conservative run administration for the past 12 years. I wonder if people might be happier with a 4% tax increase if they thought their roads and pathways were going to be maintained. Can we trust the Conservatives to fix this issue when you have failed to do so in the past?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

Tax increases introduced during the Liberal Democrat/Labour Coalition, (including a £90 increase in one year), were catastrophic. The current administration inherited huge deficits in road maintenance, and it is only now we are able to slowly claw back from this position. During the past 12 years, there has been a definite improvement in working on the back-log of repairs for which we have a track record of delivering. The Coalition Government made tough decisions about local government funding, which we have dealt with.

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

Question 23: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Borrowing is at a record low. Given the cuts that have been made, do you think it is right to borrow so modestly to invest in Gloucestershire?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

If opportunities arise for 'invest to save', we will take advantage of such opportunities. Please remember, borrowing is not free. When making investment decisions, you have to pay back, and therefore need to decide 'what are you not going to spend on?'. I am extremely proud the current administration has been able to reduce the mountain of debt inherited from the former coalition arrangement. It is thanks to Cllr Theodoulou and to others we are seeing a decrease in the council's debt.

Question 24: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

I agree when you suggest Gloucestershire residents, including the most vulnerable people in the county, care most about the services they receive. In terms of the budget, how can you justify a 30% reduction in the Public Mental Health Budget? Is this not a hit on our vulnerable people?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

We have a clear programme of savings and face extremely difficult challenges. The focus has been on Adult Social Care and Children's Services. It will be interesting to see what alternatives are put forward when you set out the Liberal Democrat budget priorities. I am proud we have focused on the most vulnerable people and communities.

Question 25: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

You say 'residents care about the services they receive', and yet you propose a 30% reduction in the Public Mental Health Budget? This hit on the vulnerable people of Gloucestershire is a real problem. In your position as a member of the Local Government Association and as Leader of the Council for the past 6 years, why have you not lobbied to stop the cut backs in services?

Response by: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

The council has to make tough decisions. When protecting the vulnerable people and communities of Gloucestershire, it is necessary to prioritise how the money is spent. I am extremely proud this administration did not take the easy option and

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

make savings in hidden areas of the budget. We continue to protect Adult Services and continue to invest in Children's Services. It will be interesting to see what alternative proposals are put forward when you identify your budget priorities.

Question 26: Cllr Jack Williams

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Does the Cabinet Member consider a 13% cut acceptable in the Children and Families revenue budget?

Response by: Cllr Paul McLain

I find the reality of the situation is often very different to the position you portray. While we may have to make accounting changes to the budget, we continue to invest in our Children and Young People. While the Education Direct Services Grant goes direct to schools, it is not a cut.

Question 27: Cllr Jack Williams

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

What impact will the reduction in the Children and Families Budget have on Public Health?

Response by: Cllr Paul McLain

This money constitutes efficiencies and improvements used to tackle inequalities, e.g. Health Visiting and Children's Super Centres.

Question 28: Cllr Jack Williams

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

How successful do you think the Children's Activity Fund has been?

Response by: Cllr Paul McLain

We should have confidence in our member colleagues. At the end of every year, the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee review the funding given to district authorities. Tewkesbury Borough Council is hugely impressed with what is being delivered by the Children Activity Fund. I think it is a good thing to entrust local members with decisions about funding. I believe this is a good initiative.

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

Question 29: Cllr Iain Dobie

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Do you think Sajid Javid (MP) should allow the Social Care precept to rise beyond 2%? Have you plans to increase council tax here in Gloucestershire?

Response by: Cllr Dorcas Binns

I believe the 2% precept is very efficient. At the moment, we are sticking with the 2% Adult Social Care Levy.

Question 31: Cllr Iain Dobie

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Rather than raid reserves, shouldn't you lobby against the year on year cuts imposed by the Government on the Public Health Budget?

Response by: Cllr Andrew Gravells

As you may recall, this was discussed at the Shadows meeting on Friday (9 December 2016). To avoid further confusion, I think it might be useful if I provide a briefing note to explain that it is not the County Council who provides treatment. I find it very disappointing when members infer that the council has not fulfilled its duties. It is clearly the NHS who deliver public health services. A briefing note will be circulated to clarify the position.

Question 33: Cllr Iain Dobie

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Adults with mental health issues are "vulnerable people". Why attack the most vulnerable through these cuts?

Response by: Cllr Kathy Williams

I am not sure if the word 'attack' is appropriate. It is the council's responsibility to ensure the funds available to us are spent wisely. We have actually invested money in this budget.

Question 34: Cllr Iain Dobie

Item 6: Medium Term Financial Strategy

As American colleagues used to say; "which ever way you slice it, it is still baloney". A cut is a cut; to the most vulnerable. Don't you agree?

Response by: Cllr Andrew Gravells

No cuts are planned for 2017. To elaborate, I can list the work we do. I feel it is important to understand what the council commissions and will circulate a briefing note to explain.

5. Consultation Scrutiny Task Group

Cllr Barry Kirby introduced the final report and recommendations of the Consultation Scrutiny Task Group and informed members that, following a motion to full council in May 2016, the task group had been set up to review the Council's consultation policies and practices.

The aim of the task group had been to identify areas of best practice and to provide constructive challenges to the council's existing processes. Key objectives included, considering what constituted a successful consultation and what could be done to increase response rates.

Working alongside the Consultation Institute and the council's Communications Team, Gloucestershire County Council was one of the first councils to scrutinise this area of work.

Thanking the members of the task group: Cllrs Phil Awford, Joe Harris, Shaun Parsons and Lesley Williams, Cllr Kirby stated how the task group had welcomed the opportunity to better understand the council's approach to consultation and the commitment and positive approach of officers. Cllr Kirby expressed his appreciation to those involved in the development of the consultation protocol.

In receiving the report, the following recommendations were noted.

- a) That there is a budget made available to ensure that social media is an integral part of our approach to consultation.
- b) That the newsletter showing the impact of consultation on decisions and policy which goes to the People's Panel is to be shared with Members through Members Matter
- c) That there is a commitment to make the Consultation Protocol a public document available on the web site.
- d) That the protocol is explicit about how much the council values people's opinions and wants to hear from them.
- e) That the Consultation Protocol foreword is signed off Group Leaders and the Chief Executive to demonstrate the importance of the document to the council.

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

- f) That the protocol outlines the importance of regular engagement and an open dialogue with service users that can help inform options as part of the pre-consultation process.
- g) That the protocol refers to Inform Gloucestershire (which includes MAIDEN, JSNA and other intelligence) as tools used to develop policy
- h) That consultation plans risk assessed at a 'level 2' be shared with cabinet members and shadows.

Leader of Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, confirmed that provision had been made in the draft budget to ensure social media formed an integral part of the council's approach to consultation. Commending the sensible cross-party approach that had been taken to consider the outcomes of the review, Cllr Hawthorne confirmed that a formal cabinet response would be produced in response to the task group's recommendations.

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

RESOLVED to: -

Produce a formal response to the task group's recommendations

6. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2017/18 to 2019/20

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, presented, for consultation and scrutiny, the budget strategy, the detailed draft budget for 2017/18, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), for the period covering 2017/18 to 2019/20. It was noted that final approval of the budget would be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2017, and at the Full Council meeting on 15 February 2017.

Cllr Theodoulou informed members that the proposed budget had been prepared in response to key budget pressures. These included; unavoidable contractual inflation, pay pension deficits and increases in demand led services, (reflecting budgetary pressures experienced in 2016/17 in Adults and Children's Social Care).

Cllr Theodoulou reported that the proposed revenue budget for 2017/18 totalled £397.13 million, denoting a net reduction of £11.34 million from 2016/17. The budget included investments totalling £24.0 million and £35.24 million savings, most of which related to the Meeting the Challenge 2 – Together we Can Programme.

Referring to the 'mass of detail' included within the draft proposals, Cllr Theodoulou invited individual cabinet members to outline some of the key components reflected in the budget detail for their respective service areas, the details of which are included in the main body of the report. Cabinet members briefly summarised the budget proposals for their portfolios.

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

Leader of Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, highlighted the difficulties and challenges experienced when trying to develop a realistic and manageable budget. The Leader stated how important it was to focus on protecting the vulnerable and communities of Gloucestershire and to continue to invest in those service areas experiencing the most challenges, namely Adult and Children's Services.

Cllr Hawthorne refuted earlier comments about alleged cuts in mental health services and suggested members consider this aspect of the budget in more detail, particularly the emphasis on partnership working

Members noted that, following publication of the budget proposals, the council intended to launch an online consultation to run between December 2016 and January 2017. Stakeholders would be invited to express views on budget proposals, budget priorities, council tax and Adult Social Care Levy.

Cllr Theodoulou confirmed that a Due Regard Statement for this item was being produced, but would be updated in January 2017 to reflect final budget proposals and feedback from the consultation.

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

RESOLVED to: -

Approve for consultation and scrutiny, the proposed detailed budget for 2017/18, the Medium Term Financial Strategy, (including Dedicated Schools Grant, which will also be considered by the Schools Forum).

7. Updating of the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Local Developer Guide

Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, presented the updated Local Developer Guide for Gloucestershire.

Cllr Moor urged members to familiarise themselves with the document to place them, (and the council), in the best possible position from which to aid negotiations with developers, make comments on emerging local plans and influence emerging Community Infrastructure Levies to ensure appropriate investment is made from future developments.

Cllr Moor thanked officers for the work undertaken in updating the document, in particular, the work involved in delivering Broadband in rural areas.

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

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

RESOLVED to: -

Adopt the Local Developer Guide as Council Policy, (as set out in Appendix 3 of the published decision report).

8. Proposed Concessionary Travel Scheme Reimbursement Contract

Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, sought approval to enter into a contractual agreement with Stagecoach West for the reimbursement of concessionary travel on local buses.

Responsible for administering the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in Gloucestershire, Cllr Moor informed members that the council had invested over £6.6 million, (approximately two thirds of the council's investment in public transport), on providing free travel on local buses in 2016, with over 118,000 older and disabled residents holding a bus pass.

Cllr Moor stated that the council was currently in the third year of a three year, £15.8 million 'fixed price' contract with Stagecoach West. He said that the arrangement provided important financial stability to both the council and to Stagecoach, enabling each organisation to plan and invest in their services.

Outlining each of the recommendations below, Cllr Moor advised members to retain the current approach for the next three years.

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

RESOLVED to: -

- 1) *Delegate authority to the Commissioning Director: Communities and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Fire Planning and Infrastructure, to conclude detailed negotiations with Stagecoach West, and to*
- 2) *Authorise the council's Commissioning Director: Communities and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Fire Planning and Infrastructure, to enter into a three year contract with Stagecoach West, under which the council shall reimburse the said operator for concessionary travel in Gloucestershire, with suitable provisions for adjustments should operating mileage, passenger numbers, or other factors, change beyond agreed thresholds.*

9. Building Better Lives Review of Short Break Services for Adults

Cllr Kathy Williams, Cabinet Member for Long-term care, introduced the report as an update on the results of a 3 month cabinet approved consultation undertaken in 2016, regarding the provision and development of adult short break services for people with learning disabilities.

Cllr Williams outlined the reasons for the recommendations, including highlighting the importance of providing short breaks to people with learning disabilities to enable them to experience different environments to where they resided, and to provide opportunities for them to become involved in interesting and stimulating activities within the local community.

Referring to the benefits of providing active short breaks for children and young people, Cllr Paul McLain, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Strategic Commissioning, stressed the importance of continuing to provide short breaks to improve the quality of life for children and young people after they enter adulthood.

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

RESOLVED to: -

- 1) *To receive and accept the report feedback on the outcome of the Consultation on Short breaks;*
- 2) *To authorise the Commissioning Director, Adult Services to:*
 - a) *Put in place a short breaks programme for adults with learning disabilities that meets the full spectrum of service user and carer needs*
 - b) *To extend the shared lives programme*
 - c) *To update operational guidance for staff in relation to Building Better Lives including delivery of the short breaks programme.*
- 3) *To respond to the consultation feedback by requesting that the Commissioning Director, Adult Services, develop a plan for consideration by Cabinet that makes recommendations on the future of residential provision having regard to the full spectrum of need within the short breaks plan.*

10. Decision to approve the Strategy for the development of Gloucestershire Specialist Sexual Health Services from 1 April 2017 and the award of a contract for the provision of a Sexual Health Prevention Service

Cllr Andrew Gravells, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, sought approval of the strategy for development of specialist health services in Gloucestershire, and authorisation for the Director of Public Health to tender for the award of a contract for delivery of the Sexual Health Prevention Service in Gloucestershire.

Following introduction of the Health and Social Care Act in 2012, commissioning responsibility for Sexual Health Services in Gloucestershire split across three organisations: Gloucestershire County Council, (integrated contraception and

sexual health testing and diagnosis, and psychosexual medicine); NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, (abortion); and NHS England, (HIV Treatment and Sexual Assault Referral Centre).

Cllr Gravells informed members that responsibility for the commissioning of county-wide sexual health services had become the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council in 2013. In 2016, the council undertook a period of pre-engagement to give service users and the residents of Gloucestershire an opportunity to provide feedback on where and how they accessed sexual health services. It was noted that there had been no review of sexual health services undertaken since 2013. Outlining the principles of the proposed new service model, the Cabinet Member highlighted the importance of reviewing services, and in ensuring value for money.

Cllr Gravells stated that, in considering the likely 'equalities' impact of the recommendations, there was no evidence of a disproportionate negative effect upon people with protected characteristics. The principles that had been consulted on aimed to reduce any inequalities already in existence for groups previously identified through the Sexual Health Needs Assessment as having a higher burden of need and poorer access.

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

RESOLVED to: -

- 1) *Approve the strategy for the development of the proposed new model for the delivery of Sexual Health Services, as set out in Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the published decision report, with such services commencing on 1 April 2017; and*
- 2) *Authorise the Director of Public Health:*
 - a) *to conduct an EU compliant competitive tender process for the award of a single supplier 7 year contract (with an initial term of 5 years and an option to extend for a further 2 years) for the delivery of a Sexual Health Prevention Service from 1st April 2018*
 - b) *upon conclusion of the competitive tender process, to enter into a contract with the preferred provider evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for delivery of the Sexual Health Prevention Service. In the event that the preferred provider is either unable or unwilling to enter into that contract with the Council, then the Director of Public Health is authorised to enter into such contract with the next willing highest placed and suitably qualified provider.*

11. Decision to remodel the Public Health Nursing Service

Cllr Andrew Gravells, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, sought to approve recommendations for the remodelling of the public health nursing service from April 2018.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Gloucestershire County Council has a duty to improve the health of local people and reduce health inequalities. Faced with several opportunities from which to align and integrate health services across Gloucestershire had allowed the council to consider and develop options to remodel the public health services, the details of which are included in the main body of the report.

Cllr Gravells advised members that the remodelled service would become operational from April 2018, with phased implementation over the following two years. The 15 month period from January 2017 to March 2018 to be used to develop the operational aspects of the model, consult with relevant audiences, and test and mobilise the remodelled service. Public consultation will be undertaken during 2017.

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

RESOLVED that: -

Cabinet authorise the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health to:

- 1) Conduct a remodelling of the Public Health Nursing Services (Health Visiting and School Nursing) in line with the preferred model described within the published decision report, and in response to feedback from consultation and engagement with stakeholders, to achieve the aims, objectives and principles outlined in the report;*
- 2) Act locally on the recommendations from the national review of the mandated elements of the Healthy Child Programme being conducted by Public Health England and due to report in Autumn 2016 to inform the remodelled service;*
- 3) Undertake consultation and engagement with children and families and other stakeholders to inform the development of the preferred model following the national review of mandated elements;*
- 4) Implement the remodelled service from April 2018 onwards.*

12. Procurement of a new contract/contracts for the provision of training administration and sourcing, including the apprenticeship programme.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, sought approval to conduct an EU compliant tender process for the award of a 4 year contract in 3 lots, (an initial 2 year term contract, with the option to extend for a further 2 years), for the provision of training administration and sourcing, including the council's obligations brought about by the Apprenticeship Levy.

From April 2017, introduction of the government's Apprenticeship Levy will require the council to pay 0.5% from its staff pay bill into the Levy, and to employ 2.3% of the council workforce on a government approved apprenticeship training programme.

Cllr Theodoulou informed members that, under the council's existing contract, (due to expire in September 2017), the commissioning and training of internal and external employees had proven to be generally cost and resource effective. By bringing together the council's training options and the obligations of the Apprenticeship Levy as a single tender would allow the council to map the management of the new apprenticeship programmes in line with overall training requirements. It will also assist in maximising savings and developing opportunities.

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

RESOLVED that: -

Cabinet authorise the Director of Strategic Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, to:

- 1) Run an EU compliant competitive open tender process to procure a contract/s for an initial 2 year period with the option to extend for a further 2 years for both the provision of training administration and sourcing and the apprenticeship programme.*
- 2) Upon conclusion of the tender process, to enter into a contract(s) with the preferred provider(s) evaluated as offering the Council best value for money for the delivery of the service. In the event that the preferred provider(s) is either unable or unwilling to enter into that contract with the Council then the Director of Strategic Finance is authorised to enter into such contract with the next willing highest placed suitably qualified provider.*

13. Financial Monitoring Report 2016/17

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, gave an update on the year end forecast for the 2016/17 County Council's Revenue and Capital Budgets.

Cllr Theodoulou reported the forecast revenue year end position as showing an underspend of £0.64 million. Cllr Theodoulou explained that this had been achieved from using the unallocated Social Care Levy and corporate underspends to offset demand led overspends in Adult and Children's Services. In doing so, would help preserve the Vulnerable Children and Vulnerable Adults Reserves, and assist in managing demand led pressures anticipated in 2017/18.

The forecast capital year end position showed an underspend of £1.33 million.

Despite significant pressures on council services, particularly in Adults and Children's Services, Cllr Theodoulou stated that it was anticipated expenditure would be managed within existing resources.

The re-profiled capital budget for 2016/17 was reported at £89.75m, with expenditure to date, (as at the end of October 2016), reported at £32.18m. Cllr Theodoulou explained that the current rate of spending was anticipated to increase significantly over forthcoming months. This was due to slippage in some of the forecasts and was expected at this time of the year.

Cllr Theodoulou sought approval for three areas of change to the capital budget, the details of which are outlined in the main body of the report. In proposing the changes, Cllr Theodoulou commended the work and organisational skills of the volunteers at Gloucestershire Archives.

Cllr Dorcas Binns, local member for Nailsworth, particularly welcomed the proposal to increase funding for the Horsley Hill Nailsworth Scheme.

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

RESOLVED to:

1. Note the forecast;

- a) Revenue year end position, as at the end of October for the 2016/17 financial year, of a £0.64 million under-spend.*
- b) Capital year end position for 2016/17 of a £1.33 million under-spend against the re-profiled budget and the changes to the 2016/17 re-profiled budgets detailed in section B of the published decision report.*

2. Approve the following changes to the capital programme:

- a) Increase the approval for the Horsley Hill Nailsworth scheme by £0.05 million to £0.56 million, funded from 2017/18 DfT grant allocation, to allow the appointment of contractors for the scheme. This does not change the value of the overall approved capital programme.*

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

- b) *A new £1.18 million capital scheme for additional science accommodation at Chipping Campden School is added to the capital programme, funded from £1.18 million of s106 developer contributions. This increases the overall approved capital programme by £1.18 million.*
- c) *Increase the approval for the Archives Records project by £0.125 million to £2.95 million, funded from a £0.125 million revenue contribution to capital from the Support Services revenue budget. This increases the overall approved capital programme by £0.125 million.*

14. Quarterly Strategic Performance Report 2016/17: Quarter 2

Leader of Council, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, referred members to the Strategic Performance Report 2016/17: Quarter 2.

In noting the report, and having considered all of the information, including known proposals and the reasons for the recommendations, Cabinet,

RESOLVED to: -

- i. Endorse the performance report;*
- ii. Note the progress made in tracking council priority outcomes; and*
- iii. Support the actions being taken to address areas of concern*

Leader of Council

Meeting concluded at 11.50 am