



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Cabinet

CABINET

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2016
In the Shrewsbury Room
12.30 pm – 12.50 pm**

Responsible Officer: Jane Palmer
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Present

Councillor Malcolm Pate (Chairman)
Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Lee Chapman, David Minnery,
Cecilia Motley, Malcolm Price and Michael Wood

34 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Karen Calder, Simon Jones and Stuart West.

35 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

36 Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 13 July 2016 and 27 July 2016 be approved as correct records and signed by the Leader.

37 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

38 Scrutiny Items

There were no scrutiny items.

39 Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayment Debt Collection Policy

The Leader presented the report by the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance – copy attached to the signed minutes. Cabinet agreed an amendment to the Policy proposed by the Leader so that the following paragraph be inserted into the Introduction:

'We are aware that people fall into arrears for a number of different reasons. We are conscious that some people fall regularly into arrears, and other people are in arrears for the first time due to losing employment for example. We are committed that everyone will be treated sensitively, fairly, and realistically. We would stress that this is a two way process and that taxpayers need to be confident enough to approach us and are willing to take steps to sort out their problems themselves, if we are going to have any chance of helping them.'

RESOLVED

- i) That the following paragraph be inserted into the Introduction of the Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayment Debt Collection Policy: 'We are aware that people fall into arrears for a number of different reasons. We are conscious that some people fall regularly into arrears, and other people are in arrears for the first time due to losing employment for example. We are committed that everyone will be treated sensitively, fairly, and realistically. We would stress that this is a two way process and that taxpayers need to be confident enough to approach us and are willing to take steps to sort out their problems themselves, if we are going to have any chance of helping them.'
- ii) That with this amendment, the Council policy for Debt Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayment set out in Appendix A be approved.
- iii) That the Council Policy for Debt Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit Overpayment should be reviewed every three years.

40 Quarter 1 Performance Report 2016/17

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support presented a report of the Performance Manager – copy attached to the signed minutes – presenting the Council's Performance against its key Outcomes for Quarter 1 2016/17. He explained that this would be the last time that the report would be presented in this format to Cabinet and that the new way of reporting would be introduced at Cabinet on 30 November.

He drew attention to areas of improvement and challenge. Improvements included the number of children looked after by the authority which continued to decrease, the percentage of people who are not readmitted to hospital within 91 days of discharge into reablement services, and increased attendance at Theatre Severn.

Areas of challenge were the number of people entering residential care which was more than profiled, and the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads which had seen an increase. These areas were being managed by the relevant service areas, although Cabinet noted that West Mercia Police had confirmed that the increase in people killed or seriously injured on roads was due to factors outside of the control of the Council.

RESOLVED

That the key underlying and emerging issues in the Quarter 1 Performance Report be noted.

41 Proposal to consult on the amalgamation of Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Marys CE Primary School, Westbury

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People presented a report by the Director of Children’s Services – copy attached to the signed minutes – on the proposal to consult on the amalgamation of Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Mary’s CE Primary School, Westbury.

He explained that the proposed amalgamation was a community led initiative, it was felt that this would be of benefit to pupils in the area and it was supported by the Local Member.

RESOLVED

That formal consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Mary’s CE Primary School Westbury in the academic year 2017/18, which will require the closure of the sites at Hope and Westbury and the enlargement of the current site at Worthen to accommodate the displaced pupils, be agreed.

42 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.2 of the Council’s Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the remaining items.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: