

## **CABINET: MINUTES**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Time:** 10.00 a.m. – 12.01 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor J M Tuck Chairman

Councillors: M Bradney, Sir P Brown, M Curtis, D Harty, L W McGuire, R Pegram J E Reynolds and F H Yeulett

**Apologies:** None

### **Also in Attendance**

Councillors: J Batchelor, G Griffiths, D Jenkins, S Johnstone, T Stone and J West.

## **617. MINUTES 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

## **618. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor J. Reynolds declared a personal interest as the chairman of the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) and Renewables East regarding any references to the organisations that might appear in reports on the agenda.

Councillor Tuck also declared a personal interest as a member of EERA and having been appointed by EERA to serve on a sub - committee to review the East of England Plan regarding any reference to the organisation that might appear in reports on the agenda.

Councillor Bradney declared a personal interest in item 10 "Establishment of the Secondary School to serve Northstowe – Determination of Promoter " as a school governor at Cottenham Village College.

## **619. PETITIONS.**

A petition with over 160 local signatures had been received reading: "We, the undersigned urge Whippet Coaches, Stagecoach and the Cambridgeshire County Council to reconsider their decisions to withdraw all bus services through Horningsea."

Cabinet noted that as the spokesman was unable to attend the current meeting he had requested that the petition should be carried forward to the 4th November Cabinet date and this request had been granted.

## **620. REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were no reports from any scrutiny committees.

## **621. COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There were none for the current meeting.

## **622. SHARED SERVICES PROGRAMME**

In January 2007 Cabinet had approved the commencement of the Shared Services Programme, which had sought to share the provision of County Council services with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) in order to achieve efficiency savings. A progress report to Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008 indicated that the next phase of the programme would include a soft market test and the development of a joint business case with NCC. Both of these steps were required to be completed in order to inform a decision concerning whether or not to proceed with the procurement of a private sector partner with whom to create a Local Government Shared Service joint venture.

Cabinet noted that since February 2008, a number of key milestones had been successfully reached, including concluding formal legal and commercial agreements with Northamptonshire County Council and Fujitsu Services. A further significant milestone reached in April 2008 was the eBusiness Suite going live and operational across both Councils. In addition, the positive response from the private sector and other local authorities, combined with the work on the business case already completed, reconfirmed that the creation of a Local Government Shared Service, with the help of a private sector partner, would bring significant benefits for Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and NCC.

Cabinet noted that the next stage of the programme included all the work necessary to set up the Local Government Shared Service with a private sector partner, up to the selection of a preferred bidder. Underpinning the shared services programme was a requirement by both CCC and NCC to reduce costs and improve performance in respect of corporate services functions. The business case for the programme had been modelled on three different scenarios, each of which could deliver the required benefits.

As a result of a detailed financial analysis of the three options detailed in the report, it was shown that Option 3 returned the highest value for the County Council in respect of the range of values assessed against. On the basis of the high level options, the maximum Invest to Transform loan requirement to support the recommended option, Option 3 in 2010/11 was £2.7 million. Agreement to such Invest to Transform funding, subject to a successful procurement exercise, was considered sufficient to enable the delivery of the £16.6 million income and expenditure benefit identified in the report.

In questioning aspects of the proposals, Cabinet noted that should other county councils become involved at a later date this would be as part of a framework contract and would reduce the County Council's costs further. Due consideration would be given at each relevant stage.

The Deputy Chief Executive for Corporate Services went on record to thank the members of the programme team involved in the project and whose efforts had helped make such incredible progress.

**It was resolved:**

- (i) To note the business case and approve the proposal to commence a joint procurement with Northamptonshire County Council on behalf of other local authorities to select a private sector partner for the Local Government Shared Service joint venture.
- (ii) To delegate responsibility to the portfolio holder for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive - Corporate Services, to proceed with the procurement up to the selection of a preferred bidder. (At that stage a report would be brought back to Cabinet and then full Council for final decision)
- (iii) To delegate responsibility to the portfolio holder for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive - Corporate Services, to admit other councils into the partnership for the procurement.
- (iv) To approve the release of up to £2.7 million from the Invest to Transform Fund to fund the procurement project, to be spent and repaid as detailed in the report.

#### **623. IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDEA) CORPORATE PEER REVIEW: FINAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

Cabinet received and welcomed the final report from the Council's IDeA Corporate Peer Review as well as receiving the draft action plan for consideration, prepared from the Review setting out the Council's breadth of ambition and to help enhance service delivery.

Cabinet noted that the Council had invited the IDeA to conduct a corporate peer review of the Council following the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment by the Audit Commission in 2007. The peer review team had been asked to focus upon matters related to the corporate leadership of the Council (political and managerial), partner organisation perceptions of the County Council's approach to partnership working and issues related to the delivery of Adult Social Services and the broad community involvement, development and engagement agenda. The outcomes from the review were considered to be very helpful and had been used to inform the County Council's preparations for the new assessment framework, Comprehensive Area Assessment, which was due to commence in 2009.

Particular issues highlighted by Cabinet Members were:

- the need to reinforce the good practice found and to ensure that the many achievements in respect of County Council's services were highlighted and celebrated.
- The positive feedback received from parishes.
- Picking up on the quote regarding that there was no evidence that Adult Social Care was a failing service - the need to counter the misconceptions / perceptions of the Service portrayed in some quarters.

#### **It was resolved:**

- i) To note and to approve the action plan arising from the IDeA Corporate Peer Review as attached as an appendix to the Cabinet report.

- ii) To delegate responsibility to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Services), for agreeing any amendments to the action plan.

#### **624. LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT (LPSA) INVESTMENT OF REWARD MONIES**

As the senior accounting body, County Council was the responsible authority in respect of agreeing the final allocation of the reward monies. As a result, the report detailed the proposed allocations for distribution of the reward grant based on the strategic and local investment proposals of LPSA reward grant put forward by partner organisations and agreed by the five District based Local Strategic Partnerships and the Cambridgeshire Together Board.

Cabinet noted that the LPSA had been a successful means of improving services and attracting additional resources to the area with a total of £9,006,668.50 having been secured from Government, as a result of the successful achievement of stretch targets.

Cllr Orgee one of the local members for Sawston provided comments fully supporting that some of the LPSA reward money had been allocated to road safety measures on the A1307. He noted that further money arising from Phase 2 of the Granta Park developments would also come to Cabinet for determination within the next two to three months and that this might also possibly include some funding for work on the A1307, in addition to construction of a cycleway between the Abingtons and Sawston. He also welcomed that further medium sized road safety schemes for the A1307 were being put forward through the normal bidding process.

The investment proposals as set out in the appendices to the Cabinet report were strongly supported. Attention was drawn to the fact that while the specific proposal for Climate Change would not be going forward as it had not received appropriate support, the County Council would be closely monitoring the activities of partners in respect of this area, as well as all the other areas where investment had been agreed.

#### **It was resolved:**

To agree the investment of LPSA reward grant as reflected on Appendices 1 and 2 attached to these minutes.

#### **625. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SERVE NORTHSTOWE – DETERMINATION OF PROMOTER**

Cabinet noted that the Education Act 2005 had placed a requirement on local authorities to invite other potential promoters to enter into a competition to provide any new primary schools they planned to establish, or where they planned to provide replacements for existing secondary schools. Further to this, Cabinet received a report advising it of the bids submitted by the Ely Diocesan Board of Education and Swavesey Village College Educational Trust Northstowe in response to the competition process to establish the first primary school required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Cabinet noted that Northstowe was now planned to provide a total of 9,500 dwellings, which would house approximately 25,000 residents. Revised estimates for construction on site were now for it to commence late 2009/early 2010, with the first housing occupations occurring late 2010 at the earliest. This was later than when the first application for Northstowe had been submitted and Cabinet was advised that this date could be extended further depending on the level of activity in the housing market at the time. Six 420 place primary schools had been identified for Northstowe based on forecast pupil numbers for a settlement of 9,500 dwellings. The report therefore also sought Cabinet's approval to modifications to the school opening proposals.

In considering the competing bids, Cabinet noted that the main areas for assessment looked at when undertaking a detailed appraisal of the two bids were in relation to:

- the effect on standards and school improvement, including provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes and provision of extended services;
- the impact on the local community and travel, including approaches to community cohesion, partnership working and diversity;
- any specific age provision issues, including provision of early years education and childcare;
- governance and management, including admission and staffing arrangements; and views of interested parties.

Following a detailed appraisal of the bids as set out in the report the recommendation was that the Ely Diocesan Board of Education should be awarded the opportunity to establish the first primary school to serve Northstowe conditional on approval of planning permission for the site being granted.

The local Member for Willingham spoke in support of the proposals and thanked the Director of Planning (OCYP) and the Head of Infrastructure (OCYP) for their excellent work in respect of the competition process.

One member highlighted the need to ensure that there was close monitoring of the work to be undertaken to ensure the appropriate timescales were achieved. In terms of any further slippage to the timetable that might become necessary, officers confirmed that they would report this back to Cabinet and also confirmed that monitoring would be undertaken on a continuous basis.

**It was resolved:**

- i) That conditional approval be granted to the Ely Diocesan Board of Education to establish the first primary school to serve Northstowe;
- ii) That the proposed opening date for the school be modified to September 2011; and
- iii) That the proposed initial intake numbers for the school be modified (as detailed in section 10 of the report).

## **626. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL TO SERVE NORTHSTOWE – DETERMINATION OF PROMOTER**

The Education Act 2005 referred to in the previous report had also placed a requirement on local authorities to invite other potential promoters to enter into a competition to provide any new secondary schools planned to be established, or where there were plans to provide replacements for existing secondary schools.

Cabinet noted that the following secondary and post-16 educational requirements had been identified for Northstowe based on forecast pupil numbers for a settlement of 9,500 dwellings:

- A 1650 place (11 form entry) secondary school on a site capable of providing up to 12 forms of entry.
- A 600 place post-16 establishment to be sited adjacent to the secondary school.

Cabinet received details of the following four organisations submissions, which were all rated as high quality proposals and which had all met the core specifications requirements for the provision of a secondary school:

the Ely Diocesan Board of Education,  
the Greater Northstowe Learning Trust,  
Kunskapsskolan and the  
Swavesey Village College Educational Trust.

The main areas for consideration in assessing the competing bids had been:

- the effect on standards and school improvement, including provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes and provision of extended services;
- the impact on the local community and travel, including approach to community cohesion, partnership working and diversity;
- any specific age provision issues, for example, secondary specialisms, 14-19 and post-16 provision, and provision of early years education and childcare;
- governance and management, including admission and staffing arrangements; and views of interested parties.

Following a detailed appraisal of the bids as set out in the report and taking into account the above, Cabinet agreed that the Swavesey Village College Educational Trust should be awarded the opportunity to establish the secondary school to serve Northstowe, conditional on approval of planning permission for the site being granted.

Taking account of the proposals submitted by Swavesey Village College, a modification of the initial intake numbers for the school was advised in order to provide places in the school's first year (2013/2014) for 180 pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 only, with 60 places available in each of the three-year groups. Cabinet noted that as specified in the original competition notice, the school would be expected to continue to increase in size to 1650 places. Cabinet noted that housing development and pupil numbers were also to be kept under review to determine the best time to implement the planned expansion.

In response to a question raised, officers confirmed that issues around the likely availability of Section 106 monies would be closely monitored.

The local Member for Willingham again spoke in support of the proposals.

**It was resolved:**

- i) That conditional approval be granted to the Swavesey Village College Educational Trust to establish the secondary school to serve Northstowe;
- ii) That the proposed initial intake numbers for the school be modified (as set out in section 10 of the report).

**627. DISPOSAL OF LAND - DUXFORD IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to declaring 59 hectares (ha) (146 acres) of land owned by the County Council (forming a significant grassed area to the south of the main hangars/exhibition areas, including the hard runway used for flights forming part of the Imperial War Museum, Duxford) as surplus in order to sell the land to the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum.

It was noted that the Trustees wished to acquire a freehold interest in the property to secure the long term future in respect of the public display of aircraft type that were used in military operations in which British or Commonwealth Forces had been involved. The risk management implications in the report indicated that the Council's landholding being recommended for disposed would be insufficient to accommodate a relocated airport operation in respect of Marshall's aerospace business which had been an issue for some Members.

Cabinet was reassured that it was intended to secure the Council's long-term financial interests on any future disposal of the land by having the right to first refusal to repurchase or through an overage provision which would see the Council receiving further payments if the land were to be sold on. The local member for Duxford, who was also a member of the Duxford Airfield Executive Panel and was the Council's representative on the Duxford Airfield Management Liaison Committee to which he had also been appointed as the chairman, spoke in support of the proposals which he believed was a good deal for both the County Council who would receive a substantial capital payment and for the IWM, whose Duxford site was a national award winning tourist attraction and would therefore help secure their long term future on the site.

**It was resolved:**

To declare the land forming part of the Imperial War Museum – Duxford site as surplus to requirements and to dispose to the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum on terms to be agreed by the Director of Finance, Property and Performance.

**628. REVISED ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Cabinet received a report outlining a revised Enforcement Policy for the County Council's application of its statutory enforcement functions with regard to public rights of way.

The County Council first adopted an Enforcement Policy in 1996 in response to the level of difficulties reported by path users when crossing arable land. Over recent years evidence suggested that new regulations were encouraging greater compliance with more paths on arable land being reinstated after cultivation, as required by the law. However, it was also highlighted that other forms of path obstruction continued to be a problem and therefore in order to effectively undertake the wider range of enforcement work required, a review of the County Council's existing Enforcement Policy had been undertaken. Arising from the review, it was recommended that the Enforcement policy should be extended to cover the following areas:

- Obstructions other than crops
- Encroachment by over hanging vegetation, fences, buildings etc
- Dogs and other animals
- Unauthorised encampments
- Flytipping

In agreeing the report Members wished to put on record their appreciation of the outstanding work undertaken by the Countryside Access Team and also the work undertaken on the ground by parish councils.

**It was resolved:**

To adopt the Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report as the County Council's preferred approach for dealing with enforcement issues on the County's Public Rights of Way Network.

**629. COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2007- 08**

Cabinet noted that it had not been possible to finalise the report for the meeting and therefore it was to be rescheduled to the 4<sup>th</sup> November Cabinet meeting.

**630. REVIEW OF INTEGRATED PLAN 2008-2011 NATIONAL INDICATOR TARGETS**

Cabinet received a report in order to approve final amendments to the County Council's national indicator targets set for 2008/09. A revised version, amending paragraph 4.2 of the report, was tabled at the meeting providing a brief explanation against each of the targets that had changed.

Cabinet noted that the overall changes had resulted from either collecting final year-end figures, carrying out several months monitoring or from negotiations with Government. As well as an opportunity to review specific targets, the review had also given an opportunity to assess progress against moving from the old Best Value performance indicators (PIs) to the new national indicator set. The review had shown that good progress had been made as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report and members noted that it was extremely pleasing to note that some targets had been re-assessed as a result of performance being better than originally forecast.

In reply to a question on those targets yet to be set, details were provided of the surveys



that would be undertaken and the future revisiting of performance targets and possible recalibration.

**It was resolved:**

To agree the revision of targets set out in paragraph 2.4 (as updated in a tabled amendment) and incorporated into Appendix 1.

**631. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL SELF ASSESSMENT 2008**

Cabinet received a report providing a final draft of the County Council's annual Direction of Travel Self Assessment, as required by the Audit Commission and in accordance with the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework for local government. The final version required to be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> October and therefore if any further amendments were required by Cabinet Members these would be need to be with the Cabinet member for Corporate Services as soon as possible.

Cabinet noted that the annual Direction of Travel Self Assessment formed part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, the framework used by the Audit Commission to judge a council's performance. The self-assessment submission would enable the Council to present the Audit Commission with evidence of the substantial improvements made over the preceding 12 months, building upon the last assessment and key supporting activities, such as the Improvement & Development Agency Corporate Peer Review. In addition to reporting upon progress made, the self-assessment submission provided an opportunity for the Council to articulate its future ambition and plans for further improvement.

Cabinet was reminded that the County Council's current Audit Commission rating assessment was 'improving adequately' and therefore the aspiration would be to improve this rating to 'improving well'. The Direction of Travel Self Assessment using a series of key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) as detailed in the report. The 2008 Direction of Travel Self Assessment submission aimed to address each of these descriptors.

**It was resolved:**

- i) To agree the final Direction of Travel Self Assessment 2008.
- ii) To agree to delegate to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services authority to include any further performance data in the final Direction of Travel Submission.

**632. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) - SECOND CONSULTATION**

Cabinet received a report on the Council's draft response to a joint inspectorate second consultation on the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This second consultation period was to conclude on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and the questions posed by the seven inspectorates were included in Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

Cabinet noted that the CAA was to be introduced from April 2009 with the first assessment reports being published in November 2009. The CAA was intended to support local people

to be able to hold public bodies and elected representatives to account and to encourage people to take advantage of opportunities to influence local decision-making. The framework was to be wider than the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment and would include a focus on areas in terms of local perceptions and what matters most in each area.

It was noted that from April 2009 rolling programmes of inspection were due to be the exception, and the report provided details of the expected future inspection regimes.

Overall the main changes to CAA since the first consultation were the use of Area Assessments and Organisational Assessments to encompass the main elements of CAA and using National Indicator Set (NIS) as the core performance indicators. The CAA outcomes were to be published annually.

**It was resolved:**

To approve the proposed response at Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

**633. CAMBRIDGESHIRE TOGETHER: REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNANCE**

Cabinet received a report setting out the framework, purpose and identity for the Cambridgeshire Together Board in the context of the second Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the revised national performance management framework, and the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

Cabinet noted that after extensive consultation with key stakeholders, the revised arrangements had been agreed as the starting point in the development of robust partnership arrangements and the responsibility will be taken forward through the workings of six key strategic thematic partnerships, appropriately linked to local delivery mechanisms. The full set of national indicators has been mapped against the five strategic themes as set out below and with new agreed strategic partnership framework as shown:

<b>Strategic Themes</b>	<b>Responsible Strategic Thematic partnership (s)</b>
Managing Growth	Cambridgeshire Horizons Board
Economic Prosperity	Greater Cambridge Partnership Board
Environmental Sustainability	Environmental Sustainability Partnership
Equality and Inclusion	Children and Young People Partnership  Care Health and Well Being Partnership (from the merger of the Cambridgeshire Care Partnership and Supporting People Board) Also setting up a separate body to continue to monitor the Section 75

	Adult Social Care agreements between the County Council and PCT)
Safer and Stronger Communities	Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership

It was noted that the existing local strategic partnerships were expected to have a key role to play within districts to provide local direction and coordination, facilitating engagement with local communities and influence decision-making at the strategic countywide level.

Cabinet in agreeing the principles in the report also supported the additional recommendation agreed at the recent Cambridgeshire Together meeting with regard to the process for securing delivery against partnerships objectives and resolution 4 of the report to Cabinet was amended accordingly.

Cabinet noted details of the agreed revised membership of the Cambridgeshire Together Board, the proposed arrangements for scrutiny and proposals for engaging with the Voluntary and Community Sector, with Parish and Town Councils and areas of Cambridge City as well as proposals for engaging with local Businesses. A correction was required in terms of the membership of thematic Strategic Partnerships as item 10 still referred to Founders group which required deletion.

The Deputy Chief Executive CYPS and the Policy and Partnership Manager (OCS) and all staff involved in the review were congratulated for the valuable work undertaken leading to the subsequent reports presented to the various partnership meetings.

#### **It was resolved:**

- i) To endorse the set of key principles underpinning this review (set out in section 2 page 3 of the report)
- ii) To endorse the agreed strategic partnership framework reflecting the Countywide Vision (set out in Section 3 of the report)
- iii) To endorse the revised role and membership for Cambridgeshire Together (set out in section 4 of the report)
- iv) To support as agreed at the Cambridgeshire Together meeting the process for securing delivery against partnerships objectives to include putting in place:
  - an action plan to ensure all recommended changes around partnerships and governance are successfully implemented over the next 12 months
  - action plans detailing the projects that can secure delivery of LAA outcomes and targets
  - appropriate performance and financial management arrangements to monitor progress against delivery of LPSA funded proposals.

#### **634. POLICING GREEN PAPER**

Cabinet received a report outlining key implications for the County Council of the Policing Green Paper titled 'From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities

together' which had been published on 17<sup>th</sup> July and which provided an opportunity for comments to be provided on the draft response to the Green Paper included as an appendix to the Cabinet report.

Cabinet noted that the Green Paper sets out proposals for giving local people a greater say over local policing decision-making, for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of police authorities and for giving police authorities greater scope to set local policing priorities.

The potential issues of the impact of the Green Paper for the County Council were highlighted as being around the relationships between Police and Councils and creating democratically elected posts in addition to local councillors. Overall, while the Cabinet welcomed the move towards a strengthened joint approach to neighbourhood working, it agreed to express significant concerns about the proposals for elected Crime and Policing Representatives, especially the implications for local democracy and partnership working, as detailed in the approved response.

While it was understood that a recent Police Authority seminar supported the County Council's proposed response, this would need to be confirmed.

**It was resolved to**

- i) To note the proposed Council response to the Policing Green Paper as set out in the appendix to the report.
- ii) Delegate responsibility to the Cabinet member for Corporate Services, in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Services), for agreeing the final consultation response, subject to confirmation of the oral feedback provided from the Police Authority's seminar on this topic.

**635. BETTER UTILISATION OF PROPERTY ASSETS (BUPA) EMERGING ISSUES AND SCHEMES**

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to the preparation of Business cases for the projects indicated in Section 5.3 of the report to facilitate the delivery of targets outlined in the County Council's 2008/09 Integrated Plan.

Cabinet noted that the BUPA programme was designed to ensure that all of the Authority's non-schools estate were fit for purpose and met all envisaged service needs for at least the next twenty years. Individual targets were to be set for each project within the programme and individual projects would be the subject of further reports seeking approval at both outline business and full business case stages. The nature, scale and scope of the project meant that in addressing estate issues, many other issues would emerge that would then require resolution before the most effective, efficient and economic solution could be arrived at.

With specific reference to school caretakers and outdoor and environmental educational establishments referred to as part of the emerging projects there was a request to ensure that the relevant services were engaged in the process at an early stage and certainly before any final decisions on property assets were made. Officers provided reassurance

that the list of projects shown in the report was at an early stage, and that project teams would be established for each individual project and would include relevant officers from all three Offices, which would take on board concerns expressed.

Reference was made to the most recent meeting of the Cambridgeshire Care Partnership and the agreement by NHS Cambridgeshire's officers that they would look to revisit their approach to sharing accommodation facilities, as part of any future accommodation strategy.

**It was resolved to:**

To approve the preparation of Business cases for the projects indicated in

Section 5.3 of the Cabinet report in order to facilitate the delivery of targets outlined in the 2008/09 Integrated Plan.

## **636. INTEGRATED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT JULY 2008**

Cabinet received the first combined Finance and Performance report in order to assess progress in delivering the County Council's Integrated Plan. The report also sought approval to a request for a £260k budget virement in order to facilitate the Transitions Team transferring from the Office of Children and Young People's Services (OCYPS) to Adult Support Services – Office of Environment and Community Services (OECS) and to approve a £200k Invest to Transform (ITT) Loan bid for a new Café to be built in the Cambridge Central Library. The café was intended to be a unique selling point for the library to attract both library users and non-users while being a self-sufficient operation.

Cabinet noted the following issues as being of note:

- A full review of targets was being undertaken due to the uncertainty around the new indicators, and the need to use a quarter's worth of data to reassess whether original targets are suitable.
- There were three performance exception reports as set out in the Cabinet report in respect of: core assessments for Children's social care completed within 35 days; achievement at Level 4 or above in Maths at Key Stage 2 and Contact Centre - % of calls answered within 20 seconds. The reports detailed the steps being taken to address performance falling behind target / addressing overspends against budget profile.
- That overall the budget position was showing a forecast year-end overspend of £472k, (0.1%) and, as it was the middle of the financial year, action plans were now place to help reduce this pressure, in order that a balanced budget was achieved.
- In Adult Support Services there continued to be forecast overspends in relation to Mental Health, Equipment Services and Older People & Occupational Therapy (OT) Pooled budget, which were partially offset by an underspend on Physical and Sensory Impairment. Additional pressures within Community Learning & Development were also highlighted.
- In Children's Services an underspend was being predicted, as a result of savings identified within the Inclusion Directorate, which was partially offset by pressures identified within the Learning Directorate.
- In Corporate Services an underspend was being forecast, which was mainly due to additional income being generated within the Traded Legal section.

- The level of debt continued to be a concern. Longer-term debt (greater than 6 months) being £921k, which was £76k above the target level of £845k while debt within the 4-6 month age range was £984k, which was £554k above the target level of £430k
- There was £15.2m of Unsupported Expenditure within the capital programme, of which £5.3m could be attributed to specific schemes. As a result of which, estimates and funding reviews were currently being conducted.
- The impact on the Authority of the general economic downturn was being carefully monitored. In terms of debt charges Cabinet noted that the Authority was still benefiting from lending cash surpluses at high rates of interest. In terms of inflation there were some signs of growing pressure. In respect of house building there were signs of a considerable slow-down. It was the latter issue that was considered to be the greatest cause for concern, as it might require the Authority to finance the interest charges arising from delays in section 106 receipts.

In terms of the contact centre and it not meeting its target in respect of the % of calls answered within 20 seconds, Cabinet recognised that this was not a good indicator in terms of the range and quality of work the Centre carried out (specific reference being made to the information provide in respect of social care enquiries) and the number of calls resolved at the first point of contact. Cabinet agreed that a qualitative indicator would be more appropriate.

Cabinet was delighted at the number of indicators being recorded as green (good performance) and noted that in respect of some of the targets being set for school examination attainment (reference was made to key stages 1 and 2) these had been set at unrealistic levels by Government and that the more important statistics related to the improved year on year progress being achieved in many schools. What was evident was that the extreme problems around the marking of the current year Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results were likely to result in the abolition of testing at Key Stage 3.

In answer to a query of why National indicator 117 (16-18 years olds who were not in education, training or employment) was falling, it was explained that this was partly the result of the current adverse economic conditions and that in response, officers were prioritising the most vulnerable young adults and those living in identified deprivation areas.

In terms of queries around adult social care debt, details were provided in respect of the significant action being taken, including write offs, and that in terms of the commercial debt with NHS Cambridgeshire (formerly Cambridgeshire PCT) there had been a huge reduction in the level of debt outstanding.

**It was resolved to:**

- i) Note the performance and financial information and the remedial action being taken as appropriate.
- ii) Approve the £260k budget virement, in order for the Transitions Team to transfer from OCYPS to Adult Support Services (OECs).
- iii) Approve the £200k ITT Loan bid for a new Café to be built in the Cambridge Central Library. (as set out in appendix 6 of the Cabinet report)

#### **637. DELEGATION OF POWER TO DESIGNATE A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE TO SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to delegate its power to declare a Local Nature Reserve to Somersham Parish Council.

Cabinet noted that the County Council had powers, under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, to declare land as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The power could only be exercised directly where the County Council owned the land or had an agreement with the landowner to manage the land as a nature reserve. The Local Government Act 1972 provided for local authorities to delegate powers to declare LNRs to other local authorities, including Parish Councils.

It was further noted that in March 2008 the County Council had designated an area of disused railway line in Somersham as a Local Nature Reserve. Somersham Parish Council owned two areas of land that formed a continuous area of greenspace within this LNR and had expressed the wish to declare and manage their land as a LNR.

##### **It was resolved to:**

Delegate that power to declare a Local Nature Reserve in its area be to Somersham Parish Council.

#### **638. QUARTERLY REPORT ON PARTNERSHIPS**

Since the previous report in July, Cabinet received updates on the work undertaken with regard to the following partnerships:

- Cambridgeshire Together
- Children And Young People's Strategic Partnership And The Children And Young People Steering Group
- Cambridgeshire Care Partnership (CCP)
- Cambridgeshire Horizons
- Community Safety Strategic Partnership Board

In respect of the CYP Strategic Partnership, the Cabinet Member for Children praised the role of young people and the important challenge they had provided when reviewing the work carried out on mosquito deterrents which was referred to in the summary of activity.

One member expressed concern at the accuracy of the figures provided to Cambridgeshire Horizons regarding the numbers of new houses being constructed. The Chief Executive (CE) undertook to liaise with the CE of Cambridgeshire Horizons in order to provide information to be shared with the whole Council on house building rates, both current and projected.

##### **It was resolved:**

To note the updates for each of the partnerships.

**639. DELEGATIONS FROM CABINET TO CABINET MEMBERS/OFFICERS**

Cabinet received and noted a report on the progress made on matters delegated to individual Cabinet Members and/or to officers to make decisions on behalf of the Cabinet up to September 2008.

**640. DRAFT AGENDA FOR 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER CABINET MEETING**

The draft agenda was noted with the following changes notified since the publication of the agenda.

Items 10 and 15 on Building Schools for the Future were to be merged into one report.

Item 16 'Neighbourhood Panels and Locality Budgets' had been moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> December to be re-titled 'Neighbourhood Panels'.

Item 17 'Civil Parking Enforcement' has been rescheduled to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Item 18 'Post Office Closures' had been withdrawn as no longer being required.

As described earlier, the County Council's Annual Report 2007/08 had been moved to be included in the non-key decision reports for the November meeting.

Cabinet Members requested that they should be sent details of the most up to date Cabinet Forward Agenda Plan as there were concerns regarding the number of reports deferred to the November / December cycles of meetings.

Chairman  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2008