

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 14th October 2014

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 15.25 p.m.

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor S Kindersley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors P Ashcroft, B Ashwood, A Bailey, I Bates, K Bourke, D Brown, P Brown, P Bullen, R Butcher, S Bywater, E Cearns, J Clark, D Connor, S Count, S Crawford, S Criswell, M Curtis, A Dent, D Divine, P Downes, S Frost, D Giles, G Gillick, D Harty, R Henson, R Hickford, J Hipkin, P Hudson, B Hunt, D Jenkins, N Kavanagh, G Kenney, A Lay, M Leeke, M Loynes, I Manning, M Mason, M McGuire, L Nethsingha, F Onasanya, T Orgee, J Palmer, P Reeve, J Reynolds, M Rouse, S Rylance, P Sales, J Schumann, J Scutt, M Shellens, M Smith, A Taylor, M Tew, P Topping, S van de Kerkhove, S van de Ven, A Walsh, J Whitehead, J Williams, G Wilson, J Wisson and F Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors P Clapp, P Lagoda, P Read, K Reynolds and M Shuter

94. MINUTES – 22ND JULY 2014

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22nd July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice-Chairman made a number of announcements as set out in **Appendix A**.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct.

97. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Council noted one question received from a member of the public as set out in **Appendix B**.

98. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

99. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN / WOMAN OF THE ADULTS COMMITTEE AND CAMBRIDGE CITY JOINT AREA COMMITTEE ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND SUBSTITUTES

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairman of Council, Councillor Kindersley, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Count, and agreed unanimously:

- a) To appoint Councillor Sandra Rylance as the Chairwoman of the Adults Committee.

- b) To approve the allocation of seats for the Cambridge City Joint Area Committee as set out in the report attached at Agenda Item 6.

100. PENSION FUND BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Chairman of the Pension Fund Board, Councillor Count, moved receipt of the annual report of the Pension Fund Board for 2013/14. As part of his introduction, he thanked all members who sat on the Board and Investment Sub-Committee and the officers in LGSS Pensions Services.

Council noted the report.

101. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Chairman of the Audit and Accounts Committee, Councillor Shellens, moved receipt of the annual report of the Audit and Accounts Committee for 2013/14. As part of his introduction, he thanked officers in LGSS Finance, Internal and External Audit, Democratic Services and Members of the Committee for their hard work. He agreed the following item for further action:

- To take a close interest in ensuring the development costs associated with Cambridge Science Park Station were recouped.

Council noted the report.

102. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10

Five motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10. With the agreement of the meeting, it was proposed to take motion (c) Motion from Councillor Criswell first.

a) Motion from Councillor Criswell

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Criswell and seconded by Councillor Manning. In moving the motion, Councillor Manning requested an alteration to the text as published on the agenda, which was accepted by Councillor Criswell and by Council (deletions struck through and additions underlined):

This Council acknowledges:

- the achievements of Council staff and partners in the considerable savings made to date;
- ~~that the level of efficiency savings often associated with unitary authorities~~ have already been made through collaborating with partners in projects such as Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) and Making Assets Count (MAC);
- that Cambridgeshire delivers its services at a lower net revenue cost per head of population than any other County in England being 27th out of 27;
- that when district and city council budgets are included, services across Cambridgeshire are delivered at less cost per head of population than the vast majority of either Unitary or County Authorities being 146th out of 150.

Notwithstanding this, Council recognises further savings may be possible under different governance arrangements.

Further, this Council recognises:

- the increasingly difficult financial challenge being placed on all public sector organisations.
- that within and outside of the council, business planning in service silos may not be the most efficient or sustainable way for the public sector to allocate its reduced funding;
- that the Government is seeking greater devolution of powers throughout the UK to enable more effective and efficient public spending;
- that various public sector scenarios already exist or are being discussed as part of the rewiring of public services; not limited to but including place-based budgets, unitaries, combined authorities, authorities under the control of a mayor and status quo;
- that in order to place Cambridgeshire County Council in the best position to take advantage of any possible changes the Chief Executive would need to:
 - identify legal barriers to any plausible outcomes and suggest possible actions where appropriate.
 - investigate the merits and disadvantages of potential alternative structures.
 - investigate the possibilities for and appetite of partner organisations to collaborate more closely and potentially pool budgets.
 - identify barriers to innovation and pursue solution utilising members' political influence where appropriate.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to:

- investigate the merits and potential of outcome and place-based budgets which encourage and enable efficient cross-service delivery;
- investigate the possibilities for and appetite of partner organisations to collaborate more closely and potentially to pool budgets;
- identify and investigate possible alternative future governance arrangements which could radically improve the way we fund and deliver services for the benefit of Cambridgeshire residents **including, but not limited to, Unitary status.**

Following discussion, the motion on being put to the vote was carried.

[Voting pattern: unanimous]

As a result of the above, Councillors Manning and Bullen withdrew their motions listed at (a) and (b) on the agenda.

b) Motion from Councillor Harty

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Harty and seconded by Councillor Frost:

This Council notes that:

- the A428 is a route of significant national importance as well as a key strategic route in Cambridgeshire.
- the A428 is experiencing some of the highest traffic growth in the country, and further significant growth is planned along the length of the corridor.
- at peak time there are often long delays which leads to 'rat running' onto local roads with associated negative impacts.
- there are concerns that without improvements, the A428 will not be able to cope with the growth planned; Up to 25,000 homes are planned to 2031 along the corridor from Bedford, through to St Neots, Cambourne and Bourn with 10,000 homes planned on the Cambridgeshire part of the corridor.
- the average number of vehicles using the single carriageway section per day is 18,000 rising to 25,000 on the dual carriageway between the A1198 at Caxton and the A1303 at Madingley.

This Council believes:

- early commitment is needed from Government for an improvement scheme on the A428 between A1 Black Cat roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet roundabout. This section of the A428 is the only remaining single carriageway part of this important east west route. It lacks the capacity to support current travel demands, and with planned growth it will not be able to function effectively as a strategic link without a comprehensive improvement scheme.
- a comprehensive approach is needed as piecemeal improvement schemes which only deal with congestion problems at key hotspots run the risk of relocating the congestion to the next pinch point on the route and would not offer a satisfactory solution.
- given the strategic nature and volume of traffic, modelling work carried out for the Draft Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy is showing that additional new capacity is needed to facilitate growth.
- it is important that improvements on this section of the A428 are brought forward as soon as possible so that the route does not act as a barrier to the future growth and prosperity of the area.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs to work with their fellow committee members to:

- seek a commitment from Government and the Highways Agency that comprehensive improvements will be prioritised for the A428 to enable it to perform effectively as a strategic east west link
- develop an A428 alliance to work with our key partners including neighbouring

authorities, the Highways Agency and local members of parliament to lobby government for early investment and improvements on the A428 to support the continued growth and prosperity of this area.

Following discussion, the motion on being put to the vote was carried.

[Voting pattern: unanimous]

c) Motion from Councillor Walsh

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Scutt. In moving the motion, Councillor Walsh requested an alteration to the text published on the agenda, which was accepted by the Council to delete “k” in the second line of fifth bullet to read £117,000:

This council notes:

- The Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) was created in April 2013 following the abolition of the Social Fund’s Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- CLAS provides practical and financial support for people moving into, or remaining in Cambridgeshire, and for families and vulnerable individuals under exceptional pressure. CLAS only provides grants and not loans.
- The funds originally allocated by the government to this council for the scheme were far smaller than were available under the DWP’s previous Social Fund arrangements. The scheme and eligibility criteria were purposely designed to ensure that those who presented genuine needs, and were particularly vulnerable, would be given priority access to grants from the scheme.
- The Conservative Cabinet found in April 2014 that there was sizable under-spending during 2013-14 worth £450,000 on the CLAS budget for awards, which was not carried forward into 2014-15, resolving to loosen the eligibility criteria.
- The budget for CLAS in 2014-15 was reduced by £294,000 and set at £117,000 for administration and £631,382 for awards.
- Since April, the budget has started to come under pressure due to a steady increase in the number of successful applications and the reduction in the total budget for 2014/15. In 2013-14 there was an average of 60 successful applications per month receiving an average £562 per award. In the first five months of 2014-15, there has been an average of 111 successful applications per month receiving £525 per award.
- Officers predict that by 31 March 2015 the fund for awards would total £701,307 which constitutes over-spending worth £69,925 on the budget for awards of £631,382.
- The government will not continue funding for CLAS from April 2015.

This council believes:

- CLAS provides a crucial lifeline for victims of the economic recession and the

government's austerity programme.

- There is a clear and growing demand for CLAS support in Cambridgeshire.
- It is the duty of national and local government to provide basic welfare assistance to society and this includes CLAS.
- The government is mistaken to end funding for CLAS from April 2015.

This council resolves:

- To write to the DWP before the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in December 2014 to insist that it maintain current funding for CLAS in 2015-16.
- To establish a working group comprising members of the General Purposes Committee to lead investigations into how this council will fund CLAS if the government fails to maintain funding from April 2015.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Manning and seconded by Councillor Leeke (deletions struck through and additions in bold):

This council notes:

- The Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS) was created in April 2013 following the abolition of the Social Fund's Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- CLAS provides practical and financial support for people moving into, or remaining in Cambridgeshire, and for families and vulnerable individuals under exceptional pressure. CLAS only provides grants and not loans.
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£631,382.

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This council believes:

- CLAS provides a crucial lifeline for victims of the economic recession ~~and the government's austerity programme.~~
- There is a clear and growing demand for CLAS support in Cambridgeshire.
- It is the duty of national and local government to provide basic welfare assistance to society and this includes CLAS.
- The government is mistaken to end funding for CLAS from April 2015.

This council resolves:

- To write to the DWP before the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in December 2014 to insist that it maintain current funding for CLAS in 2015-16.
- **Further, write to the relevant shadow minister for the Labour party, asking if they will immediately commit to maintain the fund should they form part or all of the next government.**
- **Report back replies to full Council via the Chairman.**
- To establish a working group comprising members of the Adults ~~General~~ Purposes Committee to lead investigations into how this council will fund CLAS if the government fails to maintain funding from April 2015.

Following discussion, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

[Voting pattern: most Liberal Democrats in favour, one Conservative in favour and two Independents in favour; most Conservatives, Labour and most UKIP members against; abstentions – two Independents, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 UKIP]

Following further discussion the Councillor Walsh, proposer and Councillor Scutt, seconder of the original motion agreed to withdraw the motion.

103. QUESTIONS

a) Questions on Fire Authority Issues

The Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, Councillor P Brown, responded to questions and comments on Fire Issues, in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Council. The questions and comments are set out in **Appendix C**.

b) Oral Questions

Fifteen questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9.1, as set out in **Appendix D**.

In response to these questions, the following items were agreed for further action:

- In response to a question from Councillor Jenkins, the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford, agreed to investigate and report back progress on the corrective action being taken in the South Cambridgeshire villages affected by the August floods, which included Oakington, Histon, Bar Hill and Willingham.
- In response to a question from Councillor Dent, the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford agreed to investigate the possibility of installing a temporary crossing patrol officer in Bassingbourn until the current vacancy had been filled.
- In a response to a question from Councillor Curtis, the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford agreed to write to the organisers of the Cambridgeshire Cycling Race offering the County Council's full support for the event.
- In response to a question from Councillor van de Ven, the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, Councillor I Bates agreed to provide a full written response to Councillor van de Ven in relation to the future of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Steering Group.
- In response to a question from Councillor Walsh, the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, Councillor I Bates agreed to investigate whether there was an intention to investigate or consult the public in the immediate vicinity of any of the park and ride sites on the impact of the £1 parking charge.
- In response to a question from Councillor Taylor, the Chairwoman of the Children and Young People Committee, Councillor J Whitehead agreed to investigate with the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor K Bourke, any future funding options available to help continue to fund breast feeding support groups in the County.
- In response to a question from Councillor Manning, the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, Councillor M McGuire agreed to consider the recruitment process for appointing Independent Members to the Police and Crime Panel.
- In response to a question from Councillor Count, the Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Kindersley confirmed that the non-compliance of an agreed remedy following a breach of confidentiality would be referred to the next meeting of Constitution and Ethics Committee.
- In response to a question from Councillor P Brown, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Count agreed to check whether there was a formal process to inform Members before staff in Democratic and Members' Services or other services left, where Members had close contact with officers.

c) Written Questions

One written question had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2, as set out in **Appendix E**.

Chairman

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 14TH OCTOBER 2014
CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

The Ofsted report detailing the outcome of the Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board was published on 8 August 2014. The Council was rated as GOOD overall.

The report acknowledged how Cambridgeshire had addressed the areas of concern identified in its previous inspection in 2012 and had - with its partners – improved services at a pace and speed not seen previously within local authorities who have been judged inadequate.

As a result of the progress noted by Ofsted and other evidence of improvement, the ‘Notice to Improve’ issued by the Department for Education was lifted on Friday 12 September.

There are areas where the Council needs to continue on the journey of improvement, but all of these are ones that it knows and recognises, and is already taking actions to address. The Council has set out how it will address the areas identified for improvement within a post-inspection action plan which it has to present within 70 days of publication of the Ofsted report.

The Improvement Board in September considered how to take this forward and what processes it needs to keep in place in order to maintain the momentum as it strives towards an outstanding service.

MESSAGES

Encouraging people to join the Council’s panel of foster families

The Vice-Chairman had recently represented the County Council at the Foster Care Awards at Wood Green. He asked all Members to think when they were writing notes for their Parish and Town Councils whether they would include a small note about encouraging people to join the panel of foster families. Foster carers are truly the unsung heroes in of the community and more are needed.

Budget setting

The Vice-Chairman reminded all members that the Council was approaching the budget setting and business planning cycle. It would be the first time for quite a long time that the budget would be decided at Committee and then confirmed at the full Council meeting early next year. He advised Members that they would have the opportunity at Committee to have an input into the forward budget. He explained that whilst Members could discuss the various committee recommendations at full Council, the opportunity to change things at full Council would not be easy for two reasons. Firstly members agreed the Committee system should be reinstated and therefore it followed that they were content for Committees to decide their own budgets. Secondly any change to one budget heading would have an

impact on other areas of the budget, which needed to be thought through if implemented, as all budgets were extremely tight.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14TH OCTOBER 2014

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question to Councillor Count, Chairman of General Purposes Committee/Leader of the Council, from Mr Antony Carpen

I've founded a project called 'Be the Change – Cambridge'. The aim of the project is to make Cambridge and the City greater than the sum of our parts. You will be pleased to know that we haven't defined Cambridge by its geographical boundaries but by the people who make it up. So that includes people who can commute regularly into Cambridge or visit regularly so that means all of you in this room as well.

What we are aiming to do is to get people's ideas and issues altogether to see if we can go through a City-wide problem solving process. I read in the paper yesterday just the scale of the cuts the Council has to deal with and it is daunting, there are some really big challenges ahead. One of the things that we want to deal with, with this project is the fragmentation of a number of functions that we run to see how we can co-ordinate them. So really my question for the Council, and this is not a plea for funding because the private sector and the academic sector have been very good with us and stumped up about £10,000 worth of supporting cash and kind, my question really is who is the lead councillor to engage with and who are the lead officials to engage with to get you on board because we currently have cross-party representation as far as the parties represented on the City Council are concerned and we also have representation from local, national and European levels of public office. Thank you.

Reply by Councillor Count

Thank you for asking the question of me. Thank you for drawing this Council's attention to what is an interesting and important local scheme. I am aware that 'Be The Change – Cambridge' is something that we have been engaged with to some extent through channels like our ShapeYourPlace community website but I am sure there is much more we can look into given how closely the aim of the 'Be the Change' link and the way that this Council is trying evermore to work with our local communities across the whole of the County. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to put you in touch with an officer, Dan Thorp, that's the name of the person you are looking for, who can discuss the project further with you and will then report to Group Leaders and then to discuss how the Council can become more actively engaged.

Supplementary Question to Councillor Count from Mr Antony Carpen

It's really a follow-up point to really give you an idea of some of the issues that we want to look at and to show that this is not something that is stuck within the City boundaries, so for example on housing and transport issues, personally I feel that the Wisbech rail scheme is something that's part of this. We also have representation from the Haverhill Rail Campaign who came up. They have got a buzzing campaign down in Haverhill where they get about 40 – 50 people turning up to their meetings regularly and they want to re-open the rail line that used to exist between Cambridge and Haverhill and extend it all the way through to Colchester and Chelmsford. Now for Anglia Ruskin University that would be brilliant and so that's what I mean by really going beyond what we mean by the geographical boundary. So for those of you who want to be involved or find out more about the project please do get in touch. Thank you.

Reply from Councillor Count

Just to thank you for elaborating further on the actual aims of the group and the fact that it is not the geography of boundaries, it's the impact and you may or may not be aware that the link in Wisbech with the national railwork and allowing it to access the workplace of Cambridge is very much high on my and this Council's agenda so thank you for including that in your discussion. As I say, Dan Thorp, if you can contact him, then we can look at how we can work together in the future. Thank you.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14TH OCTOBER 2014

QUESTIONS ON FIRE AUTHORITY ISSUES

Members had the opportunity to ask questions and comment on Fire Authority issue, in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Council.

There were no questions or comments on the report. However, the Vice Chairman allowed the Chairman of the Fire Authority to answer two questions from the Chairman of the County Council had he been present. They were:

What is productivity in relation to the Fire Service?

Answer: Productivity relates to the time Officers have spent away from their normal day duties covering the strikes.

Why did the Fire Authority request a 106 provision at Northstowe if they did not actually want a Fire Station?

Answer: The risk associated with a development the size of Northstowe dictates that a Fire Station will be required. However, to mitigate this need we are discussing the potential to fit sprinklers to the highest risk buildings with developers and other partners. This will reduce the risk and mean that the Fire Authority will not have to support the on-going costs of a new Fire Station"

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14th OCTOBER 2014

ORAL QUESTION TIME

1. Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford, from Councillor D Jenkins

We did have a wet week-end and there was a yellow weather warning across East Anglia, fortunately things were not as disastrous as they could have been, but nonetheless as you drove around yesterday and today there is a lot of standing water in the streets and villages of South Cambs and possibly elsewhere as well. It reminds us that we had something a bit worse in August and apologies I didn't brief you on the question beforehand, so if you could you take it away and give me a response later. As a result of the serious floods we had in August, there were very many constructive meetings on sites in villages etc. and agreements to take corrective action. I would like to have an update on the state of those corrective actions and to make sure that they are moving ahead at a speed which is appropriate so we are well prepared for the next rainfall that comes along.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Can I have a point of clarification, is this a specific location you are talking about for your division or are you talking about in general?

Reply from Councillor D Jenkins

The number of villages hit in August was somewhat limited and it's a band which includes Oakington, Histon, Bar Hill, Willingham etc. I was particularly impressed by the standing water in Oakington yesterday.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Yes I am sure and also March as well. I will investigate and get a response back to you.

2. Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford, from Councillor A Dent

Currently in the village of Bassingbourn the school crossing patrol person retired last week. I've been in contact with the officers and they are saying that they've had two applications to fulfil this positions but it will take between 8-10 weeks before anyone will be able to take place there. This is a very dangerous piece of road within Bassingbourn where four roads converge. There are flashing lights there, if anyone has been in the village of Bassingbourn and seen the parents dropping their children off at school they will know it's a racetrack. The school crossing patrol is a vital part of this, I feel as a Council we should have someone there, either as a police presence or if we could put a temporary person in place, until the people who are being checked and vetted are allowed to take on their role.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Thank you for the prior notice Councillor Dent, I understand the previous incumbent retired on the 1st of October and you've made your own investigations as to a replacement. It's my understanding that yes we had two applicants but it can take up to 10 weeks to actually get someone in place and this is because of the disclosure and barring procedure and also should there be any medical questions that need to be answered, so we would all like obviously a quicker way of getting someone in place, but because it's someone working with children, we have to go through these procedures. As far as someone temporary goes, I will see if we can do something, off the top of my head I don't think we can, but I will look into it and get back to you.

3. Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford from Councillor M Curtis

(Note microphone not on for first part of question) As you aware there is a move to create a Cambridgeshire Cycling Race in our County. It is a race that will be of international standard endorsed by the International Cycling Union the race is currently planned to start in Peterborough and will cover 140 kilometres, a vast amount of our County. It's something that will develop the vision of Cambridgeshire as a cycling County as well as bringing wider economic benefits and create a legacy for the Tour de France. Will the Chairman of the Committee agree to write to the organisers offering 100% support for the event?

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Yes I have met twice with the organisers already and they are putting the whole plan to UCI, and yes of course they have my support. I believe it's their aspiration to maybe look at Cambridge as the start and finish point and we looked at that and with the time that we had we couldn't put anything in place, so it has gone to the East of England Showground. I hope for now, because if it's still their aspiration to bring it to Cambridge in future years, hopefully it will get off the ground and then I'm sure we will do all we can to accommodate them there as well. As far as writing to them, yes I have no problem in writing to them and actually confirming what I have already said to their faces.

4. Question to the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, Councillor I Bates from Councillor S van de Ven

We had a press release yesterday, 'Tough decisions for Committees as budget cuts hit harder still'. It says on the second page that there will be cross party review of Cambridgeshire Future Transport and public transport provision with new savings to be looked for from 2016/17. I am a member of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Steering Group and I'm really concerned that this group doesn't serve much purpose. Our meeting last month was cancelled at the very last minute, with no information really about why, but just around the corner we know that we are going to have to be looking at making savings. Cambridgeshire Future Transport is subsidised buses and Community Transport and this is lifeline transport for vulnerable people. A lot of things have been said this morning, a lot of important things have been said about where we are as a Council in relation to being able to serve vulnerable people and we have to find some answers for this project. Now we have a cross party group already, but more importantly it's cross committee. I know that Councillor Bailey is a member of the committee and she has the health and adult perspective that is absolutely

fundamental to solving this element of transport provision. We are not meeting, we are not talking and I'm very concerned that the Committee isn't contributing ideas. I would have got my question to your Committee next week but bearing in mind the discussions that we have had this morning and the importance of looking as a Council at human problems and trying to join up our thinking, I thought it was more important to raise the question here.

**Reply from the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee,
Councillor I Bates**

There is quite an in-depth answer to that, as you will appreciate you mentioned the press release that has gone out, which is about our Budget and our Budget setting which all committees are going through. I think it might be worthy to give you a proper full understanding by a written answer to what you have just raised, rather than me just stand here at the moment. It is connected to budgets, it's connected to the future with our budgets as we go forward in future years and therefore perhaps a written answer will be most appropriate for the question that you have raised.

Supplementary Question to the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, Councillor I Bates from Councillor S van de Ven

My question is simply is this Committee needed, because we should be discussing these things together and we should all be briefed and if there are big decisions and big cuts to be made, we have to discuss them together. I appreciate a written answer, but we should have convened the meeting and we should have talked altogether about these things to begin to grapple with them.

**Reply from the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee,
Councillor I Bates**

Hence me giving you a more comprehensive answer, because it is on the agenda for our next meeting and as the member knows, the group set up called the Community Transport Initiative had a timeframe where it would start and finish. bearing in mind the amount of bus subsidies which will be withdrawn, which is why I think a more comprehensive more rounded answer would be most appropriate which all members receive.

**5. Question to the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee,
Councillor I Bates from Councillor A Walsh**

As the officers currently review the impact of the £1 charge put on the park and ride sites, do the officers have any plans to investigate or consult the public in the immediate vicinity on the impact it has had in areas around the park and ride sites?

**Reply from the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee
Councillor I Bates**

I've toured all of the park and ride sites and I went to Trumpington at 10.30 in the morning. There were problems in the early days, and those were recognised by myself and the officers. Extra machines have been ordered, they are being delivered and installed next week. I think a lot of members have received information about how your community can log on, set up an account and how best to pay. There will be a video which is going to go on the website which will help all communities and all residents to understand how they can pay. The specific answer to your question about consulting local residents about how they have been affected, is that there are

no plans at the moment to do that, although I know there has been some informal discussions around particular sites, with particular residents, because some of the sites are closer to residents than others. I am happy to take that suggestion away and discuss that with the appropriate officers and come back at a later date.

6. Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford from Councillor L Nethsingha

The residents in Newnham have been waiting for many months for some routine maintenance jobs to be sorted out, the two issues that have come to my particular notice are some gully cleansing which has been waiting for over three months and a patch of sunken road which has been waiting for over six months. My questions are: is the Chair's Committee monitoring the length of time taken between the Council being notified of the need for maintenance and repair and that repair being carried out; and secondly: is this Committee taking seriously the risk of flooding incidents being exacerbated by a failure to keep the drains flowing freely? The sunken road that I refer to is above a culvert which, if blocked, could cause serious flood problems in an area which is already recognised as at high flood risk. Keeping these drains and culverts in good order is likely to be increasingly important as we face more and more extreme weather events.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

I understand first of all that it's a question of a sunken road in Newnham etc and are we, as a Committee, monitoring these particular incidents? The simple answer is no, it's not the committee function to actually monitor when things come in and when things are repaired etc. We will always get updates if we ask for them from officers the same as you yourself can and if you have any problems with that, then you can bring it to the Committee. I think that's the way the Committee System works, but as a Committee we will not actually monitor absolutely everything that the highways is doing, so that's the first answer to your question and secondly of course we take seriously anything that causes any flooding where it's our responsibility. Again, if the officers know it and they haven't done anything about it, can you please let me know and I will chase it from my end.

Supplementary Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford from Councillor L Nethsingha

Thank you for the second half, I'm glad you take it seriously and I will follow it up and chase up that particular issue. The first part of your answer I do find quite concerning because I do think it's part of the role of the Committee to keep performance indicators, one of which should be the gap between when a piece of maintenance is requested and when it is completed. So I think I will follow that one up too, as I do think that is something that your Committee should be looking at.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

I appreciate the following up, thank you.

7. Question to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor K Bourke and Chairwoman of the Children and Young People Committee, Councillor J Whitehead from Councillor A Taylor

My question is about the support from the County Council for nursing mothers. Health experts are all agreed that the best form of infant nutrition is breast feeding and it reduces the instance of illnesses in babies and children, ranging from things like eczema and asthma to more life threatening conditions such as heart disease and cancer in later life. Although it's a natural way to feed, it doesn't always come easily and that's why I've been asked to speak up for the breast feeding drop in group at Homerton Children's Centre in Cambridge. This group has been going for seven years and it gives one to one support to mothers who are struggling with breast feeding for one reason or another and in many cases helps them to be able to continue. Although it's based in Queen Edith's in Cambridge I would stress that it's not just people from the immediate area that go, but for all over Cambridge and beyond. I went last Monday and I met a range of people from all over the County including Councillor Brown's daughter Mel and baby grand-daughter and people from Fulbourn and Linton and all over the City and its environment. I'm sorry to say that the group is losing its funding as part of the cuts which Children's Centres are having to make, it will have to close at Christmas if new funding can't be found. As breast feeding support is very sparse in the County and it does draw people from such a large area, I would like to ask the Chairs of the Children and Young People, Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Bourke for Health, if they could address this issue and work with me to try to find better support not only for this group, but for other breast feeding support groups in the County.

Reply from the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor K Bourke

Chair, it is a budgetary responsibility of the Children's Committee and Councillor Whitehead, so I don't think I can answer this. I would be happy to be involved and look at this from a health prospective, so I'll happily work with Councillor Whitehead and Councillor Taylor.

Reply from the Chairwoman of the Children & Young People Committee, Councillor J Whitehead

I had no idea that this was part of Children and Young people's brief but no doubt we can look into this issue. Although the issue of breast feeding is one area where angels fear to tread, it is highly emotive and a very difficult area, but as it does seem to be a part of our responsibility, perhaps Councillor Bourke and I could have a look at it.

Supplementary Question to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor K Bourke and Children and Young People Committee, Councillor J Whitehead from Councillor A Taylor

I would like thank both chairs and welcome that you are both looking into it and hope that a report on the Council's position can come to Committee in the near future because it does seem to me that the buck has been passed. We have a situation where it's with the Children's and Young People Committee at the moment, but meanwhile health professionals are sending mothers to Homerton. So if the provision is not within the health sector and if it's not there in the children sector, then mothers are going to be left stranded, so I welcome your assurances.

**8. Question to the Chairwoman of Children and Young People Committee,
Councillor J Whitehead from Councillor P Downes**

First of all could I ask you to thank the Education and Welfare Benefit's Service for the production of this poster which I think most people have had. This is a very important topic, it's about making sure that children sign up for free school meals in the early stages, £1,300 per pupil, it makes a huge amount of difference. So thank you for doing that. My specific question is to ask Councillor Whitehead if she shares my concern about the announcement yesterday from 10 Downing Street that there is a proposal to extend the remit of Regional School Commissioners to look into and to intervene in all schools, irrespective of whether they are academies, free schools or maintained schools. The Regional School Commissioners were invented a few months ago by the outgoing Secretary of State, who I won't name, because he realised that he couldn't personally supervise 3,000 plus academies from his desk in the DfE. So he set up Regional School Commissioners as a very expensive model. Their salary is in the region of £140,000 each, and they have a team of head teachers who are elected by other head teachers and cover regions. Our region is from Peterborough to Islington. It doesn't coincide with any other region, any other structure, neither OfSTED or any form of region. It is a very, very bizarre development but is set up because they want a mechanism for looking into failing academies. The proposal now is that these Regional School Commissioners should also be able to look into failing schools that are maintained as well. My concern is that it is another very serious erosion of our local democratic responsibility. I'm very concerned about it and I hope you are and ask if you will you give me your assurance that we can work together on this to try and prevent this happening.

**Reply from the Chairwoman of Children and Young People Committee,
Councillor J Whitehead**

Yes I certainly do agree with Councillor Downes, I think this is not the right kind of solution at all and it does seem to me that it's yet another idea to totally remove powers from local authorities for anything to do with education. I think it is a very bad move. I would like to quote two things. We have had in the County in our maintained schools sector one or two schools that were put into special measures and because of the intervention of the County, we as the Local Authority have turned those schools around rapidly and they are now all functioning very well indeed. We are confronted at the moment with an academy which has also been put in special measures. What happens to an academy that goes into special measures has actually not been thought through. The plan is if a maintained school goes into special measures then of course they are encouraged to become an academy. I use the word "encouraged" in inverted commas, but what happens when an academy fails or goes into special measures has not been thought about at all, and we do have one in the County at the moment that's in that position and I did say to Keith Grimwade "well what do they do now"? No one seems to actually know what they do. Now they are there, they are simply told you are in special measure you have to get out of it, as if they deliberately put themselves there and they could then find a solution. I really feel that this idea that there is one Commissioner who can cover such a vast area is wrong, as I presume the person does not have the resources to intervene in schools that need help. Whereas we do, we have very effective ways of helping schools that are maintained and I feel very strongly that, that model should be common to all schools in Cambridgeshire because at one level we are deemed to be responsible for them, but on the other hand we have no powers of intervention and that does just seem to me to be a nonsense. If we are responsible for levels of achievement, we are responsible for how well the schools are run we should have powers of intervention and I don't think saying the Commissioner is the answer, is of any use whatever and I

agree very strongly with Councillor Downes that we should push for local authorities being the body that has responsibility for schools and also has the power to intervene and help schools to be the best they can.

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Supplementary Question to the Chairwoman of Children and Young People Committee, Councillor J Whitehead from Councillor P Downes

Thank you for that excellent response and it's a critical time in the formation of manifestos for next year and this is a key issue which affects us all, as locally, democratically elected people.

9. Question to Chairman of Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Mac McGuire from Councillor I Manning

As the responsibility for scrutinising the police has moved from the old police panels to the Police and Crime Panel is he happy with the process for how lay members, i.e. members of the public apply to that panel, is he happy that it's sufficiently transparent and easy for a member of the public to apply to be on that panel?

Reply from Councillor Mac McGuire, Chairman Police and Crime Panel

Chairman in forming that answer to that question, first of all I think I need to give some background to the Police and Crime Panel. We are not responsible for scrutinising the Police, we are responsible for scrutinising the Police Commissioner, that's a technicality and I appreciate that, but just clarification. It is also important to recognise that the Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee of the Authorities within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, so it's made up of members of this Council, Peterborough City Council and our five districts. It is also part of the requirement that we have two independent members and I think that's the point of Councillor Manning's question and so when the Police and Crime Panel was first formed, we appointed two independent lay members, who are members of the public. It happens that one of those members failed to attend meetings as a result of which, earlier this year the Panel exercised its powers and decided to remove that independent member from the panel. So we undertook the process which is to advertise that there was a vacancy for an independent member on to the panel. I understand from a liaison meeting that I had with officers from Peterborough City Council last week that they have had two applications. We've also at our panel meeting agreed to appoint three members to form the interviewing panel, not myself I hasten to add, as the Chairman I felt it more appropriate for others to be involved. In the event, I do know that they have had great difficulty in getting those three members to agree a date for that interview panel. I subsequently volunteered myself if they were still having issues with arranging a panel. I have not yet received a date but I am expecting the date to be imminent and while it's disappointing that there were only two applicants we will need to interview the two applicants.

Supplementary Question to Chairman of Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Mac McGuire from Councillor I Manning

Part of the reason why we have had so few applications, only two as you said, is partly to do with I believe the incorrect requirement in the form for the DBS check before you are even interviewed which can discourage a huge amount of people and the fact that apparently at least one of those candidates has got no feedback since July as to what is happening in the process. So does he agree with me that maybe there could be ways where we could work to make a process easier which might then encourage more to people to apply?

Reply from Chairman of Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Mac McGuire

I don't know if the application form is wrong, but as far as I know we did not have applications for a form, so until they saw the form, maybe some of the others did want to apply and that put them off, in which case I would have expected them to make some query about that. If there is something wrong with the process then I am certainly willing to look into that and establish the facts about that, as to whether what is right and what is wrong, but otherwise that is the best I can judge.

10. Question to Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor S Kindersley from Councillor Count

You may recall that some time ago I was Chair of the Pensions Committee and some confidential information was leaked and some stories went out in the newspaper that undermined the local authority and I reported in my role as Chair of the Pensions Committee various Councillors for that. They went through the due process and that due process is agreed by this Council. We decided what standards we would set ourselves and we decided how we would monitor it and we decided that the Committee that would handle it and this Council appointed a Chair of that Committee and in that process, I'm sorry to say that Councillor Leeke was found wanting in his standards and one of the penalties imposed by that Committee was to ask Councillor Leeke for an apology to our Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd. Up to this point in time Councillor Leeke has not apologised to the Chief Executive. What is worse than that is after that penalty was imposed by your Committee, Councillor Leeke went to the newspapers and he told the newspapers that he would refuse to apologise to Mark Lloyd over this matter. There seems to be someone taking the moral high ground there and I think it's OK to try to take a moral high ground all the way through the process but to maintain it after the process has finished undermines this Council, it undermines the Constitution and Ethics Committee and it undermines you. So my question is this, what are you, as Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee going to do about this breach?

Reply Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor S Kindersley

The simple answer is that it will be a matter referred to the next meeting of the Constitution and Ethics Committee and if there is anything that the Committee wishes to do, or indeed is able to do, then I have no doubt the Committee will do it.

Supplementary Question to Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor S Kindersley from Councillor Count

Thank you for that. I'm entirely satisfied with that answer.

11. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor S Count from Councillor Sir P Brown

I just wanted to make a point, I think we are now in the 5th or 6th month of the new working relationships we have in the Committee structure, from my point of view and from all member's point of view it has been a hard learning curve and I would be very surprised if there is any member here today who hasn't got a higher workload than

they had before. We have been helped tremendously by the officers, I want to say this and to put it on record that Members should pay tribute to Democratic Services and Members Services who have done so much to help us through this process. I think it is very important that we have recognised those who work with us closely and I would be grateful if it could be minuted. I'm slightly disappointed to learn recently that a member of one of those departments has suddenly left us now and I think it would be useful if you could find a way in the future whereby we are informed when somebody in one of those departments is going, so at least we can say goodbye and thank you. I just wonder what Councillor Count would do about that, can you put some form of action in place?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor S Count

The answer is yes, I totally agree with you, our staff are invaluable and whilst we often complement the faceless people that we never meet, we do build up relationships with those that we work closely with and its entirely unfortunate if there has ever been an occasion where any Councillor has built up a working relationship with a member of staff and to turn up at work one day and find they've gone. I hope it's not a common occurrence, as I have on many occasions signed cards, wished people well and been kept in the loop but I will check with officers to see if there is actually a formal process to ensure that that doesn't happen in the future and to try to rectify that, because I know that we always like to pass on our well wishes and good comments to these members of staff that look after us and work with us.

**12. Question to the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee
Councillor I Bates from Councillor D Giles**

The Government are now insisting on housing targets for local councils irrespective of any guarantee or consideration for infrastructure improvements. Can Councillor Bates convey to the relevant Government departments, for the wellbeing of our communities through better infrastructure should preferably proceed any large scale development or at the very least, be instigated in tandem with developments. Can Councillor Bates make a challenging and robust case for our communities for the instigation of infrastructure improvements? Does he also agree with me that these large scale developments should be community-led rather than development- led?

**Reply from the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee
Councillor I Bates**

I am certainly robust and will continue to be. I think the A14 is a good example, the A47 which is being led by the Norfolk County Council, particularly in the north of the County, which is high on the Government's agenda. I will endeavour to ensure the A428 and the A421 also reaches up there. The idea of how you link development with the infrastructure, it is an interesting question which has been around for many, many years. We look at schools, we have a requirement to actually deliver schools under statutory agreements which actually gives us a lot better mileage in going to developers to secure Section 106 monies. Some of it comes under legislation, some of it does not, and therefore that is where the difficulty lies and therefore I will continue with my colleagues, District Councils remember develop their Local Plans - they are all currently going through inspectors at the moment - and of course it is where the partnership comes, working with Districts and across Counties. That's why we have got a Long Term Transport Strategy which is out for consultation, and this will be coming to the Committee. Which is first the cart or the horse is what you are saying? I think when you look about the jobs and if you look about employment, it's not just about housing, there are other things that need to be considered, but I see it as very

crucial that we all play our part at district levels, highways agencies, rail industry, schools, education. We all need to work together to deliver infrastructure. We all have to bear in mind there is not that much money left in the pot and therefore we will come under pressure as a County, we know that now and we will know that in the future. So I can't give you a categorical answer because it is not in my gift, I will endeavour and I'm sure the Committee will support that, in doing our best to push these initiatives forward.

13. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor S Count from Councillor A Lay

Considering the fact that almost 700 of the March electorate have objected to a County Council proposal to build houses on the Estover recreation playing field, does Councillor Count personally support their Council's proposals?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor S Count

Thank you for asking me that question as Leader of the County Council as I'm sure it's of relevance to everybody here, not, although it's not supposed to be personal or political I'm told, the only impact of any discussion on that impacts me and very few other people in this room because it is in my Division. There's a very complicated history to this, including my role as County Councillor over the last 3½ years where I have worked tirelessly in order to bring forward sports provision there. There is a total of 80 acres not owned by the County Council, 20 acres are owned by the County Council and this 80 acres will form part of an allocation in the District Plan allocation as part of the core strategy and 700 signatures was against the 80 acres, not against the building on the Estover playing fields per se. Subsequently, that 80 acres has been removed from the allocation but the actual policy still means that 249 homes could be built in that 80 acre block of which the County Council owns 20 acres. Because of that, the County Council land has a development value which is much higher than agricultural value and the County Council is obligated by law to seek best value for its assets. There is a little bit of tinkering around the edges that you can do, but basically if I said to you lot, maybe not this lot, will you relinquish £2-4 million of County Council assets at peppercorn rent so that I can get sports facilities in my Division, your answer would be no. And that is why that law is there, to stop people like me abusing the system – not that I would intend to. So where we stand at the moment is the County Council has brought forward a compromise proposal on that 20 acre site, and that compromise proposal would deliver two full size adult pitches, brand new facilities for changing, two tennis courts, multi-use games areas, dog walking etc. on about roughly 12 acres of the 20 acre site and would ask for 99 houses to be put on the remaining eight acres. That 99 houses would release the 12 acres on a long-term lease to a sports playing federation in order to bring that forward and £500,000 would be supplied from the sale of homes in order to deliver that. At the moment it is a bare field that is virtually unused except for one and potentially sometimes a second pitch, with virtually non-existent inadequate playing facilities.

Supplementary question from Councillor A Lay to the Leader of the Council, Councillor S Count

It does seem that there is 700 of the electorate saying no, it could be political suicide for Steve Count to go ahead with this. There has to be examination of the field archaeologically, ecologically as well.

Interjection by Councillor M Curtis

I do not think that it is appropriate for the Leader to be challenged on an issue that is not a County Council issue but an issue for his Ward.

On being invited by the Vice Chairman of Council, Councillor Lay decided to withdraw his supplementary question.

14. Question to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford from Councillor S Bywater

My question leads from the debate we have been having regarding development versus infrastructure. This Council's Highways Planning Officers recently approved an access point into a new development in St Andrew's Way in Sawtry which is going to be heard by the District Planning Management Committee next week. For those of you who do not know the area, it is a sweeping bend with tree lining. The visible stopping distance when turning right into the proposed development is 70 metres. Given it is a national speed limit, does this Council support designs that disregard the Highway Code, given the stopping distance at 60mph is 73 metres in good, dry conditions, and I am precise with those measurements as I have been there and measured it. That does not take into consideration that when a vehicle will be turning right into the development, and stationary traffic is backing up, that distance will be shortened even more.

Reply from the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Even though it is a national speed limit which I believe is 60 mph, the junctions are not done on national speed limits. They are done on the speed of the cars and in this particular case, the 85 percentile was taken into account, that is the average speed for 85% of the vehicles etc and in this case, the results were that the 85 percentile showed an average of 34 mph northbound and 37 mph southbound, so that is a lot less than the 60mph that people have in mind for the national speed limit. I have been assured by officers that in this case, the junction is absolutely appropriate and I know you have had concerns as you have been out with engineers a couple of months ago as well, but rest assured, I have asked the question again and they have come back and said that it is appropriate.

Supplementary question from Councillor S Bywater to the Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

Thanks very much for that reply. Can you give me assurances then that the design of this junction is going to be safe and I understand the percentile that 34 and 37 mph in either direction, but it only takes one vehicle to come round that bend at 60mph. Can you give me those assurances and to my local constituents that it is going to be safe?

Reply from Chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee, Councillor R Hickford

I think it is fair to say that we all have junctions like this and I can never give assurances that you are never going to have an accident at a junction. All I can say is that the appropriate measures have been taken and put in place for this particular junction, and that it should be as safe as possible given the circumstances.

15. Question from Councillor K Bourke to the Chairman of General Purposes Committee, Councillor S Count

Sir Peter's brief comment about a member from Democratic Services leaving just reminded me that we used to in the past say thank-you to leaving officers in the Chairman's announcements and I am sure you are all aware but Jane Belman has left the Council. She has done enormous good work over the years mostly in a scrutiny role. In my experience she always sided with the underdog but was extremely impartial and evidence-led in doing her scrutiny work, she joined up the dots across a vast range of organisations and even though the people now supporting us are terrific and working hard, we do miss her already, and I just thought that the full Council would like to recognise her contribution and say thank-you and to have that minuted.

Reply from the Chairman of General Purposes Committee, Councillor S Count

Happy to endorse the thank-you to the officer Jane Belman and I am sure if I look around for nods, it is a unanimous thank-you to Jane.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 OCTOBER 2014

WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

Question from Councillor Alan Lay

It is believed that circa £150,000 is currently spent annually by Cambridgeshire County Council on the provision of interpretation or translation services.

In February 2012 The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, Communities Secretary wrote in an article “50 ways to sensible saving”. “Stop translating documents into foreign languages: only publish documents in English.

Translation undermines community adhesion by encouraging segregation. Similarly, do not give community grants to organisations that promote segregation or division in society.

It has been estimated that across the wider area in 2006 these cost were in the order of a hundred million pounds!” He further stated that “stopping these services of translation and interpretation into foreign languages will provide further incentives for all migrant communities to learn English, which is the basis for an individual’s ability to progress in British Society. It will promote cohesion and better community relations and help councils make sensible savings”

Can the Chair of the Children & Young People Committee please provide me with a full breakdown of all council expenditure on both interpretation and translation services, exactly where and why the funds are spent, if all expenditure is a statutory requirement and whether or not there are any areas where savings could be made?

Response from Councillor Joan Whitehead,
Chairwoman of Children and Young People Committee

Full breakdown of all council expenditure on both interpretation and translation services

The County Council expenditure on interpreter and translation services for 2012-13 was £95,763; for 2013-14 it was £140,333 and for the first 5 months of 2014-15 was £83,160. Children, Families and Adults Services are the largest users of interpretation and translation services across the Council, spending in 2012-13 - £94,751, in 2013-14 - £124,864 and in the first 5 months of 2014-15 – £73,707.

The following table overleaf sets out the detail of spend on interpreters and translators broken down by directorate.

Directorate	Actual spend
2012-13	
Adult Social Care	1,360
Children's Social Care	81,966
Enhanced and Preventative Services	8,722
Learning	2,703
Corporate Services: Coroners & registration	1,012
2012-13 Total	95,763
2013-14	
Adult Social Care	43
Children's Social Care	103,241
Enhanced and Preventative Services	5,091
Learning	1,227
Older People Services	262
Strategy & Commissioning	15,000
Corporate Services – community engagement	15,000
Economy, transport & environment: Coroners & registration	469
2013-14 Total	140,333
2014-15 (April – August)	
Adult Social Care	531
Children's Social Care	58,156
Enhanced and Preventative Services	1,935
Learning	479
Older Peoples Services & Mental Health	106
Public Health	261
Strategy and Commissioning	12,500
Economy, transport & environment: Coroners & registration	9,192
2014-15 Total	83,160

Exactly where and why the funds are spent

Within Children Families and Adults Services (CFA), the budget spent on interpreter and translation services is used predominantly by Children's Social Care. This is required to support case work with children and families.

A much smaller amount is spent to provide publicity materials to promote key messages that the Council requires families to act on. For example based on evidence of how some families were not aware of the need to apply for primary schools, the Learning Directorate spent £500 on posters and leaflets in Russian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Polish to encourage parents to apply on time.

Budget is also required to provide interpreters and translation for hearings and appeals, for example on school admissions and in services such as Registration and Coroners, interpreters are required for inquests.

The budget includes a contract, with an annual value of £30,000 tendered for community volunteer translators and interpreters. This contract was put into place in response to a thematic review on the needs and assets of Eastern European Migrants in Fenland. It

enables local service providers (e.g. schools, locality services, children's centres, health services) to access local language support for non-confidential aspects of their work with newly arrived families and can help resolve issues that otherwise might have involved the council in greater expenditure. The contract was awarded to the Rosmini Centre in Wisbech for two years beginning 1 July 2013 and was jointly funded between CFA and Corporate Services in 2013-14, now by CFA alone.

Over the last three years, the languages that interpretation and translation have been provided in include: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Dutch, Farsi, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Malayalam, Polish, Portuguese, Pashtu, Russian, Romanian, Spanish, Shona/bantu, Turkish, Thai, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese as well as British Sign Language.

CFA uses interpreters and translators to enable it to deliver its statutory services effectively and efficiently.

This is informed by its duty under:

- The Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010 which states that public bodies must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- The written statement to Parliament produced by the Communities Minister on Translation into foreign languages, March 2013, which reaffirmed the approach to not translate documents or provide interpretation services unless for an emergency situation or to comply with the Equalities Act.

Additionally, the Council must be able to demonstrate to Ofsted in its inspection regime that it meets quality criteria in its provision of services and practice that include a focus on how practitioners work with families to develop meaningful relationships, that families are engaged with all actions and decisions and understand the intentions of the help they receive, and provide 'Help and protection for children and young people that is sensitive and responsive to age, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, gender, gender identity, language, race and sexual orientation.'

('Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers' June 2014, Ofsted)

If all expenditure is a statutory requirement

All of the services provided by CFA services are a statutory requirement or are in line with the Council's policy of providing preventative support that meets a family's needs at an earlier stage before they require more intensive and higher cost services.

Whether or not there are any areas where savings could be made

The population of Cambridgeshire is increasingly diverse. Across the county 9.8% of school children are from a minority ethnic community with significant numbers from Indian, Bangladeshi and Gypsy, Roma traveller backgrounds. The number of pupils with an Eastern European language as a first language has nearly doubled over the last four years reflecting a significant and increasing migrant worker population. Polish and Lithuanian speakers are the most prevalent but there are also a significant number of Russian speaking pupils. The increase in the number of pupils with an Eastern European first language has occurred in all districts but is most dramatic in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland with the Wisbech locality seeing the greatest increase from 5.4% of pupils in 2009 to 15.4% in 2012.

With this as our background, CFA recognises that it will need to continue to access interpreters and translators to deliver its statutory services effectively in support of children. However, there are areas that it can consider to make best use of limited resources. These include:

- Where standard letters and documents have been translated by one team, these should be shared by other similar services. This would build on the good practice developing in children's social care units.
- A new ESPO tendered framework contract will be in place from January 2015: ESPO have listened to feedback and have introduced more robust terms and conditions underpinning all contracts entered into under the framework, so that customers are provided with more stringent remedies when service levels are not upheld. All public sector organisations across the UK will be eligible to use framework.
- Ensure staff, particularly social workers are more easily aware of English language courses available to parents so that they can be discussed when appropriate.
- Learn from a pilot project in 2012, set up to see how mobile internet technology made an impact on people's lives. Although not a main part of the project, some users tried using Google Translate and other third party software. The results showed that although the devices used could show the different meanings of words, they could only be used as an aid and were only really effective in major traditional and popular languages such as French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese. Support for languages from smaller countries was quite poor and often unusable. However, bearing this in mind, staff could be made more aware of the potential as well as the limitations.
- When writing materials, letters, documents, authors should take care to reduce the use of jargon and write in simpler English to enable easier translation.
- Staff have suggested that it may be more cost effective for CCC to employ interpreters itself, for the more common languages required, especially if they could play a wider community liaison role. To some extent, the contract with the Rosmini Centre provides for this, with the community translator volunteers supporting people to access and get involved in community and services. An option may be to consider expanding this contract further.