

CABINET

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Johnson (Chairman), David Cannon, David Coppinger, Samantha Rayner, David Hilton, Gerry Clark, Donna Stimson and Ross McWilliams

Also in attendance: Councillor Simon Werner, Councillor Wisdom Da Costa, Councillor Carole Da Costa, Councillor Phil Haseler, Councillor Gurch Singh, Councillor Ewan Larcombe, Councillor John Baldwin, Councillor Amy Tisi, Councillor Gurpreet Bhangra, Councillor Jon Davey and Councillor Carroll.

Officers: Kevin McDaniel, Adele Taylor, Emma Duncan, Becky Hatch, Hilary Hall, Andrew Durrant, Chris Joyce, Louisa Dean, Louisa Freeth, Ian Gillespie and David Cook.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carroll, he could not attend in person but did attend virtually as a none voting member.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021 were approved.

APPOINTMENTS

None

FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet considered the contents of the Forward Plan for the next four months and noted the changes made since last published.

CALL IN

Item not required.

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

A) CORPORATE PLAN

Cabinet considered the report regarding the new Corporate Plan for the period 2021-2026.

The Chairman said they had discussed this paper previously, and it went to a very productive and useful meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He gave his thanks to all Members of that Panel for playing their part in shaping this document and putting forward a series of recommendations, which will we will discuss in due course. But overall, he thought

that was a very productive and indeed useful meeting in terms of shaping this critically important document for the council going forward.

The report shared the new Corporate Plan for the period 2021 to 2026 currently titled Building a Borough of Opportunity and Innovation. The plan sets out the council's overarching objectives and specific goals to be achieved in support of those objectives. Over the course of the plan, period, it has been designed to crystallise focus on where the council needs to focus most to drive the change that we need, and also to help us guide and indeed inspire an allocation of resources and energies to deliver that change.

It replaces the interim strategy, which was adopted back in the summer of last year, which was developed as a temporary plan for the response to the pandemic. This new plan went out to public consultation for a period of six weeks, which ended in September 2021, it was discussed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 11th of October 2021 in what we deemed to be a formal challenge session. He asked Cabinet to consider the comments made by Scrutiny.

There were six agreed recommendations plus two additional comments that have come forward both in scrutiny and a Member of Cabinet.

Recommendation 1 put forward by Cllr Werner to rename the main overarching aim of the Corporate Plan to Creating a Sustainable Borough of Innovation and Opportunity. This was seconded by Councillor Jones, and indeed, agreed unanimously by the O&S Panel. Cabinet were very happy with that sensible and pragmatic amendments to the title of the Corporate Plan that reflected the longer term and wider ambitions around not only climate change, climate resilience, but also economic sustainability, health, sustainability, and all the other metrics of sustainability we will be using going forward. The recommendation was approved.

Recommendation 2 was put forward and agreed unanimously at the Panel was that the Corporate Plan be reviewed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel, or indeed whatever successor body may replace that panel in in due course, after two years following the plans, adoption. the motion was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Hassler. Cabinet feel that this was a very prudent move as It gives the opportunity to potentially amend and refine that Corporate Plan to reflect not only real life implementation, but also to reflect external changes to the organisation. The recommendation was approved.

Recommendation 3 was proposed by Cllr Clark to increase both walking and cycling by 50%. This was duly seconded and indeed agreed unanimously by the by the Panel. Cabinet were receptive in principle to including walking in the goal, it was noted that the Cycling and Walking Action Plan also include an emphasis on walking. Cabinet did have concerns about how this could be measured and if the target was achievable. Cabinet agreed the additional target in principle but recommended that for the first year it would be to set a baseline, once established a target could be set. Cabinet noted the proposal and recommended that officers set a baseline during year one.

Recommendation 4 put forward targets to improve air quality and ensure that communities were able to access green spaces within a 15 minute walk. That motion again was unanimously agreed by the Panel. Cabinet were in favour of adding the goal posed on air quality. However, there were some concerns raised about how to define green space and about the 15 minute walk as a measure. Cabinet recommended that the target could be to access quality green space without the 15 minute walk measure. Cabinet approved the amended recommendation.

Recommendation 5 was motion put forward by Cllr Jones to remove reference to the name 'Windsor public realm' and the reference to the Desborough site in the goals. This was seconded by Cllr Werner. There was broad consensus amongst cabinet that these were major programmes, and it was helpful for accountability to retain reference to the specific schemes within the goals. Cabinet noted the recommendation.

The final approved recommendation from the Corporate O&S Panel was put forward by Cllr Jones to reword the goal on lobbying Government over the lifetime of the Corporate Plan, with the Executive Director of Resources to refine the wording. Cabinet approved this recommendation.

The Chairman said Cabinet had accepted the majority of recommendations put forward but he would also like to note the minority recommendations made where the O&S Panel were not in agreement as they could be considered in future refinements. He also said that there was a Cabinet Member who also wanted to put forward another amendment.

The Lead Member for Public Protection and Parking informed that within the Corporate Plan, we have in the text commitments we will make sure that residents and visitors feel safe on streets with a particular focus on women and girls and the night-time economy. We take a zero tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour and actions which damage our environment and we will build in safety by design. He believed this was very important and needed to be further stated and reinforced within the Corporate Plan. He proposed that they add an additional goal to the plan, where we concentrate that goal purely on our zero tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour. The wording would need to be carefully considered by officers to something that was achievable and measurable. This recommendation was approved by Cabinet.

The Deputy Leader of Council, Corporate & Residential Services, Culture & Heritage and Windsor said she was pleased to second the report as in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, we were incredibly lucky. It was an amazing place to live, work and visit. There was so much for us with our heritage of Windsor Castle, fantastic businesses, green space, but also a brilliant Council, which was excellent providing its statutory services. This plan went beyond that and it showed residents how seriously we took building a sustainable borough of opportunity and innovation. We were concentrating on thriving communities, inspiring places, and through the whole plan we are tackling climate change and the consequences.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot said that the new Corporate Plan had a lot to recommend it, especially the headline of building the borough of opportunity and innovation demonstrated the council's long term ambitions in housing, climate change, infrastructure and much more. The Audit and Governance Committee met last Thursday and reviewed the draft capital strategy which will form part of the 2020 to 2015 budget setting papers, you may ask what is the got to do with the corporate plan? Well, it's much more than you think. Our first capital strategy was published in 2019/20. Budget and some tidying up has been done since then. But the document is very process driven, it does sit outside investment priorities and we introduced a capital Review Board, but it lacked that sense of direction. The 2022/23 version incorporated the corporate strategy, as a consequence becomes aligned with that vision, a clear direction travel and borrow vision. He had to say the Corporate Plan was going to have a positive impact on all aspects of the council business.

The Lead Member for Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside said that she wished to thank all those that took part in the consultation, it became obvious how our residents cared about sustainability and biodiversity and our drive for climate change. This is a document where we have listened to our residents and she commended it.

Cllr W Da Costa said that the message was clear from Cop 26 that if we do not take drastic action now, we will fail. Our standards of living will plummet, social stability will fall off the scale and health and life expectancy will also reduce. He said 50% of the public disagreed with the expectation of the plan, which is more than twice as many as those who actually agreed with it. The public said that the top issues that the council was not addressing in order of priority number one was environment, climate and biodiversity. More than half the people responded to that saying that this was not being considered appropriately, which was 10 times more than people who said that we our housing strategy was wrong. A second highest

concerned democracy and decision making, but five times more people said we are not getting the climate and environment and biodiversity right.

Cllr Da Costa said that every decision that we take from now on every regulation that we create, including our special supplementary planning, development has to put the environment the climate and biodiversity front, left and centre. He said that the plan presented today does not reflect the overwhelming views of public of the public or scientists. He urged Cabinet to write the plan.

The Chairman replied that there would be an opportunity to debate the merits of the plan at Council where he hoped it would be adopted. He said we do view climate change and sustainability as being a key part in the new fundamental parts of our agenda, we had set up the Climate Partnership and demonstrated real leadership. He mentioned that the Council had to operate within a national legal and policy framework. We also had to reflect upon the fact that as the local authority, and not as elected representatives, but as a local authority, the key function was also to provide first class public services, especially including the most vulnerable within the society, to whom we have not only an ethical and moral duty, but also a fiscal duty. We had to be financially secure to deliver these important services. because otherwise we would not be able to deliver on core business such as adults, children services, keeping our roads safe, but also delivering upon our climate and sustainability objectives, as well. He said that we do have a duty to the most vulnerable in society, we do have a duty to provide opportunity, we do have a duty to continue to foster innovation, but without a strong economy we will not have the financial to pay for this innovation and this technology that we are so dependent upon to tackle climate change.

Cllr Davey said that with regards to climate change not many people had heard of Cop 26 and not many placed any importance on it. This was a challenge for Cllr Stimson, Cllr Da Costa and Cllr Davies in getting the word out. With regards to the Corporate Plan he was concerned by the comment that with regards to infrastructure establish a testbed and small cell rollout of 5G. He said that the following questions about 5g were asked by a resident that he had put to the scrutiny challenge but there had been no response apart from health and safety investigations were being conducted. He questioned by whom and could the public see the results. Who decided the distances on the mass where the matter would be placed, what health and safety evidence was there and would the Leader sign off accountability for the project.

Cllr Davey said that one of the responses said it related to a planning application and they should look at the planning portal, however he felt that these were holistic questions. He felt that this was not a sufficient answer and there was no opportunity to question this at the O&S meeting. He said that the NHS has said each council should do its own due diligence into 5G, establishing a testbed for 5G rollout in the paper did not help build trust in the council. He requested that the Leader support the hosting of an enquiry into 5G and invite experts in to debate.

The Chairman replied that he was not in a position to speak for telecoms operators and associated government structures. But any installations would have to be in compliance with national and international legislation. He did not support that the council conduct an inquiry into 5G as this was a competence of national government and thus he recommended lobbying the local MPs.

Cllr Werner said that the scrutiny review had been a very productive session but it ran out of time and thus some items got lost. He mentioned that the O&S Chairman was excellent but given the importance of this paper more time was required. One of the things that was not included in the O&S recommendations, but we had a big discussion about was wellbeing. And we were advised at the time that it was not really possible to measure wellbeing. However, he had since been shown that there are many ways of measuring it and this included information from the Office of National Statistics. He therefore asked that Cabinet asked officers to look at introducing a wellbeing target.

Cllr Werner mentioned that another topic discussed at O&S was eco houses, and how, as the council owns some of the land that is proposed to build on, then we could set really high environmental standards for those houses. He asked Cabinet to include stronger targets to ensure this happened. There was no point in declaring a climate emergency if we continue to build houses that do not help towards our goals. He said that in conclusion, wellbeing and climate change needed to be given far more emphasis and a corporate plan with more ambitious targets.

The Chairman replied that with regards to wellbeing we placed a strong influence on all areas of wellbeing and mental health. However he said that this was a fair challenge and that was why they had agreed the O&S recommendation to review the plan in a couple of years. With regards to eco homes he agreed and referred to the latest Government paper, that included local authorities reducing carbon emissions by 75%. There was a drive to improve standards in the private sector especially around new build and existing dwellings. He was supportive of eco homes but only where they could be delivered.

Cllr Hassler said that as the Corporate O&S Chairman that he was grateful for the contributions of Cllr Werner and Cllr Jones at the meeting. He said that all members had been given an opportunity to submit questions and answers were provided, they then could ask their groups representative on the Panel to raise any other issues. With regards to carbon neutral homes planning could not refuse on this basis without legislation. He thanked Cabinet for taking on board O&S comments.

Cllr Baldwin asked Cabinet that in light of Cllr Cannons proposed new targets and reference to zero tolerance were they aware of legislation regarding the use of zero tolerance before progressing. In reply he was informed that any proposed targets and associated actions would be in line with legislation and the legal framework. Zero tolerance was about not turning a blind eye to any appropriate action; this could be education or fines.

Cllr Carroll mentioned that with regards to wellbeing the Health and Wellbeing Board already gave consideration to this and that there was the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The HWB Board also produced an annual report that references mental health.

Cllr C Da Costa said that with regards to zero carbon and aligning this with the plan that it was an ambition but would not go into the plan as it was not part of national legislation. Cllr Stimpson said that yes that was the case and the Chairman said that targets in the plan had to be achievable.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Considers the recommendations from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel as set out in Table 2, and any Officer advice;**
- ii) Agrees that the Corporate Plan (including any revisions) is referred to Full Council on 23 November 2021 for adoption.**

B) EXTEND COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR RBWM CARE LEAVERS UP TO AGE 25

Cabinet considered the report regarding the proposed extension of Council Tax exemption until the age of 25 for care leavers.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot introduced the report and informed that this was a positive proposal that was in line with Government policy and extended the provision of an existing policy to care leavers up until the age of 25.

The Chairman supported the report and said it was an important step as our roles as corporate parents.

Cllr Carroll said he was delighted to see the report before Cabinet especially as it happened to be Care Leavers Week, he apologised that he could not present the report in person. He said that the proposals would make a big difference to those leaving our care. He referenced how a number of years ago he had discussed with fellow Cabinet Member, Cllr McWilliams, how the Council Tax system could be used to help those in need. He mentioned the excellent work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group and the support of the Corporate Parenting Forum as well as the support of officers. He mentioned the responsibility we had to care leavers and how this small, but important change in policy, could make a big difference to care leavers.

Cllr Clerk mentioned that he was a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel and fully supported this report as it would benefit those in our care.

Cllr Tisi mentioned that she was the Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Forum and referenced the saying that 'we do not leave care, care leaves us'. She said that she became a Cllr to help improve peoples lives and that this paper was important in supporting care leavers as well as showing how scrutiny could be used to drive forward policy development. She asked the Lead Member if he would sign up to the Care Leavers Charter.

The Chairman said he agreed with the sentiments already made and how tonight we had seen two positive impacts of scrutiny and he hoped this culture of scrutiny providing value and positive impacts would continue. He also mentioned that this decision provided genuine outcomes and opportunities for our care leavers.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Extends the mandatory Council Tax exemption to Care Leavers living in the borough, up to the age of 25.**
- ii) Provides Care Leavers up to the age of 25, living out of the borough and who pay Council Tax, an allowance towards their Council Tax costs equivalent to that received by Care Leavers living in the borough.**
- iii) Delegates the approval of the details of both schemes to Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children Services, Health and Mental Health and the Cabinet Member for Finance.**

c) LAND WEST OF WINDSOR STAKEHOLDER MASTERPLAN

Cabinet considered the report regarding the Stakeholder Masterplan Document for Land West of Windsor.

The Lead Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead informed Cabinet that the report explained the new Borough Local Plan requirement for the preparation of Stakeholder Masterplan Documents and summarises the process and outcomes specifically in relation to the Stakeholder Masterplan Document for Land West of Windsor. He mentioned that only the BLP could release the land from the Green Belt. Whilst Officers are recommending that the SMD for Land West of Windsor be approved for Development Management purposes, the site will remain in the Green Belt, and the principle of developing the site not established, until the BLP has been adopted by the Council.

The Lead Member emphasised that this was not a planning application and all rights for objection remained during due process. If Cabinet approves this report further challenge remained open during the full planning process. There were currently three site were such SMP's were being worked upon, this was the first to reach this stage. Whilst in Windsor it came under Bray Parish Council and planning applications would be at Maidenhead committee.

The site would include residential units, public open space, sports facilities, a community hub and a SEN school. He outlined the process that had been undertaken getting to this point.

Out of this process came the commitment to provide affordable housing, a multi function area of public space, new crossings over the A308, a network of footpaths and cycleway's as well as the provision of allotments. The benefits of the process had been accepted and if accepted by Cabinet this did not set policy in planning and the ability of challenge still remained.

The Deputy Leader of Council informed that as Lead Member for Windsor she was pleased to see this important document that showed a process that allowed residents to have their say on the potential development of this important piece of land in Windsor.

Cllr Hasler informed that his was an excellent paper and brought forward ideas discussed in a previous planning working group, he wished that all major application go through a similar process.

Mr E Wilson addressed Cabinet and said that this masterplan was a critical document for all residents in Dedworth, this has helped residents understand what is happening but he had mentioned to the developers that there was still a lot of confusion what was within the plan. Those residents without internet access had been left behind with regards to information and thus he had recommended a drop in session or newsletter. Local ward Cllrs had also failed to provide information to residents and what they said was often conflicting with one saying there should be no housing whilst another said there would be but without car parking. He mentioned that there was little information about the planned school and its timing, funding, partners and also that residents could not wait until 2024 for the highway improvements and suggested they be in place before houses are built. He also mentioned that the report mentioned RM matters but did not say what this was, he thought they were reserve matters but this was not clear to residents.

The Cahirman said he agreed that there could be other forms of engagement for those who did not have access to the internet and the Lead Member informed that this was the start of the process and that the school would be developed by AFC. There had already been 6 meetings with residents but he would follow up his engagement suggestions.

Cllr Davey mentioned that he had already suggested to the developer that they hold a meeting with residents. He asked that for the 450 houses would they be built under a single planning application or multiple smaller applications. The Lead Member replied that at this early stage this was not known and it would be the developers prerogative.

Cllr C Da Costa said that this was the start of the process and ward Cllrs would be engaging with residents at the appropriate times.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

i) Approves the Land West of Windsor Stakeholder Masterplan Document as an important material consideration for Development Management purposes.

D) BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cabinet considered the report regarding the approval to submit the first BSIP to Department for Transport by 31st October 2021.

The Lead Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity informed Cabinet that In March 2021, the Government announced a new national bus strategy 'Bus Back Better. This was followed by guidance on Bus Service Improvement Plans in May 2021. The strategy and guidance require Local Transport Authorities across the country to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021.

The proposed plan for approval by Cabinet had been developed using existing data and new research undertaken with existing bus users and borough residents who currently do not use buses. It set out an outline of measures for which Government funding will be sought. This included a full bus network review as well as a series of trials to test new measures across the borough with a view to roll out those which are successful across the rest of the borough as appropriate. It set out ambitious targets to grow the number of users, improve satisfaction and reliability. This would be a living document and reviewed each year.

Cabinet were informed that bus usage was too low and some services too expensive, however punctuality was good as was satisfaction. Some of the challenges ahead were continues increasing satisfaction levels, increasing passenger numbers, optimise services, more bus priority measures, increased responsive demand services, integrated transport model, infrastructure for accessible routes, meet developing passenger charter, improved bus information and a feasibility study for a bus station. Meeting these challenges will be dependent of Government funding supported by local funding from CIL and S106.

The Lead Member for Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside supported the report but mentioned that there was not as much sustainability mentioned within the report, she asked if this would come once passenger numbers had increased. The Lead Member said that this was correct but also we could not bid for greener buses as this would be the role of the operator, although we would support this.

The Lead Member for Public Protection and Parking said he was pleased to second the report and subject to a successful funding bid was looking to see better links to our rural communities and decreased car journeys.

Cabinet were addressed by Mr E Wilson who said this was an excellent plan and he hoped the funding would be secured. He asked the Lead Member if it was known when the funding awards would be announces, would there be an updated plan and if a copy could be made available within RBWM libraries. The Lead Member replied that funding awards were in the hand of the DFT, that there would be regular updates to the plan and that he was happy to ask officers to make a hard copy available in RBWM libraries.

Cllr Baldwin said this was a good report seeking funding that you do not always get but he wished the bid good luck. He raised concern about the condition of bus stops and that he had been informed that residents were being put off using busses due to this. The report said that the responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the bus stops was the council and its contractors. By looking at the bus stops in his ward he concluded that current level of performance needed to be improved and the contracts reviewed.

The Chairman agreed that there was an issue with ASB around some bus stops and a zero tolerance approach would be adapted. The Lead Member also mentioned that he had not been aware of issues regarding the condition of bus stops and would encourage residents to report any problems so they could be dealt with.

Cllr Baldwin said that for users they would usually report issues to the driver and thus there was a disconnect between the bus company and the council's report it system. For residents who were put of using the service due to ASB and the condition of stops he said that issues had been reported and he gave an example of a stop at St Marks that had been hit by a car and after months had still not been repaired. The Lead Member said he would ask officers to look at the aforementioned bus stop and encouraged people to report any issues.

Cllr Davey said he commended the approach to bid for £30million. He recommended that instead of looking into a bus station we should look at the feasibility of having a transport hub connecting Windsor and Maidenhead. He also mentioned caution of using electric buses that used batteries from certain countries abroad that caused a high death rate during production, he asked Cllr Stimpson to push for those built in the UK. The Lead Member said that with

regards to a transport hub this was the purpose of the consultation to bring out new ideas, he said the plan was an evolving one.

Cllr Singh said that with regards to ASB he had contacted the Chairman in September but had not received a response. The Chairman replied that as response had been provided and he had asked for Cllr Singh support against ASB but no reply had been forthcoming.

Cllr Singh mentioned failures regarding a recent bus gate scheme that had cost the council money. He also mentioned there was a planning condition to have a bus running to the Braywick but he could not see this in the report. The Chairman replied that with regards to the bus gate this was not taken forward following a public consultation. The Lead Member reiterated this and also said that there had been no loss of money as if it had progressed it would have been funded by the Government but it was a scheme residents did not want.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Approves the first Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).**
- ii) Delegates authority to the Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity, to make the final submission to the Department for Transport and to engage with operators, communities and other key stakeholders on the delivery of measures within the outline plan.**

(Item not subject to call in as if called in we would miss the submission date and thus cause possible harm to the authority).

E) DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES RECOMMISSIONING

Cabinet considered the report regarding the award of the drug and alcohol contract.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot introduced the report and provided the background to a cross party working group that had previously been established that recommended to Cabinet current arrangements, he informed that TVP and the NHS had been involved as this important topic cut across all services. It was noted that the report talked about alcohol and substance abuse and with regards to heroin although the number of people who overcome their addiction was small without this service they could result in criminality. The service, as well as being important, was also excellent value for money with evidence from Public Health England showed that alcohol treatment reflects a return on investment of £3 for every £1 invested, whilst drug treatment reflects a return on investment of £4 for every £1 invested. He also highlighted that there may be dual diagnosis's that may need attention, for example a person may have mental health and substance misuse issues that both need to be addressed to get a positive outcome.

The Chairman commended the report and mentioned that earlier they had talked about zero tolerance and with drug dealing they had zero tolerance, especially due to its impact on those vulnerable in society. This report showed the other side of the coin where support was provided by those suffering from substance misuse.

Cllr Carroll apologised for not being able to attend in person to present this important paper standing in his name as this was a critical service. He mentioned that our CQC rating remained good and this paper sought to progress the excellent service looking to build upon excellent work. This delivery model builds on existing partnerships to encourage community cohesion and self-care and tackle key themes linked to multiple disadvantages. The new contract brought together different elements into one integrated contract. It acknowledged the importance of a multi agency and service approach.

The Lead Member for Housing, Sport, Leisure and Community Engagement reiterated the importance of a multi service approach. The report mentioned mental health, housing and

substance misuse. People who did not have sustainable housing could become vulnerable to substance misuse; all three areas were important to address.

Cllr Tisi said she welcomed the evidence based paper to help the needs of residents. She was concerned to read that there was between 40% to 60% of RBWM residents were drinking at an increased risk level of alcohol per week but there was a low level seeking support. She welcomed the recruitment of a substance misuse officer in children's social care. She mentioned that the report said there was no additional funding required and asked what would happen to this important service if funding was reduced, what would be prioritised. She mentioned that page 40 of the report mentioned that 'there may be a need for admission to detoxification and rehabilitation units, although in RBWM this was uncommon due to individuals not meeting the level of need set out in locally-defined admission criteria.' Cllr Tisi asked what this criteria was.

Cllr Carroll replied that the funding was ringfenced from the Public Health Grant and that there had recently been an increase in funding so he did not see any high risk of funding being reduced, this was backed up by recent Government announcements. He said that he would ask officer to reply to Cllr Tisi's question regarding the local admission criteria.

Cllr Hasler supported the paper and referred to his previous employment as a police officer and how he had signposted people to these valuable services. He reiterated his support for the paper.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

i) Agrees to award the Drug and Alcohol Service Contract to the Preferred Provider.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 9.43 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....