

## **CABINET: MINUTES**

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Time:** 10.00 a.m. to 1.20 p.m.

**Present:** Vice-Chairman in the Chair: Councillor L W McGuire

Councillors I Bates, D Brown, S Count, D Harty, T Orgee, M Shuter and F Yeulett

**Apologies:** Councillor M Curtis

**Also present:** Councillors P Ashcroft, A Bailey, P Bullen, S Bywater, E Cearns, S Criswell, P Downes, R Henson, J Hipkin, W Hunt, N Kavanagh, M Leeke, M Mason, P Reeve, S Rylance, M Smith and A Walsh

### **178. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

### **179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **180. PETITIONS**

Cabinet received two petitions.

#### **Parking in Barton Close, Cambridge**

Professor I McConnell, the Chairman of the Barton Close Residents' Association, and Mrs A Handy, one of its members, presented a paper petition with 100 signatures, together with supporting documentation, photographs and a map. The petition read:

We request the County Council gives approval to the installation of 70 metres of double yellow lines on the east side of Barton Close and single yellow lines around the island to limit the hazard of commuter parking in Barton Close.

In addressing the Cabinet, Professor McConnell emphasised local residents' safety concerns, relating both to access to Barton Close for emergency and other vehicles and to the danger caused by vehicles unable to enter the Close reversing back out onto Barton Road.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure, Councillor McGuire, responded briefly, noting that the Council was supportive of the request and asking the petitioners what sources of funding had been sought for the proposals. He noted that

the Council accepted third party funding. He agreed to send a full written response within ten working days of the meeting.

### Citi 2 Bus Service in Cambridge

On behalf of Mrs V O'Brien, who was unable to attend the meeting, Mr L Leone presented a paper petition with 186 signatures that read:

We the undersigned request the reinstatement of No. 2 bus to travel via Bridge Street.

In addressing the Cabinet, Mr Leone explained that until September 2013, the Citi 2 had entered the city centre via Chesterton Road and Bridge Street, but that in September 2013, the route had been changed to enter Drummer Street via Victoria Avenue. This reduced access to parts of the centre close to the Round Church, particularly for people with limited mobility. Mr Leone noted that the campaign to reinstate the previous route was supported by the Friends of Mitchams Corner as part of their campaign to enhance this part of the city.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure, Councillor McGuire, responded briefly, explaining that the Citi 2 was a commercial service, meaning that its route was a decision for Stagecoach. Mr Leone recognised this but explained that the petitioners hoped to obtain Cabinet's support for the petition prior to submitting it to Stagecoach. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure agreed to send a full written response within ten working days of the meeting.

## **181. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

### Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Zero Hours Contracts Member-Led Review

The Chairman of the review group, Councillor Walsh, presented findings and recommendations from the Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee's member-led review of zero hours contracts. He clarified that the first recommendation should read, '... Additionally, information should be provided to zero hours staff, so that they have a neutral/independent contact they can refer to if they have concerns about their employment or management arrangements'.

Cabinet members made the following comments:

- Commended the work carried out by the review group.
- Noted the review group's comparison between the average hourly rate paid by the County Council to those on zero hours contracts, £9.89, and the National Living Wage, which had been set at £7.65 per hour. Members noted that the National Living Wage was not an officially recognised standard and suggested that future such reports should also include the National Minimum Wage.
- Asked for the report and response to be publicised to relevant staff. The Chief Executive agreed to include an item on his blog.

It was resolved:

To agree the responses to the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the Cabinet report.

Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Coroner Services Member-Led Review

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Reeve, presented findings and recommendations from the Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee's member-led review of coroner services. He emphasised the changing role for the County Council in relation to coroner services, which could bring with it significant risk and expense. He also highlighted particular concerns about the coroners' former use of pre-signed death certificates.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Orgee, presented the Cabinet's proposed response to the report. He emphasised that the use of pre-signed death certificates had been a national concern, addressed by national guidance issued by the Chief Coroner on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Since its issue, the guidance had been strictly observed in Cambridgeshire. He thanked the review team for their helpful report and proposed that all of the recommendations be accepted, subject to noting in relation to recommendation 4 b) that there was not as yet a nationally agreed scheme for coroners' expenses, but that such a scheme was expected to be in place by the time Cambridgeshire's current part-time coroners retired.

It was resolved:

To agree the responses to the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the Cabinet report.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Reducing Reoffending Member-Led Review

The Chairman of the review group, Councillor Cearn, presented findings and recommendations from the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's member-led review of reducing reoffending. He drew attention to the high cost of offending both to individuals and to society and suggested that in considering best value in measures to reduce reoffending, both financial and social benefits should be taken into account.

As the Chairman for the meeting, Councillor McGuire thanked the review group for its work and presented the Cabinet's response. He proposed that the recommendations largely be accepted, the exceptions relating to areas in which the Council had no direct influence or could not depart from its legal obligations, for example to avoid positive discrimination.

It was resolved:

To agree the responses to the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the Cabinet response.

## **182. INTEGRATED RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

Members were reminded that a revised version of this report had been circulated as part of the second dispatch. Changes from the original version were listed on the front page of the revised report.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, presented the Integrated Resources and Performance Report for the period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Members noted that a year-end underspend of £3.6 million was forecast. The change from the year-end overspend of £0.8 million forecast at the end of the previous month was due primarily to transactions within Children, Families and Adults that had been processed in 2013/14 but related to costs shown in the accounts for 2012/13 or earlier. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance commended the year-end position now forecast but emphasised that the Council would continue to face severe financial pressures for a number of years.

In response to a query from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that in line with normal practice, the underspend on the winter maintenance budget expected to result from the mild winter would be transferred to corporate reserves at year-end.

It was resolved:

- 1) To analyse resources and performance information and note the remedial action currently being taken
- 2) To approve the £1.5m change in Children, Families and Adults (CFA) capital funding where additional Section 106 funding is to be used to fund their programme in 2013/14, which reduces their prudential borrowing requirement (section 6.5 of the report)
- 3) To approve the allocation of the £1,531,297 Highway Flood Recovery funding in full to Economy, Transport and Environment (section 7.1 of the report).

## **183. DRAFT CAMBRIDGESHIRE LONG TERM TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN REFRESH**

Cabinet was asked to approve the draft Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy for consultation and to approve the process for refreshing the third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, noted that the consultation would begin at the end of May. He asked members to help publicise it and to encourage people to respond.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Criswell expressed his support for the Long Term Transport Strategy and the Local Transport Plan refresh. However, he expressed concern at the shortfall in funding for necessary infrastructure and suggested that the Council should pursue growth funding for the entire County, similar to the City Deal recently agreed for

Greater Cambridge. He also suggested that officers prepare a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and responses, to anticipate some of the questions that were likely to be raised through the consultation.

Cabinet members made the following comments:

- Commended the evidence in the papers of significant joint working with Cambridgeshire's City and District Councils, neighbouring local authorities and partner agencies.
- Asked officers to take into account the consequences of proposed schemes; Councillor Orgee gave as an example the likely increase in traffic flow through Harston that would result if the A10 level crossing at Foxton were improved and this route became more attractive to traffic.
- Noted that later in the meeting, Cabinet members would be asked to endorse the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) prepared by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership. The SEP would be used to bid for growth funding from Government, with the Long Term Transport Strategy forming part of its evidence base.
- Endorsed Councillor Criswell's request for a FAQ.

It was resolved:

- 1) To note the progress with developing a Long Term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire
- 2) To approve the Draft Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) for consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report
- 3) To approve the process for refreshing the Third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, including consultation alongside the LTTS
- 4) To note that Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulation Assessment and Community Impact Assessment for the LTP would also be refreshed.

#### **184. TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN 2014/15 TO 2015/16**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure, Councillor McGuire, presented the Council's proposed two-year Transport Delivery Plan for the period 2014/15 to 2015/16. He noted that the Plan reflected the new condition-based, preventative approach to capital maintenance works agreed by Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as part of the Highway Asset Management Strategy. The importance of local member and front-line officer input would continue to be recognised.

Speaking as the local member for March North, Councillor Count welcomed improvements to Norwood Road bridge in March and urged members seeking local highway improvements to liaise closely with officers.

It was resolved:

To approve the Transport Delivery Plan 2014/15 to 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **185. CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE PARK STATION**

The Chairman for the meeting, Councillor McGuire, agreed to exercise his discretion under Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow this report to be considered, even though it had not been dispatched to members five working days before the meeting, for the following reasons:

**Reason for lateness:** The report was delayed pending an anticipated letter from the Department for Transport.

**Reason for urgency:** A decision is needed regarding the enabling works to allow the work to proceed. The works are funded by a grant that is time limited and must be spent by March 2015.

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, presented a report setting out progress with the Cambridge Science Park Station scheme. The report summarised the delivery arrangements being discussed with the County Council by the key project partners, Network Rail and the Department for Transport.

Cabinet noted that written comments on this item had been received from Councillors van de Ven and Jenkins.

Members made the following comments:

- Welcomed the progress being made and commended the Council's contribution in getting the scheme underway.
- Noted that a £6 million grant had been announced in December 2013 to allow the County Council to deliver access works outside the Network Rail Chesterton Sidings boundary. In relation to bus access, the Service Director: Strategy and Development advised that both guided and non-guided options were currently being priced. Members suggested that the second recommendation as set out in the report be amended to reflect this.
- Noted that Network Rail and the Department for Transport now proposed to take over from the County Council the delivery phase of the elements of the scheme within Chesterton Sidings, funding it as a self-financing project with the initial capital investment borrowed against the future revenues from the station. Members noted that under the Council's original funding proposal, the Council's scheme development costs would have been repaid through the additional franchise revenue. As this was no longer the case, recovery of the Council's scheme development costs was being discussed with the Department for Transport. In addition to the two recommendations set out in the report, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning proposed two additional recommendations addressing this point.

It was resolved:

- 1) To endorse the key partners, Network Rail and the Department for Transport, taking responsibility for delivery of the station
- 2) To approve the implementation of the enabling works including the construction of a bus access way within the programme and funding limits set by Government
- 3) To note that the agreement with the then Minister of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers, was that all the costs of developing and building the station would be repaid from revenue generated from new rail patronage generated by the new station
- 4) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Transport to request that the Council's costs of developing the station are met from the revenue generated as originally agreed.

#### **186. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING SERVICE STRATEGY 2014-19**

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Skills presented the Council's proposed Household Recycling Service Strategy for 2014-19. The Strategy sought to redesign the way in which the household recycling service was delivered, taking into account Cambridgeshire's growing population, customer needs, local priorities and the resources available.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Downes asked the Council to consider re-opening the former Household Waste Recycling Centre at Brampton Road, Buckden. He noted that its closure had been opposed by local residents and that it was a well-designed, modern facility, with fittings still in place. Re-opening this site would help to meet the needs of the growing populations of Huntingdon, Godmanchester and Brampton.

Responding to the speaker, the Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Skills noted that all options would be considered through the Strategy, including long-term plans to 2031.

It was resolved:

To approve the Household Recycling Service Strategy set out in Appendix A to the report.

#### **187. PROPOSED FEES FOR MONITORING AND MANAGING PLANNING OBLIGATIONS**

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, presented proposals to charge for the monitoring and management of planning obligations. Members noted that most of Cambridgeshire's District Councils already levied such charges.

Members asked whether the proposed fees would be sufficient to permit more active and regular monitoring in future. The Head of Transport and Infrastructure Policy and Funding explained that the County Council sought to introduce the fees on the basis of

cost recovery to provide a more efficient and proactive service and that the fees would need to be kept under review. The intention to work closely with the District Councils to consider opportunities for more active collaborative monitoring looking forward was confirmed.

It was resolved:

To approve the introduction of a fee to recover costs incurred in the monitoring and management of planning obligations as outlined in the report, including:

- a) Fees charged at 1% of the value of the agreement below £2m, or at 0.5% for agreements valued above this
- b) All planning obligations to be charged at a minimum of £100 per agreement, whether financial or not
- c) Charges to be payable on signing of the agreement
- d) Regular review to ensure fees adequately cover the costs of the S106 managing and monitoring service.

**188. PROPOSED JOINT COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES BETWEEN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cabinet considered proposals for children's health services to be commissioned jointly by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the County Council. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, explained that it was in everyone's interests for commissioning organisations to work together as efficiently as possible. He reported that the proposals had been considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who had been fully supportive.

Cabinet members:

- Noted that although services would be jointly commissioned, budgets would not be pooled.
- Asked whether improved standards were expected to result from joint commissioning. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services noted that it would enable clearer targeting of the services needed.
- Noted that Peterborough City Council was not covered by this proposal. However, they would have their own arrangement with the CCG and the two local authorities could use this link to commission services together if appropriate.

It was resolved:



To agree to the establishment of the joint commissioning of children's health services with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and that a legal agreement be drafted to support this arrangement.

**189. A NEW STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE FOR ADULTS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE: 'TRANSFORMING LIVES'**

Cabinet received a report setting out the proposed new strategic approach to adult social work and adult social care in Cambridgeshire, 'Transforming Lives'. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Yeulett, explained that the new approach was needed to meet the challenge of increasing needs and diminishing resources. The aim was to provide increasingly proactive, preventative and personalised services, strengthening communities and helping individuals to live as independently as possible.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Criswell commended the aim of strengthening communities to help people to live independent lives. He emphasised the role of members in helping to build community resilience and called for briefings and training for all members.

It was resolved:

- 1) To support the direction of travel of the 'Transforming Lives' approach
- 2) To agree to further engagement with service users, family carers and stakeholders to ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in the development of this approach.

**190. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH 'CORAM CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADOPTION', A NEW VOLUNTARY ADOPTION AGENCY WITH CORAM**

Members considered a proposal to establish 'Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption', a new voluntary adoption agency with Coram. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, explained that Coram was a leading children's charity and a voluntary adoption agency of nationally recognised expertise. The Council had been working in partnership with Coram since 2011 and in October 2013 Coram had received a £500,000 start-up grant from the Department for Education to form a voluntary adoption agency with the County Council. Members noted that the target for the new voluntary adoption agency would be to find 100 new placements in three years; it was expected that this target would comfortably be exceeded.

Members asked how the Council would be able to ensure effective safeguarding of children under the new arrangements. The Service Director: Children's Social Care explained that Coram had already shared its safeguarding policy with the Council and the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board. In terms of monitoring adherence to the policy, the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults would be a member of the Cambridgeshire Coram Adoption Board and it was possible that a Councillor would also join the Board in due course.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services requested an amendment to recommendation 4) as set out in the report, to delegate to the Lead [not Cabinet] Member for Children and Young People's Services, as the Lead Member was a statutory role that would continue when the Council moved to new Committee arrangements in May 2014.

It was resolved to ratify:

- 1) The formation of a new voluntary adoption agency with Coram

Consequent to this, Cabinet approved:

- 2) The transfer of the specific CCC functions in the area of adoption to CCA
- 3) The proposed Transfer Of Undertakings (Protection Of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) transfer of Adoption Service staff to CCA (also subject to the outcome of an ongoing staff consultation on TUPE)
- 4) The delegation of authority to the Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults to finalise the transfer arrangements.

#### **191. CHANGES TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Yeulett, presented proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme. He reminded members that the scheme had been operating since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and offered one-off welfare grants to people in particular need. The report set out the awards made during 2013/14.

Some 'loosening' of the eligibility criteria was proposed, relating to emergency utility credit; inclusion of people on low incomes without savings; increasing the number of items available per award from three to five; increasing the age limit for dependent children who could be included in a claim from 16 to 19; reducing the residency requirement from 12 to 6 months; and counting time spent in the armed forces and residence in the county.

Cabinet members made the following comments:

- Especially welcomed the increased flexibility for ex-services personnel.
- Noted that people could make one application to the scheme per year. It was too early to judge whether repeat applications would be received. Members suggested that if repeat applications were received, this should trigger further investigation of whether additional support from the Council or other agencies was needed.

It was resolved:

To agree the changes to the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the report, to take immediate effect.

*[N.B. Officers have advised since the meeting that the changes will come into effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.]*

## **192. PROPERTY DISPOSALS (KEY DECISIONS)**

### Fitzwilliam Road Hostel, Cambridge

Cabinet considered a request to declare as surplus Fitzwilliam Road Hostel, Cambridge. The property had formerly been used as a residential home for young people but was now vacant.

It was resolved:

To declare the former Fitzwilliam Road Hostel, Cambridge as surplus to requirements and to authorise its disposal on detailed terms to be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance in consultation with the Head of Finance.

### Extra Care Housing Scheme, Whittlesey

Cabinet considered a proposal to develop an extra care housing scheme for older people at Bassenhally, Whittlesey. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Yeulett, explained that the scheme would meet identified need in the area; extra care facilities could help to improve the quality of life for individuals and could result in savings to services on the longer term. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, also commended the scheme and the joint working between a range of partners to develop the proposal to this stage.

It was resolved:

- 1) To dispose of circa 0.56 hectares (1.4 acres) of land at less than best consideration at Bassenhally, Whittlesey
- 2) To work in partnership with Axiom Housing Association (HA), Peterborough Borderline Local Commissioning Group and Fenland District Council to submit a bid for capital funding to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- 3) To agree a secured loan to Axiom HA of up to £7.5m to provide an extra care housing scheme
- 4) To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance to negotiate the terms of the loan, including legal, mortgage, security and authorise the execution of all the necessary contractual arrangements.

## 193. PROPERTY DISPOSALS (OTHER DECISIONS)

### Meadow Road, Willingham

The Chairman for the meeting, Councillor McGuire, agreed to exercise his discretion under Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow this report to be considered, even though it had not been dispatched to members five working days before the meeting, for the following reasons:

**Reason for lateness:** Discussions between members and the Parish Council have been continuing.

**Reason for urgency:** There is a need to bring this sale to a satisfactory conclusion.

Cabinet considered a request from Willingham Parish Council to purchase the closed travellers' site at Meadow Road, Willingham. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, explained that their request was for a 'less than best consideration' transaction; in considering this request, members should also take into account the Parish Council's intention to use the land as a community asset.

At the Chairman's discretion, Mr R Manning was invited to address the meeting as a representative of Willingham Parish Council. Mr Manning explained the Parish Council wished to renovate the site, which was currently unsightly, and to plant a community woodland, possibly including a community orchard. This would be an asset both for Willingham and for the wider area.

It was resolved:

To agree to dispose of the site to Willingham Parish Council by way of a 125-year lease for community purposes, at a capital premium of £50,000 and a peppercorn annual rental.

### Croylands, Ely

The Chairman for the meeting, Councillor McGuire, agreed to exercise his discretion under Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow this report to be considered, even though it had not been dispatched to members five working days before the meeting, for the following reasons:

**Reason for lateness:** The situation relating to this sale has been evolving rapidly and officers have needed to consult the Council's retained selling agent.

**Reason for urgency:** With a number of competing bids, a decision needs to be made quickly in order to retain bidders' interest.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, presented a report on steps taken by the County Council to dispose of Croylands in Ely, a large Victorian property most recently used for mental health services but now vacant. The property had been marketed through selling agents on a number of occasions. In 2011 the Council had entered into a contract for its sale but the property had not sold as the

prospective buyers had been unable to obtain the planning consent they sought. The property had therefore been auctioned in February 2014. It had failed to reach its reserve price and so best and final offers had been sought. Two conditional and two unconditional offers had been received.

Members were now advised that the Council's selling agents' advice was to accept the highest unconditional offer as representing 'best value', even though this was lower than the highest conditional offer, because the risk inherent in accepting a conditional offer dependent on planning permission.

A letter from the local member, Councillor Bailey, had been circulated to Cabinet members.

It was resolved:

To accept the highest unconditional bid for the property, which was in line with the advice of the Council's selling agents.

#### **194. ESTABLISHING A NEW SECONDARY AND A SPECIAL SCHOOL IN LITTLEPORT**

Cabinet had previously agreed that a new secondary and a new special school should be opened in Littleport, to respond to demographic growth and rising need for special school places. Members were now advised on the outcome of the process to seek an academy or free school sponsor for the new schools. Three proposals had been received by the deadline. One of these failed to meet the essential criteria used to assess the proposals and had not been shortlisted. The two shortlisted sponsors had been questioned at a public meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and interviewed by a joint member/officer Assessment Panel on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The Assessment Panel had recommended that the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust be named as the Council's preferred sponsor for both schools.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Downes noted his continuing concern about the process for identifying sponsors for new schools, particularly the costs involved. In relation to the Littleport schools, he reported two particular concerns. One related to the financial overheads for the new schools and the salaries to be paid to staff, which would come from the schools' budgets. The other related to the curriculum pattern proposed, with pupils streamed upon entry to Year 7 on the basis on SATs results and no languages taught to those pupils in the bottom set. He expressed concern that this approach would not be condoned in schools elsewhere in the County and asked whether any approach had been made to the Trust to ask them to change their curriculum structure.

Responding to the speaker, the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to raise these issues, but noted that particularly the question of costs was a matter for the Trust.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, expressed concern that although the public meeting had been well attended, a number of interested District Councillors had been able to attend because it had clashed with an

East Cambridgeshire District Council full Council meeting. The Assistant Education Officer explained how the clash had arisen and apologised. Officers were asked to take care to avoid clashes with District Council meetings in future.

It was resolved:

- 1) To endorse Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust being named as the Council's preferred sponsor for the new secondary and special school to be established in Littleport
- 2) To inform the Secretary of State for Education, as the decision maker in this case, of Cabinet's endorsement of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust's application with immediate effect.

#### **195. CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT FOR 2014-16**

Members received a report on the actions being taken to ensure that the Council had sufficient accommodation for the children and young people in its care and complied with its statutory duty to produce a Sufficiency Strategy. Members noted that the Council's core principles were to ensure that care was of high quality, as close to the child's home as possible, available when needed and cost effective; and that full-time high quality educational provision was accessible, with disruption to children's education minimised.

Members noted the steps being taken to reduce the use of out of County placements, including encouraging providers to come into the County and improving the quality of existing provision. The Council was also working with neighbouring local authorities to ensure that each was using its own provision whenever possible.

It was resolved:

To support the approach being taken to ensure the sufficiency of accommodation for children in the care of the County Council and to approve the Sufficiency Statement attached to the report.

#### **196. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDYPERSON SERVICE: PROCUREMENT**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Yeulett, advised members that the Health and Wellbeing Board had asked a task and finish group to consider how best to continue to provide multi-agency handyman services across the County. These services made a key contribution to improving both housing and health, particularly by reducing older people's falls. The task and finish group had recommended that the County Council lead on the procurement of services.

It was resolved:

To approve Cambridgeshire County Council as the lead authority for the procurement of handyman services to be delivered across Cambridgeshire, subject to the necessary approvals from each partner organisation:

- Cambridge City Council

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council.

## **197. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance presented an update on the Corporate Risk Register. He noted that the Council's Strategic Management Team (SMT) had reviewed the Register on 10<sup>th</sup> February. SMT had made three changes to the Risk Register:

- Risk 9, Failure to secure funding for infrastructure, had been increased to a red residual risk, reflecting the Government's announcement that the Council's funding for schools infrastructure would be reduced from an anticipated £34 million to £4 million
- Risk 15, Failure to safeguard vulnerable children and adults, had been increased to a red residual risk
- A new risk, Risk 25, Failure to transfer effectively from a Leader/Cabinet model to a Committee system. Members noted that this risk was missing from the risk map circulated with the report and should be showing as amber, unlikely in terms of probability and high in terms of potential impact. SMT's view was that this was a relatively low risk and that the Council's high standards of governance would be maintained.

Cabinet members sought assurance in relation to Risks 9 and 15 that appropriate mitigation measures were in place. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance confirmed that they were. In relation to Risk 9, the Chief Executive had written to the Department for Education to set out the implications of the reduced capital investment in schools and discussions were continuing. If additional funding was not received, the Council would still meet its statutory duty to provide school places, but this could have an impact on other services. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, noted that insufficient funding for infrastructure could also slow down the overall rate of growth in the County. In relation to Risk 15, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance noted that considerable efforts were being made to ensure that the Council's safeguarding arrangements were as effective as possible, but that the circumstances of vulnerable children and adults meant that the residual risk of harm would always be high.

It was resolved:

To note the position in respect of corporate risk.

## **198. CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME**

A motion had been passed at Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 calling upon Cabinet to investigate and implement a Cycle to Work scheme for all Cambridgeshire County Council employees, subject to it being cost-neutral.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, now presented a report setting out how such a scheme might be implemented. There were two options, the first using Halfords via an existing Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation contract and the second via a tender process, with a national cycle scheme operator, using small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Neither option was cost-neutral as they would require administrative time. The cost of the second option was slightly higher, as the Council would have to prepare the tender document, but this option had the advantage of supporting local businesses and increasing the range of shops from which employees could buy bicycles.

Two non-Cabinet members spoke on this item:

- Councillor Kavanagh welcomed the progress made to introduce a Cycle to Work scheme for the Council. He expressed his support for option 2, which would support local businesses throughout the County at a time when they faced significant competition from national on-line companies. He also reminded members that successful implementation of the scheme would lead to reduced employer's National Insurance contributions for the County Council.
- Councillor Bywater also welcomed progress with the scheme, noting that increased uptake of cycling would bring significant health benefits to employees, who would be able to use bicycles for leisure as well as for commuting. He also supported option 2, since this would support local businesses, who themselves promoted cycling events, and were distributed across the County, making them more accessible to employees.

In response to a query, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance explained that at the end of the salary sacrifice period, a number of options were available, which helped to ensure that the employee retained the bicycle if they wished.

It was resolved:

- 1) To approve the introduction of a Cycle to Work scheme for staff, based on option 2 from the report
- 2) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, or the appropriate Committee, the authority to approve the details of the scheme and to commence procurement for a supplier
- 3) To monitor the effectiveness of the scheme and report to Members after one full year of operation to determine the long-term future of the scheme.



## **199. GREATER CAMBRIDGE GREATER PETERBOROUGH STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN**

Cabinet was invited to endorse the Strategic Economic Plan, which had been prepared by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership. Members noted that the Strategic Economic Plan would form the basis for the Local Enterprise Partnership's bid to Government for Local Growth Deal funding, which would be used to deliver priorities for transport and digital infrastructure, business growth, innovation and skills.

Cabinet members asked why the SEP as submitted by the LEP sought only £1.2 million for major transport scheme development for 2015, as compared with the £4.5 million requested by the Local Transport Board. Members were advised that the funds available were significantly oversubscribed and as such the LEP reduced the revenue ask, and that the Government would be seeking a sharp focus on links to housing. However, members felt that it was important for the LEP to work with the County Council to maximise benefit for the County.

It was resolved:

- 1) To note progress on developing the Strategic Economic Plan led by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership
- 2) To endorse the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan included as Appendix 1 to the report
- 3) To note the Council's concerns about the level of revenue funding support for major scheme development and authorise officers to pursue this issue in the ongoing negotiations with the LEP and Government.

## **200. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE APPROVAL BODY**

Members received an update on the steps being taken to establish a Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body. Members noted that secondary legislation and guidance were still awaited. However, the Approval Body would be the responsibility of the County Council under its Lead Local Flood Authority duties, as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and so appropriate preparations were being made.

Members commented that clarification was also still awaited on insurance arrangements for new developments with identified flooding risks.

It was resolved:

- 1) To approve continued working with partners and internal teams as outlined in the report to develop the role
- 2) To approve a pre-application fee of £55 per hour (minimum 1 hour) for sustainable drainage advice from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, to be increased annually in line with inflation.

## **201. ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

Cabinet received the annual update on the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy. As required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, this included a review of the objectives and actions set out in the Strategy.

Members made the following comments:

- Commended the effective partnership working evidenced in the Strategy. Members noted that it was the County Council's responsibility to carry out flood asset inspections; however, the Council was considerably assisted by reports received from Parish Councils and community flood risk groups.
- Emphasised the need for good co-operation between Anglian and Cambridge Water companies and the Parish Councils.
- Welcomed the installation of flood warning telemetry systems on roads liable to flooding, which would provide motorists with more accurate and up to date information on road closures.

It was resolved:

- 1) To support the work that was being undertaken, as detailed in the objectives and actions of the Strategy
- 2) To support the Council's Highway Authority statement of responsibility
- 3) To support the enforcement protocol.

## **202. ASSET INFORMATION HIGHWAY CHARGES 2014/15**

The meeting of Cabinet held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 had agreed a number of charges which would be levied by Economy, Transport and Environment, and further agreed that additional work would be undertaken on the Asset Information Highway Charges, to ensure that policies were aligned with the needs set out in the Council's Business Plan. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure now presented a report setting out proposed new charges for Asset Information Highway Charges.

It was resolved:

To approve the proposed new Asset Information Highway Charges for 2014-15.

## **203. LOCALISM**

Members received a report on the Council's approach to localism, which summarised both principles and the initiatives being implemented.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Criswell noted his involvement in promoting localism projects to build community resilience. He thanked the Community Engagement team for their work to support members and communities. He explained that the aim was to embed localism into service policy and delivery and suggested that to reinforce this, a lead member for localism should be identified under the new Committee arrangements and an implications paragraph on 'Localism and Local Member Involvement' be added to the report template for the new Committees.

Members also congratulated all those involved in current projects and noted that the three partners in Wisbech trialling a new form of Timebanking called Time Credits were the Orchards Primary School in Waterlees, Wisbech South Children's Centre and the Ferry Project.

It was resolved:

- 1) To endorse the County Council's approach to Localism and the role of the Community Engagement Team as set out in the position paper
- 2) That the 'Significant Implications' section of the Committee report template be amended to include a section on 'Localism and Local Member Involvement'
- 3) To recommend that the General Purposes Committee considers whether there is a need to put in place arrangements to maintain a strategic overview of Localism initiatives in order to ensure integration between services.

#### **204. POSITION STATEMENT: DELEGATIONS FROM CABINET TO CABINET MEMBERS AND/OR OFFICERS**

Cabinet received a position statement on progress with matters delegated to individual Cabinet members and/or to officers.

It was resolved to note:

- 1) The progress on delegations to individual Cabinet Members and/or to officers
- 2) The decision made by Council on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 that one-off delegations to individual Cabinet members still outstanding on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014, when the Council moves to the new Committee arrangements, will transfer to the relevant Committee Chairman, in consultation with the relevant Executive or Corporate Director. This is a transitional arrangement and applies only to the one-off delegations identified as outstanding in the Cabinet report, plus any further delegations made at the Cabinet meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

#### **205. NEW CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT FOR THE EASTERN SHIRES PURCHASING ORGANISATION (ESPO)**

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, presented the new ESPO Consortium Agreement for approval. This had been under discussion for some time and had been endorsed by the ESPO Management Committee. The

Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance thanked Councillor J Reynolds for his diligence as the Council's representative on the ESPO Management Committee.

It was resolved:

- 1) To delegate approval of the Consortium Agreement between the Member Authorities of ESPO in substantially the terms set out in the report to the LGSS Director: Law, Property and Governance
- 2) To delegate authority to the LGSS Director: Law, Property and Governance to enter into the Consortium Agreement
- 3) To approve the recommendations set out the confidential Appendix to the report.

## **206. CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUIDED BUSWAY DEFECTS**

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, presented a report on Cambridgeshire Guided Busway defects. He reminded members that the report was in two parts. The first part was open and set out factual information about the defects. The second part was confidential and contained information about the Council's claim against BAM Nuttall for unsettled defects that remained the subject of litigation, together with information about possible future litigation relating to defects identified since completion of the Busway.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Mason reminded members that he had submitted a motion to the Council meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 calling for the establishment of a Scrutiny Panel to examine all aspects of the Guided Busway scheme in public and to report back to Council. He noted that in preparing this motion, he had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer, and expressed disappointment that information on defects was only now being made publicly available, which if available at the time of the Council meeting might have influenced members' voting on his motion. He expressed serious concern at the severity of the defects now being identified and at the statement in the open part of the report that 'the impact of these on the serviceability and longevity of the guideway is currently being considered'. He emphasised that he would continue to pursue his aim of full public scrutiny of the scheme.

It was resolved:

- 1) To note the actions that had been taken to investigate the causes of defects in the construction of the Busway and to explore possible courses of action to resolve the defects
- 2) To reaffirm Cabinet's previous decision to recover costs payable by BAM Nuttall in respect of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway construction contract
- 3) To approve the continuation of the work to establish possible courses of action to resolve the defects

- 4) To delegate to the Busway Contract Resolution Group the authority to take all decisions necessary or incidental to the management of necessary action in relation to the work referred to in recommendation 3) above
- 5) To approve the allocation of funding as identified in paragraph 5.2 of the report
- 6) To request that a further report be brought to the appropriate Committee when the above work is complete, for the Committee to determine the appropriate course of action.

## **207. THANKS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

As this was the last meeting of Cabinet before the Council moved to a new Committee system, the Chief Executive on behalf of officers thanked Cabinet members for their dedication and commitment to their roles. As Chairman for the meeting, Councillor McGuire thanked all those officers who had supported members' work under the Cabinet system.

Chairman