

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 11th June 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.

Present: S Johnstone (Chairman)

Councillors, M Curtis, D Harty, V H Lucas, L W McGuire, A Melton, D R Pegram (vice chairman), J E Reynolds J M Tuck and F H Yeulett.

Also in Attendance

Councillors: J Batchelor, M Ballard*, N. Harrison*, S King*, A Kent and J West

Apologies: None

* for part of the meeting only.

374. MINUTES 22nd MAY 2007

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22ND May were approved as a correct record.

375. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Harty declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 a) i) Youth Services and 4) c i) the Contact Centre having been involved in the original scrutiny sub groups which had prepared the reports.

Councillor Tuck declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 “The Queen’s Secondary School, Wisbech, Progress Report” being on both the Interim Executive Board and the Shadow Governing Body of the former Queen’s Secondary School.

376. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

A) REPORT FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES (CYPS) SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – YOUTH SERVICES

Councillor Batchelor the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee was invited to present the CYPS Scrutiny Committee’s Youth Service Monitoring Sub-Group’s findings and recommendations. The objective of the sub-group had been to support the Youth Service in moving from a ‘Reasonable’ Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) rating to a ‘Good’ OfSTED rating, through the

investigation and monitoring the Youth Service's quality of youth work and use of resources. Cabinet was requested to respond to the Scrutiny Committee's views/concerns set out below in respect of:

- In their view the totally unacceptable level of core funding for the youth service, which placed it as the lowest ranking authority out of the 133 authorities reported in the National Youth Agency return.
- The continued severe risk to the youth service's capacity to improve inherent within youth work's reliance on external funding.
- The direction of the youth service and its apparent decline in performance, particularly in the light of Cambridgeshire's parallels with the evidence published in the OfSTED overview of local authority youth services 2005/06.

Cabinet was requested to endorse the following recommendation that:

- Youth work was given much greater priority within CYPS given the key preventative role it offered in terms of informal education and diversionary activities. This was recognised by, for example, the Youth Justice Board and the Teenage Pregnancy Unit as important in reducing offending and teenage conceptions. It was recommended that its ability to impact positively on other services, and its key preventative role, was publicised more widely to the public.
- Cabinet was asked to note that: the CYPS Scrutiny committee planned to receive an update report from CYPS in six months' time on how far the following aspirations had been met:
 - That the locality teams were fully staffed at the appropriate professional levels
 - That external funding was explored fully in all localities
 - That there was an integrated Quality Assurance framework in place across all localities
 - That there was capacity to provide advisory curriculum support services
 - That the targets set in the new service specification, including the County Council's national performance indicators, were met
 - How the development of the new service specification for the Youth Offer and the resources required for youth work within this were being identified.

Disappointment was expressed that the suggested response did not offer any proposals to increase in funding for the Youth Service, but welcomed the suggestions for external funding continuity, quality assurance proposals and closer working between the Youth Service and Youth Offending Teams.

B) SUGGESTED FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

The response included as a second despatch acknowledged that the level of resources available to the Youth Service was low in comparison to other Local

Authorities but this needed to be considered in the context of the Council's general funding position, which resulted in the majority of services provided to children and young people being in the lowest quartile for national funding. The relatively low level of funding for services to children and young people as a whole inevitably meant that a greater proportion of the funding that was available was spent on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people in the County and this had a direct impact on the Council's ability to fund the Youth Service.

While there was no dispute as to the importance of the Youth Service and the positive impact that it could have on outcomes for Children and Young People, it was highlighted that the three-year financial forecast for OCYPS required savings of £3m in 2008/09 and £3.3m in 2009/10, to just fund inflation and demographic pressure costs. Cabinet noted that to increase significantly the level of resources for the Youth Service would require savings to be made from other services, over and above those required to produce a balanced financial position over the next two years. Cabinet therefore accepted that there was very little prospect of greater prioritisation within OCYPS resulting in an increased level of funding for the Youth Service.

In terms of drawing in external funding this was a key task of Youth Service staff and the reliance on external funding was unlikely to change given the general financial position of the Council. It was accepted that there was too great a variability across the County in terms of both the availability of external funding and the ability to access it. On the basis of there being an ongoing need to fund the Youth Service through a mix of core and external funding, it was intended to secure greater consistency and expertise in accessing external funding across the County. The creation of a central post to support the access of external funding would also be explored.

In reply to the point from Scrutiny that there had been a decline in the performance of the Youth Service, it was highlighted that the devolution of the Youth Service into the Locality Teams remained a comparatively recent development. Although the delivery of youth work within multi-disciplinary teams and the expected benefits had not yet been delivered, the dip in performance could be partly explained by backlogs in the recording of activity, which was now being addressed.

Cabinet agreed with the contention of the importance of an integrated quality assurance framework and professional curriculum support for the Youth Service noting the measures being taken as set out in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8. of the response. The response also agreed that there was scope for greater collaborative working between the Youth Service and the Youth Offending Service and that the new structure in OCYPS would promote delivering against the joint targets of greater social cohesion and reduced anti social and offending behaviour through the promotion of positive activities. Details were provided setting out why funding arrangements did not always promote joint working.

Cabinet noted that OCYPS was still working on the Youth Opportunity Card

pilot and the outline project plan was being developed in anticipation of submission to the DfES in July, which if successful, would provide additional funding. In respect of the Youth Offer, it was noted that the Youth Offer Project Board was working towards the mapping and delivery of the offer with pilots being undertaken in two Locality Teams.

It was resolved:

- i) To thank the Scrutiny Committee for their work.
- ii) To endorse the response to the scrutiny committee outlined above and as set out in more detail in the response document.
- iii) To agree that the Cabinet Member for Children's and Young People's Services should write to the Local Government Minister highlighting that the resource shortfall preventing sufficient funding being available for Youth Services and other Children's Services in the County was directly attributable to the County Council's overall revenue grant settlement.

C) REPORT FROM CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PROCUREMENT - THE USE OF EASTERN SHIRES PURCHASING ORGANISATION (ESPO) AND TRANSACTIONS

Councillor King, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee at the time of the review, presented the report that identified required changes to policies and processes to ensure streamlined and effective procurement and to maximise the benefits of using ESPO. The importance of providing savings in this area was highlighted as with the Accommodation Strategy they represented the major savings for Corporate Services.

Cabinet was asked to consider and support the report and recommendations outlined below, with the identified lead officers as detailed in the scrutiny report.

- 1) The Council should continue to monitor whether it is getting good value from ESPO in comparison to other purchasing organisations, in terms of price, strategic support and customer service.
- 2) All procurement contracts which involve significant amounts of goods and commodities by September 2007 should be negotiated so that the contractor either uses ESPO, or if not uses goods and commodities that are cheaper than ESPO.
- 3) The draft policy on the 'Use of ESPO' should be formally adopted by Cabinet and communicated widely by June 2007.

4) In collaboration with ESPO, a *joint* communications and marketing strategy tailored to the authority should be developed and implemented by January 2008 underpinned by the messages outlined above.

5) The Council and ESPO work together to extend the concept of consolidated and standardised supply lists and the 'top-up principle' for a wider variety of product types by September 2007.

6) A clearer policy on the appropriate, and most efficient transaction processes for staff to use for different purchase categories should be communicated. A two-year target to be established for the increased take-up of purchase cards and SSP, and a target for a reduction in the use of certification slips with a target set by September 2007, and achieved by September 2009.

7) New incentives for compliance should be investigated and implemented, for example simpler and quicker processes, charges from a budget-holder cost centres for consistently not complying to procedures, and charges per certification slip transacted. Procedures for systematic monitoring of 'non-contract spend' should be implemented. The measures to be introduced by April 2008

Councillor King paid tribute to the support to the review given by the former Cabinet member for Corporate Services as well as those members of the review group (Councillors Broadway, Brown and West) and to Chris Badger the scrutiny development co-ordinator at the time of the review.

D) SUGGESTED FORMAL RESPONSE TO CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The formal response was set out as follows:

Recommendation 1: Corporate Services would continue to develop its approaches to monitoring and challenging the value provided by ESPO in terms of price, strategic support, customer service and overall Value for Money. Regular reports would be published (anticipated 6-monthly).

Recommendation 2: The use of ESPO would be promoted with suppliers, especially where the supply was directly dependent on goods and services which can be provided by ESPO. In such cases, suppliers would be required to use ESPO or to demonstrate that they could source equivalent goods and services more cheaply. This approach would also provide useful intelligence since if ESPO could not provide best value for money, the Authority would be able to challenge them to do so.

Recommendations 3 & 4: Corporate Services would work proactively with ESPO and the Authority's Internal Communications team to develop a joint communications and marketing strategy to promote the use of ESPO. Once Cabinet had been satisfied with the draft policy on the Use of ESPO, this would

be proactively communicated as part of this strategy. The effectiveness of the strategy was to be monitored by measuring the trend of usage of ESPO.

Recommendation 5: Working with key stakeholders, a priority list of goods would be identified where standardisation and reduced choice would be appropriate. Simplification of the relevant catalogues would be planned and implemented with ESPO.

Recommendation 6: Corporate Services would provide clarity so that staff were directed towards the most appropriate process in different circumstances and would set targets, supported by detailed plans, to increase the use of purchase cards and Self-Service Purchasing. Progress towards the targets would be monitored and reported.

Recommendation 7: The simplification and improvement of purchasing processes was already underway through existing programmes of work, and this would continue to be monitored and extended as required. Appropriate sanctions, for example charges against budget-holder cost centres, were being reviewed in line with those already in place for late requests for payroll changes.

Cabinet noted that the Council were moving as rapidly as possible to all invoices being recorded electronically with key staff being offered appropriate training.

Cabinet was assured that regular monitoring was undertaken of ESPO performance and purchasing criteria. In addition it was highlighted that using another supplier often had hidden transaction costs, which therefore could negate what appeared to be initially a cheaper goods supplier.

It was noted that detailed planning work to implement the recommendations would also need to take into account the timetable for Shared Services activities. In order to monitor progress against the recommendations, officers were requested to prepare a monitoring report in due course to either come forward to Cabinet or to the scrutiny committee.

It was resolved

- i) To thank the Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken in their review.
- ii) To endorse the response as outlined above and set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.9 of the report published on the Cabinet agenda.
- iii) That the Deputy Chief Executive for Corporate Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council, The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and the Chairman of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee should agree timescales regarding actions and for a progress report to be prepared in due course to either the Scrutiny Committee or to Cabinet.

E) REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CONTACT CENTRE

Councillor Harrison the Chairman of the scrutiny committee at the time of the review presented the report for Cabinet's consideration. Scrutiny Committee requested that The County Council Cabinet accept the findings of the report, and in particular that:

- 1) Cabinet should use the report to ensure that the Council could achieve its original vision for the contact centre, making it the principal customer interface for the majority of Council services.
- 2) A detailed strategy should be prepared to manage the migration programme, including targets for both cashable efficiencies from services and from the Contact Centre itself and that this should be monitored appropriately.
- 3) Senior management and Members should take further steps to clearly demonstrate their support for the Contact Centre and its development.
- 4) The County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services was requested to respond to the recommendations as soon as possible.

F) SUGGESTED FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Cabinet in approving the formal response, included as part of a second despatch agenda, supported the presumption in favour of making the Contact Centre the principal customer interface for the majority of Council services.

Cabinet also re-affirmed the key principles for creating the centre, which were that it should be located within Cambridgeshire, taking advantage of local knowledge and that it should use people, as opposed to automated methods to answer telephone enquiries and that there should be one point of contact with one telephone number. Cabinet also confirmed its support for further expansion of the service while at the same time seeking to reduce the level of costs.

It was resolved:

- i) To thank the Scrutiny Committee for the work done in the Review.
- ii) To reiterate the vision of the Contact Centre becoming the principal customer interface for the majority of Council services.
- iii) To ask officers to prepare a detailed strategy to manage the migration programme, including targets for cashable

efficiencies both from services and from the Contact Centre itself, and to set up arrangements for regular monitoring.

- iv) To encourage senior managers and Members to take further steps to demonstrate clearly their support for the Contact Centre and its development.

CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

With the agreement of Cabinet Members agenda item 7 “Grants Review” was taken as the next item of business.

377. GRANTS REVIEW

Cabinet received a report providing information on a further review of the County Council’s processes for allocating grants to the voluntary and community sector. The review had been partly prompted from feedback received from the voluntary sector organisations, during the most recent budget consultation exercise, who had raised concerns about the processes, communication and consistency of approach taken in the administration of grants. In addition, a joint grants Service Development Group had identified that the process for small grants (grants for less than £3,000) allocation was overly complicated and process-heavy in relation to the very small amount of money being approved. They had therefore requested that officers should consider ways to streamline member involvement in the approval process.

Cabinet was reminded that in 2003 it had agreed changes to the management arrangements within the County Council for providing grants to voluntary and community organisations with the main focus to ensure grants were directly supporting service priorities. Following the County Council’s Reshaping for Excellence, responsibility for the grants process had been split between the Office of Children and Young People’s Services (OCYPS) and the Office of Environment and Community Services (OECS) and as a result the changes from 2003 had not having been fully embedded in management processes. In particular it was highlighted that the move to a commissioning approach in relation to money over £3,000 had not been fully accomplished.

The changes recommended to the small grants process would see a reduction in Member involvement with other recommendations aiming to ensure greater stability for VCS organisations. The Cabinet lead member for Enhanced Services undertook to safeguard the Council’s interests in respect of small grants being allocated on the basis of agreed County Council service priorities.

Cabinet noted that in respect of grants of over £3,000, work was still be undertaken to ensure that suitable contracting arrangements were set up for organisations supporting the Disabilities Service with an appropriate report in due course to be provided to the relevant ECS spokesmen. Samuel Scharf was thanked for the work undertaken to produce the current paper.

Cabinet also welcomed the move to align agreements with the voluntary sector with those set out in the agreed COMPACT, which had recently received full support by all parties involved with the Local Area Agreement.

It was resolved:

- i To endorse the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 1 to the officer's report and the further recommendations set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report namely:
 - a) to agree that with regard to the small grants process, that there should be a reduction in Member involvement, through the disbandment of the Joint SDG and Joint Member Panel meetings.
 - b) That in order to provide both flexibility and speed in the assessment process, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Enhanced Services in consultation with the Enhanced Services Policy Development Group be delegated the decision-making authority in respect of the allocation of small grants.
- ii. That stability should be provided for voluntary and community sector organisations receiving small grants through the Medium Term Corporate Plan process guaranteeing the money a year in advance.
- iii. That following approval of the budget in February, the County Council should provide pre-payments to both Young Lives and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to then distribute to approved VCS organisations.
- iv. The Lead Member for Enhanced Services in consultation with appropriate County Council grants officers to be responsible for ensuring that small grants awarded directly by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation/Young Lives support agreed County Council service priorities.

378. FINANCIAL OUTTURN AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2006/07

Cabinet received a report:

- outlining the 2006/07 financial results for revenue, capital and trading units;
- setting out the position on balances, carry forwards, reserves and the treasury management and prudential regime for consideration;
- Reviewing the position on debt management and prompt payment.

Cabinet welcomed that the overall position for Revenue expenditure on Services (excluding Education Self-Managing Institutions) was actual spending

of £276m against the revised budget of £278.1m demonstrating that the recovery plans agreed by Cabinet had been effective and that this should help secure a financial standing score of 4 in the next Use of Resources judgement. The underspend of £2.1m represented only 0.8% of the revised budget, the majority of which represented monies that had been set aside to finance further increases in interest charges which in the end, had been lower than originally predicted.

£0.48m of the underspend was recommended to be transferred to Carry-Forward Reserves in accordance with the Council's Constitution, whilst £1.66m is transferred to the County Council General Reserve.

It was noted that the Cabinet member for Corporate Services had requested a review of the County Council's asset base to ensure best value for money was being achieved.

Cabinet noted that:

- The budget for Debt Charges and Interest payments was underspent by £2,078k at year-end due to improved cash management, increasing certainty around the capital programme, and the timing of land sale receipts. However, the underspend has been partially offset by redundancy costs of £517k incurred at the end of 2006-07 as a result of various restructures across the County.
- Total schools year end balances had increased by £5.3 m to £18.3m reflecting stronger accounting regulations and as a result of significant additional funding being received from the Standards Fund and other sources, balances being held for extended provision and the need to protect teaching/staffing ratios resulting from declining pupil numbers.
- There was a final overall Capital Spend of £102.2m
- There was a final net accumulated deficit on traded services of £1.76m and in view of the further overall deterioration in the Trading Unit position, it was recommended to transfer £600k from the General Reserves to the Trading Unit reserve pending the satisfactory delivery of recovery plans which it was noted were being actively pursued.
- The balances (general reserve) was £6.1m at 1st March 2007 representing 2.2% of net revenue expenditure.
- The other earmarked Reserves when totalled for each Office was £4.8m.
- Interest payments were underspent as a result of debt levels remaining below the level assumed in the budget for the year.
- The Authority's net loan debt was £244,510,000 with the increase mainly due to the use of borrowing to finance capital expenditure.
- Financing costs were below the approved limit due to the underspend on debt charges, with all debt levels within the approved limits.
- The final position for 2006/07 for the prompt payment of invoices was that 97.2% of all undisputed invoices were paid within thirty days. This was 2.2% above the 95% target for this key Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) and had resulted in the 'Excellent' target banding being attained for the second consecutive year.

Officers were thanked for all their efforts in ensuring that the final County Council budget was not in deficit as had been forecast earlier in the year, following a very difficult Government financial settlement.

It was resolved to:

- i) note the revenue expenditure of Services in 2006/07, and in particular the delivery of a better than break-even position (set out in Sections 2 & 3 and Appendices 1 & 2 of the officer's report)
- ii) note the report on capital spending and financing in 2006/07, and in particular the planned and unplanned slippage on schemes (set out in Section 4 of the officer's report)
- iii) note the report on trading units' performance and the increase in losses recorded by many of these units (Set out in Section 5 and Appendix 3 of the officer's report)
- iv) note the revenue expenditure of Services in 2006/07, and in particular the delivery of a better than break-even position (set out in Sections 2 & 3 and Appendices 1 & 2 of the officer's report)
- v) note the report on capital spending and financing in 2006/07, and in particular the planned and unplanned slippage on schemes (set out in Section 4 of the officer's report)
- vi) note the report on trading units' performance and the increase in losses recorded by many of these units (Set out in Section 5 and Appendix 3 of the officer's report)
- vii) Recommend to Audit and Accounts Committee the approval of an additional contribution of £600k from the General Reserve to the Traded Services Earmarked Reserve to increase the overall level of protection and in particular to offset the risks associated with increased trading losses in year (Set out in Section 7.2 of the officer's report)
- viii) Approve the reserves and carry forwards, the increase to general reserves being particularly pertinent in view of the scale of uncertainty associated with grant funding in future years (Set out in Sections 6 & 7, Appendix 4 of the officer's report),
- ix) Note the report on efficiency (Set out in Section 8 of the officer's report)
- x) Note treasury management activities and prudential indicators (Set out in section 9 of the officer's report)
- xi) Note the reports on debt management (Section 10), prompt payment (Set out in Section 11 of the Officer's report).

379. EVERY DISABLED CHILD MATTERS

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for the Council to sign up to the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' Charter which was a national initiative by a group of organisations representing disabled children and their families aimed at raising the profile of the disabled child both at national and local levels, aiming to ensure that all disabled children had equality of access to services and that they were included in service development and planning around children and young people services.

Cabinet welcomed the campaign which required the Lead Member for Children of each Local Authority to sign up to a charter of nine standards that the local authorities would deliver by January 2008 as set out in the appendix to the report.

It was resolved:

That the County Council should fully sign up to the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' Charter.

380. THE QUEEN'S SECONDARY SCHOOL WISBECH PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet noted that since the last progress report in February, which approved the establishment of an 11-16 Foundation School with co-located post-16 provision in partnership with the College of West Anglia (COWA) within the Government's Fresh Start Programme and the establishment of a Community Trust from January 2008, the following progress had been undertaken:

- The Queen's School (to be renamed Thomas Clarkson Community College) had been one of three Cambridgeshire schools successful in applications made to the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) to become Trust School Early Adopters and would now open from September 2007 as a new Fresh Foundation School.
- The Shadow governing body had approved the appointment of a Headteacher Designate of the new school.
- The most recent Ofsted monitoring inspection of The Queen's School had taken place with the inspectors subsequently reporting that satisfactory progress had been made, both since the school had been subject to special measures, and since the previous monitoring inspection.
- Satisfactory progress had been made on all specific key issues for action, with the exception of the requirement to establish and implement effective strategies to improve attendance. Cabinet was also pleased to note that Ofsted had also judged that the local authority had continued to provide good support for the school and the local authority school improvement partner had given strong support.
- As an Early Adopter, Thomas Clarkson Community College would receive dedicated support from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

(SSAT), including some small-scale financial assistance with set up costs (up to £10,000) which would be paid directly to the school.

It was resolved to:

- i) Note the excellent progress made in relation to Fresh Start and Trust status in respect of The Queen's School, Wisbech.
- ii) Confirm approval of the establishment of Thomas Clarkson Community College as a school that will replace The Queen's School under Fresh Start arrangements from 1st September 2007.

381. PRIMARY EDUCATION IN SWAFFHAM BULBECK – PROPOSAL FOR LOWER ADMISSION AGE TO PERMIT PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Cabinet received a report informing it of the conclusion of the process relating to the published proposal that the age of admission at Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England (Controlled) Primary School should be lowered from 4 years to 3 years with effect from 1 September 2007.

It was noted that statutory local consultation had been completed satisfactorily and that no objections to the proposal had been received. It was orally reported that the local member supported the report recommendation stating that local residents had hoped the proposals would have happened the previous September and that any further delay would not be in the best interests of the community. She further stated that both the County and the village had already committed resources in order to provide provision in the building for pre-schoolers, a service that was much needed in Swaffham Bulbeck.

In answer to a question raised, it was confirmed that in the past under the previous Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, a proposal such as the above from a governing body of a school would have been considered by the School Organisation Committee for Cambridgeshire. However, across England these committees had now been abolished (by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) with the appropriate decision maker now being the Local Authority, which in the County Council's case was the Cabinet. Therefore in the future there could be an expected increase in such reports.

It was resolved:

To confirm that the age of admission at Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England (Controlled) Primary School be set at 3

years with effect from 1 September 2007 to enable the school to offer pre-school education.

382. LOCAL AUTHORITY PARKING ENFORCEMENT – DISPENSATIONS FOR MEDICAL WORKERS

Cabinet received a report with an update on the implementation of a parking dispensation policy for medical workers in Cambridge. It was reminded that in 25th May 2005, Cabinet had, when agreeing a report on parking enforcement exemption policy, asked that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive - Environment and Community Services should investigate whether it would be appropriate to extend charging exemptions to health care workers.

The original proposal considered was for an annual £50 dispensation charge for medical workers, in line with other parking dispensations. This however had been considered excessive by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) who cited that it would have a significant impact on its budget and they had therefore proposed a much lower figure or that dispensations should be issued free of charge. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive- Environment and Community Services, had taken the decision to implement an experimental £10 annual charge for medical worker dispensations. This allowed for parking in any pay and display or residents' parking bay, free of charge and without time limit but did not allow parking on yellow line restrictions.

While the recommendation in the report was to continue the experimental charge, Cabinet was concerned that the administration cost of processing each application (in the order of £20-25) was not currently being covered by the £10 charge and was therefore impacting on County Council budgets, who were having to subsidise the shortfall. The agreed Cabinet view was therefore that the take up required careful monitoring, and if it proved to be the case that the administration costs could not be reduced in due course following regular review, the charge per application should be raised to a level that covered the full costs of administration.

It was resolved:

- i) to support the proposal for a £10 charge for medical worker dispensations.
- ii) That the charge should be kept under review and that in due course consideration would need to be given to raising the charge in order to cover the full cost of administering the scheme.

383. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/07 AND PRIORITIES FOR 2007/08

Cabinet received a report attaching the LSCB annual report setting out a summary of progress and achievements for 2006/07 and also providing full

details of the Board's priorities for 2007/08. Cabinet Members had no specific comments other than to request that a spell check should be used when preparing the report in future.

It was resolved:

- i) To note the contents of the annual review.
- ii) To note the review of progress and achievements.
- iii) To note the priorities for 2007/08 as set out in the pages 11 to 18 of the published Annual report attached to the Cabinet agenda.

384. DRAFT CONSULTATION ON TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cabinet received a report in order to be able to consider key issues arising from South Cambridgeshire District Council's and Cambridge City Council's consultation on the revisions to the Trumpington Meadows planning applications. Although the County Council was broadly in support of the principle of the proposals, it was agreed that for the reasons set out in the proposed response in Appendix A to the report, the County Council should object to the planning applications.

The local Member for Trumpington supported the response in respect of the concerns on the proposed spine road, cycle parking and the failure to meet the requirements in terms of the required site size for the proposed primary school but raised concerns including that:

- The planning application appeared not to have taken on board key fundamental issues/requirements in respect of County Council policy (as set out in the Structure Plan e.g. the amount of affordable housing required) and therefore the response at County Council level was crucial as it would set a precedent for responses to further planning applications due to be brought forward.
- The need to ensure an integrated response in respect of the various planning applications for the Southern Fringe, especially where they crossed district boundaries.
- There had been no discussion of the planning applications at the Southern Fringe Member Reference Group and there was a need for member input/an appropriate joint member forum to discuss such applications.
- There need for a joint community facilities plan/appropriate movements plan in order establish how residents from the housing development would access community facilities e.g. children's centre etc.

It was resolved:

- i) To endorse the proposed consultation response to the Trumpington Meadows planning applications.

- ii) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive – Environment and Community Services the authority to make any minor textual changes to the consultation response prior to submission, including consideration of the issues raised at the meeting by the local Member for Trumpington.

385. CABINET DRAFT AGENDA PLAN 2nd JULY 2007

The Cabinet agenda Plan was noted with the following changes:

Item 6 “New Section 31 agreements” this might also now go to Council for final approval if it is possible to complete the agreements with the PCT on the finance/risk management sharing arrangements for 2007/08.

Item 17 “Environmental Standards for New Buildings” to change title to Environmental Standards for “New Schools” whether this would still go forward depended on the timing of the still awaited Government announcement. The title had been changed as the focus of the announcement was expected to be in respect of schools which would therefore account for the major proportion of the Capital Programme. Cabinet requested that officers should be looking to eventually applying the required environmental standards for new schools to all new Council buildings.

Item 18 CPA Results – will not be going forward to the current meeting and may come back September or October.

New Additional reports:

Possible report on closure of Rural Post Offices

Invest to Transform Fund Additional Proposals 2007/08

Chairman
2nd July 2007