

<b>CABINET</b>	<i>Gloucestershire County Council</i>
<b>21 July 2021</b>	
<b>Minutes</b>	

**PRESENT  
MEMBERSHIP:**

Cllr Stephen Davies – Cabinet Member for Childrens Safeguarding and Early Years  
Cllr Carole Allaway Martin – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning  
Cllr Kathy Williams – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery  
Cllr David Gray – Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning  
Cllr Dave Norman – Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries  
Cllr Phil Robinson – Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills  
Cllr Vernon Smith – Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood  
Cllr Tim Harman – Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tim Harman, who had been nominated by the Leader of the Council to chair the meeting in the absence of the Leader and the Deputy Leader.

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of Council (In attendance via webex)  
Cllr Lynden Stowe – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance and Change

Cllr Tim Harman explained that the Leader was joining the meeting virtually in order to answer his questions under item 4. However, as he was unable to attend the meeting in person, he would not be participating in the decision-making .

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 23 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

#### **4. Questions at Cabinet Meetings**

A total of 3 public questions were asked at the meeting. The following supplementary:

Question 3 – Alan Mossman attempted to ask the question via web ex but had connection issues and therefore would submit his question in writing.

A total of 26 member questions were asked for the meeting. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 3 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton explained that he welcomed the programme, but asked when Estcourt road would be resurfaced? He asked that funds be made available to include the southern section.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that he would be happy to meet on site with the local highways manager and would look at what the Council could do to get the section completed.

Question 4 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton welcomed establishment of the fund, but asked why it was named after the conservative manifesto?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied through webex that the conservative party set out the programme as promised in their manifesto and they had a mandate to deliver it.

Question 6 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson suggested that money had been available in February to support the Lib Dem budget proposal for a Covid community grant and asked why 6 months had been wasted before bringing a scheme forward.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied through web ex that many millions had been spent on supporting communities during the pandemic. There was an underspend in the Covid grant at the end of the financial year. Some money had been held back to be spent in the current financial year. Cabinet was putting forward a £40,000 pot for every councillor.

Question 7 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that the funding from government was provided to help communities within that financial year. He asked why the Cabinet had not spent that money as opposed to helping their bank balance?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied via webex that the funds had been allocated to provide support during the pandemic and that the money had been held back ready for continuing covid costs. This money would be spent on ensuring the recovery plan for the county was delivered.

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Question 11 – Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked what plans were in place for improving electricity infrastructure at the site to expand the number of charging points moving forward.

Cllr David Gray replied that the Council was looking at energy generation going forward through photovoltaic cells. In the longer term it would be including flexibility to expand the number of charging points.

Question 12 - Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked for specific information from the assessment that had been carried out about the categories of road users who were using the Arle Court Site.

Cllr David Gray – replied that he would need to check with officers and come back if there are any restrictions relating to GDPR. He would provide the information if possible.

Question 13 – Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked if the cabinet member could confirm that there would not be any charging for storage vehicles.

Cllr David Gray replied that consideration was still being given and that the whole objective was to encourage cyclists where possible.

Question 14 – Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked for commitment of other ways of offsetting carbon.

Cllr David Gray replied that the scheme would be a big benefit for reduction of carbon. In the construction, the aim was to minimise carbon as much as possible.

Question 15 – Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked what ‘favourable conditions’ meant and how many kilowatts per hour of energy was generated by the photovoltaic cells? ,

Cllr David Gray replied that he was not in position to give detailed numbers, but the ambition was there to generate as much electricity as possible.

Question 16 – Cllr Alex Hegenbarth asked whether the cabinet member would commit to bring the Arle Court Transport Hub plans to the Environment Scrutiny Committee prior to them being committed?

Cllr David Gray replied that if the Environment Scrutiny Committee wanted to look at this and required more information then he would be happy to work with them.

Question 17 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked how the Council could increase the availability of electric vehicle charging points in rural areas ?

Cllr David Gray replied that initial priority would be given to those areas where the benefits would be greatest, but that the Cabinet was committed to improving accessibility across Gloucestershire.

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Question 18 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked if the cabinet member could explain what practicable steps could be taken to develop the market given the challenges faced by providers.

Cllr Stephen Davies replied that the report was looking to set up a process for market testing and working to break tenders down into smaller parts to help encourage responses.

Question 21- Cllr John Bloxsom asked whether the youth strategy would be rolled out as proposed by the Youth Strategy Scrutiny Task Group.

Cllr Stephen Davies replied that he had sat on that task group and would be able to provide more detail over time with regards to the strategy.

Question 23 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked for assurances that there would be a reduction in out of county placements.

Cllr Stephen Davies stated that the report clearly highlights the need to do this with specific targets.

Question 25 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked whether the member would take active steps to look at provision of additional accommodation and work with other providers?

Cllr Kathy Williams replied that the Domestic Abuse local partnership board was very new and the aim was to try to secure placements within the county.

## **5. Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Disabilities**

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet support for a revised strategy for the commissioning of short breaks for children and young people with disabilities and sought delegated authority to conduct the associated procurement processes.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) was under a legal duty to provide access to information and support for children and young people with a disability and their families. The Covid19 pandemic had resulted in a very challenging scenario for short breaks provision with demand being variable as a result of children and young people ‘shielding’ or finding social distancing a significant challenge. This had been compounded by provider staff shortages and a large provider (Hop, Skip and Jump) going into administration and then closing.

The existing Short Break arrangements had not been reviewed for some time, a new Short Breaks Working Group had been established with representation from parents, local providers and a representative from the Gloucestershire Association of Special School Heads to consider the needs of the children and young people

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and their parents and carers. To meet demand and respond to the closure of Hop, Skip and Jump, the paper proposed the retendering of existing contracts and the further development of frameworks.

It was noted that there was an amendment to the recommendation in the report.

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

**RESOLVED** to:

*(1) Agree the proposed commissioning strategy and timeline.*

*(2) Authorise the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years to:*

- a) Conduct a compliant competitive tender process for the development of a three-year contract with the option to extend for a further two years for directly provided Short Break services.*
- b) Upon conclusion of the competitive tender process, to enter into contract arrangements with preferred providers*
- c) Determine whether to exercise the option to extend the contract for a further period of not more than two years on the expiry of the initial three year term.*
- d) Conduct a competitive procurement process in respect of a three year Framework Agreement for the supply of activity provision*
- e) Award such Framework Agreement to the preferred tenderer(s);*
- f) Procure and award Call-Off Contracts for the supply of activity provision under such Framework Agreement whose combined aggregate value shall not exceed £3m*
- g) The combined value of both the contracts and the Framework is estimated as £8.3m over the Five years for the delivery of Short Breaks services for children and young people with additional needs.*

## **6. Variation of existing contracts for an extension to the existing services to Children and Family Centres**

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet approval to vary existing contracts to Barnardo's, and Gardners Lane and Oakwood Federation (GLOW) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 for the provision of targeted family support services with Children and Family Centres in Gloucestershire, to cover Gloucester City, Forest of Dean, Stroud, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury localities. This would allow the Council to reshape and consult in order to offer an integrated service to the children and families in Gloucestershire.

The service provided support to children pre-birth to 11 years and their families, who have a level of need that would require intervention.–Covid had had a major

impact on the service and, as such, time needed to be taken to review the service to understand what it needs to deliver into the future

The current COVID pandemic had shown the real importance of communities and how people had worked together to support each other.

There had been changes from Central Government around Family Hubs, to improve cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes in disadvantaged and vulnerable children (conception to age five) across a number of areas to help children to achieve their potential and improve their chances of success in later life.

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

**RESOLVED to:**

Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years to issue a variation to the following contracts with two existing providers to extend the end date of the contracts by 12 months:-

- Barnardo's: for the provision of targeted family support services with children and families centres in the Gloucester City locality; and the Forest of Dean and Stroud localities.
- Gardners Lane and Oakwood Federation (GLOW): for the provision of the above services in the localities of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

**7. Extension of existing contact for Youth Support Services.**

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet agreement for a way forward for Youth Support services to continue to discharge the Council's statutory and partnership responsibilities towards young people aged 10 to 24 years following the end of the current Youth Support contract in March 2022, acknowledging the wide-ranging impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In July 2020 Cabinet authorised the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years to make a direct contract award to the Council's incumbent provider of Youth Support Services (Prospects Services), for a period of 12 months from April 2021 to March 2022.

Cabinet was now being asked to approve a variation of the Council's existing contract with Prospects Services by extending its term for an interim period of six months, from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, in order to provide the Council with an opportunity to complete a process of extensive market testing and market development in preparation for a full procurement process for a replacement contract commencing in October.

The Youth support services market has not fully recovered from the effects of COVID restrictions and the Council was yet to understand the full impact of the pandemic on Young people. Therefore, a short-term contract extension would allow additional time to engage in vigorous market testing exercises and the exploratory work necessary to develop future provision. It would also allow additional time to secure the provision of statutory services for young people whilst the market for such services recovers from the effects of COVID restrictions.

The council has a number of statutory responsibilities outlined in the report.

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

**RESOLVED to:**

Approve the variation of the Council's existing contract with Prospects Services (the current provider of integrated countywide Youth Support services) by extending its term for an interim period of six months, from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, in order to provide the Council with an opportunity to complete a process of extensive market testing and market development in preparation for a full procurement process for a replacement contract commencing in October 2022.

**8. Residential Framework for Children's Homes**

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet approval to undertake a compliant competitive tender process, in order to develop 'in county' residential provision for Gloucestershire children and young people in care.

Gloucestershire was committed to ensuring, wherever possible, that children who needed to be cared for away from home receive the 'Right Placement First Time'. When a child came into care and depending on their needs an option for some children was to be placed into residential care. Previously many local authorities, including Gloucestershire maintained their own in-house residential provision but over time many of these resources closed. As a consequence, authorities had become increasingly reliant on placing children in private residential homes, sometimes many miles from the child's parents and social networks.

In order to manage issues in the marketplace we had taken steps to address them, by joining together as a purchasing consortium with other local authorities to form a larger partnership for a dynamic purchasing system (DPS) for residential children's homes. This system gave a route to market and ensured compliance with Public Contract Regulations and UK Procurement Legislation.

The Cabinet Member referred to Trevone House as a good example of the approach and the importance of better outcomes and greater certainty with improve costs.

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

**RESOLVED** to:

(1) To approve the establishment of a pseudo framework opportunity for Residential Care, initially for up to ten 2-3 bed children's homes and up to two 6 bed children's homes;

(2) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, to:

a) Conduct a compliant process for the tender of a 5-year pseudo framework agreement for residential children homes. The estimated total value is up to £150m.

b) Upon conclusion of the pseudo framework process; call off up to 7 contracts for residential children's homes in the first year, for a period of 5 years, plus an optional extension of up to 5 years to an estimated maximum value of £70m; and, up to 5 additional residential children's homes for a period of 5 years, plus an optional extension of up to 5 years, to an estimated maximum value of £50m in years 2-5 of the framework.

c) Determine whether to exercise the option to extend each call-off contract for each home for a further period of not more than 5 years on the expiry of the initial five-year term.

**9. Youth Justice Plan 2021/22**

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, sought Cabinet's recommendation that Council approve Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Plan 2021/2022.

There was a duty placed on GCC as the accountable body to bring forward an annual Youth Justice Plan with input from the statutory partners – Health, Children's Services, Police and Probation.

The main objective of the strategy was to reduce first time entry into the Youth Justice System through 'Children First'. This had been successful in reducing the number of first time offenders from 162 in 2018 to 28 in 2019. The plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report set out the direction and strategy for Youth Justice in the county. The work to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system, reoffending rates and the use of custody, as key determinants of effectiveness.. Gloucestershire's Youth Offending service was generally performing well in these areas.

The challenges to future delivery were set out on pages 23 – 26 of the plan and priorities for the coming year on page 26. More work was needed to reduce exclusions of young people open to YOS and address the overrepresentation of certain groups within the youth justice system.

He thanked the officers for their work in this area.

Cllr Philip Robinson commended the plan, which recognised that education provision was a key element. He referred to the importance of holding the education sector to account on levels of school exclusion.

Cllr Dave Norman provided the example of the Fire Service in engaging with young people and suggested the involvement of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner.

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

**RESOLVED to:**

To recommend the Youth Justice Plan 2021/22, attached at Appendix 1 to Council for approval.

**10. MHCLG Domestic Abuse Section 31 Grant Funding for 2021/22**

Cllr Kathy Williams, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery sought Cabinet approval for investment of the MHCLG Domestic Abuse Section 31 Grant for 2021/22 to enable us to meet our statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed a statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. Other duties include a requirement to convene a multi-agency local partnership board (LPB); undertake an accommodation based support needs assessment and produce a DA Strategy every three years to inform commissioning.

The MHCLG had allocated funding to ensure local authorities were able to meet their duties under the Act and in 2021/22, Gloucestershire had received £1,105,661 in non ring-fenced Section 31 grant for the purposes of providing DA safe accommodation-based support and to support the administrative burdens associated with the duties.

The LPB had recommended a number of investment options which were outlined in the body of the report. Those options would enhance the offer already provided through Gloucestershire's community based support approach and help to meet our statutory obligations with respect to the DA Act.

Cabinet was asked to support the proposed two phase approach to investment to ensure that we are able to use the funding effectively this financial year and avoid funding penalties in future years.

Agreement was sought to modify the existing Lot 1 Provider contract and to delegate authority to the Executive Director: Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery to issue contracts under Lot 2 of the Domestic Abuse Framework; part fund DASV associated posts and allocate the remainder of the grant following publication of the needs assessment and strategy.

The risks had been identified within the report.

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

**RESOLVED** to:

Modify the existing Lot 1 provider contract with Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) up to the value of £405,968 over 2 + 2 years (the current contract ends 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and if the +2 option is exercised it will end 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025) to include:

1. Floating Support (£12,000 x4 = £48,000); Flexible Funding (£40,000 x4 = £160,000) and Target Hardening/Sanctuary referral (£49,492 x4 = £197,968)

2. Modify the existing Lot 1 provider contract with GDASS up to the value of £60,000 over three years with annual break clauses for Floating Support linked to call off contracts for Places of Safety and Dispersed Refuge (£12,000 x3 = £36,000; £8,000 x3 = £24,000)

Delegate authority to the Executive Director: Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery to:

3. Issue contracts under Lot 2 of the Domestic Abuse Framework up to the value of £800,000 over three years for the purpose of providing support in Places of Safety (£60,000 x3 + £18,100 x3 additional costs = £234,300); a DA Intervention Post (£88,000 x3 = £264,000); Specialist DA Advocates in Housing Teams; DA Training for the Housing Sector and DA Housing Champions (estimated £100,000 x3= £300,000)

4. Allocate a proportion of our Tier 1 administrative burdens funding towards posts which support the domestic abuse and sexual violence work associated with the duties arising from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to a maximum annual value of £100,000.

5. Run a mini competition on the DA framework under Lot 2 to support refuge accommodation up to the value of £300,000 over three years and award a contract to the successful bidder.

6. Issue contracts under Lot 2 of the Domestic Abuse Framework or the Community and Accommodation Based Support (CABS) Framework for scheme costs in dispersed refuge units to the maximum value of £180,000 over three years

7. Allocate the remainder of the grant (approximately £438,069 for 2021/22) following publication of the domestic abuse needs assessment and strategy in September 2021 and the subsequent investment recommendations from the LPB.

**11. Elected Member Community Grant Scheme Build Back Better - Councillor Scheme**

Cllr Tim Harman, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities presented the report on behalf of Cllr Lynden Stowe who sought approval to establish a four-year grant scheme running to 31 January 2025, where Councillors are each allocated £40,000 in total to spend within their division across this period.

The total budget was £2.2 million. The fund built upon the GCC approach to give small grants to community groups with minimal bureaucracy and ensuring the money reaches the community quickly. The purpose of the fund was to give money to local community groups to help with the recovery from the pandemic and building back better and stronger. It was felt that County Councillors had a good understanding of their area. The decision around approval of the grant would sit with the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health.

The criteria were outlined within the report. Officers would be happy to work with councillors to ensure the best use of the money over a four year period.

Cabinet Members noted the difficulties many people were facing during the pandemic and it was felt that this would be a real boost to help them get back on their feet. Examples were provided of how the money could be spent to build back communities. One member urged that councillors look to spend the funds urgently as communities were in need of the support.

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

**RESOLVED to:**

Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health to authorise the allocation of the grants in accordance with the criteria and financial regulations in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance and Change

**12. Provision of Food Waste Transfer Services**

Cllr David Gray, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning sought Cabinet consideration of future options for the provision of food waste transfer services for the delivery of food waste from districts to the central treatment facility, and to seek approval to put in place the preferred option for the award of a contract for these services to commence 1st October 2021.

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The separate collection and treatment of food waste was an established service throughout Gloucestershire. All 6 district councils offered a weekly kerbside collection service to householders, whilst the County Council provided the treatment facility and any necessary haulage from district depots to the treatment facility, located in Bishops Cleeve. Current food waste haulage arrangements were in place with a number of local private sector operators.

A new contract for the treatment of food waste had recently been awarded to the incumbent provider (Andigestion, at Bishops Cleeve). To support this, food waste transfer arrangements needed to be renewed in Stroud District, Gloucester City and Forest of Dean District by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

There were two viable options to consider in delivering this service outlined in the report; a direct award to Ubico Ltd (a local authority owned and controlled company of which the council is a shareholder) or procurement from a commercial operator. A direct award to Ubico was likely to deliver the most financially beneficial outcome in terms of service costs and offers the potential for further efficiencies by combining this work with the existing Household Recycling Centre haulage work undertaken by Ubico for the council.

It was therefore recommended that members agreed to award a contract for the provision of Food Waste Transfer Services in Gloucestershire to Ubico Limited. The proposed contract should continue for an initial period of 8 years (commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021) and include an option to extend its term for a further period of not more than 2 years.

Cabinet Members discussed putting in place digital technology to allow waste collection to be monitored.

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

**RESOLVED** to:

1. Award a contract for the provision of Food Waste Transfer Services in Gloucestershire to the local authority owned and controlled "Teckal" company known as Ubico Limited in which Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is a shareholder. The proposed contract shall continue for an initial period of 8 years (commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021) and include an option to extend its term for a further period of not more than 2 years;
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning to determine whether to exercise such option to extend on the expiry of the initial 8 year term.

**13. Arle Court Transport Hub –Contract Procurement and Ancillary Orders**

Cllr David Gray Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning sought Cabinet approval for the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure to

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conduct a series of competitive procurement processes in respect of the contracts described in the Recommendations section of the report for the supply of construction works and advanced highways and civils works in relation to the Arle Court Transport Hub scheme; and to award such contracts, upon the conclusion of such procurement processes, to the preferred tenderers evaluated as offering the Council the most economically advantageous tenders.

Members were aware that in October 2020, Gloucestershire County Council had signed a funding agreement with Homes England, through the Housing Infrastructure Fund, for £249m to deliver a series of infrastructure improvements to unlock the housing and job opportunities in Gloucestershire around Junction 10 of the M5. This Cabinet Paper related to the procurement of one of those scheme elements; the expansion of the existing Arle Court Park and Ride site, Cheltenham, to form a new transport interchange, now known as Arle Court Transport Hub.

Cllr Vernon Smith outlined as well as improving the road network, there was also cycling, walking and supporting the environment to reduce carbon emissions. He praised the scheme which was moving forward. The report outlined the work to reduce congestion and pollution on the A40 and ease people's transition to incorporate sustainable transport into their everyday habits. In this context, it predominantly meant bus, walking and cycling. The scheme would include photovoltaic cells as a green source of energy and 100 electric vehicle charging spaces, with the option to expand the number of spaces in the future.

This paper was seeking Cabinet authorisation to conduct competitive tender processes for the supply of design and construction services in relation to Arle Court Transport Hub.

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) for the scheme was available to members and would be published online. The EIA would be reviewed and updated on completion of work packages (i.e. on completion of design, procurement and construction), to ensure a continuing duty of regard for equality impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

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

**RESOLVED** to:

Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning) to:

1. Conduct a competitive procurement process under the council's Contractor Partnering Framework Agreement: Major Construction Works 2019, Lot 2 in respect of a call-off contract for the supply of construction works in relation to the Arle Court Transport Hub scheme;

2. Conduct a separate competitive procurement process in respect of a contract for the delivery of advanced highways and civil engineering works in relation to the Arle Court Transport Hub scheme;
3. Award such contract to the preferred tenderers;
4. Make such ancillary traffic regulation orders as are required in order to successfully implement the Arle Court Transport Hub scheme (to include, amongst other things, temporary traffic regulation orders (TTRO's) for temporary speed limits etc. during the construction phase of the scheme).

#### **14. Financial Monitoring Report 2021/22**

Cllr Tim Harman, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities presented the report on behalf of Cllr Lynden Stowe, gave an update on the Council's forecast revenue year end position at the end of May 2021 which was a £4.570 million overspend all of which is non Covid-19 related.

A balanced position was forecast in relation to Covid-19 expenditure and income.

The largest non-Covid-19 budget variance was the £6.591 million forecast overspend in Children and Families – this overspend is partially offset by the £2.052 million underspend in Technical & Countywide. The overspend in Children and Families reflects the continuing pressure on external placements and home to school transport.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was forecast to overspend by £16.811 million, which includes the deficit carry forward of £13.67 million – this reflects the national picture. The implementation of the High Needs Strategy (agreed by Schools Forum) would be essential to ensure the budget is balanced in future years and a spending review is in progress with a financial recovery plan being reviewed and developed.

Cllr Vernon Smith outlined the investment in highways.

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 April 2021 and May 2021 (Period 2) forecasts for the 2021/22 financial year is an overspend of £4.570 million all of which related to non Covid-19 expenditure, as we are forecasting a balanced position in relation to Covid-19 expenditure and income.

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2. Note the forecast capital year end position as at the end of May 2021 of £158.187 million against the current budget of £158.187 million.
3. Approve the recommended transfer of £1million from the earmarked minimum wages reserve, which is no longer required, to General Reserves.
4. Approve the £4.005 million decrease to the capital programme as outlined in section B of the report.

**Leader of Council**

Meeting concluded at 11:15