

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 21st October 2008

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 3.20 p.m.

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor A G Orgee (Chairman)

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

Apologies: Councillors K Churchill, S Higginson and A C Kent

256. MINUTES: 22nd JULY 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

257. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Business Services and Information Technology

The Chairman paid tribute to Debbie Bondi, the Director of Business Services and Information Technology, who had left the Council on 10th October 2008. Temporary arrangements had been made to cover the post pending the organisational restructuring.

Casual vacancy for the electoral division of Hardwick

The Chairman reported that notice of a casual vacancy had been posted for the electoral division of Hardwick, following the disqualification of Councillor Baldwin under the six-month rule.

Awards and achievements

The Chairman led members in offering congratulations to all those involved in the following achievements:

- Recognition of the Council in the 'Best Use of Technology' category at the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Supply Management Awards for 2008

- Two awards for the contact centre at the Awards Ceremony for the Top 50 Call Centres for Customer Service, the top award for the public sector and tenth place overall
- The Council's shortlisting for Beacon status in the category of 'Cutting red tape: delivering real economic and social benefit through better local regulation'
- A Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for Improved Public Education
- The Teaching Award for Enterprise, which had been given to Thomas Minnock, a recently retired teacher from Linton Village College
- A Learning through Travel award from the Society of Information Technology Management, which had been given to Frances Kettleday
- All those athletes from Cambridgeshire who had taken part in the recent Olympics and Paralympics. The Chairman reported that Cambridgeshire's four medallists had been invited to attend the next meeting of Council and would also be invited to the Chairman's reception in December.

Order of business

The Chairman reported that following discussion with Group Leaders, the order of items on the Council agenda had been varied so that the information items within the Cabinet reports would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Special meeting of Council in December

The Chairman reminded members that there would be a special meeting of Council on Tuesday 9th December 2008 at 10.00 a.m., to consider mandatory changes to the Council's executive arrangements as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It was expected that the meeting would end in time for the ordinary Council meeting scheduled for the same day to start at the usual time of 10.30 a.m.

258. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared personal interests under Paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct. The items to which the interests relate are shown in brackets.

- Councillors Batchelor, Downes, Dutton, Heathcock, Hensley, Hunt, Hyams, King and McGuire as members of the Pension Scheme, Councillor Curtis as he and his wife were members of the Pension Scheme, Councillor Read as he and his wife were members of the Pensions Scheme, Councillor Melton as his wife and daughter were members of the Pension Scheme and Councillor White as Chairman of the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, which was a member of the Pension Scheme (Minute 261, Pensions Committee Annual Report for 2007/08)
- Councillor Harrison as a Governor of the Parkside Federation (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet – Items for Information, Report of the Meeting held on 7th October 2008, Item 4, Establishment of First Primary School to Serve Northstowe: Determination of Promoter)
- Councillor Hunt as a member of the Ely Master Plan Working Group (Minute 263, Written Questions)
- Councillors Huppert and Wilkins as members of the NO2ID campaign (Minute 266, Motions)

- Councillor Jenkins as a lay member and Councillor Lucas as the Chairman of the Board of Cambridgeshire Community Services and Councillor Bean as an employee (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet – Items for Information, Report of the Meeting held on 9th September 2008, Item 3, Joint Commissioning Strategies and Item 12, Progress on the Annual Performance Assessment Action Plan, and Report of the Meeting held on 7th October 2008, Item 11, Cambridgeshire Together: Review of Partnerships and Implications for Governance)
- Councillor Johnstone as a Non-Executive Director of the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and their representative on the Children and Young People Steering Group (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet – Items for Information, Report of the Meeting held on 7th October 2008, Item 17, Quarterly Report on Partnerships)
- Councillor Melton as a paid employee of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Councillor Curtis as an accredited peer reviewer (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet – Items for Information, Report of the Meeting held on 7th October 2008, Item 2, IDeA Corporate Peer Review: Final Report and Action Plan)
- Councillor Read as a member of the Cambridge Older Persons' Enterprise (COPE) (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet, Items for Information)
- Councillor J Reynolds as the Chairman, Councillor Tuck as a member of the executive and Councillor Read as a member of the East of England Regional Assembly, and Councillor J Reynolds as the Chairman of Renewables East (EERA) (Minute 268, Report of the Cabinet – Items for Information, Report of the Meeting held on 9th September 2008, Item 10, EERA Draft Project Plan and Statement of Public Participation for the East of England Plan)

Councillor Humphrey declared a prejudicial interest under Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct as the planning agent for a waste recycling company in the discussion recorded under Minute 262, Reports of the Cabinet – Item for Determination, Item a), Joint Municipal Waste Strategy. He left the Council Chamber whilst this item was discussed.

259. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

260. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

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

Approve the revision to the Council Constitution as set out in the appendix to the Council report.

261. PENSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/08

Councillor J Reynolds, the Chairman of the Pensions Committee, moved receipt of the annual report of the Pensions Committee for 2007/08 and highlighted a number of issues relating to the Committee's work. Council noted the report.

262. REPORTS OF THE CABINET – ITEM FOR DETERMINATION

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, moved receipt of the reports of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 9th September 2008 and 7th October 2008.

a) Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (9th September 2008, Item 1)

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Brown, and seconded by the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, Councillor Bradney, that

The Council approve the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy as part of the Council's policy framework.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was agreed. [Voting pattern: Conservatives and Labour members in favour, Liberal Democrats against.]

Councillor Reid noted that Cambridgeshire had had the highest recycling and composting rates of the Shire Counties for the past four years. He congratulated all those who had contributed to this achievement. However, he expressed disappointment in the Strategy for the future. There was no evidence that the CO₂ emissions of vehicles collecting and moving waste had been analysed in order to develop the most efficient model. The targets in the Strategy were not sufficiently ambitious; in particular, the target set for 2010 had already been reached. There was also insufficient emphasis on reducing the actual volumes of waste that were landfilled.

Councillor Jenkins also emphasised the importance of working with householders to reduce and reuse waste.

Councillor Huppert expressed concern that setting no targets to increase recycling and composting until 2015 was complacent. Councillor Harrison asked why a target for 2015 of 60% recycling and composting had not been set, as suggested at the Growth and Environment Policy Development Group.

Councillor Bell expressed concern that although the County's recycling and composting rate was at 51% overall, the rate in East Cambridgeshire was only 36%. He sought assurance that East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) would be advised that recycling undertaken by the new mechanical-biological treatment facility at Waterbeach would not count towards the achievement of recycling targets by ECDC.

Councillor Bates asked the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change to confirm whether the targets had been agreed by Cambridge City Council.

Councillor Kenney noted that Cambridgeshire would be receiving waste from London and sought assurance that residents there would be encouraged as much as Cambridgeshire residents to recycle and compost.

Councillor Hunt highlighted the concerns of East Cambridgeshire residents about the location of a new Recycling Centre. He sought assurance that the Witchford Road site in Witcham would not be used until all other options had been explored, including Angel Drove; and that if the Witchford Road site was used, the Parish Council would be fully involved in its design.

Councillor Hughes highlighted the concerns of Cambridge residents about the siting of waste collection points in the city, especially in terms of impact on the locality and the risk of fire.

Councillors Boddington and Farrer welcomed the new Recycling Centre at St Neots. Councillor Boddington suggested that Buckden residents would be happy to use it and Councillor Farrer noted that it would reduce traffic on Huntingdon Street using the current facility.

Councillor Downes expressed concern that the new Recycling Centre in St Neots would result in longer car journeys for residents from Buckden and elsewhere in Huntingdonshire. Journeys to the new Recycling Centre as compared with the current facility at Buckden were estimated on average to be 10 miles longer each, significantly increasing carbon emissions.

Councillor Hyams reported that he had recently visited the Recycling Centre at Alconbury, which would be used by some of the residents who had previously used Buckden, and had been very impressed with the facilities there. Councillor Dutton noted that the Recycling Centre at Alconbury would be nearer for many Huntingdonshire residents.

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, Councillor Bradney, emphasised that the aim was to achieve efficiencies of scale. He expressed confidence that Cambridgeshire would continue to lead nationally on recycling and composting and urged members to support the Strategy.

Summing up, the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change confirmed that the County Council was working with East Cambridgeshire District Council to increase recycling levels. Possible sites for the new Recycling Centre in East Cambridgeshire were being reviewed and local people would be consulted. Targets to increase recycling and composting would be kept under review. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change encouraged all members to visit the Council's Recycling Centres, to help inform debate.

263. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

One written question had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9:

- Councillor Higginson had asked the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, about Section 106 funding for educational provision in Ely.

The response was circulated at the Council meeting and copies are available from Democratic Services.

264. ORAL QUESTIONS

Twenty-one oral questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9:

- Councillor Wilkins asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, Councillor Bradney, about officer advice given at the Cambridge Traffic Management Area Joint Committee the previous week, that buses from the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway would not be able to use ordinary bus stops unless these were adapted. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure confirmed that the buses would be able to use ordinary bus stops and that it was intended they would do so in St Ives and Huntingdon. As a supplementary question, Councillor Wilkins asked whether buses from the Guided Busway would have stops on Histon Road and Milton Road in Cambridge. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure confirmed that they would.
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt reminded members that a previous Leader had assured the Council that no taxpayers' money would be spent on the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, but rather that it would be funded from other sources such as Government grant and Section 106 contributions. He therefore asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tuck, why members had recently been advised that £0.5-1 million of taxpayers' money would be used to build bus-stops etc. for the Guided Busway. Responding, the Leader of the Council explained that the pledge not to use local money applied only to the guided sections. She agreed to send a written response setting out how the local expenditure on the non-guided sections would be funded.
- Councillor Criswell asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure what the maintenance costs had been for the past five years for the eastern section of the B1050 between Earith and Willingham, as compared with the western section to Bar Hill. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure noted that £242,000 had been spent on this section over the past five years. In response to concerns raised by the Environment Agency, Atkins were currently carrying out a geo-technical study of this route; and a further £20,000 would be spent on patching before the end of the year.
- Councillor Batchelor asked the Leader of the Council about arrangements for the scrutiny of the distribution of the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) reward grant, £9 million this year. Each District's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) had allocated the grant according to local priorities, but since the County Council was the accountable body, the County Council's Cabinet had made the final decision. Councillor Batchelor expressed concern that there was currently no mechanism for scrutiny of the LSPs and that this was a failing of democratic accountability.

Responding, the Leader of the Council noted that the County Council's Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee could scrutinise the Cabinet's decision on the allocation of the LPSA reward grant. The Joint Accountability Committee, which scrutinised the Local Area Agreement, could also play a part. However, she agreed that arrangements for the scrutiny of the LSPs were not clear and advised members that she had

asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire, to look into this. The Deputy Leader confirmed that he would be taking this issue forward, but reminded members that the County Council could not dictate how the District Councils exercised their Scrutiny function.

- Councillor McCraith asked the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, how Cambridgeshire students had performed at A-level this year. The Cabinet Member for Learning reported that Cambridgeshire's A-level results had been the highest in the Council's statistical group of 12 authorities and that both A-level and GCSE results had generally been very good.
- Councillor Sales reminded members that when the new cycle and pedestrian bridge at Riverside in Cambridge had opened, the Council had promised to keep traffic on Stanley Road under review. He expressed concern that this was not being done and that the junction between Stanley Road and Newmarket Road was dangerous. He asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure to look into this. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure agreed to do so and to send a written response.
- Councillor Hyams noted that 73,000 people in the UK suffered from hearing difficulties. He asked the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Pegram, what actions the Council was taking to ensure that it did not neglect this section of the community. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing reported that in 2007/08, the Council had supported 350 deaf service users, two-thirds of whom were over 65. Support included the supply and maintenance of equipment and signposting to community, voluntary and other statutory services. The Council had good links with audiology clinics and the Fire and Rescue Service and provided financial support to a range of voluntary sector groups.
- Following on from Councillor Criswell's question about the B1050, Councillor Johnstone noted that Stagecoach had recently redirected its 15 bus service away from this road. She asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure whether this road was unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure agreed to address this point in a written response.
- Councillor Williamson asked the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor J Reynolds, whether he was confident that the Council had robust systems in place to issue timely requests for Section 106 contributions from developers and to ensure that the contributions were paid. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services confirmed that appropriate systems were in place.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Williamson asked about Section 106 payments for a specific scheme in Waterbeach, which appeared to have been delayed as a result of the credit crunch. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, Councillor Bradney, noted that payments of £245,000 for education and £75,000 for transport had been due two months previously, but had not been received. The developers had advised the Council that they would have difficulty in paying these amounts and had asked if they could pay by instalments. The Council had written suggesting a programme of instalments and a response was awaited.

- Councillor Carter drew attention to the Council's recent decision to give staff an interim pay award of 2.45%, pending resolution of the national pay dispute. She asked the Leader of the Council whether she considered that this increase adequately reflected the rising costs of living faced by the Council's staff. Responding, the Leader of the Council recognised that the credit crunch was making life difficult for people, hence the Council's decision to make the interim pay award, which would be backdated to April 2008 and paid in November. She noted that the work of staff was much appreciated but that it was not appropriate to comment further whilst the arbitration was in process.
- Councillor Huppert noted that a recent report to the Cambridge Traffic Management Area Joint Committee had highlighted seven new bus stops that would be urgently required for buses from the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. He asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure why it had not been possible to consult Cabinet and partners about these bus stops. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure agreed to send a written response.
- Councillor Read drew attention to local concerns about forecast traffic flows from new developments at Northstowe and on the Cambridge fringes. He asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure to write to all affected Parish Councils setting out the latest information on this issue. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure confirmed that the Head of New Communities would be writing to relevant Parish Councils as soon as the information was available and that this would be copied to Councillor Read.
- Councillor Jenkins asked the Leader of the Council whether she believed that the decision about reorganisation of the Council's senior management should be taken by Cabinet, which was accountable through Scrutiny, rather than by the Appointments Committee, which was not. Responding, the Leader of the Council explained that in her view it was appropriate for the Appointments Committee to play a role, as it was cross-party whereas the Cabinet was not. Councillor Jenkins asked how the decision could be scrutinised. The Leader of the Council noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had already invited the Chief Executive to attend a meeting to discuss the reorganisation and commented that in her view, this sufficed.
- Councillor Williams drew attention to recent consultation on the possible withdrawal of Council subsidy from some bus routes, and two petitions signed by 10,000 people relating to services in the east of the County. She asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure how data informing the consultation had been gathered and how it had been used to identify the routes on which to consult. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure explained that a scoring system had been used, which he would describe further in a written response. Councillor Williams drew attention to two particular routes, the 10 and the 10a, for which she believed the usage data to be inaccurate, and asked whether the withdrawal of these services would result in increased traffic entering Cambridge. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure noted that savings were needed and that if services were not used, subsidies would have to be withdrawn.

- Councillor Giles noted that the name of her division, St Neots Eaton Socon, contained no reference to Eynesbury. She asked the Leader of the Council whether she would support a change of name for the division to include Eynesbury, which she believed would encourage more people to vote. Responding, the Leader of the Council noted that a petition on this issue was now running, to establish whether it had the support of people in the area.
- Councillor Bates invited the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure to join him and officers in considering residents' concerns about the number of heavy goods vehicles using the B1040 through Hilton. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure agreed to do so.
- Councillor Bell drew attention to recent flooding in Ely and asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure whether the Council would work with Anglian Water to upgrade the main drain, to minimise the flood risk. He also asked whether the Council would undertake more rigorous cleaning of drains and gutters to manage run-off, and whether the Council would consider using emergency funding in the Highways budget for this purpose. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure agreed to send a written response to these questions.
- Councillor White asked the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change whether the public art installation on Magdalene Street in Cambridge could be repaired within the next two months and whether in so doing, it could be repositioned to avoid a repeat of the earlier accident that had befallen it. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change agreed to send a written response.
- Councillor Hughes asked the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, to join her in congratulating the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust [the Mental Health Trust] on its excellent result following recent inspection by Government. She also asked him to help ensure that the Chairman of the Trust recognised the benefits of the developing partnership working. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Children offered his congratulations to the Trust and noted that he and the Deputy Chief Executive – Children and Young People's Services were working closely with the Trust and with NHS Cambridgeshire to develop effective partnership arrangements.
- Councillor Bourke drew attention to the Council's policy of introducing 20mph speed limits only in areas where the average speed was already 20mph, even though this was inconsistent with central Government policy. He noted that whereas 50% of accidents at 30mph were fatal, only 5% at 20mph, and urged the Council to bring down speed limits in built-up areas. He asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure to review the existing policy. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure advised that he had asked officers to review this policy and would be reporting back in due course.
- Councillor Boddington asked the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure for an update on actions being taken by the Council to resolve

parking issues at St Neots railway station. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure noted that the Council controlled neither the station car park nor the on-street parking nearby. However, the problem of parking at the station was recognised in the St Neots Market Town Strategy and the Council was working with the train operator and developers to bring forward sustainable transport solutions in the area.

A transcript of the questions is available from Democratic Services.

265. QUESTIONS ON POLICE AND FIRE AUTHORITY ISSUES

Members were invited to ask questions and comment on issues relating to the Cambridgeshire Police Authority and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Report of the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority

There were no questions relating to the Cambridgeshire Police Authority.

Report of the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

Councillor Heathcock asked the Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, Councillor Pegram, how confident he was that work would begin in 2009 on the Cambourne fire station, given the effects of the credit crunch on house-building rates. He asked how actively the Fire and Rescue Service would be recruiting officers from in and around Cambourne. He also asked the Chairman to ensure that officers at Papworth fire station, who were currently providing cover for Cambourne, were kept fully informed of progress. Responding, the Chairman expressed his confidence that the development would go ahead in 2009. Recruitment would take place closer to the time, with staff being relocated to Cambourne if necessary. Colleagues at Papworth would be kept fully informed.

Councillor Heathcock also requested an update on the provision of an alternative Fire and Rescue training facility in Cambridge whilst the redevelopment of Parkside fire station was underway. Responding, the Chairman explained that discussions were taking place concerning two possible sites for a training facility, but that the details of these were commercially sensitive.

A transcript of the questions is available from Democratic Services.

266. MOTIONS

Two motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10:

Motion from Councillor Wilkins

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Moss-Eccardt:

This Council notes the Government's plans to introduce ID cards. This scheme will have an effect upon all of the people of Cambridgeshire.

This Council believes:

- 1) That the disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of Cambridgeshire
- 2) That the scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud
- 3) That the national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights
- 4) That the ID card and database proposals are likely to fundamentally alter the relationship between the state and the individual.

According to Government estimates, the cost of such a scheme could reach £7.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting substantially higher costs. Cambridgeshire residents will be required to pay £93 for a passport and ID card together.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Affiliate to the 'No2ID' campaign, which already includes MPs and several political parties
- 2) Make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards
- 3) Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards
- 4) Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law
- 5) Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful.

The Chairman advised that he had accepted the motion as although the introduction of identity cards was a national issue, some of the proposed actions would directly affect Cambridgeshire residents.

Introducing the motion, Councillor Wilkins argued that the introduction of identity cards would lead to an inappropriate centralisation of power and would fundamentally change the relationship between the citizen and the state. Risks associated with fraud and incorrect data were substantial, and there was also the possibility that data could in future be sold for commercial use.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Curtis and seconded by Councillor Normington, which would alter the motion to read as follows:

This Council notes the Government's plans to introduce ID cards. This scheme will have an effect upon all of the people of Cambridgeshire.

This Council believes:

- 1) That the disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of Cambridgeshire
- 2) That the scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud

- 3) That the national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights
- 4) That the ID card and database proposals are likely to fundamentally alter the relationship between the state and the individual
- 5) That a dedicated border police force would do more to protect the people of Cambridgeshire from terrorism than a National ID Card scheme, and using some of the estimated costs to improve drugs rehabilitation for offenders would provide better value for the taxpayers of the County.

Estimates of the scheme's total costs range between £4.7 billion and nearly £20 billion. Cambridgeshire residents will be required to pay £93 for a passport and ID card together.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards
- 2) Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards
- 3) Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law and to only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful.

Members speaking in support of the amendment identified the following points:

- The original motion was not about the Council's core business but about a national issue, and as such would more properly be debated by Parliament.
- As the introduction of identity cards did not relate directly to the Council's core business, it was not appropriate for the Council to affiliate to the NO2ID campaign; to do so would set an undesirable precedent for the Council to be asked to join other pressure groups. It was for members to decide if they wished to join individually.

Members speaking against the amendment identified the following points:

- The Chairman had accepted the original motion as relevant to the Council's business and the amendment made more reference to national issues than the original motion had done.
- Over 30 other local authorities had already joined the NO2ID campaign.
- The original motion had referred to Government estimates of the costs of the scheme; there were no apparent sources for the figures quoted in the amendment.

- The suggestions for alternative uses of the funding were not appropriate; in particular, the Liberal Democrat group did not support the introduction of a dedicated border police force and would favour use of the funding to provide additional police officers for each Constabulary.

Labour members reported that they did not support either the original motion or the amendment. The introduction of identity cards and measures to address terrorism were both serious issues that should not be trivialised, and which were being fully scrutinised at a national level.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried. [Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour, Liberal Democrat and Labour members against.]

Councillor Wilkins expressed his disappointment that the original motion had been amended, but commented that the amended motion was still a clear statement of opposition to identity cards.

Members then voted on the motion as amended and it was carried. [Voting pattern: Conservative and Liberal Democrat members in favour, Labour members against.]

Motion from Councillor Brown

With the agreement of the Council, Councillor Brown amended his motion as circulated with the Council agenda to the following, which he proposed and which Councillor Bradney seconded:

That this Council supports the representations already made by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and notes with deep concern the further in-year revenue cuts by central Government to the Regional Development Agency's budget. These will have a damaging impact on its capacity to provide much needed support for industry and commerce in Cambridgeshire at this critical time of economic downturn and negative growth.

A copy of the letter sent by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate Change to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was circulated.

Introducing the motion, Councillor Brown explained that up to £21 million of funding for the East of England could be withdrawn over the next two years

Members speaking in support of the motion made the following points:

- The East of England Regional Development Agency (RDA) was the lowest-funded RDA nationally. Removing funding from it would further reduce its ability to help the businesses and hence the residents of Cambridgeshire.
- Some parts of the County were very reliant on the RDA to assist with job and wealth creation. The current economic downturn meant that it was a particularly inopportune time to remove funding for this purpose.

- Irrespective of long-term Conservative policy, it was important to work at present within existing mechanisms to maximise benefit for the County.

Members speaking against the motion made the following points:

- The RDA was an unelected and unaccountable body with a record of poor performance. It would be preferable for the funding to come directly to local authorities.
- National Conservative policy was to abolish RDAs, which made this motion surprising.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried. [Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour, Liberal Democrats against, Labour members abstained.]

267. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The following appointments to Committees and outside bodies were proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Orgee, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Oliver, and agreed unanimously:

- Councillor Walters to replace Councillor Tuck as a member of the Pensions Committee
- Councillor Hyams to be appointed to the vacancy on the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO)
- Councillor Jenkins to be appointed as substitute for Councillor Moss-Eccardt on ESPO
- Councillor Powley to replace Councillor Boddington as a member of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Boddington to replace Councillor Powley as a substitute member of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Batchelor to replace Councillor Griffiths as a member of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor J Reynolds to be replaced as a member of the Appointments Committee by a Cabinet nominee.

268. REPORT OF THE CABINET – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Report of the meeting held on 9th September 2008

2) Transport Innovation Fund (TIF): Formation of a Transport Commission

Councillor Reid commented that the proposals for the Transport Commission now agreed by Cabinet differed fundamentally from those put forward by the Leader of the Council in June 2008. The Liberal Democrat group had been opposed to the earlier proposals that the Commission consist of 10-20 local representatives, who would have been unelected and could potentially have had serious conflicts of interest. The new proposals for a Commission of three external people would mean that these people would not have conflicts of interest, although they would still be unelected. The Liberal Democrat group would present its views to the Commission, but remained concerned that

the Commission would introduce unnecessary expense and delay. Councillor Reid suggested that it would have been preferable to instruct officers immediately after the results of the public consultation were known, to prepare a revised TIF submission on the basis of the consultation.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt noted that the closing date for applications for membership of the Commission had almost been reached and asked to be advised of further information on applications received.

Councillor Curtis suggested that the Liberal Democrat group had changed their view of the earlier public consultation, as they had previously described it as fundamentally flawed.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure highlighted the considerable work that had been carried out with partners to shape the Transport Commission. The Council would be advised in due course of the outcome of the advertisement for members of the Commission.

3) Joint Commissioning Strategies

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Yeulett, welcomed all three Strategies, which would influence the full range of social care provision and would help to ensure that services were in accordance with people's needs and wishes.

Councillor Ballard noted that no significant increase in resources for learning disability services was expected from either the County Council or NHS Cambridgeshire for the next three years. He contrasted this with the substantial additional investment in Cambridgeshire's learning disability services during the past two years, much higher than national increases, and expressed serious concern that these services would face continuing financial pressure.

The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Pegram, noted that the Council and its partners would be working to transform the way in which social care services would be provided, with major changes to be implemented by April 2011. There would be no significant increases to funding, but savings would be generated by changing forms of service delivery.

4) Draft Policy: Self-Directed Support

Councillor Jenkins agreed that the move to self-directed support would effect dramatic changes to the ways in which services were delivered. However, he expressed concern that the draft policy did not show how the accompanying changes to staffing and to skills and processes would be achieved.

Councillor Ballard welcomed the introduction of independent budgeting in principle, but expressed concern that in practice, those older people most in need would not be able to cope with self-directed support and would continue to require conventional social care.

The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing reassured members that individual care budgets would be optional. The aim was to promote choice, working with a wide range of public, voluntary and community sector partners to help people to live independently. The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing also provided assurance that plans were in place to make the necessary accompanying changes to staffing, skills and processes.

5) Cottenham Village College Learner Support Unit

Councillor Read expressed concern that the existing Learner Support Unit at Cottenham Village College had already been working very effectively and that the changes required to meet Government's requirements were unwelcome and unnecessary.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, and the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, both endorsed this comment.

6) Increase in Published Admission Numbers: Comberton Village College

7) St Neots Market Town Transport Strategy

8) Cambridgeshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Councillor Sales welcomed the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, noting that the incidence of alcohol addiction was much higher than that of drug addiction.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Climate Change, Councillor Brown, also welcomed the Strategy and paid particular tribute to Trading Standards for their pilot scheme working with young people in St Neots, which would now be taken forward.

9) Consultation on Cabinet Improvement Priorities

Councillor Kindersley expressed his disappointment that none of the consultation roadshows had been held in South Cambridgeshire. He sought assurance that for future events, at least one roadshow would be held in South Cambridgeshire, sending an appropriate message to residents of the District that their views were valued.

Councillor Jenkins invited the Leader of the Council to join him in visiting some of the villages of South Cambridgeshire.

Responding, the Leader of the Council emphasised that the views of South Cambridgeshire residents were valued, but noted that the nature of the District meant that there were no large centres of population at which the benefits of this form of contact could be maximised. She had spoken to a large number of South Cambridgeshire residents at the Cambridge roadshow and that residents had also had the opportunity to respond via the household survey and the consultation on the website. The Leader invited Councillor Jenkins to accompany her when she visited South Cambridgeshire communities.

- 10) East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) Draft Project Plan and Statement of Public Participation for the East of England Plan
- 11) Arrangements for 'myplace' Funding: Bidding in Cambridgeshire
- 12) Progress on the Annual Performance Assessment Action Plan, Incorporating the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) Action Plan for Older People's Services in Cambridgeshire and the Best Value Review of Older People's Services Action Plan

Councillor Sales drew attention to concerns highlighted by the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee about IT management and data collection for adult social care and requested an update on progress.

Councillor Jenkins referred to a number of concerns about adult social care raised both by CSCI and by the IDeA peer reviewers, including poor management data, inconsistent leadership and marginalisation of the department. He particularly expressed concern that the Council was not doing enough to develop the provider market and ensure that it was fit for purpose, particularly with the advent of direct payments. He suggested that it would become increasingly important to have a mixture of both large and small private and third sector providers.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing reported that IT management was improving, but that the major barrier at present was the inability to link with NHS systems. The Government's timescale for achieving this remained unclear. On providers, he emphasised that the Council engaged regularly with independent providers and agreed that community-based services would play an increasingly important role.

Report of the meeting held on 7th October 2008

- 1) Shared Services Programme

Councillor Harrison expressed concern at the statement in the Cabinet report that money from the Invest to Transform fund would be required to cover the project savings already assumed in the Council's base budget. She suggested that this was an inappropriate use of the Invest to Transform fund and asked for the financing of the shared service programme and the associated efficiency savings to be revisited.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt expressed reservations as to whether the Council was best placed to provide shared services, given that this was a highly competitive market. He and Councillor Jenkins noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had also found it difficult clearly to establish the costs and savings associated with the programme.

Councillor West noted that the Councillors involved in the Scrutiny Committee's member-led review of shared services had had an excellent opportunity to examine the figures in detail.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor J Reynolds, reported that Northamptonshire County Council's Cabinet had also now formally agreed to participate in the project and so it would be moving forward, to help ensure that back office functions were delivered as efficiently as possible. He thanked the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee for their interest in the project and noted that he would be sending a written response to the issues the Committee had raised.

2) Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Corporate Peer Review: Final Report and Action Plan

Councillor Jenkins commended the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for their decision to request this review. He noted that the reviewers had made a number of useful comments, from which he hoped the Council would now learn.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor J Reynolds, reported that a detailed action plan had been prepared, with implementation already underway.

3) Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA): Investment of Reward Monies

Councillor Downes reiterated the concerns expressed by Councillor Batchelor earlier in the meeting about the unsatisfactory arrangements for scrutiny of this decision. Specifically, he asked whether the £25,000 earmarked for road safety in Huntingdonshire was intended for improvements to the A141 Kings Ripton road and, if so, if this was in addition to the £75,000 promised by the District Council.

Councillor Bates invited the Leader of the Council to join him in celebrating the local authorities' achievement in gaining £9 million of additional funding for Cambridgeshire through the LPSA.

The Leader of the Council agreed that this was a considerable achievement. Responding to Councillor Downes, she confirmed that it was her understanding that the £25,000 was for the A141.

4) Establishment of First Primary School to Serve Northstowe: Determination of Promoter

Speaking on this and the following item, Councillor Downes expressed a number of concerns. He expressed reservations at the first primary school in Northstowe being a Church-promoted school. He also urged members of all parties to convey to Government that the new competition process for the establishment of new schools was bureaucratic, divisive and wasteful of time and money, and that the policy should be revisited.

Councillor Ballard reported that he shared the concerns expressed by Councillor Downes about the competition process, which made it almost impossible for local authorities to found community schools as they had been able to previously. He also expressed concern that school federations, which were now affecting primary as well as secondary schools, were still of unproven merit.

Councillor Harrison commented that in Cambridge, the federation between Parkside and Coleridge Community Colleges was already proving to be very successful.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, reported that he had already lobbied Government on the new competition process.

The Cabinet Member for Learning, David Harty, noted that he also had concerns about the competition process. However, it was current Government policy and so the Council would strive to operate as efficiently as possible within it. The Cabinet Member for Learning paid tribute to those members and officers who had contributed to the Northstowe competitions.

- 5) Establishment of a Secondary School to Serve Northstowe: Determination of Promoter
- 6) Disposal of Land: Duxford Imperial War Museum
- 7) Revised Enforcement Policy for Public Rights of Way
- 8) Review of Integrated Plan 2008-11: National Indicator Targets
- 9) Direction of Travel Self-Assessment 2008

Councillor Jenkins suggested that the Direction of Travel self-assessment should have been more honest about the Council's position. It was misleading to say that Cambridgeshire was a three-star authority, since this was a historic rating; if the Council were reassessed now it would be a two-star authority overall, because of its one-star rating for adult social care. Councillor Jenkins suggested that similarly the case study on personalised travel planning at Arbury Park was misleading, given the numerous other problems associated with this new development.

Councillor Broadway suggested that it was also inappropriate for the Council to give itself too much credit in the self-assessment for the establishment of Neighbourhood Panels, given that nearly all of these had been developed from pre-existing Police Consultation Panels.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Yeulett, noted that a very successful consultation on Neighbourhood Panels had been carried out in Fenland, which would be used to identify good practice for possible application to the rest of the County.

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, Councillor Bradney, noted that the case study on personalised travel planning had been selected for inclusion in the self-assessment as this was a specific example of good practice.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor J Reynolds, reminded members that the Council would be inspected on the strength of its self-assessment and that it would be for the Council to demonstrate that it was achieving the improvements described.

- 10) Comprehensive Area Assessment: Second Consultation
- 11) Cambridgeshire Together: Review of Partnerships and Implications for Governance

Councillor Batchelor welcomed the work done to date to develop more robust partnership arrangements but expressed concern there was still more to be done, particularly in relation to Scrutiny. He noted that the LAA Joint Accountability Committee would be considering the review the following day.

Responding, the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor McGuire, commented that it would be important to achieve the right balance between strategic performance management and local service delivery. He noted that he would be attending the Joint Accountability Committee to discuss the review with Scrutiny members.

- 12) Policing Green Paper

Councillor Sales expressed concern that the proposal to introduce directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives would not improve the democratic accountability of the Police Authority, since the elections were likely to attract only a very small turnout, meaning that the people elected would not be representative.

Councillor Jenkins reported that he shared the concerns expressed by Councillor Sales. He also commented that it was important to have different models for Neighbourhood Panels across the County, if this was what local people wanted; for example, the current Histon Police Panel was vibrant and well attended.

Councillor Broadway reported that Cambridgeshire Police Authority had also submitted a response expressing its opposition to the introduction of Crime and Policing Representatives, stating that they felt that good levels of democratic representation were being achieved. In addition, the proposed changes to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were not supported; there was a risk that Crime and Policing Representatives would be single-issue candidates, skewing overall priorities; and it was also unclear how elections would be managed and funded.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor J Reynolds, welcomed the alignment of the County Council and Police Authority responses and emphasised that much of the good practice described in the Green Paper was already taking place in Cambridgeshire.

- 13) Better Utilisation of Property Assets (BUPA): Emerging Issues and Schemes

Councillor Harrison asked how the specific projects described in the Cabinet paper related to the strategic approach outlined for participants in the recent BUPA workshops. She also noted that the Cabinet paper

had referred to targets set and implied in the Integrated Plan for 2008/09 and asked how progress against these targets would be reviewed.

Responding, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services emphasised that the BUPA programme would be key in ensuring that the Council's property was correctly located, fit for purpose and shared with partners where appropriate. He agreed to send a written response to Councillor Harrison's question about targets.

14) Integrated Finance and Performance Monitoring Report July 2008

Councillor Jenkins drew attention to the £200,000 bid to the Invest to Transform fund for a café in the new Cambridge Central Library. He agreed that a café was needed, but suggested that this would be more appropriately run under franchise by a commercial company.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, commented that it was his understanding that this would be contrary to the terms of the lease for the premises.

15) Delegation of Power to Designate a Local Nature Reserve to Somersham Parish Council

16) Quarterly Report on Partnerships

In relation to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Councillor Downes asked whether the young people had opposed the use of mosquito deterrents and if so, if the Council would be taking action on their behalf.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, confirmed that both the young people and he were deeply opposed to the use of mosquito deterrents and would be doing all they could to ban the use of them.

Chairman: