CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 19 October 2017 at 10.00 am at Council Chamber, County Offices, Kendal

PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Leader)
Mrs A Burns
Ms D Earl
Mr KA Little
Mr DE Southward
Mrs C Tibble
Mr I Stewart
Mrs J Willis
Mrs S Sanderson
Mr J Airey

In Attendance: Mr J Airey

Officers in attendance:

Corporate Director - Health, Care and Community Services, Corporate Director - Economy and Highways, Corporate Director - Children and Families Services, Assistant Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer), Senior Manager - Legal and Democratic Services, Leadership Support Officer - Liberal Democrat Group, Leadership Support Officer - Labour Group, Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council and Leadership Support Officer - Conservative Group

PART 1 ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Peter Thornton, Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services.
DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mrs Sanderson, the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10, as a governor of the Sandside Lodge School. She advised the meeting that owing to the nature of the decision she would nonetheless leave the meeting during this item.

MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2017 be approved.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, to exclude the press and public during Item 10 Award of Contract Construction of a new Special Education Needs School in Ulverston.

STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

Mr K Little, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport made a statement about the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) Community Rail Awards held on 5 October. Community Rail Cumbria had received the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail. This was only the second time that a community rail organisation had received this award, which is normally awarded to major rail operators. The team also received five other awards for collaborative rail related projects in Cumbria.

Community Rail Cumbria has been successful in raising over £300,000 through funding bids, in addition to financial support from business, for projects to connect the community and local railway and deliver community benefit. Its activities over the past year have included school and college art projects, flower planters at stations, supporting local station adoption groups and contributing to strategic planning.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public participation items at this meeting.
33 CHANGE OF NAME OF CABINET PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP

Ms I Puzio, Monitoring Officer, introduced the report, explaining the reasons for the proposals. She highlighted that the change of name has been proposed to reflect more explicitly the strengthened focus of the working group on commissioning, as part of a stronger focus on commissioning across the Council.

Mr Young, the Chair, explained that the existing terms of reference are clear in including commissioning, and the proposed new title, while being a technical change, more correctly reflects the role of the working group.

Having considered the report Cabinet

RESOLVED, that the name of the Cabinet Procurement Working Group be amended to the Commissioning and Procurement Working Group.

34 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL - HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Mr Donnini, Corporate Director – Economy and Highways introduced the report, explaining the reasons for the proposals. He highlighted that the Council is a safe organisation which has seen a slight reduction in the number of reported incidents from the previous year. Verbal abuse of staff, slips and trips and handling incidents were the most predominantly reported. He drew attention to the action log in the Appendix to the report which reflects a commitment to embed a health and safety culture, with full attendance at training across the Council.

Mrs Willis, Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire and Rescue, highlighted that the Council is not simply monitoring the number of incidents but is also learning. An example of this is the approach taken to lone workers. She highlighted that reported incidence is low compared with the size of the workforce.

The Chair referred to Item 9 on the Agenda (the Time to Change Pledge) and emphasised the need to ensure a joined-up approach, which took account of key areas of stress, mental health and wellbeing.

Having considered and discussed the report, Cabinet

RESOLVED, to
(1) approve the updated 2017 Health and Safety Policy Statement as appended.

(2) approve the Draft 2016/17 Annual Health and Safety Report as appended and authorise officers to publish the report.

35 TIME TO CHANGE PLEDGE

Mrs Brenda Smith, Corporate Director – Health, Care and Communities introduced the report, highlighting that Time to Change is a national partnership aimed at tackling the stigma associated with poor mental health. Employers were asked to sign the Time to Change Pledge on World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2017 to raise awareness of mental health in the workplace and the need for a supportive and understanding response.

The Leader had signed the Pledge on 10 October, following consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Council will now receive support from the Time to Change Partnership to develop an action plan.

Members were agreed on the importance of the Pledge and welcomed and supported the Deputy Leader for his courage in having recently spoken publicly about his own experience of poor mental health.

The Deputy Leader thanked members and welcomed the Leader having signed the Pledge on behalf of the Council. He thanked Mike Conefrey, a Locality Manager in Public Health for raising and promoting the Pledge in the Council.

The Chair joined Cabinet in offering full support to the Deputy Leader’s decision to speak publicly and included the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Airey, who was in attendance. He referred to the time limited nature of the funding available and in particular the £10,000 Champions Fund. He requested that the information about the Champions Fund be circulated to all members.

Members welcomed the idea of having Mental Wellbeing Champions at Local Committee Level and asked for advice from the Monitoring Officer on how this could be achieved.

The Chair summed up the discussion, reminding members that the purpose of the Pledge is to raise awareness and encourage thinking. Talking about mental wellbeing is a good first step. He advised members that it had been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board that all
partners would take the Pledge back to their own organisations. He also saw a role for the Health and Wellbeing Board in conducting its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to consider how needs can be addressed.

Having considered and discussed the issue Cabinet

RESOLVED to note the report.

36 AWARD OF CONTRACT – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SCHOOL IN ULVERSTON

Mr Dominic Donnini, Corporate Director – Economy and Highways guided members through the report, explaining the reasons for the recommendations.

He confirmed that the current building does not meet modern requirements and that funding had been included in the capital programme.

Mr Southward, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property supported the recommendations.

Having considered and discussed the report, Cabinet

RESOLVED, to

(1) approve the award of the detailed design, planning and cost plan phase of the design and build contract to Seddon Construction Ltd, for the construction of a new 80 place Special School for a price of £8.007m with an additional £0.25m contingency.

(2) to delegate, on satisfactory completion of the above preliminary phase, the award to Seddon Construction Ltd of the construction element of the contract to the Corporate Director Economy and Highways, in consultation with the portfolio holders for Schools and Learning and Economic Development and Property.

The meeting ended at 10.40 am