

# CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20 December 2018 at 10.00 am at Conference Room A, Cumbria House, Carlisle

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### **PRESENT:**

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

Mr N Cotton        in attendance for Item 7a  
Mr W Wearing     in attendance for Item 8

Officers in attendance:

Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council, Executive Director - People (Deputy Chief Executive), Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services, Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), Chief Fire Officer, Director of Public Health, Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer), Professional Lead - Democratic Services, Leadership Support Officer - Labour Group, Communications Manager, Senior Manager - Policy and Scrutiny, Assistant Director - Highways and Transport and Area Manager - South Lakeland

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

#### **64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr P Thornton.

#### **65 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

## **66 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, the press and public be not excluded during discussion of any items on the agenda today.

## **67 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

## **68 STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS**

The Leader made a statement about the strike action taking place today outside of the Evening News and Star offices in Carlisle. He had visited the pickets outside the building to offer his support.

The Leader then reported that today the Environment Agency and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science had now deployed a weather radar system which would help better protect Cumbria in the future.

Following the floods in 2015 it came to light that the agencies didn't receive the detailed advance weather warnings that they needed to help protect the communities and businesses in effected areas.

Investment in improved high resolution weather radar systems had been implemented and the data collected by the radar would help researchers better understand the type of extreme rainfall that sometimes affected Cumbria.

## **69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no petitions, questions or statements made on this occasion.

## **70 REFERRAL FROM LOCAL COMMITTEES**

### **(A) REFERRAL FROM SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL COMMITTEE - WINDERMERE FERRY**

The Chair of South Lakeland Local Committee presented a referral from South Lakeland Local Committee to Cabinet to request a review of the repair programme of Windermere Ferry following the fire incident in May of this year. Cabinet to consider the re-introduction of the Windermere Ferry Advisory Committee.

At the South Lakeland Local Committee meeting of 19 November, the review report was presented by officers which outlined the process to repair and re-instate the operation of the ferry, to share the lessons that had been learnt from this incident and the measures which had subsequently been put in place.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet is asked to consider the re-introduction of the Windermere Ferry Advisory Committee

**(B) RESPONSE TO REFERRAL FROM SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL COMMITTEE - WINDERMERE FERRY**

Cabinet considered a report from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure, which provided a response to the referral from South Lakeland Local Committee re. Windermere Ferry.

Following the incident, the evacuation of the ferry required a multi-agency response involving: the crew of the Windermere Ferry, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, Cumbria Constabulary, North West Ambulance Service, Windermere Lake Warden and Windermere Lake Cruises Ltd. The County Councils Health and Safety Adverse Event Investigation and the Police led Structured Debrief Report (Multi-agency debrief) both indicate that the evacuation of the Windermere Ferry was well managed with very positive feedback

The referral from South Lakeland Local Committee also contained a request that Cabinet considered the re-introduction of the Windermere Ferry Advisory Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Transport had, in response to a question in Council on 15 November, confirmed his commitment to the re-establishment of a Windermere Ferry Group, suggesting that it should meet twice a year, at the beginning and end of the season.

Cabinet was therefore recommended to support the establishment of an advisory group by the Local Committee. The Local Committee would determine the terms of reference of the advisory Group, which would operate as a working group of the Local Committee and could include supporting engagement with local members and parishes. The Local Committee would be responsible for any costs associated with the advisory group.

**RESOLVED** that,

- (1) Cabinet note the information in relation to the repair programme of the Windermere Ferry and the associated lessons learned;

- (2) Cabinet supports the introduction of a Windermere Ferry Advisory Group by the South Lakeland Local Committee.

## **71 SCRUTINY FEEDBACK ON STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board presented a report which provided a summary of Scrutiny's engagement in Strategic Planning for 2019/20, and outlined key points and recommendations agreed by Scrutiny Management Board (SMB).

Two focused sessions to consider the strategic policy and financial context for the Council had taken place, on 25 July 2018 and 3 December 2018.

In December members received an update on the financial context for the Council and the proposals for delivering a balanced budget for 2019/20.

The Chair took Cabinet through the key themes and points that members raised in relation to:

- Scrutiny Feedback – Overview
- Approach to finding the budget savings of £23 million in 2019/20
- How future savings can be made
- How Scrutiny can be engaged

Scrutiny Management Board welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback to Cabinet on the budget consultation.

Scrutiny Management Board had agreed a number of specific recommendations for Cabinet drawn from the discussions which took place on the 3 December, Cabinet was asked:-

- That work to progress options for local government reorganisation for Cumbria is undertaken in a collaborative way, involving and providing feedback to all Members throughout the process.
- To provide assurance that opportunities will continue to be offered for pre-scrutiny and non-executive input with proposals as they emerge through the year, prior to decisions being taken.
- To continue to work together with partners to unlock funding opportunities that could benefit Cumbria.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet Members agree Scrutiny's response and recommendations.

## **72 RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY FEEDBACK ON STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Cabinet considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services, which provided a Cabinet response to Scrutiny feedback on the 2019/20 Budget Consultation and Strategic Planning.

In addition to feedback provided, Scrutiny Management Board also made 3 recommendations to Cabinet in respect of work towards unitary governance in Cumbria, early engagement of Members in development of strategic planning proposals, and working with partners to secure funding for Cumbria. It was proposed that Cabinet accepts the 3 recommendations.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet agrees the proposed responses contained in this report to Scrutiny feedback on Strategic Planning.

## **73 APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cabinet had before them a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which asked members to consider appointments to Working Groups and outside bodies following the recent changes to membership and re-assignment of Cabinet portfolios.

It was important to make these changes to ensure that the Council engaged effectively in outside bodies and that membership of Cabinet Working Groups was appropriate.

The Leader asked the Chief Legal Officer why Cabinet had not been asked to appoint to the LGA Assembly. The Chief Legal Officer agreed to investigate.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport asked why the Transport for the North Scrutiny Board had not been included. The Chief Legal Officer confirmed this had previously been a County Council appointment, not Cabinet.

**RESOLVED** that, the proposed membership of Cabinet Working Groups and representation on Outside Bodies be agreed as follows:-

- (1) Cumbria Local Safeguarding Adults Board – Mrs PA Bell to replace Mr P Thornton;

- (2) Commissioning and Procurement Working Group – Mr P Thornton be appointed as Chair;
- (3) County Council Joint Consultative Group – Mr P Thornton be appointed to fill the vacancy;
- (4) Cumbria Housing Group - Mrs PA Bell to replace Mr P Thornton;
- (5) Cumbria Learning Disability Partnership - – Mrs PA Bell to replace Mr P Thornton;
- (6) LGA County Council Network – Mr P Thornton be appointed to fill the vacancy.

#### **74 2018/19 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

A report by the Director of Finance set out the Council's financial position at 30 September 2018 Quarter 2 (Q2); covering the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management. Cabinet received this report each quarter and Directorate and Corporate Management Teams received detailed reports monthly. This report linked to the Q2 Council Plan Delivery Plan Performance Report set out on today's agenda.

The financial context for the Council was extremely challenging. 2018/19 represented the eighth financial year of significant funding reductions from central government, and the Budget for 2018/19 included £38.829m of new savings to be delivered. Since 2011/12, the Council had agreed a total of c£250 million of savings in setting annual revenue budgets.

At the end of Q2, against the Revised Budget of £380.766m, the forecast for the Revenue Budget 2018/19 at the year-end is a net pressure of £4.593m (Q1 £2.968m). This forecast assumes the delivery of the Budget as set out in this report, including and particularly, Promoting Independence within People Services, for which an update is provided in paras 4.6, 4.11 and 4.12.

The Leader took Cabinet through the key messages contained in the report, and highlighted the following:-

- The Directorate net pressure of £5.805m consisted of an overall pressure in People of £8.791m, Economy & Infrastructure of £0.362m and Corporate, Customer & Community Services Directorate of £0.047m. These net pressures were partly offset by underspends in the Finance Directorate (£3.122m) and Fire & Rescue Services of (£0.273m)

- The areas of the Council's activities subject to the greatest financial pressures were in People Services, and in particular, Children Looked After where the forecast overspend at Q2 was £9.587m
- The opening balance on the General Fund as at 1 April was £10.472m. The Council received S31 Grants to compensate for Business Rates reliefs determined by central government. The final grant announcement for 2018/19 was higher than that assumed when the Budget was set by £1.433m. As this grant was part of the Council's core revenue funding the additional element of £1.433m had been transferred to General Reserves resulting in a revised General Fund position of £11.905m as at 1 April 2018
- The forecast General Fund Balance for the 31 March 2019 having taken account of the Q2 forecast over budget outturn of £4.593m was £7.312m. This was £2.688m below the minimum level of General Reserve Balances target set by Council in February 2018 was £10m
- The Council approved a capital programme for 2018/19 in February 2018 of £135.135m for Council delivered schemes and £2.000m for schemes where the Council is Accountable Body. Cabinet received the Q1 Monitoring report on 27 September which set out a Capital Programme of £142.181m.
- This report sought agreement from Cabinet to decrease the Capital Programme by (£0.413m); being additional contributions of £0.112m and scheme budget reductions of (£0.525m); and to recommend to Council a reduction in the Capital Programme by (£10.132m), being budget reductions of (£1.000m) and the net reprofiling of schemes by (£9.132m) following a review of expenditure by 31 March. This was a rolling programme and these changes result in a revised Capital Programme for 2018/19 of £131.636m, excluding the Accountable Bodies schemes. The changes are summarised in Table 6 at paragraph 7.3. This forecast excluded the additional highways grant announced by the Chancellor on 31 October in the Autumn Budget of £12.004m which has to be spent by 31 March 2019

The Leader moved an amendment to recommendation 2.1 (h) which was:-

h) Recommend to Council

- the reduction of £1.000m in schemes as detailed in paragraph 7.5
- the approval of £9.630m re-profiling of schemes from 2018/19 to future years as detailed at paragraph 7.6

- the approval of £0.498m accelerated spend from the 2020/21 to 2018/19 Capital Programme for the Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR) for scheme development between January and March 2019. This will allow scheme development to continue pending a funding decision on the HIF funding bid (for which a decision is anticipated from Government from December 2018 onwards). If the funding bid is not successful, further scheme development for the CSLR would then be paused at this time until other funding sources could be identified to deliver the scheme. Should no funding be available costs incurred would be met from revenue resources.

Cabinet supported this amendment.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet

- a) Note the Revenue Budget at the provisional outturn for monitoring purposes of £380.766m as a result of the transfers from the Inflation and Contingency budget and agreed transfers from reserves, as set out in Appendix 1 (2);
- b) Note the forecast Revenue Budget outturn of a net pressure of £4.593m, an increase of £1.625m from the £2.968m reported at Q1;
- c) Note progress in delivering the new savings for 2018/19 of £38.829m; a total of £36.922m (95.1%) of these 2018/19 savings are forecast to be delivered by 31st March 2019;
- d) Note the forecast General Reserve balance at 31st March 2019 of (£7.312m) before additional mitigations throughout the year as detailed in paragraph 6.2. This is below the minimum level of General Reserve Balances target set by Council in February 2018 of £10m;
- e) Approve the following transfers to reserves; £0.222m to the Elections Reserve from the inflation budget as set out in paragraph 3.2;
- f) Approve the addition of £0.112m of additional contributions/adjustments to schemes, as detailed in paragraph 7.4, to be included within the capital programme funded from specific grants and contributions;
- g) Approve the reduction of £0.525m in schemes as detailed in paragraph 7.5;



h) Recommend to Council:-

- the reduction of £1.000m in schemes as detailed in paragraph 7.5
  - the approval of £9.630m re-profiling of schemes from 2018/19 to future years as detailed at paragraph 7.6
  - the approval of £0.498m accelerated spend from the 2020/21 to 2018/19 Capital Programme for the Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR) for scheme development between January and March 2019. This will allow scheme development to continue pending a funding decision on the HIF funding bid (for which a decision is anticipated from Government from December 2018 onwards). If the funding bid is not successful, further scheme development for the CSLR would then be paused at this time until other funding sources could be identified to deliver the scheme. Should no funding be available costs incurred would be met from revenue resources.
- i) Note the further additional funding allocation for 2018/19 of £12.004m from DfT to repair roads (including potholes), bridges and local highways infrastructure as detailed in paragraph 7.8.
- j) Note the forecast outturn for the Capital Programme 2018/19 of £131.591m against a current budget of £131.636m (excluding Accountable Bodies) resulting in a variance of (£0.045m) which is made up of (£0.045m) underspend, as set out in Table 7, paragraph 7.9.
- k) Note Treasury Management activities during Q2 have operated within the treasury limits set out in the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Strategy Statement and the Prudential Indicators set by Council in February 2018.

## **75 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 2 2018-19**

The Leader presented a report from the Director of Finance, which provided Cabinet with a progress update on corporate performance, incorporating progress on the Council Plan Delivery Plan 2018/19 for the three month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018.

Cabinet noted that where performance was below target or baseline, action would be taken to improve performance and to bring it back on track.

The recommendations were intended to ensure public accountability for corporate performance and that the Council could demonstrate a good level of public performance reporting, enable Cabinet to celebrate areas of Council services that were performing well and to consider appropriate action if performance was not at an acceptable level, or the pace of improvement was slower than expected.

The overall position by the end of Quarter 2 2018/19 was that 78 of the 82 (95%) Council Plan Delivery Plan actions had delivered, met or were on track to meet the planned milestone, or were at risk of missing the planned milestone with a recovery plan in place. These were therefore rated green or amber. For the same period, 4 actions (5%) had missed a key milestone, did not fully deliver as intended and had therefore been rated red.

The Cabinet Member for Environment asked Cabinet to note that the County Council had recently achieved the Better Health at Work Award, Gold level. The council was assessed against 8 criteria which included the incorporation of health and wellbeing into strategies and workforce plan, participation in local, regional and national health campaigns, and how health topics were promoted in the wider community. Members were delighted to hear this.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet note overall performance relating to delivery of the three Council Plan outcomes and implementation of new ways of working, focusing on progress against the actions and metrics identified in Council Plan Delivery Plan 2018/19 for the 2nd quarter ending 30 September 2018.

## **76 CUMBRIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

The Leader presented a report from the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) which informed Cabinet that the Government published its 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report in July 2018. This report introduced a number of changes for the management and operation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The key changes were that LEPs were to:-

- become incorporated bodies, where they were not part of a combined authority;
- adopt Local Assurance Frameworks that were compliant with national guidance;
- have a single accountable body; and
- prepare Local Industrial Strategies for their area

As a result of this report, the LEP Board at its meeting on 28 September 2018 approved a revised Local Assurance Framework and new governance structure. Subsequent to this, the LEP Board agreed at its meeting on 23 November 2018 to the LEP becoming an incorporated body and to ask the County Council to be its single accountable body. This report sought approval to the changes being introduced and for the Council to act as the LEP's single accountable body.

The role of accountable body for the LEP had been undertaken by the County Council since the LEPs inception, however, this had been considered on a programme by programme basis. Government was now requiring LEPs 'to identify a single accountable body within each area that was responsible for all Local Enterprise Partnership funding.' Government advised that LEPs would 'continue to be individually accountable for the allocation of funding and the delivery and evaluation of projects, with Section 151 Officers maintaining accountability for the proper conduct of financial affairs' within the LEP.

The LEP asked all local authorities within Cumbria if they wanted to undertake the role of the LEP's single accountable body. The County Council was the only organisation that responded to the LEP. The Council offered to be the LEP's accountable body on the basis that a number of conditions would be met. This was considered by the LEP Board on 23 November and the LEP agreed to ask the Council to be its accountable body. A subsequent letter from the LEP CEO dated 3 December set out the following conditions:

- i. The County Council will hold the Vice-Chair (public sector) as the Accountable Body.
- ii. A management fee of £150,000 to be paid to the County Council each year as partial recovery of the costs associated with the Accountable Body role (to be reviewed annually). This would be distinct and separate from the costs associated with the provision of data intelligence services and IT provision, assumed to be £45,000 and £15,000 respectively.
- iii. The in-kind contribution from the Council is recognised as being in the order of £250,000.
- iv. The County Council will release £336,000 of CIF revenue funding to provide the necessary reserves to allow CLEP to operate as a going concern at the point of incorporation and to provide for any extraordinary expenditure, for example staff redundancies.
- v. Future interest received on Growth Deal and CIF will be released to the LEP.
- vi. The parties would explore introducing a management fee on Growth Deal and other funding applications, which would be shared between the parties on an equitable basis.

- vii. CLEP will operate Redhills [conference centre] on behalf of the County Council and in return will receive its accommodation at a peppercorn rent and retain any profits created from the operation in lieu of the Council providing any direct cash contribution to the LEP.
- viii. A revised Memorandum of Agreement would be negotiated and included within the Local Assurance Framework.
- ix. An Accountable Body representative will attend the CLEP Board and Investment Panel in that capacity, alongside the official members of these bodies.
- x. The County Council will continue to host the LEP's current secondees (4 posts) and will act as host employer for CLEP's Head of Business and a Programme Officer to increase the potential of securing high quality candidates on the basis that the LEP reimburses the Council for their salary and associated employment costs;

In fulfilling the role of accountable body on behalf of the LEP, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Council and the LEP is required to provide clarity on roles and responsibilities.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet

- (1) notes the Government's 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' report and that Cumbria LEP will become a company limited by guarantee, operating as a constituted body from 1 April 2019;
- (2) agrees to the Council being Cumbria LEP's single accountable body and to manage all funding received from Government on behalf of the LEP in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, subject to:
  - (i) the LEP agrees the Council's representative on the LEP Board holding the position of Vice-Chair
  - (ii) The LEP agrees a Memorandum of Agreement being in place between the LEP and the Council in substantially the form which is set out at Appendix 1 of the report
  - (iii) The LEP agrees the Council being invited to be a corporate member of the company, with the Council's representative on the Board being the Leader of the Council or as agreed by Leader
  - (iv) The LEP agrees the Council top-slicing LEP revenue funding for partial recovery of the management costs associated with being the accountable body;

- (3) agree to lease the Redhills office accommodation to the LEP on a peppercorn rent and the Council foregoes the income as part of its financial contribution to the LEP. The authority to agree the terms of the lease (other than the rent) is to be delegated to the Executive Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Property. The LEP will promote the economic well-being of the area, and the reduced rent will further enhance the viability of the LEP;
- (4) note the preparation of the LEP's Local Industrial Strategy and agrees that the Council supports this as Cumbria's economic strategy;
- (5) authorises the S151 Officer in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property to finalise the Memorandum of Agreement.

## **77 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet Member for Customers, Transformation and Fire and Rescue presented a report which detailed proposals for an updated Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

The draft IRMP attached to this report ran for the period 2019 – 2023 and reflected the latest information on risk and demand that the service had access to. The refreshed IRMP incorporated a Delivery Plan outlining what the Service aimed to address over the next 4 years in respect of its Prevention, Protection, Response and Organisational Development activities.

Consultation would allow members of the public and other interested parties to contribute towards the production of a final IRMP, and publication of the draft IRMP and subsequent consultation gave the service an opportunity to reinforce its key prevention messages

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet note the report and approve the draft IRMP for consultation.

## **78 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Leader presented a report which outlined the submission of an expression of interest in working with the Government to explore options for reorganisation of local government to a unitary model in Cumbria. It provided information on the legislative and policy context, approaches

taken by other areas in the country, and the outline case for change that emerged from work carried out with partners through the Cumbria Leadership Board earlier this year.

In this report, Cabinet Members were also asked to consider the views and comments expressed by members of the County Council at the meeting held on Thursday 15 November 2018, and the analysis of a number of unitary models that was carried out through Cumbria Leadership Board over the last few months attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Leader took members through the report, detailing the background and the debate held at Council about this. The views and comments expressed in Council were broadly supportive of change and highlighted a number of issues for Cabinet Members' consideration. One member asked for their disagreement with the proposal to be formally noted. The opportunity to debate this proposal prior to consideration by Cabinet was welcomed, and the work carried out to date with partners through the Cumbria Leadership Board was recognised.

The decision to submit an expression of interest at this time would demonstrate that the Council recognised the need for change in Cumbria to support the future sustainability of local authorities and vital public services.

The submission of an expression of interest provided an opportunity to understand Government's views and intentions which could be used to inform future decision-making by the Council about further work and allocation of capacity and resources

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet agrees to submit to Government an expression of interest in exploring options for local government reorganisation to a unitary model in Cumbria.

## **79 RESPONSE TO ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN (PART 2) SITE ALLOCATIONS PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet Member for Environment presented a report which sought Cabinet's agreement to respond to the consultation on the Allerdale Borough Council Site Allocations Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. When adopted, this Local Plan would identify key development sites in Allerdale up to 2029.

At this stage in the plan preparation process representations needed to address whether or not the Draft Local Plan was in compliance with legal requirements and whether it was “sound”, i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Cumbria County Council had engaged with Allerdale Borough Council in the development of the plan on an ongoing basis and through the development process, the plan had undertaken a positive evolution and could be considered to be sound. Notwithstanding this positive progression and broad support, a number of detailed points, intended to enhance the plan, had been raised within this response.

If agreed this response would help to ensure the Council’s interests and priorities were reflected within the Local Plan, ensure the integration of Local Plan growth and infrastructure planning. It would also ensure the deliverability of the Local Plan, and ensure the Local Plan maximised economic growth opportunities.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet approve the strategic response outlined in the report and agree that the technical response contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 is submitted to Allerdale Borough Council.

## **80 SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2019-20**

Cabinet considered a report from the Executive Director – People, and presented by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, which reminded members that in July 2018, the Schools Minister made an announcement on the school funding arrangements to come into force from April 2019.

Last year, following consultation with local schools and the Schools Forum, Cabinet agreed to adopt the National Funding Formula in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The announcement in July 2018 confirmed some changes to the National Funding Formula and the Department for Education had confirmed that Local authorities must consult with their local schools and Schools Forum on an annual basis in respect of changes to the school funding arrangements.

As in 2018-19 local authorities continued to have flexibility to decide whether to adopt the National Funding Formula for schools (the Schools Block) or apply a locally determined formula for 2019-20. Local authorities also continue to be allowed to move up to 0.5% of funding from the Schools Block into other blocks with the agreement of Schools Forum. Cabinet was statutorily responsible for deciding on a formula through which funding is allocated to schools.

Following a consultation with all Cumbrian schools affected by these proposals, Cumbria Schools Forum at its meeting on 12 November 2018, had recommended to Cabinet that the National Funding Formula was implemented from April 2019 for the 2019-20 financial year and that 0.5% of funding was not transferred from the Schools Block into other blocks.

Cabinet supported this recommendation, and it was therefore **RESOLVED that** Cabinet approve the recommendation of the Cumbria Schools Forum to allocate funding to schools using the National Funding Formula in 2019-20 with no transfer from the Schools Block into other blocks.

## **81 CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THURSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Cabinet had before it a report from the Executive Director – People, which provided analysis on the formal consultation held between 8 October and 16 November 2018 by the County Council, to allow members to decide whether or not to bring forward a statutory proposal to expand Thursby Primary School.

The report explained the background to the proposed expansion and asked Members to decide which option to pursue.

Members noted that any decision to publish a statutory notice triggered the beginning of a formal ‘representation period’ during which interested parties could submit their views on the proposal.

The recent housing development at Matty Lonning for 69 houses laid within the catchment area of Thursby Primary School. This number and mix of housing types would yield 17 primary aged children using the dwelling led model detailed in the county council’s Planning Obligations Policy.

Thursby Primary School had capacity for 105 children and had 104 children on roll at the January 2018 pupil census. Projections showed that the school was likely to remain full, or nearly full, for the foreseeable future before any additional housing was considered.

A section 106 agreement with the developer provided £224k in funds and along with the £156k from council funding (Delegated Schools Grant and brought forward maintenance funds) sufficient monies to provide a single new classroom at the school were available. Class size organisation meant that it was more practical to build a classroom for 30 rather than a space to accommodate only the 17 pupil yield from the development.



Cabinet noted that the extra classroom space would ensure that there were sufficient places for the anticipated additional children from the new estate as well as providing a small operational surplus of places, and that the building works would also establish a new main entrance, additional withdrawal space appropriate to the size of the school and would relocate the office to improve access and safeguarding.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet agree to publish the statutory notice proposing the expansion of Thursby Primary School.

## **82 2020-2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS**

The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning presented a report which set out the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, for which the county council was the statutory admission authority. The Local Authority (LA) was required to consult other admission authorities on any changes to the policy, including catchment areas and proposed reductions to published admission numbers (PANs). The LA must also consult the governing bodies of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools where it proposed to increase or retain the existing Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2020-21.

On 27 September 2018, after considering the options set out in the published report and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet resolved that:

- the amended admissions policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools be approved to go out to consultation with the required groups as set out in the School Admissions Code 2014, paragraph 1.44. This included consultation on proposals to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Kirkbampton CE School and Brook Street School; and proposed changes to the oversubscription criteria in relation to children previously in care outside England, children of staff at a school and faith based criteria;
- the proposed co-ordinated scheme for 2020-21 for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools be approved for consultation;
- the proposed definition of relevant areas for admission authorities in Cumbria for the period 2020-21 to 2022-23 be circulated for consultation with relevant schools;
- consultation be undertaken on an increase to the PAN at Thursby Primary School, and on the retention of the existing

PANs at all other Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

- the publication of statutory notices related to changes to age range at the schools set out in paragraph 52 of the report be approved.

The School Admissions Code 2014 came into force on 19 December 2014 replacing the School Admissions Code 2012.

The County Council retains the role of admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the county, and must determine admission arrangements by 28 February 2019 for the 2020-21 academic year.

The county council also retained responsibility for co-ordinating the main admissions round for all maintained schools and academies in the county. It was required to formulate a co-ordinated scheme setting out the various stages in the admissions process by 1 January 2019 for the 2020-21 academic year.

The co-ordinated scheme was last consulted on during the spring term 2012. That consultation was in respect of the co-ordinated scheme that was applied to admissions for the 2013-14 academic year. Since 2013-14 there had been no significant changes to the co-ordinated scheme and members had approved the updated scheme annually without consultation.

As set out in the School Admissions Code 2014, the LA must consult on co-ordinated scheme for 2020-21 during the autumn term 2018. Consultation on the co-ordinated scheme for 2020-21 took place for a 6 week period between 3 October 2018 and 13 November 2018.

The Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning then took members through the report in detail, highlighting:-

- The Consultation Process
- Children Previously Looked After outside England
- Oversubscription Criteria – Children of Staff at a School
- Faith Based Oversubscription Criteria in Schools Designated with a Religious Character
- Relevant Area
- Nursery Admissions Policy 2019-20
- Changes of Age Range – Addition of Nursery Provision
- PAN Changes
- Other Consultation Responses
- Catchment Areas
- Children of UK Service Personnel

**RESOLVED that,**

- (1) Cabinet approve the admissions policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools at Appendix A including the reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Kirkbampton CE School and Brook Street School, and an increase in PAN at Thursby Primary School;
- (2) Cabinet approve the co-ordinated admission scheme for 2020-21 for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, Appendix B of the report;
- (3) Cabinet approve the definition of relevant areas for admission authorities in Cumbria for the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, Appendix C of the report;
- (4) Cabinet approve the nursery admissions policy for 2020-21 for Community and Voluntary Controlled nursery schools and infant/primary schools providing nursery education, Appendix D of the report;
- (5) Cabinet approve changes to age range at the schools listed in paragraph 60.

**83 CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER STRATEGY AND CARE LEAVER OFFER**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented a report which detailed the refresh of the Children Looked After Strategy, and included the Care Leaver Offer as an appendix. If agreed this refreshed strategy would replace the 2015-18 Children Looked After Strategy.

The strategy had had extensive engagement with children and young people. The Children in Care Councils fed in their views on the national Corporate Parenting principles and what they meant to them. This was used to develop the main content of the strategy. Children and young people had written the vision for the strategy, so the vision was their vision for what they want the Council and partners to achieve for their futures. They came up with the title, and used art, poetry and stories to set out what the strategy meant to them. This material had been included in the appendices.

The Cabinet Member then introduced 3 of the young care leavers that had been involved extensively in the production of the strategy and thanked them for their insight and level of engagement, which had proved to be invaluable. The three young people explained how they had been involved in the strategy, and what if delivered, for all children looked after, the impact it would have.

The focus of the 2015-18 strategy was around how the Council could demonstrate sustainable improvement. This was a realistic reflection of the position at the time, but lacked ambition given the current position of the service.

The refreshed strategy had been written with the aim of giving the members, led by the Corporate Parenting Board, a vision for how the service could get to Good and beyond to Outstanding.

The Cabinet Member informed members that the Care Leaver Offer was being developed alongside the refreshed strategy, and was published as an appendix to the strategy. In the Care Leaver offer, care leavers up to the age of 25 would be able to see what services and support were available from the Council and partners. The offer had been published on the County Council website and was a living document. This meant it would be periodically reviewed and kept up to date to reflect changes in the offer.

**RESOLVED** that, Cabinet agree the refresh of the strategy.

The meeting ended at 12.25 pm