

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 26th February 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 12.07 p.m.

Present: K Walters (Chairman)

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

Also in Attendance

Councillors: P Downes, N Harrison, S Higginson, D Jenkins, G Kenney, A Reid, and J West

Apologies: none

509. MINUTES 1st FEBRUARY 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st February 2008 were approved as a correct record.

510. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Curtis declared a personal interest in item 7 - Building Schools for the Future – Outline Business Case and Procurement as a school governor of Sir Harry Smith Community College.

Councillor Yeulett declared a personal interest in item 7 -Building Schools for the Future – Outline Business Case and Procurement as a school governor of Neal Wade Community College.

511. PETITIONS

None received.

512. HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT: MEMBER LED REVIEW OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor S Higginson the chairman of the Adult Support Services sub-group (who had conducted the review on behalf of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee) provided a brief presentation of the main issues.

Cabinet noted positive review of adult social care. The review focused on the contractual relationship with the provider of the Social Care Information System, and had the aim of adding value and complementing other improvement work already being undertaken.

In conducting the review, the members identified two overall themes – the relationship of the Council with the system provider, and the strategic direction for development of the system. Key issues within these themes related to:

- The use of the Business Development Fund
- The importance of taking a strategic approach to integration of systems with the National Health Service (NHS)
- Understanding and resolving short to medium term issues, through system upgrades and work to improve business processes and data quality
- Identifying and resolving issues that made the existing systems difficult to use.

As a result 8 specific recommendations were put forward for Cabinet's consideration.

Cabinet welcomed the scrutiny report recognising that this had been a very valuable exercise, especially given the importance of ensuring that the best value for money was obtained from contracts let by the County Council.

513. FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Cabinet received a report responding to the review report which recommended approval to all the recommendations and which set out what further action is being undertaken to implement the proposals arising from the scrutiny review.

In reply to questions raised:

- It was confirmed that a project plan was being progressed to ensure a best fit regarding the integration between social care and the NHS systems as detailed in the responses to recommendations 2 and 5.
- Contract management/monitoring arrangements now included regular meetings between the Director of Business Services and Information technology and the supplier.
- Work was being undertaken with the consultant in developing a longer-term strategy for integrated services, with part of the work being to look at other authorities already operating a similar integrated approach to ensure best practice was identified.

It was resolved:

- i) To thank the Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken in the review.
- ii) To endorse the response outlined in the formal response to the scrutiny document as set in appendix 1 to these minutes.

514. EXTENSION OF SCHOOL AGE RANGE – THOMAS CLARKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WISBECH AND CROMWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CHATTERIS

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to proceed with proposals to extend the age range of Thomas Clarkson and Cromwell Community Colleges from 11-16 to 11-18 linked to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme following conclusion of the respective statutory public notice periods.

On 18 December 2007, Cabinet considered the case for extending the age range of Cromwell and Thomas Clarkson Community Colleges from 11-16 to 11-18. Factors taken into account at that time included:

- The substantial extra funding from Building Schools for the Future (BSF) would only be available if the schools extend their age ranges from 11-16 to 11-18.
- The likelihood that capital funding would not be readily available from any other source in the near future.
- There was a need to close the gap between Fenland and the rest of the County in terms of the number of young people participating in structured learning after the age of 16.
- The importance of widening students' career and further education opportunities, and increasing their prospects of higher paid employment.

Cabinet in making its decision noted that the vast majority of respondents to the consultation exercise carried out following the December report were in favour of the proposed changes, and saw the positive benefits in the two schools serving the 11-18 age range. Approval was supported as young people in Fenland wishing to continue their education post-16 would benefit from increased choice and diversity in local education provision. In particular, they would have the same opportunities to choose to study a broad range of high quality post-16 courses either at their existing school, another 11-18 school, or at the College of West Anglia (COWA). In addition Cabinet noted that young people in Fenland and school staff would benefit from the provision of state of the art, purpose-built sixth form facilities. The combined effect of these initiatives would be that more students would choose to continue their formal education to at least the age of 18.

It was resolved:

- i) To approve the extension of the age range of Cromwell Community College from 11-16 to 11-18 to take effect on 1 September 2008; and
- ii) To approve the extension of the age range of Thomas Clarkson Community College, Wisbech from 11-16 to 11-18 to take effect on 1 September 2009.

515. SINGLE EQUALITY STRATEGY

Cabinet received a report inviting comments on the draft Single Equality Strategy and to approve it for subsequent publication.

Cabinet noted that currently, public authorities were required, by statute, to produce race, disability and gender equality schemes and supporting action plans and to comply with numbers of different employment legislation relating to discrimination. In May 2007, the Government published the revised Equality Standard for Local Government drawing together a range of public authority duties under the six equality strands of race, disability, gender, age, religion/belief and sexual orientation.

In preparation for the development of the single national framework to rationalise equalities legislation and simplify discrimination law, Cabinet had previously agreed to develop a Single Equality Strategy, setting out the Council's approach to equality. The prepared Strategy incorporates into a single document the Council's race, disability and gender equality schemes.

In preparing the strategy a number of workshop meetings were undertaken and the Communities Policy Development Group (PDG) in September supported proposals that the draft should be further consulted on. Public consultation closed on 4th January with all comments considered and the strategy updated as a result. The final draft was agreed by the Council's Diversity Group at its meeting on 15th January for submission for Cabinet approval.

Cabinet noted that in order to ensure implementation of the Strategy, a detailed action plan covering all six strands of diversity and based on the section, 'Achieving our ambition' was to be developed. The action plan would draw upon existing equality scheme actions, and would be 'owned' across the organisation, so that evidence of implementation and achievement could be widely demonstrated and progress reported annually.

It was noted in response to a question, that financial issues currently faced in some district councils and single tier authorities in harmonising aspects of equal pay claims did not apply to the County Council as the necessary policy changes had been made in 2003.

It was resolved:

To approve the Single Equality Strategy as set out in the report prior to its publication in April 2008.

516. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE AND PROCUREMENT

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for the submission of the Council's Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Fenland Building Schools for the Future project to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

It was stressed that the current report was not approving any contract but that the key purpose of the OBC was to demonstrate that there was a sound business case for progressing to the next stage, which involved preparation for procurement. In particular, through the submission of the OBC, the Council was seeking to demonstrate that the affordability of the project had been subject to a reasonable challenge process and that some of the issues that led to difficulties in procurement of projects in earlier BSF waves

are unlikely to arise in respect of the Fenland project. It was stressed that it would be important to continue to fully involve head teachers, school governors and local members in the process.

Cabinet has previously considered and acknowledged the default procurement model for BSF, which was via the procurement of a Local Education Partnership (LEP). Confidential business sensitive appendices produced for Cabinet Members and Group Leaders demonstrated that there was an affordable capital solution based on the control options, including a significant uncommitted contingency, which should offer some protection against increases to market rates prior to financial close.

Concerns were raised regarding the impact of the Government decision to reduce by 50% the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) received by modernised schools and the impact that the policy would have on individual schools ability to meet the anticipated costs life cycles and FM services over a 25 year period. Cabinet noted that the County Council had made representations to Government but the Government was unlikely to change its policy. It was reported that closing any affordability gap that might eventually emerge, estimated at between £20k and £50k per annum, was likely to require one or more of the measures as set out in the Cabinet report.

In respect of the PFI Scheme, Cabinet noted that current modelling indicated that a broadly affordable solution could be achieved. However since the final calculation relating to affordability was based of the difference between two very large sums (PFI credits from Government and the unitary charge made by the PFI contractor, with balancing contributions from the schools and Council) officers suggested that planning for an affordability gap between £20k and 50K per annum was more realistic. Closing the gap would be likely to require one or more measures as set out in the report.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that any delay in securing approval of the OBC into the 2008/09 financial year might also lead to some increase in the revenue shortfall due to the impact of different interest rates applying from 1 April 2008 within the cost model.

It was resolved:

- i) to confirm Cabinet's previous support for the establishment of a Local Education Partnership (LEP);
- ii) To confirm the previously approved BSF Project budget provision for an investment of up to £200,000 in the LEP;
- iii) To note the affordability assessment for the project and the implications of this for the Council;
- iv) To endorse the approach taken in the draft Outline Business Case (OBC) accompanying the report and to authorise the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services to approve a final version of the OBC in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive for Children and Young People's Services.

517. PRIMARY EDUCATION IN ELY: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Cabinet received a report setting out the results of a consultation paper which had been issued in order to enable local schools, parents and other stakeholders to comment on the proposal to expand The Lantern Primary School from 210 places (1 Form of entry (FE)) to 420 places (2FE) in order to meet the increased demand for reception places.

Cabinet noted that there were four schools in Ely serving the primary age range and that the total number of pupils starting reception in Ely's infant and primary schools had increased, from 137 in 1999 to 199 in 2007. House building in Ely, which has been at the rate of around 300 new homes each year, was also expected to continue for some years, with the result that pupil numbers would also rise. For the last two years, the number of children starting reception had exceeded the 180 places (6FE) available. In agreement with all the primary schools in Ely, the County Council had provided additional places at The Lantern Primary School, as the number of children living in the school's catchment area greatly exceeded the 30 places available. The number of Ely-resident children expected to need reception places in September 2008 was projected to be in the region of 200, exceeding the total places available by 20. Projections indicated a need for the permanent provision of at least one additional form of entry for reception beyond the current six in Ely.

Issues raised/questions dealt with the debate included:

- Confirmation that Capital programme would be sufficient to enable the necessary expansion of the school and replace temporary classrooms with permanent buildings as part of a rolling programme of capital works
- To minimise disruption essential works would be programmed for the school holiday period.
- There was currently sufficient secondary provision capacity in Ely but that officers would continue to keep this under review.

It was resolved to:

- i) Note the responses to the consultation held during autumn term 2007;
- ii) Note the demographic forecast and breakdown of applications for reception places for September 2008; and
- iii) Approve the publication of statutory proposals to increase the size of The Lantern Primary School, Ely, on a phased basis, and the adoption and implementation of the action plan set out in sections 2.15 – 2.22 of the report.

518. PROPERTY ISSUES

Cabinet received a report seeking approval to dispose of land north and south of

Landwade Road, Fordham on terms to be agreed and to consider revising the Council's Disposal Policy which currently gave Parish and District Councils the offer of "first refusal" on surplus property.

It was reported that one of the two local Members supported the disposal of the land at Fordham "for the best possible price on the open market". Further stating that anything less than best price would amount to the County Council granting a subsidy to whoever was the successful bidder and would distort the market and result in a cost to the Council Taxpayer".

In agreeing to the disposal of the land at Fordham, Cabinet noted that there was no strategic benefit in retaining the two irregular shaped parcels of land. Both were surplus as a consequence of the adoption of the final alignment (and construction) for the Fordham Bypass. In addition, the sale would generate a significant capital receipt for the Council that could be reinvested in services or used to reduce debt charges.

Following publication of the report, Cabinet had been made aware that representations had been received from the chairman and vice chairman of Cambridge sub-Regional Housing Board (CRHB) and from Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils raising concerns about the proposed change of policy to remove residential development sites from the offer of "first refusal" given to Parish and District Councils. As a result a decision on this issue was not approved. However, Cabinet reiterated that in line with existing policy there would be no question of disposing of land at less than best market value without reports first coming back to Cabinet for decision and justifying any proposed exceptions.

It was resolved:

- i) to declare land at Fordham (off Landwade Road) surplus to the Council's requirements and to authorise the Director of Finance, Property and Performance to agree terms for its disposal; and
- ii) To defer consideration of the recommendation to revise the disposal policy by removing residential development sites from the offer of "first refusal" to Parish and District Councils to allow for further consultations with interested parties and to receive a further report for consideration at a later Cabinet meeting.

519. OPTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GUIDED BUSWAY

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for the future management and integration of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

The two realistic management alternatives considered by Cabinet were:

Option 1. Devolved. The management of contracts for maintenance and money collection to be devolved to a joint Park & Ride/Busway Manager.

Option 2. Retained. The Busway Operator manages separate contracts for maintenance, money collection and Park and Ride/Busway management.

Cabinet was asked to consider whether the County Council should act as a Busway Operator itself, or to create an arms-length management organisation to do so. Details were provided in respect of three possible mechanisms for provision of the joint management, maintenance and money collection functions. In deciding among the options, Cabinet took into account the process undertaken for assessing and comparing their relative advantages and disadvantages, including:

- Costs
- Risks for the Council
- issues
- Quality of service
- Achievability within the necessary timescale.
- Legal and procurement

The implications of the alternative options were assessed in each of the following areas:

- The Busway Operator role;
- Joint management for Guided Busway/Park & Ride;
- Maintenance
- Money collection

The report concluded that the comparison of options for:

- the Busway Operator role did not show any significant advantages in creating an arms-length organisation.
- for joint management of the Guided Busway and Cambridge Park & Ride service concluded that the higher cost of extending the construction contract, and the time that an external tendering exercise would take, both argue that it would be more effective to integrate the Busway operation into the existing Park & Ride service.
- for routine maintenance of the Guided Busway and the Park & Ride sites and provision of emergency response concluded that it would be straightforward to add the routine maintenance work to the Highways Services Contract.

It was resolved:

- (i) The Busway Operator role should be retained within the County Council, as a responsibility of the Director of Highways and Access.
- (ii) The operational management of the Guided Busway and the Cambridge Park & Ride Service should be combined as a single, integrated operation, based on expansion of the existing Park & Ride team.
- (iii) Routine maintenance of the Busway, and provision of emergency response should be added to the Highways Services Contract.
- (iv) Collection of money from ticket machines on the Busway should be added to the existing contract for Park & Ride money collection.
- (v) Responsibility for managing contracts for maintenance and money collection should lie with the Manager of the combined Busway/Park & Ride Service.

- (vi) These arrangements should be kept under regular review, in order to take account of changes that might benefit from a different solution

520. NEW SCORING MODEL TO ASSESS SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for the adoption of a new scoring model to assess subsidised bus services.

Cabinet noted that the County Council has responsibility for the allocation of over £4m of funding annually to subsidise bus services and various forms of community transport. This required objective, defensible decisions about giving support to some services and not others. Currently, the value for money of contracted bus services (measured by the subsidy per passenger journey) was looked at alongside the use made of the service (measured by numbers of passenger journeys). At present, there was no reliable way to measure the social importance of a service to people who might have no other way to make essential journeys such as medical appointments and shopping for food.

Cabinet noted that models already used by some other authorities, although considered, were rejected because each of those examined failed to take account of the factors scored as important by a recent workshop. Cabinet noted that in respect of the proposed weightings, consultation feedback had suggested that they were not as appropriate in reflecting young or disabled people's needs. The weightings would therefore be reviewed after the early application of the model, when it is clearer how they affected the rating of particular services.

In terms of concerns raised on those given a 1 rating, as these were often ones considered important in rural areas, it was indicated that the Community Transport and Passenger Transport Review due to come forward at a later date would be able to help address those particular areas.

It was resolved to:

- i) Approve the adoption of the proposed model, as set out in Section 5, for immediate use within Passenger Transport Services with the following steps:
 - A) To evaluate a service on its own:
 - Step 1. Determine the average number of single passenger journeys per week.
 - Step 2. Determine the average numbers of passengers travelling for different purposes each week.
 - Step 3. Calculate the average cost per single passenger journey.
 - Step 4. Make a judgement about the existence of alternative travel options, for each of the purposes of travel.
 - Step 5. Calculate a combined weighting for each purpose of travel.

- Step 6. Multiply the combined weighting by the number of passenger journeys, for each purpose of travel in turn, and add the results to give an overall score (the 'social value score').
- Step 7. Examine the scores against thresholds, to identify the need to re-think the design of the service.

B) To compare different services:

For all the services to be compared, plot the cost per passenger journey (from step 3 above) against the social value score (from step 6), and draw the linear regression line. [This provides a simple means of identifying priority order, from services that have lowest cost and greatest social value, to those that have highest cost and lowest social value]

- ii) Agree the following weightings, to be used for the different purposes of travel and the availability of alternative travel options.

Work	x5
Essential shopping (e.g. food)	x5
Healthcare	x3
Education	x3
Leisure/pleasure	x1
Other shopping	x1
Visiting friends or relatives	x1
Library visits	x1
Other public transport available	x1
Only community transport or walking/cycling	x2
No alternative but private car or taxi	x3

- iii) Agree that the threshold of £2.50 per passenger journey should be applied as a trigger to review a service.

521. CAMBRIDGE SOUTHERN FRINGE SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

Cabinet received a report presenting the final S106 package for the Trumpington Meadows development proposals in Cambridge Southern Fringe.

On 22 January 2008, Cabinet endorsed the final consultation response for all of the Cambridge Southern Fringe planning applications for residential development. The last remaining action was for the County Council Cabinet to consider and formally endorse the Section 106 packages for the individual sites.

Officers were congratulated on the package that had been negotiated. The key features of the S106 package from the County Council's perspective included:

- provision of a new primary school within the Trumpington Meadows site including revenue support for early years.
- A contribution towards the new secondary school and Children's Centre both on the Clay Farm site including revenue.

- A contribution towards the new library.
- A capital and revenue contribution towards the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.
- A capital contribution toward the Addenbrooke's Access Road.

Further to questions raised an explanation was provided in relation to the indices used for calculating inflation, in order to ensure sufficient funding at the correct trigger points. Details were provided of the proactive monitoring arrangements in place to ensure appropriate delivery targets were achieved.

The local Member for Trumpington in written comments indicated that she was pleased that many of the original items in dispute had been resolved and thanked the officers for all the work to make this possible. The Member was still concerned that the phasing of the payments for community facilities and community support would result in homes being occupied before either of the former had been put in place. Her point was that youth facilities and community spaces and workers to use them, were as necessary as roads. The member therefore requested that temporary arrangements should be put in place from the beginning. The oral update provided and noted by Cabinet stated that the current package negotiated was very different to ones that had been secured in the past. Whilst the community centre and other physical buildings would not be in place on day one, community support workers would be available, with temporary health facilities being provided on the Clay farm site and the school at Trumpington Meadows also to be in place at an early stage. In reply to the Member's other query, officers were able to confirm that 40% was the agreed proportion of affordable housing.

It was resolved:

- i) To endorse the overall package set out at Appendix 1 as acceptable including the trigger points for payments or provision of facilities.
- ii) To agree to delegate authority to officers to enter into the Section 106 agreement for this development in line with the delegations in the Council Constitution.

522. STREET LIGHTING PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

Cabinet received an update on the progress of the Street Lighting PFI project and confirmed that the PFI route should continue to be pursued.

Following approval at the Cabinet meeting on 23rd January 2007 of the Outline Business Case (OBC) PFI for street lighting credits, the Council submitted an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department for Transport (DfT) for PFI credits to fund the replacement of about 60% of street lighting stock, which are either at the end of the design life or will be during the next 5 years. Cabinet was reminded that as a result of low investment over many years, the backlog was about £50 million and that PFI was therefore seen as the only realistic method of funding it.

The PFI project would replace the columns that were beyond their design life of 25 years and at the same time it will bring the standard of lighting up to the current European standards. To comply with the new standards, there was a need to install additional

lighting columns across the network. Within the OBC, the worst case proposed that about 9,000 additional columns would be required to achieve this objective. The current street lighting budget that could be used to contribute towards the operation of Street Lighting PFI was approximately £3.5m. The impact of the PFI was that in the worst case, the Council would have needed to find an additional £2,000,000 per annum to fund the maintenance of the additional lights, known as the affordability gap.

Cabinet noted that ongoing work was proceeding in developing the output specification and to challenge the appropriateness of the European Standard. The work had not yet been completed, but Cabinet was advised that other Councils had been able to significantly reduce the number of additional columns required and get close to a one for one replacement programme across its network. Based on this work, it was anticipated that the County Council would only require a 5% increase in columns, which would lead to a maximum affordability gap of about £750,000 rather than the £2,000,000 calculated for the worst case. Continuing work could reduce this further. The £750,000 equated to an annual cost to the Council of £4.25m at 2008 prices made up of the existing budget of £3.5 million, plus the additional £750,000.

It was resolved:

- i) To approve the procurement budget of £350,000 per annum, funded from existing budgets to financial close.
- ii) To approve the full commitment of existing budgets of £3,526,000 per annum (2007/08 prices) for the duration of the contract term.
- iii) To agree to keep under review as part of the integrated planning process, the emerging business case and the need to agree any additional financial support.

523. DEVELOPING CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) 2008

Cabinet received a progress report on the initial selection of performance indicators (PIs) to include in Cambridgeshire's new LAA, and which also highlighted the next steps in the process.

Cabinet noted that the process to translate the priorities set out in the Cambridgeshire Vision into a set of performance indicators and targets to include in the LAA had now commenced. Each task group had been assigned an initial number of indicators proportional to the number of priority areas covered under the particular theme. Strategic countywide partnerships, such as the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership and the Community Safety Strategic Group, had provided an initial steer by putting forward their own proposed supported performance indicators to consider within the context of the new LAA. Five LAA task groups, set up under the themes in the Vision, had furthered this work by considering the Vision's priority headings and outcomes, and by selecting a list of performance indicators to represent the balance of national, regional and local priorities for final consideration by the LAA Board.

It was expected that the finalising the choice of targets would be made at the Cambridgeshire Together Board meeting due to take place on 20th March.

It was resolved:

To note the list of Performance indicators presented in Appendix 1 to the report and the detail in respect of the next steps in the process of developing and negotiating the new LAA for 2008

524. AGREEING REVISED COUNCIL VALUES

Cabinet received a report presenting a proposed set of values to be adopted by the Council and requesting agreement for the wording to be used to incorporate the values into the Integrated Plan.

Cabinet noted that the current Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) values as developed had originally numbered four: Partnership, Accountability, Value for Money and Equity, with a fifth, Customer Focus, being added subsequently by the previous Chief Executive. In addition, in 2005 a set of Cambridgeshire Behaviours had been developed and adopted.

As part of the Integrated Planning Process for 2008/09, a new Council Vision, set of priorities and service principles had been agreed. In order to ensure that the Council's values supported the achievement of the vision and priorities and were aligned with and reinforced the service delivery principles and Cambridgeshire Behaviours a revised set of values was proposed. A set of six values (ranked the most important following a series of workshops) was recommended to be adopted and subsequently to be included in the content for the Integrated Plan.

Cabinet noted that ARIVEE had been put forward as an acronym to aid easy recall, using the first letters from each value.

It was resolved to

- i) Agree the following set of six values
 - 1. Integrity
 - 2. Respect
 - 3. Accountability
 - 4. Excellence
 - 5. Equity
 - 6. Value for Money
- ii) The proposed content for the Integrated Plan as set out in the report.

525. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) 2007 SCORECARD

Cabinet noted a report on the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) scorecard, which also provided an update on the Comprehensive Performance

Assessment process for 2008. Cabinet noted that the current local government inspection regime, Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) “The Harder Test”, would operate in its current form until 2009 when it was due to be replaced by a new performance framework, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

Cabinet was reminded that in February each year the Audit Commission updated each Council’s CPA scorecard for the previous calendar year with it consisting of two elements:

- A star rating (from 0 star to 4 star)
- A direction of travel statement (from ‘not improving’ to ‘improving strongly’)

Cabinet noted that the 2007 scorecard published in February 2008 provided an assessment of the Council as 3 star and ‘improving adequately’. Individual assessment scores were (2006 scorecard score in brackets)

Level 1 Assessments

- Use of Resources 4 (3)
- Children’s services 3 (3)
- Adult Social Care 2 (2)

Level 2 Assessments

- Environment 3 (3)
- Culture 3 (3)

Reference to the rule set showed that, with a Corporate Assessment score of 4, the Adult Social Care score of 2 was the limiting factor; otherwise the County Council could have expected to achieve a 4 star rating.

Cabinet that this would be the final CPA scorecard before the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) performance framework. The new proposals had been the subject of a consultation document from Government with the Council’s response considered at the Cabinet meeting on 1st February 2008. It was expected that all assessments would at least maintain their 2007 score, with the key challenge for maintaining the overall star rating being in respect of performance in Adult Social Care in advance of the summer inspection.

It was resolved:

To note the report, setting out details of the 2007 CPA scorecard.

526. INTEGRATION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRADING UNITS IN THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES (OCYPS)

Cabinet received a report setting out proposals for the future financial reporting arrangements for traded services in order to:

- End the separate financial accounting and reporting of traded services.
- Integrate traded services within corporate budget and service planning processes

Cabinet was reminded that the financial position of OCYPS traded services was currently reported separately to the outturn position of OCYPS itself.

The proposed new arrangements would result in any deficit on the part of a traded service if future contributing to a deficit or overspend position on the part of OCYPS as a whole; with the expectation that the deficit would either be addressed by the service within the financial year or offset by underspends elsewhere within the OCYPS budget.

The Traded Services would continue to produce a business plan each year for approval by the Director of Finance, Property and Performance and they would be subject to the same financial reporting and budgetary control arrangements as other services and be expected to follow corporate requirements. Cabinet noted that a wider piece of work was to be undertaken to bring Traded Services into line with other services with regard to the charging of overheads and other support services, whilst ensuring that the full costs of service provision are reflected in prices.

It was reported that the accumulated deficit of the OCYPS traded services was projected to be £2.7m by the end of the 2007/08 financial year. Given the scale of historic deficits, it was not possible to set out definitive proposals for the long term reduction of the current deficit. The report proposed that the first budgetary control report to Cabinet in the 2008/09 financial year should summarise the business plans for the traded services and set out a long term plan for addressing the cumulative deficit, for agreement by Cabinet. Cabinet however requested that there should be a separate report on the long term plan for addressing the cumulative deficit for Cabinet approval as soon as practicable.

It was resolved:

- i) To agree the proposed approach to future financial reporting and accounting arrangements for traded services and the appropriate revision of the Council's Scheme of Financial Management.
- ii) That Cabinet should receive a separate report on the long-term plan to reduce the cumulative deficit for its final approval.

527. EAST OF ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EEDA) - DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011 - CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE

Cabinet received a report setting out the key elements of EEDA's draft Corporate Plan 2008-2011 providing a proposed response to the consultation questions included in Appendix 1 to the report.

Cabinet noted that EEDA's draft Corporate Plan described how it intended to use its resources to support implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RES had significant implications for job growth, infrastructure and business investment across the East of England.

Cabinet agreed the response, subject to the tone being changed to indicate the strength of the Council's reservations, by including a short executive summary highlighting the

County Council's particular concerns as summarised below, as well as taking into account additional points raised at the Cabinet meeting. The key concerns were:

- Funding: limited funding (particularly capital) for the Sustainable Economy programme;
- Environment: EEDA's proposed corporate outputs appeared inadequate in relation to quality of life, the low carbon economy and wider environmental factors;
- Migrant workers: there were a limited range of projects to help with the integration of migrant workers;
- Devolved decision-making: the proposed use of devolved funding did not clearly indicate devolution also of the approval processes which was necessary, rather than referral back up to EEDA on local decision-making
- Local authority roles: lack of clarity over the roles of different tiers of local authorities, including County Councils, in the new arrangements
- Leaders' Forum: lack of clarity over the organisation, role and responsibilities of the proposed Council Leaders' Forum. There were concerns on the value of the Leadership Forum as currently envisaged. In respect of bullet point 6 under paragraph 4.1 last line referring to the Leaders' Forum it was suggested that the words "adequate powers" should be replaced by "primacy in decision making";
- Response timescales: the short timescale given for responding to the Plan and the difficulty of commenting in advance of the publication of the RES and the Government's consultation on SNR.

In addition, the point was made that no account had been taken of the County Council's earlier response regarding its severe reservations in respect of the Regional Economic Strategy.

It was resolved:

To agree to the proposed response subject to the tone of the response being changed by including a short executive summary highlighting the County Council's particular concerns as highlighted in paragraph 4.1 of the report and taking into account additional points raised at the Cabinet meeting.

528. SHARED SERVICES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Cabinet received a report updating it on progress with the Council's Shared Services Programme and outline the steps proposed to take the programme forward.

Cabinet was reminded that In January 2007 Cabinet it had approved a plan for the Shared Services Programme, which included collaborative working with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC,) and preparing a business case for proceeding to a Joint Venture. Cabinet has noted an update report including that work on improving the e-business suite platform and improvement of business processes based on the suite are progressing well.

Cabinet noted that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) had been working on a business case, which considered the options for

developing the shared service further. As requested by Cabinet, this included investigating the possibility of working with a private sector partner, to set up a Local Government Shared Services Centre, which would not only offer services to both CCC and NCC, but which could also be offered to other local authorities. The work undertaken indicated that the creation of a local government shared services centre would bring significant benefits to CCC.

It was noted that further work was required to be undertaken before a final business case could be produced. Advice received was that a 'soft' market test, via a Prior Information Notice (PIN), would give the opportunity to test the assumptions in the business case with the market, engage with potential suppliers, as well as inviting them to suggest innovative ways of delivering the solution. Such an approach might also shorten any procurement process, by helping the Council to consider the best future models, before commencing a full procurement exercise.

It was resolved:

- i) To note the progress to date.
- ii) To support the proposal to conduct further market-testing activity to help inform the development of the Programme Business Case

529. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT DECEMBER 2007

Cabinet received and noted the latest Budget Monitoring report outlining:

- the 2007/08 financial position for revenue, capital and trading units as at 31st December 2007;
- the position on reserves, efficiency & the Invest to Transform fund and
- reviewing the position on debt management and prompt payment.

Cabinet noted that the in-year forecast outturn position (including Trading Units) reported at the end of December was an underspend of -£1,245k (-0.4% of turnover). The underspend had increased since November primarily due to improvement within Office of Corporate Services (OCS) and a reduction in overall in-year trading unit deficits. Including the accumulated trading unit deficit of £1,756k brought forward, the overall accumulated deficit was noted as being £511k (0.2% of turnover).

It was reported that the main deficits were within specific OCYPS Trading Units, in certain services in OCYPS (although offset by underspends elsewhere within the office,) and in Adults Support Services. The E Business budget had been identified as the key pressure within OCS.

It was resolved:

- i) To note the revenue expenditure of Services in 2007/08 as at the 31st December 2007 and in particular, the forecast overspends within the Office for Children and Young People's Services OCYPS and Adult

Support Services (Section 3 of the report), and the actions intended to deliver a balanced position.

- ii) To note the capital spending and financing in 2007/08 (sections 4.1 – 4.3 of the report).
- iii) To note the trading units' performance in 2007/08 (section 3.9 – 3.12 of the report).
- iv) Note the performance on debt management (section 4.4 – 4.7 of the report) and prompt payment (section 4.8 – 4.9 of the report)

530. PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 3

Cabinet received a report providing details of performance against the 2007/08 Corporate Scorecard for quarter 3.

Cabinet noted the areas where performance had noticeably improved since last report were in respect of:

- The number of people helped to live at home had increased and was at its highest level since May 2007.
- The number of people aged 18+ per 100,000 receiving direct payments for social care services had also increased and was approaching the next 'blob' banding.
- The percentage of equipment and adaptations delivered within 7 working days, to help people live independently at home, had reached the highest CSCI banding
- The percentage of calls answered by the Contact Centre within 20 seconds had increased by 3% and is now performing very well.
- Financial management continued to improve.
- The number of people killed or seriously injured on County Council roads (provisionally 419) had now fallen to below both the local and LPSA target.

In terms of exception reporting (focussing Cabinet's attention on those areas that required further investigation and detailing improvements being made to address those areas where performance was not on target) those areas highlighted as requiring improvement or which were not currently meeting the target set with explanations being provided of the action being taken included:

- Number of council working days/shifts lost to employee sickness excluding school employees (cumulative measure)
- Recruitment lead time – days between vacancy being notified to recruitment and the interview
- % of appraisals completed in time – it was noted that it was never possible to reach a 100% for this target due to staff turnover/part time employees. It was orally reported that the previous week the assessors had confirmed that the County Council had achieved the distinction of a further three year Investors in people accreditation.

The report also set out the progress against three critical areas from the Corporate Plan undertaken since May.

It was resolved:

To note the quarter three performance information as set out, and the action being taken for those areas highlighted as requiring improvement or which were not currently meeting their target.

531. DELEGATIONS FROM CABINET TO CABINET MEMBERS/OFFICERS

Cabinet noted the progress on matters delegated to individual Cabinet Members and/or to officers to make decisions on behalf of the Cabinet up to those approvals given at the 22nd January Cabinet 2008.

It was resolved:

To note the progress on delegations to individual Cabinet Members and/or to officers previously authorised by Cabinet to make decisions/take actions on its behalf.

532. DRAFT AGENDA FOR 15TH APRIL CABINET MEETING

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

Reports slipped from April to May or beyond

4b. Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Member Led Review Learning Disability
(Moved to June)

5. Replacement for Youth Justice Plan

17. EERA's Draft RSS Revision (May)

18. Older People's Strategy (May)

Additions:

Key Decision NIAB Planning Application

Due to concerns at the number of reports currently being shown for the April Cabinet meeting, Cabinet supported that the Deputy Chief Executive's should look to reducing the agenda further.

Chairman
15TH April 2008