

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 2nd December 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.

Present: Councillor J M Tuck Chairman

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

Apologies: None

Also in Attendance

Councillors: M Ballard, P Downes, D Jenkins and A Kent.

658. MINUTES 4th NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th November 2008 were approved as a correct record.

659. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following member declared personal interests under Paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct.

Councillor J. Reynolds as the chairman of Renewables East regarding any items on recycling that might appear in reports on the agenda.

660. PETITIONS.

None.

661. REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None.

662. STATEMENT FROM ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Further to the publication the previous day of the damning report from the Office for Standards In Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED), Healthcare Commission and Chief Inspector of Constabulary report into the death of Baby P (who was on the Child Protection Register in the London Borough of Haringey) and the highlighted failings of child protection services, the Leader of the Council requested an update regarding the action being undertaken to review safeguarding procedures for children in Cambridgeshire.

As a result, the Acting Deputy Chief Executive of Children and Young People's Services informed Cabinet that:

- All children who were on the child protection register in Cambridgeshire had, had their cases reviewed by independent review officers to check they had all been properly allocated and the outcomes would be reported back to the Director of Social Care.
- Area managers had reviewed the allocation of all their child protection cases.
- The County Council's three Area Directors had been visiting social care teams across the County.
- The Council's Deputy Chief Executive (CE) for Children and Young People's Services had already written to staff, encouraging them to contact him directly about any concerns they might have around the safeguarding of children in Cambridgeshire.
- The Local Safeguarding Board for Cambridgeshire would be meeting the following Tuesday and had an item for discussion on the agenda regarding the progress that had been made on Lord Laming's original recommendations following the tragic death of Victoria Climbié.

The Acting Deputy CE made it clear that while it was important to review and challenge processes, it was also important for management to support staff in their work and in order for them to be able to make difficult decisions when necessary.

663. EXTENSION OF AGE RANGE OF PARKSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cabinet noted that 'The Learning and Skills Act 2000' provided an entitlement to further education and training for young people aged 16-19. As part of its strategy, the Government had introduced a measure to create more high quality 16-18 places in schools, whereby high performing 11-16 specialist schools who applied for, and were granted a second specialism, would automatically be offered the opportunity to develop proposals to extend their age ranges and to open sixth forms.

The pattern of provision in the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire area was set to change following the granting of sixth form presumptions to the following three schools as a result of their designation as high-performing specialist schools:

Comberton Village College
Parkside Community College, Cambridge
Cottenham Village College.

Cabinet noted that Parkside Community College had decided to proceed with proposals to establish a sixth form having responded to three objections received as detailed in the Cabinet report.

The Local member for Coleridge spoke in support of the proposals.

Cabinet members raised the following issues:

- Whether it would be possible to deliver the accommodation changes by September 2009. In response, it was indicated that the implementation date was in fact 2011 and work was already in hand, including identification of capital requirements from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) with an architect having also now been employed and therefore the date was expected to be able to be met.

It was resolved:

To approve the implementation of the extension of the age range of Parkside Community College from 11-16 to 11-19 to take effect on 1 September 2011 to provide for a total of 240 post-16 students.

664. SHIRLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAST CHESTERTON, CAMBRIDGE

Cabinet was reminded that in 2005/06, the Authority had undertaken a review of primary educational provision in East Chesterton in Cambridge. At that time, East Chesterton was served by Shirley Community Nursery and Infant School and St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School. The review had been prompted by a number of factors, but a key driver being that following an inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) undertaken in July 2005, St Andrew's Junior School had been placed in special measures for the second time.

Following extensive consultation with the local community, at the conclusion of the review the Authority's preferred option was to close St Andrew's Junior School, and extend the age range of Shirley Community Nursery and Infant School to create a 420-place 3-11 extended services community nursery and primary school on the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site. The ownership of the St Andrew's site, including the playing fields, was transferred in the 1980s from the County Council to the Cambridge Old Schools Trust. Cabinet noted that to give effect to the review recommendations, it was necessary for the County Council to gain possession of the site on terms that would safeguard, in the long term, its significant planned capital investment in the accommodation required to enable the new all-through Shirley Community Primary School to operate on a single site.

In May 2006, Cabinet had considered a report detailing the outcome of negotiations with the Cambridge Old Schools Trust and was advised that given the need to provide new primary schools in the Cambridge area to meet the demands of new housing developments, it was highly probable that the Trustees' interest could be replaced through a new school within five years which was a key feature of the original agreement. However, if this proved not to be the case, it would be necessary to undertake a review of the capital programme. Cabinet was given assurances that the interim rental commitments could be found from within existing resources. Cabinet therefore agreed to:

- i) The development of a legal agreement in accordance with the agreement in principle negotiated with the Cambridge Old Schools Trust; and:
- ii) The application of the capital receipt to be generated through the sale of the site of Shirley Community Infant School to the costs of the development of the site currently occupied by St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School.

A legal agreement was duly concluded for the Shirley Primary School upper site (the former St Andrew's Junior School site) with the details as set out in the report to Cabinet. Section 3 of the Cabinet report detailed the most recent negotiations undertaken with the Trust as a result of the planned building works. These had, had a direct impact on the school, its staff, children, parents/carers and community users, as it has not been possible to commence building work whilst terms have still to be agreed.

Cabinet was informed that the new school competition regulations and the recent downturn in the housing market resulted in there now being much less certainty about securing a replacement school site for the Trust by 2011. The County Council therefore faced the prospect of having to purchase the site at market value, which would have a direct impact on the capital programme. A larger building footprint was being created to enable Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School to operate on a single site in high quality educational facilities. Consequently Cabinet was informed that the Trustees of St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School:-

- a) Required a higher capital payment for a 999 year lease of land, if an alternative school site did not become available, as the brownfield area of the site for which the County Council had previously agreed to pay market value had been extended.
- b) Required a higher annual rent for the site of the extended buildings in the interim. The Council required 0.755 acres of the playing field/playground to secure the planned building work necessary to enable Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School to operate on a single site.
- c) Would reduce the annual charge to the Council for the use of the smaller area of playing fields.

It was recognised that as the building programme for the new school had already been delayed due to the protracted negotiations over securing the land required for the extended building, it was now necessary to enter into an amended lease to allow building to proceed. Due to the educational imperative to commence building work, officers' recommendation to Cabinet was to proceed by way of an early access agreement to be agreed between the Council's and the Trust's solicitors, pending completion of the formal lease.

An additional resolution was agreed in relation to Cabinet requiring it to receive an update report in respect of the conclusion of the legal negotiations expected to be finalised in terms of being able to report back during the second part of the Spring term. Assurances were also provided that due consideration had been given to financial ceilings on transactions during ongoing negotiations.

Comments provided just before the meeting by the local Member for East Chesterton in support of the proposals were summarised and read out orally and have been included as an appendix to these minutes.

It was resolved:

- i) To approve the acquisition of an enlarged area of the Shirley Site should it not prove possible to provide the Trust with a replacement school site.
- ii) To endorse the proposal that, due to the educational imperative to commence building work to enable Shirley Primary School to operate as a single-site 420-place extended services primary school with children's centre, officers be authorised to proceed with an early access agreement to be agreed between the Council's and the Cambridge Old School's Trust's solicitors, pending completion of the formal lease.

- iii) That Cabinet should receive a further report in the spring to ensure the safeguards were fully in place.

**665. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL
SOUTHERN FRINGE DETERMINATION OF PROMOTER**

Cabinet was reminded that the Education and Inspection Act 2006 had extended school competition requirements requiring invitations for other potential promoters to enter into a competition to provide any new primary and special schools. Cabinet was informed that the Southern Fringe, one of the urban extensions to Cambridge approved as part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan adopted in 2003, was planned to provide a total of 4100 dwellings across the following sites:

Trumpington Meadows
Clay Farm/Showground
Glebe Farm
Bell School

It was reported that the following educational and community infrastructure requirements had been identified to serve Trumpington Meadows, based on forecast pupil and overall population figures for a development of the size planned:

- A 360 place primary school with on-site provision for delivery of early years education.
- A community centre to be co-located with the school.
- A multi-use games area in the form of an all-weather pitch.
- Two grass pitches for use by the school and the wider community, which is additional to what would normally be provided for a primary school.

In line with the provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Authority had published a notice in April 2008 inviting proposals from organisations interested in establishing the first primary school to serve Trumpington Meadows to open on 1 September 2010 initially providing places for 210 children. In response, only one bid had been received, from The Fawcett Federation Group.

The report to Cabinet detailed the main areas for consideration in assessing competition proposals with the conclusion being that the promoters had produced a strong, well written bid that not only met, but exceeded the criteria in a number of areas. The assessment process had identified a small number of areas, for further exploration and development with the School's governing body and leadership team as set out in paragraph 6.5 of the Cabinet report.

Corrections were orally provided to the printed report in terms of the number of dwellings to be provided for Trumpington Meadows, with a reduction in the figure from 1300 to 1200. It was also noted that the dwelling figures for Clay Farm/ Showground would be slightly less and for the Bell School slightly more than as currently set out in the report.

In response to concerns raised, Members were informed of the steps being taken to try to ensure in the future that more than one bid came forward, while recognising why primary schools with limited capacity might be reluctant to prepare a bid.

In response to a question raised, it was confirmed that officers had no reason to plan for any delay in the opening of the school as a result of the current slowdown in house-building and any possible effect on school rolls, although this would be kept under review and if there was a need to reconsider provision, this would be via a report back to Cabinet.

It was resolved:

- i) That conditional approval should be granted to the Fawcett Federation Group to establish the Trumpington Meadows Primary School in Cambridge;
- ii) That the federation governing body be asked to commit to enter into a formal agreement with the City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council, and thereby secure continued community access to the education, sport, leisure and general community facilities funded through Section 106 agreements which will be available on the school site; and
- iii) That, where appropriate, the specifications for future new school competitions should provide a greater level of detail in respect of the expectations on potential promoters in terms of securing community access to facilities to be established on school sites funded through S106 developer contributions.

666. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY

Cabinet received a report providing details on the new statutory duties regarding the provision of sufficient childcare, the priorities identified in Cambridgeshire's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007-08 and the proposals included in the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan to address the priorities. Cabinet noted that underpinning the Action Plan was a cross-cutting work plan which mapped out how specific tasks and objectives would be addressed.

It was noted that Cambridgeshire's first Childcare Sufficiency Assessment had been completed within statutory timescales. The Assessment showed that Cambridgeshire was generally well served for childcare, while identifying 20 clear priorities for the local authority to address, in order to secure sufficient childcare as detailed in appendix A of the Cabinet report. The gaps identified in the main, confirmed existing knowledge of the state of the childcare market.

It was resolved:

- i) To note the priorities identified in Cambridgeshire's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007-08;
- ii) To agree that the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan set out as appendix B of the report presented reasonable actions to address these priorities;
- iii) To agree to the implementation of the Childcare Sufficiency Action.

667. CAMBRIDGESHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND REVISION IN THE TIMETABLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN

Cabinet received a report informing it that the Government had recently introduced changes to the way in which Development Plans were to be prepared. This change in procedure now required public consultation on a Plan prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. Previously the two stages could be carried out simultaneously and Cabinet noted that the change would have the effect of elongating the process and would have an impact on the existing timetable for the preparation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan, and for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents, which Cabinet had agreed in April 2008 for insertion into the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.

It was further noted that during the recent consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan (Preferred Options 2) the Government Office for the East of England (GO) had provided guidance that the Council needed to clarify the format and relationship of the three documents which made up the Plan, and to consider whether any strategic allocations should be placed in the primary document, the Core Strategy, rather than deferred to site specific documents which will result in a more streamlined process. The most strategic proposals in the Plan were those for the Earith / Mepal area, where long term proposals for sand and gravel extraction and waste management were being put forward in tandem with sustainable flood management and significant habitat creation associated with the Ouse Washes. Cabinet noted that if the proposals for Earith / Mepal Area were moved into the Core Strategy as a strategic allocation, there would be no need for a separate Area Action Plan, reducing the number of Examinations required by Planning Inspectorate from 3 to 2 as well as bringing down the number of documents to be produced.

It was indicated that following the recent consultation exercise in September / October, around 20 new sites had been identified, and that there would be an informal consultation on these sites during January / February 2009. Reference was made in relation to any of the proposed new minerals sites of the need to keep local residents fully informed of any proposed lorry movements on B roads through villages. Officers indicated that those sites being taken forward in the Submission Plan would be the subject of a further round of consultation in February / March 2010. The point was however made that unlike waste sites, minerals sites were governed by where mineral deposits lay.

It resolved to:

- i) Agree to amend the Cambridge Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, incorporating the provision for:
 - Mineral and Waste Plan pre-submission consultation in February / March 2010, with submission to the Secretary of State in July 2010, and Examination and Adoption following by mid 2011
 - the preparation of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan (SPD) and the Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities (SPD) with public consultation taking place at the same time as the Pre-Submission consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan (February / March 2010)

- ii) To delegate to the portfolio holder for Economy, Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive of Environment and Community Services, the authority to approve the amendments to the timetable and the consequential amendments to Minerals and Waste Development Scheme for submission to the Government Office.
- iii) To approve the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (to come into effect when the Council receives notification under Regulation 11 (3a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2004, that the Secretary of State does not intend to serve a direction to amend the Scheme, under Section 15 (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

For the Minerals and Waste Plan this results in the revised timetable as follows:

Stage	Main Cambridgeshire Member Meetings	Date in M&W Scheme
Preferred Options 2 Consultation	n/a Member processes completed	September / October 2008
	County Council election process June 2009	
Pre-Submission Stage public consultation	Development Control Committee September 2009 Policy Development Group September 2009 SMT Cabinet September 2009 Cabinet – October 2009 <i>County Council – October 2009</i>	February / March 2010
Submission to the Secretary of State	No Member processes required	July 2010
	Development Control Committee and Planning Development Group to be consulted on preparation of Council's case at Examination – December 2010	
Pre-Examination meeting	No Member processes required	Sept 2010
Commencement of Examination*	No Member processes required	Nov 2010
Adoption	Timing of Member meetings to be confirmed at a later stage	June 2011

* two examinations to be held sequentially

668. WASTE PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) DELIVERY BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT BUDGET

Cabinet received a report seeking approval for amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Waste PFI Delivery Board, as well as providing information in respect of the operating procedures for the Waste Management Budget.

For the reasons set out in the detailed report to Cabinet, some flexibility was required to financially manage the PFI contract from one year to another. The uncertainty of the contract lay in longer-term projections of developing costs year-on-year. Given the sensitivity of PFI costs/income to market forces and commodity prices, the financial assumptions of the model would need to be reviewed and recalibrated through the Integrated Planning process, as predictions were refined year-on-year. It was therefore agreed that annual budgets would have an allowed margin of +/- 2% of the set limit, as a risk buffer against the impact of a fluctuating market within a single financial year. Monies within the +/- 2% buffer could be carried forward into the next financial year while if the budget had a surplus or deficit beyond that buffer, monies would either be paid to, or drawn down from, central corporate reserves, subject to the normal virement rules and approvals. It was confirmed that both the Residual Waste Budget and the PFI Budget would operate in accordance with the Council's Financial Scheme of Delegation and the rules and procedures therein.

An important point raised as a question, for which assurance was provided, was that even with the current fall in the market value of recyclable materials, the County Council and its partners were still not diverting such materials to landfill.

It was resolved:

- i) To approve the following amendments to the Terms of Reference and to approve the continuation of the Board's delegated authority namely to revise the purpose of the Delivery Board to read:

"To provide strategic and political oversight of the implementation of the Waste PFI project following Contract signature and until the major facilities are operational (estimated delivery date November 2010)"

The following addition to the remit of the Delivery Board, to meet the needs of contract implementation:

- Contract changes to be considered by the Board prior to submission to Cabinet.

The following changes to be made to the Delivery Board membership:

- removal of Deputy Chief Executive, Environment and Community Services (ECS)
- removal of Director of Finance, Property and Performance (from December 2008)
- removal of Head of Legal Services
- removal of Director of Communications
- addition of 2 representatives of Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)

- ECS (Director of Environment & Regulation)
 - Office of Corporate Services OCS (to be confirmed following CLT restructure)
 - addition of Head of Finance & Performance (ECS)
 - addition of Head of Waste
 - addition of PFI Mobilisation Manager
 - addition of Waste Communications and Media Manager
 - Waste Business Manager/Waste Infrastructure Manager (as required.)
- ii) To note the procedures for operation of the Waste PFI Budget as set out in 2.2.4 to 2.2.7 of the Cabinet report.

669. ELY MARKET TOWN TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Cabinet received details of the proposed Ely Market Town Transport Strategy, which was intended to form part of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11.

Cabinet noted that the Ely Market Town Transport Strategy had first been adopted in 2002, and the review of the strategy had commenced in 2007. It was reported that the new strategy identified the key transport issues facing Ely and outlined a programme of transport schemes to address the transport needs of the city over the next five years. The transport schemes and measures included in the Strategy had been informed by stakeholder and public consultation which took place between November 2007 and February 2008 and were further guided by the views and recommendations of a Member Steering Group.

Cabinet noted that the programme in the Strategy had been prioritised to give an indication of the possible timescale for delivery of individual measures. The priority order reflected the views obtained through the public consultation exercise, an assessment of deliverability and the views of local Members through the Member Steering Group, and through the East Cambridgeshire Area Joint Committee (AJC). The Strategy and the programme of schemes included within it were consistent with the aims and objectives of the County Council's Local Transport Plan 2006-11 and had been designed to contribute towards the wider economic vitality and viability of the city. It was highlighted that the delivery of measures in the Strategy would also contribute towards achieving transport targets included in the new National Indicator set, and other local transport targets.

Cabinet was reminded that the pace at which the Strategy could be implemented was depend on the availability of funding and that members should be careful not to raise unduly residents' expectations of what could be achieved. It was reported that most funding would be from the Local Transport Plan, but in order to fully realise the objectives of the Strategy, other funding sources, such as developer Section 106 monies would be utilised where possible. Based on the expected level of funding, the East Cambridgeshire AJC would be presented with a programme of works from the Strategy on an annual basis.

It was resolved:

To approve the Ely Market Town Transport Strategy for adoption as part of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2006 -11.

670. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet was reminded that the current Local Transport Plan (LTP2) had been published in 2006 setting out the transport strategy for the County for the five-year period between 2006/07 and 2010/11. The Plan detailed how the County Council would spend Government capital funding allocated for transport and how this would enable the County Council to meet local and national targets. The strategy, targets and programme within the Plan had been based on 'planning guidelines' that the Government has given the County Council, which indicated likely levels of funding up until 2010/11.

It was reported that Central Government was currently monitoring the progress made by Transport Authorities in delivering their second Local Transport Plans and the County Council was required to submit a full Delivery Report on progress made during the first two years of LTP2 to Government by the end of December 2008. Detailed commentary on the progress of each of the indicators was set out in the relevant Shared Priorities chapter of the progress report.

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure highlighted his concerns regarding the deterioration of footways, which he would be discussing further with the officers. In respect of the Transport Innovation Fund, it was highlighted that the issues were still being investigated and no views had been made either way in terms of congestion charging. The report highlighted the areas of improvement, including the continued progress in the reduction in the number off road casualties and the continued increase in passenger patronage of buses in the County.

It was resolved:

- i) To Approves the Local Transport Plan 2008 Delivery Report for submission to Government.
- ii) To authorises the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive for Environment and Community Services, to make any detailed changes necessary to the above document prior to its submission to Government.

671. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMBOURNE'S THIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL - MODIFICATION TO APPROVED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Cabinet was reminded that In 2007 the Authority had identified the need to establish a third primary school to serve Cambourne in response to pressure on primary school places and forecast future need and that the establishment of the third primary school had been dependent on the success of the planning application for an additional 950 homes.

Cabinet noted that in line with the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Authority had held a competition inviting bids from interested parties to establish and run the proposed new school. Due to uncertainty over the timing and outcome of South Cambridgeshire District Council's (SCDC's) consideration of the planning application for the additional 950 houses, it had been decided to pursue proposals to establish the third primary school (to open on 1 September 2008) in temporary accommodation on a site adjacent to Jeavons Wood.

Following the conclusion of all statutory processes, Cabinet in April 2008 granted approval to the Comberton Educational Trust to establish the new school. As a result of the failure to agree suitable terms over access to either the Jeavons Wood or the adjacent site in their ownership, due to the outstanding issue of the developers' planning application for the additional 950 homes, Cabinet at that time had also approved a recommendation to defer the planned opening date to September 2009. In the interim period, Hardwick Primary School had agreed to provide additional Reception places with Cabinet approving that:

- the proposed initial intake numbers for the school be modified to 30 for Reception and Year 1, 20 for Year 2, and 5 for Years 3 and 4; and
- the proposed new school and The Vine Inter-church Primary School to operate a combined catchment area for a minimum of three years.

Cabinet noted that while planning permission for the establishment of the school in temporary accommodation on the site adjacent to Jeavons Wood had been secured, negotiations over the granting of access to the temporary site and the Jeavons Wood site had reached an impasse due to the outstanding decision on the planning application. As a result, there was the urgent need to secure an alternative, temporary site. Officers reported that following an approach from Cambourne Parish Council, agreement had been reached to site the school on land vested to the Parish Council for future use as a cemetery. One Member expressed the hope that lessons could be learnt for the future as a result of the long prevaricated planning process that had taken place in this particular case.

Cabinet was informed that as at 31 October 2008, available data of children living in Cambourne attending pre-school and early years settings now indicated that there were at least 175 children who would be eligible for Reception entry in September 2009. Between them, the existing schools, Monkfield Park Primary and The Vine Inter-church Aided Primary, provide 120 places. In order to ensure there were now sufficient places available in Cambourne to meet potential need, it was essential for the new primary school to offer 60 Reception places, rather than the 30 places approved by Cabinet in April 2008. It was accepted during discussion that in future there was a need for officers to ensure that the Demography Team's forecasts on potential new pupils school should be updated and monitored on a regular basis.

Taking account of the fact that there were places in Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) in the two existing Cambourne schools and at Hardwick Primary school, in discussion with those headteachers and the Principal of Comberton Village College, it had been agreed to increase the number of Year 2 places from 20 to 30 and not make any places available for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. As a result,

It was resolved:

That the admission arrangements for entry to Cambourne's third primary school in 2009/10 should be modified to 60 places in Reception, 30 places for Year 1 and 30 places for Year 2.

672. NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS

Cabinet received a report informing it of the work that had been undertaken to develop Neighbourhood Panels in partnership with the District Councils and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

It was noted that further work was to be undertaken to cement the Council's partnership with the Constabulary and the District Councils, and to maximise the opportunities the panels provided for the Council, with its partners, to strengthen community engagement across Cambridgeshire.

Cabinet had agreed to work with partners to develop Neighbourhood Panels so that they fulfilled three key aims:

- i) To improve outcomes for local people by bringing agencies together to address problems in a joined-up way
- ii) To help citizens engage with and influence public service delivery and democratic governance
- iii) To support local communities in taking local action.

The exact arrangements for how these aims would be delivered was expected to vary from district to district in response to local needs, as it was accepted that there was no one best solution. The following general operating principles had been identified as key during discussions:

- Elected representatives should be part of a Panel which should meet in public. The balance and makeup of the Panel should be decided locally;
- A substantial part of the meeting time should be allocated to questions from the public or an open forum;
- Time should be allocated for the neighbourhood policing team to present the neighbourhood profile and establish priorities with the public;
- Issues raised by the public at meetings should be referred to the appropriate agencies or group of agencies and action taken. Outcomes should be reported back at the following meeting.

To fulfil the aims described above effectively, it was seen as essential that Neighbourhood Panels were 'bottom-up' fora, where the agenda was driven by local concerns with their role being primarily consultative. Reference was also made to the need to ensure the views of both young people and the age group 21-50 were represented.

One member questioned the major priorities set out in Appendix 3 as he was not convinced that Youth was the major priority for all the neighbourhood panels currently listed. The Area Director for East Cambridgeshire and Fenland agreed to look at this further, to ensure the listings were accurate.

Details were provided of the intended remit of the two recently appointed Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officers (NPLOs) and the role of neighbourhood panel lead officers.

It was resolved:

- i) That to ensure that a consistent approach to responding to Neighbourhood Panels is adopted across the County Council from 1 January 2009, it was agreed to approve the proposals for the development of the panels as set out in the report, and specifically the following:

- the principle of a multi-agency approach to the development of Neighbourhood Panels
- the general operating principles set out at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Report
- Supporting the expectation that Members would attend their local Neighbourhood Panel
- Supporting the officer structures for delivering effective County Council input into the Neighbourhood Panels (through the role of the Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officers, Lead Officers, and the expectation that the wider County Council will engage with this approach (e.g. through individual services responding to Panel requests))

- ii) To agree that a review of Neighbourhood Panels should be undertaken in approximately a year's time (Autumn 2009).

673. INTEGRATED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008

Cabinet received and noted a report on the most up to date financial and performance information to assess progress in delivering the Council's Integrated Plan. The following performance issues were highlighted:-

- A planned review of performance targets had now been completed.
- Following the change earlier in the year to new National Performance Indicators, more performance data had been made available. However, a complete view of the Integrated Plan's performance was still not possible due to the timescales prescribed for data collection by the Audit Commission in its National Indicator Set definitions. Further work would be undertaken with a view to producing a full six-month report against all the relevant indicators.

Cabinet was pleased to note the improvement in the following performance indicators:-

- Young people's participation in youth service activities.
- Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.
- Adults, older people and carers receiving social care through a Direct Payment and/or Individual Budget per 100,000 of the population.
- Recruitment Lead Time: days between vacancy being notified to Recruitment and the interview.

In her absence the Director of Adult Support Services and her team (including all relevant Members, officers and partners) were congratulated in the achievement of Adult Social Support Services being awarded a two star rating by Government inspectors – doubling the previous year's one star rating score. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) had judged Adult Social Support Services in Cambridgeshire, to be delivering good outcomes for service users, with promising capacity for continued improvement.

The following finance issues as highlighted were also noted:

- Overall the budget position was showing a forecast year-end underspend of £1.4m, (-0.4 as a result of a £2m saving forecast within the Debt Charges.
- In Adult Support Services there continued to be forecast overspends in relation to Mental Health, Equipment Services and Older People & Occupational Therapy (OT) Pooled budget, which were partially offset by an underspend on Physical and Sensory Impairment. The pressure forecast within Community Learning and Development remained.
- In Children's Services an overspend was being predicted. Pressures identified within the Learning Directorate were partially offset by savings identified within the Planning and Development Directorate.
- In Corporate Services a large underspend was being forecast within the Financing section, which is due to savings forecast on Debt Charges.
- A £367k budget virement was highlighted as being required to be approved in order to offset the pressure forecast in Adults Mental Health Service from the forecast underspend within Physical and Sensory Impairment Service.
- There was a £11.5m of Unsupported Expenditure within the capital programme, of which £1.6m could be attributed to specific schemes. In addition there was an anticipated shortfall in required capital receipt income Cabinet was advised that it was being recommended that this funding gap should be bridged using Prudential Borrowing, which would require Cabinet approval at the end of the financial year, once the final outturn position was known.
- The level of debt continued to be a concern. Longer-term debt (more than 6 months) was £1.3m, which was £458k above the target level of £845k. Debt within the 4-6 month age range was being shown as £496k, which was £66k above the target level of £430k.
- That the draft Government grant settlement announced the previous week only resulted in additional expenditure of £1.71 per person in the county which equated to the price of a sandwich at a local supermarket.

The following general economic issues were also highlighted and noted:

- The Authority had, had no exposure to the Icelandic Banks. Treasury policies and procedures had been reviewed and the approach to investments, already prudent, had been further tightened.
- The impact on the Authority of the general economic downturn was being carefully monitored. In terms of debt charges, the Authority was still benefiting by lending cash surpluses at high rates of interest. In terms of inflation, there were some signs of growing pressure.
- In respect of house building, there were signs of a considerable slow-down. This was an issue of great concern as it might require the Authority to finance the interest charges arising from delays in section 106 receipts.
- The Council was helping local firms during the current recession by ensuring that it paid bills on time, but there was a need to see what pressure could be exerted on central government to encourage banks to start lending again and increase the cash-flow in the economy.
- The Authority had been requested to provide to Government a weekly economic situation report. A mechanism for receiving and analysing information from the City, Districts and other partners had therefore been set-up.
- The County was also working with other Local Area Agreement (LAA) partners to consider the impact of the economic down turn on local communities and this theme had been the subject of discussion at the Cambridgeshire Together economic summit on 20th November.

Regarding the above and in order to progress further work to support limiting the impact of a recession on residents and on voluntary and community organisations, especially those on the front line involved in helping people stay in jobs and homes, Cabinet discussed the need for a package of measures, having first been assured that there was money available.

It was resolved:

- i) To note the performance and financial information.
- ii) To approve the £367k budget virement from the Physical & Sensory Impairment Service to the Adults Mental Health Service.
- iii) To note that the capital funding gap would be bridged using Prudential Borrowing, which would require Cabinet approval at the end of the financial year.
- iv) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Communities in consultation with the Director of Finance, Property and Performance, the authority to prepare a package of measures with relevant partners for further consideration, in order to support the voluntary and community sector as it responded to the increased demands from Cambridgeshire's residents as a result of the deepening recession.

674. RURAL PASSENGER TRANSPORT UPDATE REPORT ON ACTION PLANS FROM SCRUTINY REVIEW

Cabinet received an update on the progress against the Environment and Community Services (ECS) Scrutiny Committee recommendations resulting from their review of Rural Transport, which had been reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 18th December 2007.

It was noted that the findings of the scrutiny report had formed part of Stage Two of the Passenger Transport Review. In general terms Cabinet was reminded that the findings, arguments and the nine recommendations of the ECS scrutiny review had been supported. However, it was felt that the resources necessary to complete all the recommendations had been underestimated and in some instances the target dates had been overly optimistic. Due to the concerns of Cabinet Members regarding these issues, it had therefore agreed that it would be appropriate to have an update report on progress a year later.

One Member made reference to concerns that had been brought to his attention regarding young people's strong views on accessing rural bus services and the negative attitudes encountered from some bus operators. It was agreed that these would be taken up with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure outside of the meeting.

It was resolved:

To note the progress being made on the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report.

675. DELEGATIONS FROM CABINET TO CABINET MEMBERS/OFFICERS

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

676. DRAFT AGENDA FOR 16th DECEMBER CABINET MEETING

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

An additional report for final Council approval, on proposed changes to the draft order for the Section 29 (Joint Cambridge Fringes) Committee.

677. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved:

to agree to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the consideration of the next report on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 1 ((information relating to any individual) paragraph 2 (disclosure of the identity of an individual), of Part 1 schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it would not be in the public interest for the information to be disclosed.

Cabinet agreed that other Members not on the Cabinet could remain to hear the debate.

678. CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM RESTRUCTURE

Cabinet considered the Chief Executive's plans to change the structure of the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, to ensure that the organisation continued to provide efficient and effective services, to meet the needs of the people of Cambridgeshire.

Cabinet recognised that there were a number of factors that supported further changes to the organisational structure to enable the Council to respond to new national, regional and local challenges and to generate greater capacity for continuous improvements and mainstream partnership working. In determining its support for the proposals to go forward to Full Council for its final approval, Cabinet paid particular attention to the confidential financial implications orally reported that indicated that savings were likely to result from the restructuring exercise.

It was resolved:

To note and support the recommendations proposed by the Chief Executive outlined in the report prior to their submission to the County Council on 9th December.

Chairman
2nd December 2008

Comments from the local Member for East Chesterton – Minute 664

The education provided by St Andrew's CoE(A) Junior School until 2006 was highly substandard, and the work that the Council put in to try to rectify that and then to close the school down and combine it with the much better Shirley Infants school was much appreciated, and had the prospect to make a great difference for the children in the catchment area.

However, since then the pace of development has been slow, undoing much of the good work that had been achieved. The school currently operates on split sites. The small Green End Road site was originally meant to be for Reception - Year 2 pupils and even for those had limited green space. It is now being used for Reception - Year 4 pupils with the additional two year groups being housed in mobile classrooms placed on the only green space on the site. The large Upper School site is used only for two small year groups (Years 5/6). It is essential that the building works are started, and more importantly completed, as soon as possible so that the negative impact to these children is minimised.

The delays are also causing many problems and concerns to the users of the attached community wing, as well as others who in the past have used facilities at St Andrew's. They face a considerable period of disruption and uncertainty, causing some groups to fold altogether, while others are being highly distracted by the search for new premises.

My request to you therefore is to agree the recommendations, as they seem to lead to the swiftest resolution for the users I represent.