

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 16th October 2012

Time: 10.30 – 15.55

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J Powley (Chairman)

Councillors: S Austen, J Batchelor, I Bates, N Bell, K Bourke, B Brooks-Gordon, D Brown, F Brown, P Brown, R Butcher, J Clark, N Clarke, S Count, M Curtis, S Criswell, M Curtis, P Downes, J Dutton, R Farrer, N Guyatt, S Gymer, G Harper, N Harrison, D Harty, G Heathcock, S Hoy, W Hunt, C Hutton, D Jenkins, S Johnstone, L Kadić, G Kenney, S Kindersley, S King, V Lucas, I Manning, M McGuire, V McGuire, A Melton, L Nethsingha, L Oliver, T Orgee, J Palmer, P Read, P Reeve, J Reynolds, K Reynolds, T Sadiq, P Sales, S Sedgwick-Jell, M Shuter, M Smith, T Stone, S Tierney, J Tuck, S van de Ven, R West, F Whelan, S Whitebread, K Wilkins, M Williamson, G Wilson, L Wilson and F Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors: C Carter and C Shepherd

257. MINUTES – 17TH JULY 2012

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th July 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

258. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made a number of announcements as set out in **Appendix A**.

259. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared non-statutory disclosable interests under Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct:

Councillor	Minute	Details
Batchelor J	265	Member of Pension Fund Board and Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)
Bell N	268(a)	Member of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority
Brooks-Gordon, B	267(a)	Registered Disabled
Curtis M	258	Vice-Chairman of Roddons Housing Association
Downes P	265	Beneficiary of LGPS
Gymer S	264	Member of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority
McGuire M	265	Member of LGPS

260. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were received.

261. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

262. UPDATE AND REVISION OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTRACT REGULATIONS

It was moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke, and seconded by the Cabinet Member for Resources & Performance, Councillor Count, that the recommendations as set out in minute 614 of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 17th September 2012 be approved.

It was resolved to:

- a) approve the draft Contract Regulations; and
- b) delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Constitution & Ethics Committee, to make all necessary and or incidental amendments to the Constitution in order to bring the new Contract Regulations into effect from Monday 29th October 2012.

263. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PART 3 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Powley, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor K Reynolds, and agreed unanimously to:

- a) approve the content of the proposed amendments to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution; and
- b) authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to implement the amendments set out in the report with effect from 30th October 2012, and to make any other amendment to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

264. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

It was proposed by Councillor K Reynolds, and seconded by Councillor Williamson, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee respectively, that the recommendations set out in the report on the appointment of persons to the role of Independent Persons for Cambridgeshire County Council be approved.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) endorse the recommendation by the Constitution and Ethics Committee in respect of Sean Brady and Gillian Holmes;
- b) appoint Sean Brady and Gillian Holmes to the role of Independent Person for

Cambridgeshire County Council with immediate effect, for an initial period of one year; and

- c) delegate to the Constitution and Ethics Committee the power to extend these appointments for up to a further three years thereafter.

265. PENSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Chairman of the Pensions Committee, Councillor Count, moved receipt of the annual report of the Pensions Committee for 2011/12.

Council noted the report.

266. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Chairman of the Audit and Accounts Committee, Councillor Stone, moved receipt of the annual report of the Audit and Accounts Committee for 2011/12.

Council noted the report.

267. MOTIONS

Five motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.

(a) Motion from Councillor M Curtis

It was proposed by Councillor Curtis and seconded by Councillor Tuck that:

This Council congratulates all those who were involved with the success of the Olympics and Paralympics from the athletes and their support teams to the Gamesmakers and volunteers to the public who became part of the spirit of London 2012.

The Council also recognises the success with which Cambridgeshire grasped the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity presented by the Games, ensuring that our communities were able to be part of something very special. From the torch/lantern relays and activities building up to the Games, to the events themselves, people across our county have enjoyed playing their role in Great Britain's glory at the greatest sporting event in the world.

The challenge ahead of us all is to not let the enthusiasm and joy which the Olympics sparked to die - this week our athletes, Torchbearers and Gamesmakers will be celebrated at five schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where they will talk to students about their summer.

The Council asks all members to work to ensure the legacy of the Olympics continues through all our actions in the months and years to come.

Following discussion, the motion, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

(b) Motion from Councillor T Sadiq

It was proposed by Councillor Sadiq and seconded by Councillor Sales that:

This Council welcomes the commitment by Government to upgrade the A14 and the publication of options for further detailed examination including widening, new local access roads, a Huntingdon bypass, and rail freight and public transport improvements.

This Council calls upon all parties to urge the government to publish detailed recommendations as soon as possible and to press for the adoption of the best possible scheme for this vital strategic route in the interests of the nation, the Cambridge sub-region, and the people of Cambridgeshire.

Following discussion, the motion, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

(c) Motion from Councillor K Wilkins

It was proposed by Councillor Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Brooks-Gordon that:

This Council wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note that:

- Cambridgeshire County Council believes that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make;
- this Council recognises that in Cambridgeshire delays to building homes on suitable sites are caused by the state of the housing market and not by delays in the planning process.

This Council opposes:

- the Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications.
- the Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission – currently required for extensions of more than three or four metres from the rear wall of any home – to only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others.
- the Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to immediately appeal to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme they may be concerned with.
- the Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.

This Council notes that the government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the cross-party Local Government Association.

This Council resolves to formally write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining this Council's opposition to the plans.

Following discussion, the motion, on being put to the vote, was lost.

[Voting pattern: Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green and Independent in favour; Conservatives and UKIP against; Chairman and Vice-Chairman abstained].

(d) Motion from Councillor I Manning

It was proposed by Councillor Manning and seconded by Councillor van de Ven that:

This Council notes that:

- a threshold of 15,130 petition signatures is required to trigger a debate of the issue in council;
- no petition has triggered a debate since these rules were put in place;
- given that Government guidance suggests the number of signatures required should encourage rather than discourage petitions, the current system is unsatisfactory.

This Council resolves to change the threshold to trigger a debate to 3,000 signatures and authorises the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution to implement this change.

Following discussion, the motion, on being put to the vote, was lost.

[Voting pattern: Labour, Liberal Democrats, UKIP and Independent in favour; Conservatives and Green against; Chairman and Vice-Chairman abstained].

(e) Motion from Councillor S Whitebread

It was proposed by Councillor Whitebread and seconded by Councillor Bell that:

Council notes:

- the often poor quality of works carried out by utilities companies, which can require councils to redo the work at a later date, at the taxpayers' expense;
- that negotiations between the Council and utilities companies over who should pay for such works, for example the resurfacing of East Road at a cost of £300,000, can be time consuming and costly for the Council.

Council also notes:

- the cost to the local economy of utility-related roadworks which increases with every additional day that works are carried out;
- the frustration of residents and commuters who face delays to their journeys and uncertain journey times when roadworks are going on;

- the current Council policy of charging utilities companies £890.25 for road closures and £429.40 for a streetworks license for 200 metres, plus £100 for every additional 200 metres thereafter has no incentive for speedy work, or working outside the busiest times of the day;
- an innovative scheme launched in London in June this year that will charge companies for the time they take up with roadworks rather than a flat fee per metre, with charges higher during peak times.

Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- investigate whether such a scheme could be used in Cambridgeshire;
- investigate how processes can be improved to ensure works by utilities companies are carried out to an appropriate standard, reducing the need for work to be redone after the event.

The following amendment to the above motion was proposed by Councillor Orgee and seconded by Councillor Bates [additional text is underlined and deleted text struck through]:

Amend first bullet

- ~~the often~~ that poor quality of works carried out by utilities companies, ~~which can~~ require councils to redo the work at a later date, at the taxpayers' expense;

Add after third bullet

Council also notes:

- that it is important that work is carried out 'right first time';
- the work being carried out by the LGA bringing together utility companies and utility regulators;

~~Council calls on the Cabinet to:~~

Council calls on Cabinet to:

- ~~investigate~~ carry on investigating whether such a scheme could be used in Cambridgeshire;
- ~~investigate~~ carry on investigating how processes can be improved to ensure works by utilities companies are carried out to an appropriate standard, reducing the need for work to be redone after the event.
- report on this issue in due course.

Following discussion, the amendment, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Orgee, and agreed unanimously, to delete "in due course" and add "during the life of this Council" to the last recommendation.

Following further discussion, the substantive motion, as amended below, on being

put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

Council notes:

- that poor quality of works carried out by utilities companies can require councils to redo the work at a later date, at the taxpayers' expense;
- that negotiations between the Council and utilities companies over who should pay for such works, for example the resurfacing of East Road at a cost of £300,000, can be time consuming and costly for the Council.

Council also notes:

- the cost to the local economy of utility-related roadworks which increases with every additional day that works are carried out;
- the frustration of residents and commuters who face delays to their journeys and uncertain journey times when roadworks are going on;
- the current Council policy of charging utilities companies £890.25 for road closures and £429.40 for a streetworks license for 200 metres, plus £100 for every additional 200 metres thereafter has no incentive for speedy work, or working outside the busiest times of the day;
- that it is important that work is carried out 'right first time';
- the work being carried out by the LGA bringing together utility companies and utility regulators;
- an innovative scheme launched in London in June this year that will charge companies for the time they take up with roadworks rather than a flat fee per metre, with charges higher during peak times.

Council calls on Cabinet to:

- carry on investigating whether such a scheme could be used in Cambridgeshire;
- carry on investigating how processes can be improved to ensure works by utilities companies are carried out to an appropriate standard, reducing the need for work to be redone after the event.
- report on this issue during the life of this Council.

268. QUESTIONS

a) Questions on Police and Fire Authority Issues

Ruth Rogers, Chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority, and Councillor F Brown, Chairman of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority, responded to questions and comments on Police and Fire issues, in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Council. These are set out in **Appendix B**. The following were identified for follow up action:

- In response to a question from Councillor Gymer, the Chairman of the Police Authority agreed to ask the Chief Constable if there were sufficient police resources available to look after the Guided Busway.
- In response to a question from Councillor Gymer, the Chairman of the Fire Authority agreed to do his best to liaise with the County Council to try and solve some of the problems for the Fire and Rescue Service associated with gritting routes.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Ruth Rogers and the other members of the Police Authority for their contribution over the years.

b) Oral Questions

Seventeen questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9.1, as set out in **Appendix C**. In response to these questions, the following items were agreed for further action:

- In response to a question from Councillor Stone, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure agreed to provide a written response on what actions were being taken or proposed to stop or reverse the loss of plant species in the County.
- In response to a question from Councillor van de Ven, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning agreed to investigate whether the Council would be willing to consider participating in a trial regarding the use of concessionary bus passes on trains.
- In response to a question from Councillor Brooks-Gordon, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning agreed to meet with her on site to discuss the likely increase in lorries using Huntingdon Road resulting from development of the north west site in Cambridge.
- In response to a question from Councillor Reeve, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure agreed to provide a written response regarding the possibility of communities who wished to have speed cameras being able to put them in place, without the high Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) statistics, on the basis of a strong feeling and perception of lack of safety within their community. He also agreed to meet with Councillor Reeve to discuss his specific proposals.
- In response to a question from Councillor Nethsingha, the Cabinet Member for Learning agreed to provide a written response regarding what was being done to ensure that children in rural areas continued to have access to instrumental music tuition.

c) Written Questions

Three written questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2, as set out in **Appendix D**.

269. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Powley, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor K Reynolds, and agreed unanimously to make a number of changes to membership of committees and appointments to outside organisations as set out in **Appendix E**.

Chairman

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 16TH OCTOBER 2012
CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PEOPLE

Former County Councillor John Barker

It is with regret that the Chairman reports the recent death of former County Councillor John Barker. The Chairman attended the funeral of John Barker on behalf of the Council. Councillor Barker served on the County Council from 1989 to 1993, representing Wisbech North Electoral Division, and from 1994 to 2001, representing Wisbech South Electoral Division, on behalf of the Conservative Party. He had also been a member of Fenland District Council from 1987 to 2003 and Chairman from 1999 to 2001.

Councillor Jeff Dutton

Councillor Jeff Dutton has received an honour sanctioned by the Queen as patron of St John Ambulance. He was presented with a certificate signed by the Duke of Gloucester who is the Grand Prior of the order of St. John. Councillor Dutton is due to attend his investiture into The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in London on 13th December 2012 where he will receive the order as a Serving Brother and the medal of the Star of Jerusalem. It should be noted that Councillor Dutton is not a member of St John but has been given this award for his work in the community and with many local charities raising thousands of pounds over more than 15 years. In addition to this Councillor Dutton has also received a certificate for his work with The Outward Bound Trust.

Pensions Manager of the Year

Local Government Shared Services, Head of Pensions, Steve Dainty, has won Pensions Manager of the Year at the Pension Scheme Awards ahead of short-listed candidates from Telereal, Heineken, Tesco, TfL and Accenture.

AWARDS

County Council Website

The County Council’s website has achieved Shaw Trust Accreditation. Congratulations go to those colleagues, especially in the Web Strategy Team, for this achievement. The Shaw Trust is an independent body that assesses websites for their accessibility. As a public body, it is very important that the Council complies with accessibility guidelines for several reasons, including complying with the Equality Act. This achievement helps to demonstrate that the Council cares about all website users including those with disabilities and wants to make sure they have, as near as possible, the same online experience as that of any other users.

Cambridgeshire's Fostering Service

Cambridgeshire's Fostering Service provides a good service to looked after children and foster carers according to a report from the Office for Standards in Education. The report states that the service was effective in ensuring that the right type of fostering placement was found as quickly as possible for children in need of foster care. Inspectors highlighted placement stability as a significant contributor to these good outcomes. Rates of disruption

are low, and have continued to fall since the last inspection. The report included a range of positive comments from looked after children, with one describing his foster carer as 'the best carer in the world'. It also found that looked after children are 'treated like one of the family' and that they 'feel safe and are safe'.

Leadership and management were also praised for demonstrating a clear vision and ambition for children and young people who are fostered. The Inspectors reported that "They listen to children and young people and consult regularly with them". The service received further praise for the very high quality support and supervision it offers to foster carers, adding that Cambridgeshire's carers were 'unequivocal' about the support they receive. The positive outcome of this inspection reflects the commitment of staff and the dedicated team of foster carers who all work extremely hard to make such a positive impact to the lives of Cambridgeshire's looked after children and young people. It is also important to note that OfSTED's new inspection process means that it is now harder than ever for a fostering service to be judged as 'good'.

Foster Carer Awards Ceremony

The Chairman attended the Foster Carers Awards Ceremony at Anglesey Abbey on 28 September 2012. The event is a celebration of the outstanding work of the Council's Foster Carers, and is an opportunity for carers, their own children and the children they foster to get together for an evening of fun and entertainment. Around 150 guests attended the event and 17 long service awards were presented this year, including a 35 year award for Hazel and Thomas Venn from Huntingdon.

Russell Street, Cambridge

A Council-run residential and respite care home for adults with learning disabilities has been given top marks after a visit by Government inspectors. The home at Russell Street, Cambridge, recently underwent a routine inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was found to be performing well in all aspects of the inspection. The house provides residential care and respite support for up to eight people who were interviewed as part of the inspection process. Inspectors also spoke to staff working at Russell Street.

Service users were positive and complimentary about the support they received. The outcome of the CQC inspection is an excellent achievement by everyone involved with Russell Street and a reflection of the hard work, empathy and dedication that the staff team put into supporting the service users. Alder Close, March, St Luke's Close, Huntingdon and Jasmine House, in Ely, all of which provide services and support for adults with learning disabilities, also received top marks after visit by CQC inspectors.

Prince Michael International Road Safety Award

The Council has been awarded the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for the A605. Congratulations go to colleagues who have carried out work on the route.

Supportive Employer of Reservists

The Ministry of Defence has recently awarded the County Council a prestigious award acknowledging the Council as a supportive employer of reservists. The award was made at a breakfast meeting for reservist employers held on 27 September at the Cambridgeshire University Officers' Training Corps HQ. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman will be welcoming to the Council meeting Lieutenant Colonel Alex Mackintosh OBE, the new Commanding Officer at the Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps, and Lieutenant

Colonel Adam Shurrock, the Commanding Officer of 254 Medical Regiment whose HQ is at Cherry Hinton. Lieutenant Colonel Mackintosh has assumed the role of lead army representative for the Cambridgeshire Community Covenant.

National Transport Awards

The Cambridgeshire Busway has been awarded a top national award for the most innovative transport project – beating flagship London schemes such as the Emirates Airline and Heathrow Pod. The award was given at the National Transport Awards in London, which recognises excellence in transport. Judges heard how the Busway had beaten all expectations and had carried more than 2.5 million journeys within the first year of opening – well beyond its business case. The Busway had helped to boost the local economy as it linked existing centres of population, education, training and employment. It was also already in place to support the transport needs of residents in the 25,000 new homes and the employees of the expected 15,000 new jobs that were being delivered along the areas it serves.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Cambridgeshire County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service

The Adult Learning and Skills Service has secured funding from the Skills Funding Agency as part of the new Community Learning Innovation Fund, to reinvigorate activity in a community house and garden owned by Roddons Housing Association in the heart of the Waterlees ward in Wisbech. There were 2200 applications and only 94 were successful.

The project will be delivered in partnership with Roddons Housing Association, Fenland District Council and College of West Anglia and will respond to the local priorities as outlined by the Fenland Community Learning and Skills Partnership.

MESSAGES

Flooding at Cambridge Central Library

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to thank colleagues at the Central Library for their work to minimise the flood damage to the Library following a thunderstorm, which hit Cambridge on 28 August. The Council would also like to thank visitors to the library who helped out by moving books away from the leaks. As well as colleagues in the Library, staff from the Library Service, Communications, Emergency Planning and Property Services all helped out over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Fire at Sawston Village College

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to thank all colleagues who responded so expertly to a fire at Sawston Village College on 6 September, and those now involved in the recovery work with college staff. Although the village library was destroyed, a temporary library service is now in place.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to congratulate the performance of Cambridgeshire athletes who took part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Their efforts

and performances created an amazing spectacle which will live long in the memory and have undoubtedly inspired many throughout the county. He would also particularly like to thank the Gamesmakers who helped to make both the Olympic and Paralympic Games such a success.

Jane Rossin, Civic Services Officer

The Council's Civic Services Officer, Jane Rossin, will be leaving the County Council at the end of November. The Chairman, on behalf of himself, and fellow Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen before him, would like to record his very sincere thanks to Jane for all her hard work in keeping the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in line during her six years in the post and making sure that they arrive at their many engagements on the right day and at the right time!

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN ACTIVITIES: 18 JULY – 15 OCTOBER 2012

Chairman's engagements

July

- Opening of Rule Gardens Housing Development, Fordham, Hastoe Housing Association.
- Open Evening, Burwell Print, Burwell.
- Summer Luau and B.B.Q. R.A.F. Mildenhall. Economic Briefing.
- Citizenship Ceremony.

August

- Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Cambridgeshire Competes Celebration Event, paralympics event, Cambridge.
- Paralympics Flame Celebration, Milton Country Park.
- Paralympics Flame Celebration, Jubilee Gardens, Ely.

September

- East Cambridgeshire Care and Repair A.G.M., Ely Library.
- Lord Lieutenant Cambridgeshire Diamond Jubilee Garden Party, Great Staughton.
- Wisbech Heritage Reception, Wisbech.
- Huntingdonshire District Council, Merchant Navy Day
- St Neots Annual Civic Church Service and Parade.
- Trumpington Meadows School Groundbreaking Ceremony.
- Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Open Day B.B.Q., Burwell Print, East Cambridgeshire.
- Opening of Veterinary Surgery, H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester, Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester.
- Members' Jubilee Reception, Huntingdonshire District Council.
- Soham Library Challenge Prize Giving
- British Red Cross Cambridgeshire Volunteer Forum, March, Cambs.
- Installation of 35th Dean of Ely, Ely Cathedral.
- Radio Cambridgeshire interview with Christopher South, "The Future of Cambridgeshire."
- Cambridgeshire Catering Awards, Shire Hall, Cambridge.
- R.A.F. Wyton, Annual Reception.
- Foster Carers, Long Service Awards, Anglesey Abbey Visitors' Centre.

October

- Citizenship Ceremony, Shire Hall
- Young People of the Year (YOPEY) Awards 2012, Ely Cathedral
- Funeral of former Councillor John Barker, March Crematorium

- Fenland Enterprise Business Awards 2012, March Braza Club
- High Sheriff's Justice Service for Her Majesty's Judiciary, Ely Cathedral
- HRH The Duke of York visiting Ubisense, Chesterton
- Tops in Blue – USAF event, RAF Molesworth
- Armed Forces Community Covenant Signing Ceremony – Suffolk County Council
- 31st Annual Joan Mann Special Sports Day, RAF Mildenhall
- Godmanchester Civic Service to celebrate 800th Anniversary of the Town's Charter

Vice-Chairman's engagements

July

- Two Citizenship ceremonies, Shire Hall
- Sea Sunday service, Huntingdon

September

- Two Citizenship ceremonies, Shire Hall
- Mayor of Ramsey Civic Service and Reception

COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 OCTOBER 2012

POLICE AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor S Gymer

At a recent police panel, we had more police being allocated to look at the Guided Busway and I'm just wondering if that could also be supported. We've had trouble with vandalism, we've had trouble with anti-social behaviour, with drinking near the tracks and attempted robbery as well. So this is just an extra very long piece of infrastructure in the County that the police are now going to have to look after, are we comfortable that we have the resources to do so?

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

Thank you very much for letting me come this afternoon for my last appearance. I have to admit that I don't know the answer to that question but I'm very content to take it back and I accept that it is an additional policing responsibility, so I will take that back to the Chief Constable.

Question from Councillor D Jenkins

At a recent Finance Committee meeting of the Police Authority, I understand that the future of Histon Police Station was looked at and it's all but a done deal that it will close, albeit it is said to be replaced by something else. In the minutes of the Committee, it did say that there's good sense for retaining the police stations in Camborne, Melbourn, Linton and Sawston but those with a map will notice that they are at the other end of South Cambs where Histon Police Station is up in the north bit. It's a visible presence, it's a base for PCSOs and it's much appreciated by local people. I'd like to have something a little bit more specific than it will close and we're looking at alternatives? and something which the local people will be comfortable with.

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

I think it's important to stress that the potential Estate Strategy which came to the last Finances and Resources meeting was not there for a decision, it was there to explore some of the possibilities. You would expect that the police, who hold a certain amount of estate would look at it on a regular basis, look at how it's used, look at whether it's actually providing a good return for the investment of the funding within it. The decisions about what happens to the estate in the future will be made by the Police and Crime Commissioner, they've got the material that was contained in that draft strategy that they will be able to start to work from but before any decisions are made local people will be involved in what the implications are.

Question from Councillor S Tierney

Last year there were some problems with the response times for emergency and non-emergency calls to the police. At the last meeting you confirmed that there has been progress dealing with those issues and I wonder if there is any further update?

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

Thank you we did actually have a report on this recently. The response times for 999 calls are certainly at target level. The response times initially for the 101 calls for non-emergency calls, for the first call is a good response the problem arises when the call then gets transferred on and that has been recognised and there is work ongoing around that. The centre has recently had voice recognition software installed and I think when it works its fine. I think we understand that there have been some glitches in the system, these are being worked through and it's hoped response times will improve in the future, but it is under constant observation as it were.

Question from Councillor S van de Ven

I just want to say thank you to the police for supporting the bike bank, bicycle maintenance pilot project in Melbourn and this has been a County Council, District Council and Police partnership project and we're delighted that this will be able to continue. This is involving refurbishment of abandoned and stolen unclaimed bicycles and the acquiring of employable skills by restoring bicycles by young people and so would like to thank you for the support.

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

Thank you for that and of course you will all know partnership is going to be an integral part of the role of the new Police and Crime Commissioner so hopefully we can look forward to more initiatives like that.

Question from Councillor I Bates

I really think that it's important that we don't let this moment pass, as this will be the last meeting of the Police Authority members, many of whom have come from this Council and from all sides of the chamber. I think it's important to place on record our thanks to all the current and the previous members of the Police Authority please at this moment in time.

Question from Councillor I Manning

Can I just ask this based on personal experience but also anecdotal experience of calling either 999 or 101 and having called 999 myself because I saw some students having a fight, which looked quite serious outside Anglia Ruskin University. The person at the other end hung up before I was given a crime reference number, does the system automatically allocate crime reference numbers to which I know the answer is no and please can we make sure that it does in future because otherwise there's clearly amounts of crime which is not going recorded anyway.

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

Thank you for that and I'm very sorry that you've had that experience, did you actually record that with us as a complaint because I think for a 999 call to be hung up on is not appropriate.

Councillor Manning – I haven't actually no – only because it happened three days ago and I thought I'd bring it up here.

Question from Councillor T Sadiq

I just wanted to ask a bit more about the status of the discussions about G4S and the outsourcing of police staff jobs, where that had got to and what state the thinking was on that issue.

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

As you know the proposal that a full business case was worked up to look at the potential outsourcing of services such as IT, Finance, HR was brought to the Police Authority back in June and at the time the Authority decided to go ahead with moving to having a full business case done. That full business case is still being developed, you won't be surprised to know that the Authority has had a lot of questions at public meetings about this and all of those questions and what underlies them will be represented in the full business case. The full business case will be finalised in November so will be going to the Commissioner for an early decision.

Question from Councillor P Reeve

Has the Police Authority considered, as has been anecdotally reported to me, the removal of PCSOs in Cambridgeshire in order to use the budget to increase the number of warranted officers?

Reply from Ruth Rogers, the Chairman of the Police Authority

The funding that covers PCSOs has been ringfenced directly from Government and that ringfencing will stop in April next year, so I'm sure there will be some robust debate and hopefully public engagement around what will happen in the future.

Supplementary Question from Councillor P Reeve

My question was actually has it been discussed as a forward plan at all?

Reply from Ruth Rogers the Chairman of the Police Authority

No it hasn't, the intention at the moment is that the number of PCSOs are broadly maintained but the Chief Constable has said that he's committed to maintaining police constables at a level that he feels is appropriate for policing Cambridgeshire effectively.

FIRE AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

1. Question to the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown from Councillor M McGuire

I didn't give Councillor Brown notice of this question because it comes as a result of an e-mail I received at lunchtime. Members might know that through my own association with the Fire and Rescue Service over the years, I am a member of what's known as the National Fire Sprinkler Network and I've just received this message – I'll just read this out to you. It says that and this is valid given the number of fires we have had in the County recently, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service reports that at about 8.45pm on Saturday the 13th October there was successful sprinkler activation at a factory in Keighley. The Fire Service was notified of the fire through the monitoring company of the sprinkler system. I'll cut out where the actual details of the fire. It says fire service personnel made entry to the site and ascertained that one sprinkler head had extinguished the fire before isolating the system. Disruption to the factory was minimal and work continued as normal on the following Monday. The point I want to ask Councillor Brown is if he will, next time he is able to report to this Council, would give us an update on what activity the Fire and Rescue Service, and the Fire Authority in particular, are taking to continue with recommending to premises and to Government that owners of premises as to when and where they should fit sprinklers, because there is no doubt in my mind and I'm sure many people here that sprinklers work and they save a lot of disruption and a lot of money. We ourselves suffered a major loss in terms of the library as we know, sprinklers are effective and I would just like if at some stage Councillor Brown could give us an update on where the Fire Authority is on this?

Reply from the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown

Following this meeting I shall be off to the Fire Authority Conference and this is one of the items on the agenda. It is worth noting that this authority is a planning authority as far as schools and premises and public buildings, and we also license care homes, and I would have thought that is a fairly good place to start laying down the ground rules for us to be at the forefront of putting sprinkler systems in those premises.

2. Question to the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown from Councillor N Bell

In the report, we are talking about service redesign, and those of us who are members of the Fire Authority know the kind of process that we will be going through to identify savings. We've identified so far £2.6m of savings from support services which requires a lot of cuts in support staff, we've also made an agreement with fire-fighters to change shifts which will save another £900,000 now this is a lot of sacrifice by staff who work for the Fire Service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Other savings have been identified up to £4.2m and these savings don't adversely impact on frontline services. However, in paragraph 1.8 of the Chairman's report he's saying that following the decisions by the Fire Authority to date the Service now has an approved plan for how it will tackle budget cuts of up to £6m. This preparation enables the service to act quickly when the results of the spending formula are published and its known how much money must be saved over the next two years. Now the £1.8m extra that makes up that £6m savings, the plans that have been put in place, which were not supported by myself were to close four fire stations, lose ten fire

appliances, to make forty fire-fighters compulsorily redundant and downgrade other stations and fire appliances. Now this will obviously lead to increased response times and will lead to potentially people dying in this County as a result of those cuts. The question is, is the Chairman of the Fire Authority happy that in December 12th, if we are forced to make £6m of cuts, that extra £1.8m will result in the kind of cuts it listed that we know are likely to be imposed.

Reply from the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown

Sounds a bit of a loaded question to me but I will do my best to answer it. I'm astonished that this question has come up because all the members of the Fire Authority well know and other people that have been informed that we produced savings going forward which were above and below the line. Above the line we were quite safe in predicting that we wouldn't need to make further cuts, or indeed close any frontline services and it's to the credit of the members of the Fire Brigade's Union that we have had successful negotiations in doing what he have done with the Five-Watch system that is unprecedented, we are the first in the country to do so and I thank them for that publically. However, if the crystal ball that I have is any different to the one that Councillor Bell has, he will know that those figures are not published until December. Of course I'm not happy, nobody's happy to see cuts but the last resort we've got and I gave an assurance at the last budget meeting, that if we were under threat on the frontline I would be prepared to go to consultation on raising further council tax to protect the frontline. We think we've got a robust plan in place but nobody can imagine what the difficulties are if we're asked to make further savings and that is something we will have to discuss and consider in the full light of day.

3. Question to the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown from Councillor S Gymer

I am particularly worried about our retained fire station not having proper gritted roads to get out of our village in winter. I'm talking about the road between Cottenham and the A10 and Cottenham and the A14, places they are likely to have to get to. This happened last year, or when the last gritting review happened that the gritting route outside the Ely Fire Station was taken off until they couldn't their fire engine out. So can I ask by making cuts it actually stops another service being able to perform their duty properly. It's not necessarily about the fire engine being able to drive, it's about other people blocking the road if they slip off or anything else like that. The other thing is, with retained fire crews they actually have a recruitment drive at the moment and I would urge the Council to support the Fire Authority in advertising that to people in and around who could possibly serve their community by becoming retained fire-fighters.

Reply from the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor F Brown

Mindful of the issues relating to that particular village but recently having discussions with fire crews in other places and mindful that the gritted roads pose as much problem as the ungritted roads because at least you know where you are if there's no grit on the roads. So I think our fire-fighters need all the help they can get and I will do my best to liaise to try and solve some of those problems with the gritting route, that is largely now to the initiatives taken by the Cabinet down to the villages and volunteers to grit those areas where they think most appropriate. On the retained system we are going through the process at the moment of referring that to scrutiny and looking at other ways to deliver.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 OCTOBER 2012

ORAL QUESTION TIME

1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor P Downes

I would like to ask Councillor Harty what his forward thinking is in relation to the Council's continuing responsibilities for young people and pupils in this County who are in schools not maintained by us? Mr Gove in his wisdom has decreed that any school which fails to reach the benchmark of 40% of its pupils getting five or more higher grades, including English and Maths, is failing, and the retribution for a school failing is to be turned into an Academy. The snag is that three of the four schools in this County which have failed to reach that mark are already Academies, so the question now is, what do we do when we have a failing Academy? I note that in your reply to the written question from Councillor Pellew that you state the Council retains a general responsibility for the educational outcomes of children and young people in Cambridgeshire. So can you tell us now what your plans are, or what your hopes are for our continuing responsibility in Academies which are failing?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you Councillor Downes. You'll appreciate that at the moment there is no formal agreement with regard to how an Academy deals with these sort of issues that arose for example at Sawston. There are discussions taking place with the department in terms of trying to understand how the two can work together and the various roles, and in terms of the discussions that I have had with officers in terms of forward thinking clearly we are trying to keep close contact with the schools that we knew as Cambridgeshire schools and have turned to Academies. In doing that we are also offering assistance in certain areas and charging for certain items that we may service them with but there are still areas that need to be defined more clearly and that will still have to continue working on.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor P Downes

Would you therefore agree with me that it is absolutely essential that in the next round of negotiations with central Government that sufficient money is retained by County Councils to enable them to sustain the service?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Yes

2. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor T Stone

Plantlife, which is a charity, has noted that since her Majesty came to the throne this country has lost 10 species of plant life totally. In Cambridgeshire that number is 66, so whatever we have been doing for our plant life in this County we are doing worse than the nation. What I would like to know from Councillor Orgee is what new actions are being taken or proposed to stop or reverse the loss of plant species in this County?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thanks very much, and I did have some forewarning of this question. I suppose I could start by saying that I'm an observer on the Great Fen Project in the north of the County and very interestingly, literally just a couple of months ago, they did a species count on the Great Fen Project. They actually found the highest number of species that have ever been recorded in a single day in any place within Cambridgeshire and this was felt to be a very very worthwhile process. I think I need to give some consideration to the answer and I'll provide a written answer but I would say there are a number of individual schemes across the County of which the Great Fen is one, which are major projects to improve biodiversity and retain species. When I say that in a three hour period of the Great Fen over 1,000 species were recorded, and that is plants and animals, I think we can applaud the work they are doing. This is an ongoing and expanding project out there, there are other similar projects throughout Cambridgeshire, so it's certainly an issue that is in the forefront of many people's minds.

3. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor P Sales

In view of the considerable investment this County has in managing climate change, would the Leader of the Council confirm to us that he seriously believes that global warming and I quote "may not exist" and "is not caused by human activity, even if it did"?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

I'm guessing you are referring to my blog entry for the second time today, so thank you for that, the hits are going up as we speak. Remember a particular issue that was being raised there was about the challenge to those that wish to castigate anybody who will speak out against a mantra of any description, and in that particular case I chose my words very carefully. But let's move on to the more serious issue. What this Council faces is a challenge in energy consumption. It needs to reduce its consumption of energy for two reasons. One, at some point it becomes prohibitively expensive to use it and secondly we have to develop ways of using energy that are more efficient so that we can extend the life of the energy sources, but that has nothing to do with climate change. That is good efficient business sense for this County and that is what this County focuses on, and the problem with climate change is it becomes a political mantra for some that they will justify everything against that. It's a little bit like in different services when a certain buzz word is used and the trump card - you get your own way. What we have to remember is that every time we add a subsidy to deal with climate change it effects directly the people of this County, and if currently as information on the best advice at the moment, it's about £100 a year per household. If we were to add that to our council tax across the County our shortfall and our ability to look after the elderly, the young, the infirm and the sick the problem would go away.

Supplementary Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke from Councillor P Sales

Thank you for that reply, can I ask you a similar question but very directly do you believe that climate change caused by human activity exists?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

I would have absolutely no idea like it would seem the two conflicting sets of scientists who also espouse for and against, and whilst we are in that position of uncertainty having knee jerk and quite often hysterical reactions to this is not a measured way forward when we are trying to generate and protect the economic and wellbeing of this County.

4. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor L Nethsingha

This Council has been running a consultation on reducing the pay and conditions of music teachers in Cambridgeshire. I have very serious concerns that the effect these changes will have on the capacity of the music service to recruit and retain staff, as the new terms and conditions are likely to mean that music teachers will be better off working as self employed teachers rather than working for the Music Service. While children in the densely populated areas of the County will still have access to instrumental music teaching through self employed teachers, I'm deeply concerned that children in more sparsely populated rural areas will gradually be left with no access to instrumental music teaching, as the time taken to travel to a small number of pupils in small rural schools will mean that teaching instrumental music to these children is not economically viable for self employed teachers. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what is being done to ensure that children in rural areas continue to have access to instrumental music tuition in schools? This is of particular importance given the extent of research showing that involvement in instrumental music is one of the relatively small number of factors which have been shown to reliably have a good effect on educational achievement. It is also important because the Cambridgeshire Music Academy in March covering the Fenland area is at present a fantastic institution, it would be a huge own goal for the Music Service if the changes proposed were to threaten the excellent work which goes on there.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

I'm clearly not in favour of closing Cambridgeshire Music. I want it to continue, it is an excellent service but at the moment, as you are aware, there is a consultation period with regard to the pay of those various teachers and music teachers and I don't want to say anything about that at the moment, because it's an extension of the consultation period of 7 days and then we'll have to look at where we are at that point in time. We cannot continue paying higher than more commercial market rates that has to be remembered.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor L Nethsingha

Yes I would just like to know whether Councillor Harty recognises the issue that I raise about the issue of travel from small rural schools and whether they are looking at that as part of the consultation?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

I do recognise the problem, I can't give you an answer at the moment but I will come back to you.

5. Question to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates, from Councillor S van de Ven

I read yesterday that the Department for Transport is planning to pilot the use of concessionary bus passes on trains. The trial, I'll read you what it says, means that concessionary bus pass holders will be able to claim discounted fares on two test routes not in Cambridgeshire, without purchasing an annual senior rail card which costs £28. This scheme will apply to standard off-peak fares and it's believed that it may lead to higher numbers of older and disabled people using rail. So you can guess my question? In Cambridgeshire we honour concessionary passes not only on ordinary buses but on the guided busway, and recently the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Team has discovered that concessionary fares can indeed be honoured on demand responsive transport, which presents some fascinating prospects for us. Cambridgeshire Future Transport is about finding innovative transport solutions where we have a local rail infrastructure and core bus networks, concessionary fares on trains would be extremely helpful. Would you be willing to consider this and signal to the Department for Transport our support in principle for participating in a similar trial?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

Thank you very much for the question. I have not actually seen that announcement so I'm a little what I call blind at the moment but I will assure you that I will personally investigate what you bring to my attention and will come back to you when I've done a little bit more research. I hope you understand that's only yesterday the announcement took place.

6. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor J Batchelor

The subject is Balfour Beatty, the PFI contract for street lighting. Much to all of our surprise Balfour Beatty and their contractors turned up in Balsham earlier this year without any prior consultation with local people, or me or anybody else. They are still there many months later, obviously they have taken a liking to Balsham. We have had a long issue about consultation on one hand, actually putting up the lamp posts in wrong places, there are some lamp posts that have moved four or five times in Balsham. The current situation is that we have most lamp posts up, some are on some are not on, they've taken down some of the old ones, not others. So the question is what control, if any, does the County Council have over management of this project and the quality of the work that is being delivered?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thank you very much, I'll answer that and another question. I think it's fair to say that consultation on this project, to date, has not been of the quality that would be desired and that instance and example in Balsham of that. You did give me warning of this question just before the meeting started today, so thank you very much for that. I would have liked to gone out to Balsham to see exactly what the situation was but fortunately I was in Balsham last Wednesday and did have a good look round and saw the lights. Certainly going through the High Street I could see three examples where concrete columns were left in place immediately next to the new columns that have been put in place, and certainly I saw a concrete column, I think it was in Prince's Close a little bit further through the village. I actually reported that to the relevant senior member of staff here the following day, that was last Thursday. So we

are looking very carefully at the quality at what's gone on in some cases. The new Head of Service only recently in post but I think he is really tackling the issues that you have raised in a very workmanlike manner, and I think he'll really get on top of this in the not too distance future. So I am very sorry for the experiences that you have had and as I say we are getting on top of it.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor J Batchelor

Thank you very much for that response. So I take from that the County does have influence directly over it, because up to now the Parish Council and I have dealt almost exclusively directly with Balfour Beatty so I'm glad that you had a look there and I would just urge you to see if you could get them to finish the job.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

That is exactly what I instructed the senior member of staff last Thursday.

7. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor G Wilson

This question is for Councillor Orgee or Councillor Bates. It concerns the survey that members received the results of, of the Economy, Transport and Environment customers and also the employees. I appreciate the comment in this that the Directorate is going through a period of great change, so that's very unsettling for staff but I am just interested in you views about some of the results and in particular the comment that only 22% of employees thought there were high levels of motivation amongst staff, that 23.5% thought they were entrepreneurial and not bureaucratic, 30% thinking that decision making is timely and efficient. If we don't get the morale and enthusiasm and motivation of our staff right, they are not going to perform nearly as well as we want them to, so what are your views of these survey results and what are you going to do about it to improve them?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I think we're going through a period of culture change within that whole area of the Council's activities and with new Leadership recently in place that culture change is one of the key features of development. The figures might be disappointing, in fact I'm sure many people would regard them as very disappointing but I'm sure we're going to see a culture change over the coming months.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor G Wilson

I have been a Councillor for three and bit years, this Council has been in change throughout all that time, we've had numerous changes of personnel, Cabinets and so on. We just need to make sure that we motivate these people through change, it's not adequate to say we're coming to near the end of this change because we'll be on to the next one very quickly. What views do you as Cabinet Members have about the similar issues in other directorates, do you believe there is a similar level of low motivation, low morale in other directorates, and are you addressing it amongst them as well?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I wouldn't like to comment on any other departments, I think that would be inappropriate for me to do so but I think what you have highlighted emphasises the need for change in that department.

8. Question to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates from Councillor B Brooks-Gordon

Since the last Council outline planning permission was granted for the north west site in Cambridge and from this outline plan it's obvious that the main entrance to the site has shifted from opposite Girton College, where the main vehicular access was supposed to be initially and where people used to traffic going in and out with the farm plant for the University farm, down to Girton gap. Now the problem with this is that it will result in a lot more lorries going down Huntingdon Road, one of the main arteries into Cambridge from the A14 and around. I wondered has he noticed this and does he have a view on it?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

No I don't have a particular view on it but I would be happy to discuss and come out and visit with the Member on that particular issue if she so wishes.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning Councillor I Bates from Councillor B Brooks-Gordon

Thank you I'm grateful for that. That would have been my supplementary to ask if he will meet with me and also with the officers who so far have done sterling work on this and on other issues on the site to see how problematic it is, to see if we can reach an acceptable solution and an alternative.

9. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor P Reeve

Without pre-empting the recommendations of the Member Led Review on Road Safety, my question is purely to clarify a formal position because I've been given contradictory advice from Members and from officers. Within the current policies of this Council, is it possible for communities who want speed cameras to be able to put them in place, without the high KSI statistics, on the basis of a strong feeling and perception of lack of safety within their community? and I don't mind a written answer if that would be easier.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I'm happy to give you a written answer to that. I should say that recently within ETE a menu of costs has been produced to enable local communities to see what cost would be associated with actually putting certain infrastructure in place from roundels on the road, to speed limit signs, to other sorts, and even speed cameras is mentioned within that menu. So that's to give any community who wants to do something like that an idea of the relative cost before they start out on the process.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor P Reeve

I wonder if Councillor Orgee would agree to meet with me to talk about some specific proposals I've got.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Yes.

10. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, from Councillor I Manning

This is a question for Councillor Harty about primary school places in my Division. He's aware that we are also opening a new school, I want to thank him publically for the amount he has involved me as a Local Member in that process. Also to ask that as we are now aware that we may need one or two extra forms of entry in 2014 that he and officers engage early with the Shirley Primary School, as I understand it that is the only option for providing extra one or two forms of entry. So will he engage at this early stage with the existing primary school?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you, I think that it is important to remember that pressures still remain in school planning placing through our admission services and in particular in north Cambridge. Councillor Manning I'm glad to say has played a very close involvement in the development of the site at Green End Road and I welcome his involvement. We still have more to do in terms of identifying where the further expansion will take place in north Cambridge and I'll welcome his involvement again and any other Local Member that might want to come on board in assisting in developing and taking that forward.

11. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, from Councillor G Kenney

I would like to congratulate Councillor Harty on the speed with which he set up the mobile library in Sawston after the original library burned down with part of the village college in September. I would like to ask what he plans for the village when the mobile goes in December and also what access is he going to make for people who have no computers and who want to use them, as many villages are badly missing this facility?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you for your kind words. The discussion still continues in terms of how we take this forward in the short term and I know that there are local people within the community who want to see a more permanent temporary base. We are working towards and should have some further information hopefully within the next few weeks. Thank you again for your compliments. I will pass on your thanks to the Library Service who were heavily involved in this.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, from Councillor G Kenney

I just know that the local people are really very anxious about this as there aren't any firm plans after December.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

I think I responded earlier.

12. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, from Councillor T Sadiq

Does he consider the taxpayers of Cambridge have been well served with regard to the financial cost of school places provision in East Chesterton over the last six years? Closure of St Andrew's School in 2006 and the relocation, expansion of Shirley School was predicted to cost £4m, with up to half of that offset against capital receipt. The actual costs are now likely to reach about £20m, in particular how can you justify paying the rent and purchase based on residential land value to the owners of the site, Church Schools in Cambridge?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Upgrading the Green End Road site to meet modern standards is costing £3.4m, and we could assume that a similar figure for the former junior school buildings in Nuffield Road, which although newer were open plan and would require substantial remodelling. Therefore we could have spent close to £7m on improving existing buildings in which retained a difficult split site operation, which you would be aware of for the school itself, serving a very high needs area in less than ideal accommodation at the former junior school or as we did spend £10.1m on building new purpose built accommodation for the Shirley Primary School on the Nuffield Road site, thereby providing excellent facilities for the school and securing its future on a single site. At the same time we were also able to co-locate a new Children's Centre on the Nuffield Road site and improve early years facilities. There were therefore wider community benefits that stem from the redevelopment on the single site.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, from Councillor T Sadiq

I would just like assurance that in future school planning that taxpayers are protected in terms of predicting the costs of these schemes, and can he give me assurance that the lessons learned from the experience with the Shirley and Green End School will be learnt?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

I can assure you that we will take note of the lessons learnt. It's a difficult area to be in at this point in time. We're looking always very closely at costs particularly, and the quality of the buildings I think beginning to see come through in the changes we have made, we will see some benefit to the school building programme as we move forward in what is to be a large capital programme over the next five years.

13. Question to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates, from Councillor M Williamson

This is for Councillor Bates. It's about the new station due to be built in the parish of Milton. Following the shambles of the west coast mainline franchising system and the fact that the financial success of this station relies so greatly upon money from the new franchisees, could Councillor Bates tell me if the shambles together with the reviews which are occurring afterwards are likely to cause problems for the building of the new station?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

You'll be glad to know that I actually asked this question, what would be about two weeks ago, of the officers concerned with regard to this franchise and I was assured at that time that this would not effect the negotiations that we are currently having with Network Rail and the operators and the Department on this particular issue. I'm sure you appreciate there are ongoing debates about the, as you described, the debacle but obviously we will keep a close eye on it but I have been given that reassurance already and I hope that satisfies you at this moment in time. We will keep it under review for obvious reasons.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates, from Councillor M Williamson

My concern would be that if our officers have been reassured by the Department of Transport, I concern myself what the worth of that reassurance is and I would ask you to keep a very firm view of this, because I think they are all very keen to see this new station being completed, provided of course that it doesn't effect the other station in my Division, that's the one at Waterbeach.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

Yes, I can give that reassurance of course we will keep a very close eye on it. It's very crucial as we all know actually for the development of this particular area, we're committed to this station, this Council is committed to this growth and we will certainly keep a very close eye on what is coming forward.

14. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor J Reynolds

My question is to Councillor Orgee and it concerns the implementation of safety measures following a report on the Huntingdon Road junction with the new NIAB1 site. Councillor Orgee may be aware that the post implementation study was carried out last year in October. A report was presented to the developers for implementation and it has only taken twelve months for that work to start. Is this acceptable, well certainly it is not, what is Councillor Orgee going to do to make sure that these sorts of things do not happen again? In this particular instance there have been two road accidents at which the developer has paid full compensation to those people who have been involved in those accidents. I have worked with a range of officers and Members to try and get this implementation speeded up but to no avail, I think it has been a disgrace.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thanks very much to Councillor Reynolds for giving me advance warning of this question. I think if I just go over what happened. On completion of the junction a Stage 3 Safety Audit was undertaken in October 2011 and then forwarded to the developer. It's certainly not usual for remedial works identified in such an audit to take twelve months to be completed and in this case, notwithstanding pressure being applied by officers, it appears that the developer did take an unreasonably long time to commence their remedial work. I think it's fair to say that officers encouraged developers to undertake works in a timely manner, however, they are under pressure to build houses and their focus is not always in what we would consider to be the right place. Works such as the junction in this case are supported by a bond, which the Council can call on in extreme cases to complete works where a developer defaults on their responsibilities. In this economic climate there is a balance to be struck between encouraging developers to work with us in fulfilling development obligations and knowing when to take more forceful action like calling in a bond. So I'm very aware of this situation and will do everything to make sure that similar situations don't arise again in the future.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor J Reynolds

I note what Councillor Orgee has said but I think it is somewhat unsatisfactory. He's just waiting for someone else to do something and what the Council should be doing, Chairman, and what the Planning Authority should be doing is ensuring that there is a direct responsibility for the developer to implement these sorts of things without delay when they have been brought to their attention. Just saying you'll leave it for somebody else to do and follow it up and hope for the best is just not good enough. We see that unfortunately with so many things. We see that with the adoption of highways, the time it takes and people who have bought homes having to suffer, and people in this area also had to suffer because it's not been brought up to date. It's not good enough.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Two things in response to that. First of all I thought in my answer I did say that such works are supported by a bond that can be called upon if work appears to be taking far too long, so there are mechanisms in place and those can be called upon. The second point I make is about roads being adopted and so on. I did make some responses to the South Cambs Local Plan Consultation which ended recently and one of those was about the need for District Councils to take strict action in ensuring that roads and sewage systems were adopted at an appropriate time within the life of a development. So I've made appropriate comments to the District Council in the area which I serve.

15. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor S Whitebread

My question has been touched on a little bit but I just want to reinforce what has been said about the Street Lighting PFI and ask Councillor Orgee whether he has full confidence in Balfour Beatty's ability to consult effectively?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

The issue of consultation is a very very live one and I think it's fair to say that we've had robust discussions with Balfour Beatty about exactly what consultation means and a new consultation process should be going up on the relevant website shortly. But we have had some very robust discussions about that and it seems up to now there has not been a meeting of minds as to what the word consultation means.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, from Councillor S Whitebread

Just to say that there is nothing more frustrating as a local Councillor than to have what you think is a really constructive meeting with someone where they agree to take your views on board, to then discover that the work you were talking about had already been done the previous day, to a specification that is completely opposed to what your residents want. So it would be helpful if we could have some more joined up thinking on this and I'm encouraged by your words that you're being robust with Balfour Beatty about it.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

We are trying to ensure that local members are informed before works take place and not only before work takes place but a suitable time before work takes place, so that local views and local Councillors' views can actually be taken into account in designing the final scheme before anything is done.

16. Question to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates, from Councillor S Gymer

I want to tell you about an award winning business. The company allows graffiti to persist, some of it offensive. Doesn't clear up the litter it creates and doesn't maintain its environment, like cutting grass, watering or replacing dead trees. Doesn't it repair items that have been vandalised, doesn't keep the emergency service informed about key code changes. Eight pets have died in its grounds, a place has become a police priority due to anti-social behaviour locally, drinking, vandalism and attempted robbery. It is even more galling when requests to clear up mess and deal with problem seems to fall upon deaf ears. Don't tell me you don't know about these things, David Jenkins, and the local Councils and residents and I have brought these issues to you, the Guided Busway staff, to officers at the Council, to Cabinet Members and even to this Chamber, and still nothing has happened. I again ask for you to reinstate the Local Liaison Panels, so local people can have these issues resolved and I believe that it doesn't matter how many..... I want the local panels reinstated and I would like Councillor Bates to say whether he will or he won't?, and I'd like to say also that we believe locally that the Guided Busway is a bad neighbour.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning Councillor I Bates

I think this question has been asked before and been answered before in respect of Local Liaison Committees. I'm saddened to hear that the Councillors have brought matters to the attention of the officers and perhaps I could ask whether those emails could be forwarded to me. I think the Guided Bus has been open over one year and I see no need to open and reinstate the Local Liaison, there are adequate ways of

dealing with these matters through the officers. If there are individual problems on pieces along the Guideway they can be dealt with by the appropriate officers. If any Members are having difficulty I'm sure myself and the Director will be only too pleased to meet and discuss.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning Councillor I Bates, from Councillor S Gymer

I would like to inform the Council that I have asked South Cambs to enforce the planning.

17. Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, from Councillor K Bourke

I've recently been contacted by a local resident who has had extreme difficulty in accessing the care that her child is entitled to and she believes that the transition to the Unit Model is to blame. To be clear I support the Unit Model, I visited my locality office to discuss it this summer. I understand the benefits that it brings, so I support the end point that the Council is working towards. However, having followed up my resident's concerns about that transition it seems that they are quite well founded. Some facts for you, in June 2011 the Council when briefing service users stated that there would be 30 – 35 cases per unit. It was also stated that for the Unit Model to be effective there needed to be fewer than 40 cases. At the moment there are between 40 and 50 cases per unit, more than the model can effectively handle. Moreover these concerns about capacity have been compounded by a second problem relating to staffing. It had been hoped that the old teams would metamorphose fairly smoothly into the Unit Model. However, it seems that there has been a lot more churn than had been anticipated, in particular we lost many of the most highly qualified and experienced staff and as a result we have less experienced staff and understaffed units dealing with an unmanageably large caseload, a larger caseload than these units are supposed to be ideally dealing with. That's why my resident is struggling to access the same quality of care for her son as she was in the past. I wouldn't expect Councillor Brown to comment on an individual case but obviously this has wider ramifications for the whole service. So my initial question is does Councillor Brown recognise this service pressure that I've described and what is he doing about it?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services Councillor D Brown

Clearly I would move into the Unit Model, we are just over half way through. When you are making big changes to any organisation that size is always going to be a time of tension. I've certainly been through that in my own career when I've been through similar restructurings, partly how I ended up here. I do not recognise the accusation that we have lost so many highly qualified, we have had difficulty in recruiting as many clinical social workers to our required standards, which is why the process is ongoing, so I recognise some of what the Leader of the Opposition was referring to but far from all of it.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, from Councillor K Bourke

It's reassuring that Councillor Brown recognises some of what I have said in terms of what you refer to as my accusation that we have lost some very experienced and qualified staff. It's not so much an accusation as me repeating what I've been told by

the people running the service. My supplementary is when the business plan for next year is being prepared will Councillor Brown argue strongly for a priority to be given to this service area, so as to protect the most vulnerable?

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services,
Councillor D Brown,**

As all colleagues around the Chamber will know and recognise we have protected the budget for Children's Social Care, over certainly my time and before that, we do give the highest priority to those most vulnerable in this County. Clearly yes we will be continuing down that route in the business planning.

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 OCTOBER 2012
WRITTEN QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2**

**Question from Councillor T Sadiq to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise,
Councillor M Shuter**

Could the Cabinet Member for Enterprise please supply the following data in relation to Council expenditure with private sector suppliers for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12:

- Total Council spend with all suppliers and local Cambridgeshire Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Percentage of total Council spend with all suppliers and local SMEs
- Number of contracts with all suppliers and local SMEs
- Annual value of contracts with all suppliers and local SMEs
- Number of suppliers and local SMEs the Council traded with directly

Please indicate how these figures have changed compared to 2010-11.

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance,
Councillor S Count**

Please find below SME Spend Analysis in response to Councillor Sadiq’s question:

Measure	2010/11	2011/12	Comment
a) Total supplier spend	c£320m	See below	Bulk of reduction due to reduced payments on Guided Bus
b) Adjusted figures to compare on like for like basis (excludes pension investments and Cambridgeshire Learning and community partnerships and payments to other public bodies)	c£290m	c£260m	Bulk of reduction due to reduced payments on Guided Bus, reductions in capital spend and savings

Total spend with local SMEs	£75.4m includes DVM (£21m)	£65m	Note the 2010/11 figure includes spend with DVM of £21m on the waste contract and this supplier has now been taken over by AmeyCespa and is no longer in local SME spend
Total local SME spend excluding DVM	c£54m	£65m	
% of spend with local SMEs based on adjusted figure shown in (b) above	c24% (26%)	c25%	
% of spend with local SME adjusted to remove DVM	c19%	c25%	This figure is more useful for comparison purposes as it excludes one off impact of DVM take over
Approximate number of contracts with all suppliers (based on suppliers with spend of over £20,000)	866	834	Note this covers contracts that Cambridgeshire County Council has access to including consortia contracts £30k.
Approximate number of contracts with local SMEs (based on local suppliers with annual spend over £20,000)	235	270	
Approximate annual value of contracts with local SMEs above £20,000 threshold	£68m (figure without DVM £47m)	To be confirmed	Note the figure for 2011/12 excludes DVM. The figure for 2010/11 includes the Waste contract with DVM that had a value of c£21m in 2010/11.
Approximate number of local SMEs the council traded with directly	840	To be confirmed	Need to re calculate 2010/11 figure as included some public bodies

Given the number of suppliers involved it is not feasible to calculate the total number of employees involved but all the SMEs will employ below 250.

Local for this purpose is defined as suppliers with a post code in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough and where possible we have now excluded payments to other public bodies that was not fully the case in 2010/11.

Question from Councillor A Pellew to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

I am aware that the email footers of Cambridgeshire County Council employees have been changed to include some advertising for the better broadband campaign. Can you please provide some guidelines for the number of emails which have been sent externally since the change was made?

In addition can you please list any other methods the Council has employed in order to gather signatures for this petition and what measures, if any, the Council is taking to measure the comparative success of these different methods?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

The Connecting Cambridgeshire demand registration campaign has seen one of the highest rates of registration across the country, with over 18,000 registrations to date and still rising.

The addition of a footer on all external emails sent from the County Council's email system was configured on 4th July, and by Wednesday 10th October 1.2m emails had been sent incorporating the "Connecting Cambridgeshire" demand registration details.

In addition a variety of different methods to encourage registration have been used, including:

1. An informative website with a very simple registration process that asks for the minimum mandatory information (Postcode and full telephone number).
2. Use of a Twitter account with regular updates and over 100 followers.
3. Regular news updates and press releases - which have attracted widespread coverage in print, broadcast and digital media.
4. Regular updates for members and presentations to local County & District councillors.
5. Regular email updates for 4,500 people who asked to be kept in touch with the campaign progress.
6. Posters, leaflets and touring displays in libraries.
7. Posters and leaflets in GP surgeries, registry offices, District and County Council offices.
8. Linking with large public and private sector employers in the County who have encouraged their staff to register. Examples of these are the Hospitals, Police and Fire services.
9. Economic development officers in the county and District Councils have been actively involved in the project and have helped to encourage businesses and their area villages to register demand.
10. Over 80 "broadband champions" have been recruited, who are willing to publicise the campaign in their villages/areas. They have been given leaflets and posters to distribute, articles for their parish magazines and they are regularly updated with the registration numbers and updates on the progress of the project. In addition a

networking event at Shire Hall was held for them to meet the project team and each other and hear an update from members and the project team. Broadband champions have used community events and locations to encourage registration.

11. Members of the project team have attended key community and business events (such as the East of England show and the Chamber of Commerce B2B event) to raise awareness, hand out leaflets and business cards and encourage registration.
12. The project team are working closely with other groups and agencies such as the LEP, Chambers of Commerce, Cambridgeshire ACRE to raise awareness of the project.
13. Letters and leaflets to schools so they can encourage parents to register, with many schools sending out communications to parents via "Parent Mail".
14. The project team are now targeting those parishes with low registration levels who are in the intervention areas by contacting parish councils directly.

Evaluation of methods

The decision about which methods to use to encourage registration has been driven by the need to ensure the highest impact for the lowest cost. This has meant extensive use has been made of the Council's existing press and partner relationships and considerable effort has been put in to further develop business and community relationships to harness support for the registration campaign. The success of this approach has been demonstrated by the very high levels of registration and the extensive digital champions network that has been formed, which has avoided the need for costly paid advertising for the campaign.

Regular monitoring is undertaken of visits to the Connecting Cambridgeshire website and spikes in registrations are noted after particular events or press releases, however there has been no formal evaluation of the relative success of each different method of publicity.

Question from Councillor A Pellew to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Can you please provide some information relating to the help made available to Sawston Academy following the damaging fire? Can you please provide me a cost of this provided help and whether or not any of it has been re-charged to the Academy and at what fraction of the cost (to presumably claim on their insurance)?

Could we please have some information on how the Council approached this incident on the basis that the school is no longer supported by the Local Authority? (technically this was a fire at a private business)

Response from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

The costs of this incident have not been finalised. In addition the situation is complicated in that the fire affected both the school building and the County Council operated library.

The help provided to the Academy took a number of forms:

The Education Advisor (Secondary and Special Schools) attended the incident at the request of the Principal to provide support and advice. Sawston Village College has purchased the "Academies Subscription Service" from the local authority for the 2012/13 financial year. The

purchased service included the provision of support from the Education Advisor (Secondary and Special Schools) for dealing with critical incidents, complaints and allegations. The school was duly provided with the support that it had procured from the local authority.

A press officer attended the fire, it was estimated that dealing with the press took around four hours of time. The school has not purchased the support of the Communications team but the press officer would have been in attendance because of the fire's impact on the Council's library. Given the small amount of time involved and the fact that the fire also affected Council buildings it is not intended to recharge the school for any marginal cost.

Some services also made an additional input because of the fire. For example education transport had to quickly organise new arrangements for picking up pupils. Education transport is a responsibility of the County Council and no recharge has been made to the school.

The Council's Educational Psychology service provided support to help pupils once the school reopened. Educational Psychology services remain the responsibility of local authorities and no funding for this service has passed to academies. Therefore, no charge was made to the school for this service.

Property staff attended meetings at the school to assess the fire damage to the school and the library. The initial focus was to ensure that the buildings and surrounds were safe for the school to re open. Further discussions took place on the power/heating which had been damaged. An assessment was required as to whether temporary accommodation would be required elsewhere given the council's responsibilities for ensuring that children and young people have access to school places. Some additional support was provided to the school and the time involved has been logged. The cost involved will be assessed and discussed with the Education Funding Agency which has a responsibility for the revenue and capital funding of the school.

The funding of the respective roles of the Local Authority and Academies remains complicated. However, the vast majority of the costs and time incurred by the Local Authority in respect of this fire were as a result of either:

- The fire affecting both the library and the school
- The school having purchased the support that was provided
- The support relating to the statutory responsibilities of the local authority.

In addition the County Council retains a general responsibility for the educational outcomes of children and young people in Cambridgeshire. It also has a wider responsibility for the wellbeing of the population of this county. Children and young people were affected by this fire and the Council would always seek to offer support in such circumstances, regardless of whether a fire affects a private business, an academy or a maintained school.

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 16TH OCTOBER 2012
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Membership of Committees

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES

To replace Councillor N Clarke with Councillor A G Orgee.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To replace Councillor S Hoy with Councillor V Lucas.

To appoint Councillor V Lucas as Chairman in place of Councillor S Johnstone.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE FOR CAMBRIDGE FRINGES

To replace Councillor R Pegram with Councillor J Reynolds.

To replace Councillor J Reynolds with Councillor R Pegram as a substitute member.

Appointments to Outside Organisations

COUNTY COUNCILS' NETWORK COUNCIL

To replace Councillor S Johnstone with Councillor M Curtis.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

To replace Councillor S Johnstone with Councillor M Curtis.