

NON- CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 19th May 2009

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 4.35 p.m.

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor: A G Orgee (Chairman)

Councillors C M Ballard, J D Batchelor, I C Bates, N Bell, B Boddington, K Bourke, M Bradney, J Broadway, P Brown, R Butcher, C Carter, K Churchill, S Criswell, M Curtis, P J Downes, J Dutton, R Farrer, G Griffiths, G F Harper, D Harty, G Heathcock, W G M Hensley, S Higginson, P E Hughes, W Hunt, J L Huppert, C Hyams, J D Jenkins, S Johnstone, E Kadić, G Kenney, A C Kent, S G M Kindersley, S J E King, V H Lucas, D McCraith, L W McGuire, A K Melton, R Moss-Eccardt, M K Ogden, L J Oliver, D R Pegram, J A Powley, P Read, A A Reid, J E Reynolds, K Reynolds, P Sales, M Shuter, L Sims, M Smith, T Stone, J M Tuck, J K Walters, J West, F Whelan, D White, K Wilkins, H Williams, M Williamson, L J Wilson and F H Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors B Bean, N Harrison and S B Normington

306. MINUTES: 17th MARCH 2009

The minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of the Council held on 17th March 2009 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

307. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of Heinz-Josef Vogt

The Chairman reported with sadness the death of Heinz-Josef Vogt, who had been instrumental in setting up the twinning arrangements between the County Council and Kreis Viersen. Members observed a minute's silence in his memory.

Awards and achievements

The Chairman led members in offering congratulations to all those whose work had contributed to the following awards and achievements:

- Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Councils, awarded by the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government
- Communications Team of the Year Award from the Local Government Chronicle
- 'Transactional' status for the Council's website, awarded by the Society of Information Technology Management

- The Waste Management Award for the RECAP Waste Partnership, given at the inaugural Government Business Awards
- Shortlisting of the Council's scheme to recycle waste cooking oil for a national Environmental Innovation Award
- The Cost Sector Catering Marketing Award for the Council's school meals service
- Being highly commended by Natural England in the category of 'Best Integration with Local Transport Plan' for linking pedestrian and cycle commuter journeys into the Local Transport Plan
- The Waterways Renaissance Award for design and construction for the foot and cycle bridge at Riverside, Cambridge
- Shortlisting of two County Council entries in the 2009 Municipal Journal Awards, for the Public Private Partnership Achievement of the Year, for work with Northamptonshire County Council on shared services, and for the Sustainable Transport Award for the Council's target-exceeding work on sustainable transport
- The Public Sector People Managers Association Human Resources Award for Total Reward, for work on the recruitment and retention of social workers.

Executive Director: Community and Adult Services

The Chairman welcomed Rod Craig, the new Executive Director: Community and Adult Services, to his first meeting of the Council.

308. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared personal interests under Paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct:

Councillor	Minute	Details
Ballard	317 5 th May (3) & (4)	Family member in receipt of direct payments
Batchelor	317 21 st April (3)	Chairman of Linton Action for Youth
Bates	General	Board member of Cambridgeshire Horizons and member of the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA)
Downes	317 21 st April (5)	Wife a Citizens Advice Bureau guidance tutor
Hughes	317 21 st April	Governor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
Jenkins	General 317 24 th March (9), (10) & (12); 21 st April (1); 5 th May (3), (4) & (7)	Member of EERA Lay member of Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS)
Johnstone	317 5 th May (5) & (6)	Board member of the East of England Development Agency
Lucas	317 24 th March (9), (10) & (12); 21 st April (1); 5 th May (3), (4) & (7)	Chairman of CCS
Melton	317 21 st April (4) 317 21 st April (11)	Wife a Trustee of the King Edward Centre

	317 5 th May (5) & (6)	Director of Cambridgeshire Horizons Member of EERA
Read	General	Member of EERA; member of the Cambridge Older People's Enterprise (COPE)
Reynolds J	General	Director of Renewables East and Chairman of EERA
Tuck	General	Executive member of EERA
Whelan	312	Child with learning disabilities; child attending Comberton Village College; member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

309. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Council noted that no questions had been received from members of the public by the deadline.

310. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Orgee, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Oliver,

- 1) To accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.4 of the Council report relating to the Council's Monitoring Officer;
- 2) That the Constitution be kept up to date to reflect circumstances.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt expressed concern that the role of Monitoring Officer should be kept distinct from the Council's executive and suggested that on this basis, the Corporate Director: People, Policy and Law should fill the role on a temporary basis only, without setting a precedent for the future.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was agreed. [Voting pattern: no-one voting against.]

311. REPORTS OF CABINET MEETINGS – ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

- a) Flexible Retirement (24th March 2009, Item 1)

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Performance, People, Policy and Law, Councillor J Reynolds, and seconded by Councillor West

That the Council approve the proposed Flexible Retirement Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the Council report.

Councillor Sales sought assurance that the Policy would not adversely affect the position of an employee close to retirement who wished to work reduced hours.

Councillor Hughes expressed concern that the Policy could be used to ease people out of the organisation, which would not necessarily be to the Council's advantage.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt welcomed the increased flexibility, which would help to meet the needs of both individuals and the Council. However, he expressed concern at the possible impact on the Pension Fund and suggested that a more robust process was needed when applying the discretionary elements of the Policy. Councillor Downes also expressed concern at the long-term outlook for the Pension Fund and sought reassurance on the long-term costs of this Policy.

Councillor Ballard called on the Council to seek ways of enabling employees to stay on past retirement age, where this would be to the benefit of both the individual and the organisation.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Performance, People, Policy and Law, Councillor J Reynolds, confirmed that the Policy would not adversely affect the position of an employee close to retirement who wished to work reduced hours. He confirmed that other speakers' concerns would be kept under close review.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was agreed unanimously.

- b) The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 (Big Plan 2) and the Children's Workforce Strategy (24th March 2009, item 2)

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, and seconded by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty,

That the Council approve the draft of Big Plan 2 set out as Appendix 2 to the Council report, and the Children's Workforce Strategy set out as Appendix 3 to the Council report.

Speaking on the Children's Workforce Strategy, Councillor Ballard called for integrated support to families in need, with staff working primarily with adults being alert also to children's needs, resulting for example from parents' or carers' mental health or substance misuse problems. Speaking on Big Plan 2, Councillor Ballard welcomed the aim of narrowing the gap for underachieving children, but asked for it to be made clearer that this would involve enabling every child to achieve his or her full potential by raising the top as well as the bottom, not by bringing the top down.

Councillor Hughes emphasised the importance of working with children and young people so that they were confident and able to contribute, and of taking their views into account. She also commented on the need for proper monitoring of children's employment, to ensure that their work did not impair their health or development.

Councillor Griffiths welcomed Big Plan 2 but emphasised the challenge now ahead of delivering on it. She spoke particularly about the needs of young carers, drawing attention to the numbers of young carers in the East of England and in the County. She welcomed Big Plan 2's recognition of the needs of these young people but suggested that there was much more still to be done.

Councillor Kent welcomed the progress made since the first Big Plan and commented that Big Plan 2 was more focussed and should be easier to monitor. She emphasised the need for clarity of ownership, fitting together the role of the Council with that of partners in the emerging Children's Trust. Given the importance of the Children's Trust and the call it would have on resources, she emphasised the need for proper democratic accountability and scrutiny arrangements. Speaking on the Children's Workforce Strategy, Councillor Kent also commented on the need for the Council to work with the Department for Children, Schools and Families nationally to ensure that teachers and school-based staff also viewed themselves as a core element of the children's workforce.

Councillor Downes welcomed Big Plan 2's emphasis on narrowing the gap, but commented that the focus should be on schools' contextual value added scores as well as on their league table results. He expressed concern that at both primary and secondary level, many Cambridgeshire schools' contextual value added scores were not positive; and that those schools with the lowest league table results were usually also those with the lowest contextual value added scores.

Councillor Kenney welcomed the priorities selected in Big Plan 2 and looked forward to its delivery.

Summing up, the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, welcomed speakers' comments and thanked all those who had helped to prepare the Plan and the Workforce Strategy. He drew attention to a range of activities taking place across the County to address the issues identified, many of them in conjunction with partners; he also looked forward to the development of the Children's Trust, but agreed that clear lines of accountability and scrutiny would be essential.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was agreed unanimously.

312. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Group, Councillor Batchelor, moved receipt of the Scrutiny annual report for 2008/09. The following people spoke to the report:

- Councillor Batchelor as Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Williamson as Chairman of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Butcher as Chairman of the Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Higginson as Vice-Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Hughes as the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Accountability Committee
- Councillor McGuire as the Cabinet Scrutiny Liaison Member
- Councillor Downes.

The speakers:

- Commended the maturity of the Council's Scrutiny process.
- Paid tribute to all members and officers involved in Scrutiny and particularly thanked the Head of Audit, Scrutiny and Information Governance and the Scrutiny Development Co-ordinators.
- Highlighted the particular value of member-led reviews, thanked Cabinet for their general positive responses to them, and commented on the need to monitor the implementation of action plans effectively.
- Drew attention to the Integrated Planning Process (IPP) Standing Sub-Group's review of the IPP and encouraged all members to respond to the Sub-Group's questionnaire, to help develop a more effective process.
- Expressed reservations about any proposal to discontinue Policy Development Groups and move to Overview and Scrutiny, which could dilute the effectiveness of the Scrutiny function. The Cabinet Scrutiny Liaison Member confirmed that there was no intention to detract from the current effectiveness of Scrutiny.

Council noted the report.

313. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Members noted that no written questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.

314. ORAL QUESTIONS

Eight oral questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9:

- Councillor Whelan drew attention to the recent news that St Neots Community College had been placed in special measures, and that Comberton Village College would provide additional support to the school. Given the number of projects in which Comberton was already involved, Councillor Whelan asked what additional support and resources would be given to its Principal. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, expressed his confidence in Comberton's Principal and management team and noted that they had already been supporting St Neots for a number of months. The Council would continue to monitor workloads and support.
- Councillor Kenney asked how the Council would be addressing capital funding for further education projects in the County, given the shortfall in funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Responding, the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, reminded members that responsibility for 14-19 education would be transferring to the County Council. He emphasised that the Council would continue to pursue the best possible outcomes, but expressed serious concern about financial management by the LSC and its consequences for further education colleges in Cambridgeshire.

- [Councillor Hughes asked how much members' personal development budgets were worth and how much had been saved since 2005 as a result of Opposition members not being aware of their existence. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, agreed to send a written response.](#)
- Councillor Jenkins asked whether fares for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway had yet been set and when they would be published. The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, reported that neither the fares nor a date for their publication had yet been set. Councillor Jenkins sought assurance that bus operators would not raise other fares to offset losses on the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways confirmed that the Council would use its influence with the operators, but as they were separate commercial operators, the Council could not give a definite undertaking.
- Councillor Sales asked the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, whether he would support the construction of a tramway from Quy along Newmarket Road to Midsummer Common, to ease congestion. The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways reported that the Transport Commission was currently considering congestion in Cambridgeshire. He would not rule out any options at present; any affordable measure that alleviated congestion would be welcome.
- Councillor Stone drew attention to two interactive signs on the A1307, which had been installed after three years' lobbying but which were still not working. He asked when they would become operational. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, noted that difficulties were being experienced with interactive signs around the County; he agreed to raise these two with officers and ensure that they were working as soon as possible.
- [Councillor Higginson drew attention to slippage in the Council's capital programme, which had meant that plans to replace a three-storey tower block at the City of Ely Community College had been withdrawn, to the concern of teachers, pupils and parents. He asked what other building plans for other schools in the County had been prioritised with the result that this scheme was not going ahead. The Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to send a written response.](#)
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt drew attention to two new bus-stops recently constructed outside Shire Hall and asked whether it was appropriate to use public funds to benefit Council employees and members, and no-one else. The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, confirmed that it was not.

In accordance with the Constitution's County Council Oral Question Time: Guidelines, the Chairman ruled against a question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Bourke on the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway contract, on the basis that this item was included later on the agenda and the question should be raised when the meeting reached that point.

315. MOTION

One motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.

Motion from Councillor Bell

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

That Cambridgeshire County Council

- (i) Supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the action and assistance that central government gives in promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) Notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central or regional control to local control;
- (iii) Notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the four aspects of:
 - The improvement of the local economy,
 - Protection of the environment,
 - Promotion of social inclusion, and
 - Participation in civic and political activity;
- (iv) Notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new powers or assistance from government, determining those powers or that assistance and transferring public monies from central or regional control to local control;
- (v) Resolves that Cabinet be requested to use the Act by submitting proposals for action and assistance from central government and
- (vi) Further resolves to:
 - Inform the local media of this decision;
 - Write to local MPs, informing them of this decision; and
 - Write to Local Works (at Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF) informing them of this resolution to use the Act.

The following amendment was proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire, and seconded by Councillor Bell:

That paragraphs (v) and (vi) of the motion be deleted and replaced with paragraphs (v), (vi) and (vii) below (added text is shown in bold):

- (v) **Notes that the first round of proposals must be submitted by**

31st July 2009. and that it is expected that further calls for proposals will be made on an annual basis

- (vi) Resolves that Cabinet be requested to use the Act by submitting proposals for action and assistance from central government **in future rounds** and
- (vii) Further resolves to
 - Inform the local media of this decision **to use the Act in future rounds**;
 - Write to local MPs, informing them of this decision; and
 - Write to Local Works (at Local Works, c/o Unlock Democracy, 6 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF) informing them of this resolution to use the Act **in future rounds**.

Speaking on the amendment, Councillor Bell welcomed the clarification of the timescale, noting that he had not intended the Council to become involved in the first tranche of submissions.

Councillor Higginson and the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Yeulett, spoke in support of the amendment. The Cabinet Member for Communities noted that use of the Sustainable Communities Act would allow devolution of powers from central to local government and would complement wellbeing powers already set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

Councillor Reid also spoke in favour of using the Act, but asked why the Council had not acted submitted a proposal in the first round. The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire, commented that the Council had to prioritise its actions, and intended to learn from authorities who had submitted first-round applications.

Members voted on the amendment and it was agreed unanimously.

Members then debated the main motion as amended.

Councillor Downes welcomed the motion but expressed some reservations that the proposals would introduce another unelected tier of decision-makers in the distribution of public money: the Local Government Association, itself not directly elected, would select local panels, whose members also did not have to be directly elected. This would need to be monitored closely.

Councillor Jenkins welcomed use of the Act, which would encourage cross-Council collaboration, reinforcing the work of Cambridgeshire Together; it would require proposals actively to be agreed, rather than just consulted on; and it would focus attention on sustainable activities. He urged the Council to apply the powers in the Act as widely as possible to benefit local communities.

Summing up, Councillor Bell emphasised the potentially radical nature of proposals that could be brought forward under the Act, and suggested that the local panels would provide an effective counter-balance.

Members then voted on the main motion as amended and this was agreed unanimously.

316. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No changes to Committee memberships or appointments to outside organisations had been requested.

317. REPORTS OF CABINET MEETINGS – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Report of the meeting held on 24th March 2009

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, moved receipt of the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th March 2009.

3) Local Area Agreement (LAA) Annual Refresh

Councillor Stone suggested that for each priority area within the LAA, it would be helpful to show the lead Cabinet Member within the County Council, as well as the lead officer and partnership.

Councillor Reid expressed concern that many of the baseline figures did not include a date, which rendered them meaningless. He asked for this information to be added.

Councillor Read asked whether targets for affordable housing had been revisited to take account of the economic downturn and in particular the lack of progress at Northstowe.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, agreed to follow up the suggestions from Councillors Stone and Reid. She confirmed that Cambridgeshire was seeking to refocus targets for affordable housing.

4) Extension of School Age Range – Thomas Clarkson Community College, Wisbech

Councillor Hughes welcomed the extension of the school age range at Thomas Clarkson and at other Cambridgeshire secondary schools, noting that this would widen the choices available to 16 year olds and help them to achieve differently.

The Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed. He reminded members that the decision relating to Thomas Clarkson was important given the timing of the school's involvement in the Fenland Building Schools for the Future programme.

5) Admissions to Chesterton Community College, Cambridge

[Councillor Moss-Eccardt welcomed the Cabinet's decision not to allow Chesterton Community College to reduce its Published Admission Number \(PAN\) from 180 to 150. Councillor Downes commented that it was unusual for a school to ask to reduce its PAN and asked whether the](#)

[Council had been able to work with the school to address its underlying concerns.](#)

[The Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to send a written response to Councillor Downes.](#)

- 6) Update on Shirley Community Primary School, East Chesterton, Cambridge

Councillor Huppert thanked members and officers for their work to develop new facilities for the Shirley. He expressed disappointment at the stance adopted by the Old Schools Trust during negotiations. He asked the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, how the old school site would be used, noting residents' concerns about the current crowding of the site and traffic congestion associated with a school use.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Learning also welcomed the new facilities. He noted that a further report was awaited before discussions would start on the future use of the existing site.

- 7) Cambridgeshire Compact and National Indicator 7

- 8) Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2008 Scorecard

Councillor Huppert called for greater honesty in the Council's reporting of its performance, questioning whether it was fitting to be 'delighted' that Cambridgeshire was a three-star authority and improving well, when only six County Councils nationally were performing more poorly on either direction of travel, star rating or both. He suggested that the Council should have greater aspirations for itself.

Councillor Jenkins commented that it was misleading for Cambridgeshire to describe itself as the most improved Council nationally; Cambridgeshire had the greatest number of improved performance indicators, but this did not take account of previous performance levels or the amount of improvement that had occurred. He reminded members that Cambridgeshire's public satisfaction level was in the bottom quartile nationally.

Responding, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, emphasised that the Council was self-aware; it was appropriate to take pride in achievements, whilst continuing to drive improvements.

- 9) Annual Public Health Report 2008

Councillor Hughes emphasised the importance of this document, which should be used to underpin the Council's decision-making. She expressed concern that too many people were currently suffering from poor health, and that one of the most effective ways the Council could promote quality of life, and in so doing reduce its own costs, would be to promote a healthier population.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, endorsed these comments and noted that the County Council and Cambridgeshire Together were already using this document and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to guide their work. The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Pegram, confirmed that the Council would use the documents with partners to work toward mutually agreed outcomes.

10) Updated Response to Report from Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on Drug and Alcohol Issues for 11-18 Year Olds

Councillor Sales welcomed this review and the recent update, but restated his view that scrutiny of services for adults, particularly in relation to alcohol misuse, was also much needed.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, agreed that the impact of adults' drug and alcohol misuse on families was substantial.

11) Consumer and Business Advice Policy

12) Adult Social Care Complaints

Councillor Jenkins suggested that it would be more helpful to talk about 'communications' than 'complaints', since the term 'complaints' could make people unnecessarily defensive. He also commented on the need for appropriate responses to members of the public, highlighting a recent experience in his division where the Council's response had been unduly formal and bureaucratic.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Pegram, confirmed that the Executive Director: Community and Adult Services was currently revising procedures. He would be ensuring that suitable mechanisms were in place to involve members.

13) Petitions

A number of members spoke on the forthcoming review of winter maintenance:

- Councillor Downes asked for the review also to consider the gritting of essential minor roads in rural areas, such as those leading to workplaces.
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt suggested that gritting should be prioritised by need and benefit, based on the extent of risk to individuals and the usage of the route.
- Councillor Johnstone commented that the petition was very Cambridge-focussed and reminded members that cycling was very important in other parts of the County, for children travelling to school as well as adults travelling to work.

- Councillor Huppert welcomed the petition, commenting that the Council's gritting policy to date had been too car-focussed and should also ensure that pedestrians and cyclists were able to travel safely.
- Councillor Kindersley suggested that the remit of the review should be widened to work with District Councils and Registered Social Landlords to improve gritting outside sheltered schemes, to reduce falls and enable residents to go out safely in bad weather. Councillor Hughes suggested that this should be extended to work with Housing departments to ensure all residents could walk safely through estates.
- Councillor Broadway suggested that clearer advice to Parish Council on their liabilities would encourage them to carry out more gritting of their local areas.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, confirmed that there would be a full review of the Council's winter maintenance policy and that District and Parish Councils would be involved. He agreed that the safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians was paramount, but emphasised that it was important also to be realistic about what was possible within available resources.

Report of the meeting held on 21st April 2009

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, moved receipt of the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 21st April 2009.

1) Aiming High for Disabled Children and Young People

Councillor Ballard welcomed the Cabinet's decision to use the resources made available through this Government initiative to fund respite provision. He and Councillor Hughes asked officers to ensure that Primary Care Trust (PCT) funding intended to support this initiative was correctly applied.

Councillor Griffiths commented that the setting of appropriate eligibility criteria would be key to the success of this initiative. She asked whether there was any update on the PCT funding position.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, confirmed that the County Council would be using its Aiming High funding for this purpose only. No response had yet been received from the PCT; this would be followed up.

2) Network Service Plan 2009 and Revised Highway Policies

Councillor Stone commented that delivery of the Network Service Plan was often affected in-year by budgetary constraints, and that it was difficult to track both these and the links to other highways programmes. He asked whether the Plan could be integrated fully with the other programmes discussed at Area Joint Committees, to enable members better to monitor progress.

A number of speakers commented on Cabinet's decision to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the centre of Cambridge:

- Councillor Bourke asked the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, to contact Portsmouth City Council to find out more about their scheme, particularly how it had been promoted through the schools.
- Councillor Reid welcomed the change of policy on 20mph but expressed concern that the Portsmouth approach had been very different, a blanket measure across most of the city, with traffic calming measures introduced at a later stage if the speed limit was not being observed. He suggested that the patchwork approach in Cambridge, focussing on areas with high levels of cycling, would not be as successful.
- Councillor Hughes sought assurance that mechanisms would be in place to detect whether vehicles were observing the 20mph limit.
- Councillors Moss-Eccardt and Jenkins welcomed the introduction of the new speed limit but expressed disappointment that it was not being applied more extensively or even-handedly, for example to other residential parts of Cambridge. Councillor Huppert supported this view, suggesting that it was not essential to have physical measures in place in order to introduce lower speeds.
- Councillor Jenkins also expressed concern that when Parish Councils had money available to fund their own schemes, they were being told that they needed to join the queue of County Council schemes.
- Councillors Bell called for a similar scheme to be introduced in Ely as soon as possible, building on existing provision in the Ely Transport Strategy. Councillor Higginson echoed this view, suggesting that a trial in a well defined area such as a market town would be very useful.
- Councillor Johnstone welcomed the introduction of 20mph speed limits but expressed concern at possible costs, given that the Government would not be providing any additional funding.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, reminded Council that the Network Service Plan was a comprehensive document covering a wide range of issues. He agreed to investigate Councillor Stone's request. On 20mph speed limits, he noted that the Cambridge scheme was a pilot, from which it was intended to learn before rolling out similar schemes elsewhere. He also reminded members of the Council's extensive campaign to reduce speed limits close to schools. On funding, he confirmed that there were no new resources, but noted that Cycling Demonstration Town funding would be used for the Cambridge pilot.

3) g2g Card: Future Arrangements

Councillor Batchelor questioned whether funding the g2g card for 2,000 young people was the most appropriate use of £600,000, which could be applied more generally to youth services to benefit 54,000 young people in the same age group. £600,000 would provide for a 20% increase on the Council's mainstream funding for youth services, currently £3 million as compared with the £5.4 million recommended through the Government's funding formula. He also expressed concern that £210,000 payable in overheads for operating the scheme, 35% of the total, further compounded the scheme's poor value for money.

Councillor Hughes welcomed the Cabinet's decision to continue to fund the g2g card, an influential scheme giving vulnerable young people resources and helping them to learn to manage money. She asked whether the scheme would be available to young people newly meeting the eligibility criteria this year.

Councillor Lucas expressed disappointment that the Government would not be continuing to fund this scheme, which it had initiated, and welcomed the Cabinet's decision to support it. He suggested that it might be possible to obtain sponsorship to help reduce overhead costs.

Councillor Griffiths also expressed disappointment at the discontinuation of Government funding. Given the problems with the Council's continuation of the scheme, including high overheads and the reduction of the monthly subsidy to young people from £40 to £15, she agreed either that sponsorship should be sought or that the £600,000 should be redirected to mainstream services.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, shared members' frustration that Government funding for the card had ceased without any analysis of its benefits. He confirmed that the Council's scheme would be open to young people newly eligible this year. The Council would continue to work to reduce overheads and to investigate wider application of the scheme, for example by extending it to a wider peer group, enabling parents to give money to their children to spend on positive activities.

4) Property Issues

Councillor Harper welcomed the Cabinet's decision on the King Edward Centre, Chatteris, noting that this was an important resource for the local community. He reported that since the Cabinet meeting, Fenland District Council had also agreed funding to enable the project to progress.

Councillor Melton also thanked the Cabinet for their decision. He and Councillor Jenkins commended the partnership working between the County Council, District Council and Chatteris Town Council.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt welcomed the Cabinet's decision to lease the property at less than market value, in recognition of its importance to the community, and hoped that this practice could also be adopted elsewhere.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Performance, People, Policy and Law, Councillor J Reynolds, commended the project as an example of effective partnership working and of making best use of the Council's resources to benefit Cambridgeshire residents.

5) Support for the Voluntary Sector during the Economic Downturn

Councillor Ballard welcomed the Cabinet's decision to provide additional support to the voluntary sector during the economic downturn. He also noted that voluntary organisations were reporting a more positive relationship between themselves and the County Council. He reminded members that financial and debt issues were closely linked to people's emotional wellbeing and that the need for relationship advice was also likely to increase during the downturn.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Yeulett, confirmed that the Council would continue to work closely with the voluntary sector during the downturn, focussing on three key areas: money and debt advice, relationship advice and volunteering opportunities.

6) Sub-Regional Economic Strategy for the Greater Cambridge Area

7) Safety of Sports Ground Policy

8) Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies Collecting Policy

Councillor Ballard expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in developing a Historic Resource and Cultural Centre (HRCC). He emphasised the importance of looking after the Council's archives appropriately.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Yeulett, reported that the search for a site for an HRCC was continuing.

9) Review of the Application of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

10) Issues Arising from Scrutiny Committees

a) Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee – Use of Technology Review

Councillor Moss-Eccardt expressed disappointment at the Cabinet's response to this review and asked for a more detailed response to be prepared in due course.

b) Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee – Integrated Planning Process Review

11) Quarterly Update Report on Key Partnerships

a) Cambridgeshire Together

- b) Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Children and Young People Steering Group
- c) Cambridgeshire Care Partnership
- d) Cambridgeshire Horizons

Councillor Hughes reported that the Joint Accountability Committee had recently had a useful discussion about the role and functions of Cambridgeshire Horizons.

- e) Community Safety Strategic Partnership Board
- f) Greater Cambridge Partnership

12) Guided Busway: Contract Update

Discussion of this item is recorded under Minute 319 below.

Report of the meeting held on 5th May 2009

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, moved receipt of the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5th May 2009.

1) Draft Consultation Response on Amended Outline Planning Application: Land Between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge

Councillor Moss-Eccardt welcomed the County Council's response but expressed concern at the shortfall in primary and possibly secondary school places as a result of increased demand from existing and new communities. He also noted that Section 106 contributions to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway would be expected from this development, despite the timing of the development and its distance from the Busway route, and asked how the criteria for developments contributing to the Busway had been defined.

Councillor White emphasised that the developers should be required to contribute to educational provision associated with the new development, especially since the economic downturn was meaning more parents were opting for state instead of private education, reducing surplus places in existing schools. He also asked how possible development on the adjoining NIAB site would be taken into account.

Councillors Jenkins and Hughes emphasised that the new development should be viewed as a community, with the right schools in the right location, a commercial centre open from the outset and facilities, roads, signs and crossings in place. The new community should also be well linked to existing parts of Cambridge. Lessons should be learned from the Council's experience at Orchard Park.

Councillor J Reynolds expressed concern at the possible impact of this and the adjoining NIAB development on Girton and in particular its identity as a separate village. He asked members to ensure that the views of Girton residents were taken into account.

Councillor Heathcock commended the Cabinet's decision to object to the planning application until outstanding issues relating to Section 106 contributions had been resolved. He agreed with Councillor J Reynolds about the importance of retaining the Green Belt.

The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, welcomed members' comments and agreed that it would be essential both to build new communities and to improve circumstances for existing residents, not make them worse.

2) Carbon Management Plan

Councillor Reid expressed concern that the Cabinet appeared repeatedly to be meeting minimum Government requirements to address climate change, rather than showing community leadership. This had previously been the case with measurement of carbon emissions, and was now the case with targets for reduction of carbon emissions. Councillor Reid suggested that the aim of reducing emissions by 30% over 10 years, as proposed by the Carbon Trust, should not be aspirational but a firm target: as well as having environmental benefits, the Council could save up to £5 million.

Councillor Jenkins suggested that the extent of possible financial savings meant that carbon reduction initiatives were an appropriate use for money from the Invest to Transform Fund. He asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, to explore this possibility further.

Councillor Ballard noted that 61% of the Council's carbon emissions were generated by schools, over whose budgets the Council had no control. If schools did not take steps to reduce their emissions, for example by replacing boilers, the Council would be hard pressed to meet its targets. It would be essential to resolve this issue.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Performance, People, Policy and Law, Councillor J Reynolds, noted that the Council was already working with schools to help them reduce their carbon emissions and had set aside £2 million for this purpose. The Council was also working with other partners, such as bus operators. The aim throughout was to reduce both dependence on fossil fuels and overall energy consumption.

3) Adult Social Care Transformation Strategy

Councillor Ballard emphasised the need for effective consultation not only with the active elderly but also with the frail elderly and with carers, who would have very different views on the level and nature of services needed. He also welcomed the flexibility and control associated with individual budgets, but expressed concern that in recruiting their own carers, service users could be exposing themselves to greater risks of fraud and abuse. He suggested that the Council would need to continue to provide services directly for its most vulnerable clients.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Pegram, noted that the Adult Social Care Transformation Strategy would be far-reaching, improving individuals' quality of life by promoting independence and choice.

- 4) Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2009-2012
- 5) Strategic Policy Advice to the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) – Review of Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

Councillor Stone commended the thoroughness of the Council's approach in developing its input into the review of the RSS, in particular the work of the Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel. He welcomed the recent decision that a new settlement at Mereham would not be viable and hoped that a similar conclusion would be reached for Hanley Grange.

Councillor Hunt thanked members, officers and local residents for their support for the campaign against Mereham. He expressed concern at the substantial costs that the County and District Councils had had to incur as part of this campaign.

The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, also commended the work undertaken to respond to EERA's requirements.

- 6) Response to the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) Consultation Document 'The End of an EERA'

Councillor Hunt suggested that it was appropriate to bring the work of the East of England Regional Assembly to a conclusion. Councillor Huppert agreed, but expressed concern that powers would be transferring to the East of England Development Agency, which was even less transparent and democratically accountable.

Councillor Sales called for clearer language and fewer acronyms from EERA's successor bodies.

The Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Highways, Councillor Bradney, agreed that it was appropriate for EERA to come to an end. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, also agreed but shared Councillor Huppert's concerns about the Regional Development Agency and noted that it would be essential to ensure that Cambridgeshire's voice continued to be heard.

- 7) Issues Arising from Scrutiny Committees
 - a) Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee – Community Cohesion Review
 - b) Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee – Carbon and Energy Management Review

- c) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – Review of Access to Health Services for People with Learning Disabilities
- d) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – Review of the Development of Self-Directed Support in Adult Social Care

318. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion was proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following report, on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information)) and Paragraph 5 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings) 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.

The following motion was then proposed by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the debate of whether or not the press or public should be excluded during consideration of the following report, on the grounds that the debate is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information)) and Paragraph 5 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings) 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.

The Chairman moved that the second motion be taken straight to the vote. This was challenged by Councillors Moss-Eccardt and Huppert. The Solicitor to the Council advised that this was recommended because of the risk in debating whether the main debate should take place in public or private of accidentally disclosing exempt information, risking a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Councillor Brown moved that the Council proceed straight to the vote on the second motion. This was seconded by Councillor J Reynolds and agreed. [Voting pattern: Conservative Group in favour, Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups against.]

Council then voted on the second motion, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the debate of whether or not the press or public should be excluded during consideration of the following report. The motion was carried. [Voting pattern: Conservative Group in favour, Liberal Democrat and Labour Group against.]

Once this motion had been carried, the press and public were excluded from the Council Chamber.

Following the exclusion of the press and public, Council debated the first of the motions, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following report. Following debate, Council voted on the motion and it was carried. [Voting pattern: Conservative Group in favour, Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups against.]

This decision was notified to people outside the Council Chamber.

319. REPORT OF CABINET MEETING – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Following the exclusion of the press and public, the Council discussed item 12 on the Cabinet report of 21st April 2009, 'Guided Busway: Confidential Update'. Members discussed the progress of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway scheme and in particular emerging contractual issues.

Chairman:

Note: The confidential set of minutes has been signed by the Chairman and is archived in a separate confidential file.