

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 26th March 2013

Time: 10.30am – 16.15pm

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J Powley (Chairman)
Councillors: S Austen, J Batchelor, I Bates, K Bourke, B Brooks-Gordon, D Brown, F Brown, P Brown, K Churchill, J Clark, N Clarke, S Count, S Criswell, M Curtis, P Downes, J Dutton, R Farrer, N Guyatt, S Gymer, G Harper, N Harrison, D Harty, G Heathcock, S Hoy, W Hunt, C Hutton, D Jenkins, S Johnstone, L Kadić, G Kenney, S King, V Lucas, I Manning, M McGuire, V McGuire, A Melton, L Nethsingha, A Pellew, L Oliver, T Orgee, J Palmer, P Read, P Reeve, J Reynolds, K Reynolds, T Sadiq, P Sales, C Shepherd, M Shuter, M Smith, T Stone, S Tierney, J Tuck, S van de Ven, R West, F Whelan, S Whitebread, K Wilkins, M Williamson, and F Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors: N Bell, R Butcher, S Kindersley, R Pegram, S Sedgwick-Jell, G Wilson and L J Wilson

289. MINUTES – 19TH FEBRUARY 2013

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

290. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

291. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared non-statutory disclosable interests under Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct:

Councillor	Minute	Details
Brooks-Gordon B	297(b)	As a special adviser to the Association of Chief Police Officers on working with the night time economy, and son also a Special Constable
Reeves P	294	Member of a planning panel
Shuter M	294	Employee in the insurance industry for over 30 years

292. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Council noted two questions received from members of the public as set out in **Appendix B**.

293. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

294. ITEM FOR DETERMINATION FROM CABINET

Cambridgeshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

It was moved by the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke, that the recommendations as set out in minute 740 of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 5th March 2013 be approved.

It was resolved unanimously to approve Cambridgeshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

295. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Powley, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor K Reynolds, that the recommendations as set out in the report be approved.

During discussion, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Tierney, agreed to hold a seminar in the new Council to provide an overview of health responsibilities post April 2013. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Curtis, also agreed to clarify how safeguarding would work in the new National Health Service structures. The Chairman reported that the Monitoring Officer would provide an explanatory note to explain the posts of LGSS: Director of Finance and LGSS: Section 151 Officer as detailed in the report.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) approve the content of the proposed amendments to Article 12 and Parts 3D and 3E of the Council's Constitution;
- b) authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to implement the amendments set out in this report with effect from 2nd April 2013, and to make any other amendment to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

296. MOTIONS

Two motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.

(a) Motion from Councillor Bates

It was proposed by Councillor Bates and seconded by Councillor J Reynolds that:

The A14 presents a major barrier to growth, regularly suffers congestion and has a poor safety record. At the high level summit, convened by the County Council and held on the 7th February 2013, there was strong support from across the area for improving the A14 between Cambridge and the A1. There was also widespread acceptance and support for a local contribution to ensure the scheme is delivered as quickly as possible.

The improvements that are proposed will protect local communities by reducing rat running through villages, and by having a local non tolled road will allow our people to go about their daily lives without incurring a charge. By increasing

capacity and through the proposed tolling strategy, the scheme should also see reduced amounts of traffic travelling through and within Cambridge.

The Council supports:

- the continuing commitment by government to improving the A14, which would include local contributions, central government funding and tolling; and
- the importance of the A14 for the local, regional and national economies; including facilitating the development of Northstowe.

Further, this Council supports:

- the proposed improvements to the A14 including extra capacity on the Cambridge northern bypass and between Girton and Trinity Foot and the proposed Huntingdon Southern Bypass;
- the earliest possible delivery of the scheme in the interests of the local area; and
- action to address the difficulties that the A14 currently poses to local people and businesses.

The Council therefore urges government to deliver the scheme at the earliest possible date in the interests of the local area.

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

[Under Part 4, Rules of Procedure, paragraph 15.5 of the Constitution, more than 14 Members requested a recorded vote on this matter, which is set out in **Appendix C.**]

(b) Motion from Councillor Ian Manning

It was proposed by Councillor Manning and seconded by Councillor Whelan that:

This council notes:

- the stated aim of many members, including the current Council Leader and Opposition Group Leader to include more people from more varied walks of life in local democracy, including those with full time day jobs and/or those with significant daytime commitments.
- that some members struggle to reconcile having day jobs with being a councillor, and have decided not to seek re-election for this reason.
- that this is harmful to the aim of more diverse representation and inclusiveness on the council.

Further this council assumes:

- standard working hours for a majority of Cambridgeshire residents for the purposes of this motion are to be considered to be Monday-Friday 0900-1700.

Therefore this council resolves to:

- hold two of the full council meetings and 25% of each of the Overview and Scrutiny meetings outside of "standard" working hours as defined above.
- seek to explore holding more other council meetings, including meetings of Scrutiny, in the evening.

This should be put in place from the new municipal year, so that all Councillors would be aware of their commitments prior to the next County Council election.

*Given the length of full council, this could include meetings starting early in the afternoon.

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

[Under Part 4, Rules of Procedure, paragraph 15.5 of the Constitution, more than 14 Members requested a recorded vote on this matter. As two Members were unable to register their vote electronically, the Council then agreed to take the vote by a show of hands.]

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, UKIP and Independent in favour; Conservatives and one Labour member against; one Labour member and Chairman and Vice Chairman abstained]

297. QUESTIONS

a) Questions on Police and Crime Commissioner and Fire Authority Issues

Sir Graham Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner, and Councillor F Brown, Chairman of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority, responded to questions and comments on Police and Fire issues, in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Council. These are set out in **Appendix D**. The following were identified for follow up action:

- In response to a question from Councillor Stone, the Chairman of the Fire Authority agreed to arrange a Member seminar on the Fire Authority for the new Council.

b) Oral Questions

15 questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9.1, as set out in **Appendix E**. In response to these questions, the following items were agreed for further action:

- In response to a question from Councillor Whitebread, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, offered to meet with Councillor Whitebread to discuss the arrangements for resurfacing East Road, Cambridge.
- In response to a question from Councillor Bourke, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to meet, together with Councillor Bourke, representatives from Romsey Mill and the Patacake Day Nursery to discuss

the shortage of childcare places in Romsey.

- In response to a question from Councillor Brooks-Gordon, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to provide a written response explaining the changes to funding for Special Educational Needs.
- In response to a question from Councillor Manning, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, asked Councillor Manning to provide him with the details of Traffic Management Schemes in his Division to enable him to confirm the status of these schemes.
- In response to a question from Councillor Whelan, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke, agreed to investigate the situation regarding the Race to Infinity Projects linked to Caxton and Madingley exchanges to see whether they could be progressed.
- In response to a question from Councillor Read, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, agreed to provide a written response regarding when the people of Coveney could expect to see repairs carried out to the road that linked the village to the A10 Ely bypass.
- In response to a question from Councillors Batchelor and Sales, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, agreed to circulate by 28 March 2013 the contact details for Highways Officers. Councillor Orgee also agreed to pass on Councillor Batchelor's thanks and the thanks of the communities that he represented to Keith Faunch, David Lines and Mike Oakman who had given excellent service over many years.
- In response to a question from Councillor Pellew, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, agreed to provide a written response detailing the total amount of the IT budget and a breakdown of how much of that budget had actually been spent on companies in Cambridgeshire. He also agreed to detail what efforts were being made to draw on the experience of other public organisations that already used Open Source software, to identify whether there was anything in the Council's policies which either encouraged or discouraged contributions by members of staff, and how many bugs had been reported.
- In response to a question from Councillor West, the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, agreed to pass on Councillor West's thanks to Brian Murdoch, Sharon Piper and Emma Murden for their excellent service. In response to a supplementary question from Councillor West, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor Harty, agreed to pass on Councillor West's comments about the Children's Centre in St. Neots to the Locality Manager.
- In response to a question from Councillor Lucas, the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, agreed to provide a written answer regarding concerns about traffic on the A141 resulting from the number of personnel and civilians moving to RAF Wyton.

c) Written Questions

Four written questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2, as set out in **Appendix F**.

298. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Powley, seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke, and agreed unanimously to appoint Councillors Curtis and Tierney to the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board, and Councillor Tierney as Chairman of that said Board.

Chairman

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 26TH MARCH 2013
CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PEOPLE

Kevin Hall

The Chairman reports with enormous sadness the death of Kevin Hall, Area Traffic Engineer based at the Witchford Depot. The Council’s thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

City Deal

The Government has announced that it wants to negotiate a 'city deal' with the County Council which would hand more powers to local authorities and potentially allow the Council to keep a share of increased tax revenues to invest in supporting growth.

King's Dyke Level Crossing, Whittlesey

The Cabinet on 5th March agreed to a solution to the traffic problems caused by the King’s Dyke level crossing at Whittlesey. These plans will involve a bridge over the rail line and will bring a much needed economic boost to the area and will also help solve traffic problems that are so common and have been worsened by the very poor weather and flooding of the B1040 this year.

Currently around 100 trains a day use the rail line and this is could increase to 244 trains daily – an increase of 150% by 2031. This will mean that the level crossing barriers will be down for an ever increasing length of time which gives rise to long traffic tailbacks. The next steps will be to start consultation and design on the solution and to assemble a funding package from a number of partners. The County Council has committed funding towards the scheme.

Cambridge North West Development

On 1 March 2013 Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council together with Cambridge University signed a legal agreement to enable the planning permission to be granted for a new community of 3000 new homes on land owned by the University in North West Cambridge. By working very closely together the local authorities and Cambridge University will be able to bring forward a very exciting good quality development.

Signing the legal agreement confirmed a £5.75 million contribution toward a new secondary school off Huntingdon Road as well as a new primary school, sports pitches, community and health facilities as part of the University site between Huntingdon and Madingley roads and the M11.

The development is estimated to cost around £1 billion. The first buildings are anticipated for completion from late 2015.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport

A new transport service, the first that has been designed by the community it serves, commenced on 18th March. The service links Hinxton, Heathfields and Whittlesford with Sawston and Babraham Road Park and Ride site and operates every one hour and 15 minutes whereas the current service runs every two hours.

The solution emerged from work with a local working group under the Cambridgeshire Future Transport programme which included local members, users, the district, local businesses and operators. Their help has been invaluable in designing and developing the service. Not only is the new service an improvement by linking to new areas, it also runs at more regular times than the current service and costs less. This is part of the Council commitment to plan our services around the needs of the communities we serve.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Redevelopment of the secondary school estate in Fenland under the Building Schools for the Future programme is now largely complete. Four secondary schools, one special school and one pupil referral unit have been rebuilt or substantially refurbished over the last three years at a cost of £91 million. A further £9 million has been spent upgrading the ICT infrastructure in these schools to equip them with the latest interactive whiteboards and computers. As a result of this investment, the secondary school estate in Fenland is among the most modern and best equipped in the country. Work will be entirely complete by summer 2013.

MESSAGES

Comic Relief on 15 March at the Contact Centre

Once again, the Chairman would like to acknowledge the many activities that took place to raise money for Comic Relief. On 15 March, about 70 volunteers - including some County Councillors - manned the phones at the County Council's Contact Centre, taking over £78,000 in donations from members of the public all over the country.

County Council Election 2013 – Councillors not standing for re-election

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to pay tribute to those Councillors not standing for re-election on 2 May 2013.

The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Council, would like to pay tribute to the Chairman, Councillor Powley and his wife, for representing the Council over the last two years.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke, would like to pay tribute to the following members of his group who will be standing down: Councillors Dutton, Harper, Hutton, Johnstone, Lucas, Melton, Oliver, Pegram, Tuck and West. He would like to pay particular tribute to the Chairman who undertook 315 engagements during his chairmanship.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Bourke, would like to pay tribute to the following members of his group who will be standing down: Councillors Heathcock, Shepherd, Stone, Whelan, Whitebread and Williamson. He would also like to pay tribute to Councillors Harrison and the Chairman.

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Sales, would like to pay tribute to the following members of his group who will be standing down: Councillors Carter and Sadiq.

The Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Reeves, would like to pay tribute to all Councillors not standing for re-election particularly Councillors Dutton, Lucas, Powley, Sadiq and West.

The Leader of the Conservatives Non-Aligned Group, Councillor Churchill, would also like to pay tribute to those members not seeking re-election particularly Councillors Dutton, Lucas and West.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN ACTIVITIES: 20 FEBRUARY TO 26 MARCH 2013

Chairman's engagements

February

- Chairman East Cambridgeshire District Council Civic Reception, Ely.
- Cambridge University Officers Training Corps Annual Dinner, St Johns College, Cambridge.
- High Sheriff Awards Scheme Presentations, Bottisham Village College.
- Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Rowen Foundation, Annual General Meeting, Cambridge.

March

- Northamptonshire County Council, Chairman's Civic Dinner, Rushton Hall, Rushton, Northamptonshire.
- Citizenship Ceremonies
- "Travels with a Chain", Talk to Soham Phoenix Club about experiences whilst Chairman.
- Chain Gang Lunch, Missing Sock, Quy, Cambridgeshire.
- Desert Island Discs Show, Huntingdon Community Radio.
- Cambridgeshire Youth Awards Celebration, Priory Centre, St Neots.
- Suffolk County Council, Chairman's Reception, Ickworth House, Bury St Edmonds.

Vice-Chairman's engagements

February

Citizenship ceremony
Wisbech Town Council - Freedom of Wisbech bestowed on Richard Barnwell

March

Citizenship ceremony

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Question to Councillor Ian Bates, Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, from Mr Mike Mason

Chairman and members, in the last few years I have witnessed the progress of the Guided Bus system from its inception, and recently as a local resident and passenger. Council members and officers repeatedly informed us, that CGB would be a modern, state of the art seamless, reliable rapid transit system to be provided at no capital cost to the local taxpayers and with operating costs being met by access charges levied on the bus operators. During the eighteen months of operation we have seen high speed disengagement with the guideway, a rear end collision between buses and numerous obstructions to services, caused by unauthorised vehicles. The travelling public are becoming increasingly concerned about safety and the cost of maintaining a system which is already damaged and deteriorating as shown in the photographs that I submitted with this question. The Cambridge News headline on March the 9th proclaims it is safe on the busway, with respect Chairman I beg to differ. The incidents at St Ives and the accident at Longstanton indicate an unacceptably poor standard of operational safety for a public transport system. The Cambridgeshire public, already paying millions annually, surely deserve to be fully informed about this further hidden revenue subsidy to operational costs. My question seeks to clarify and quantify these costs, together with an explanation as to how these are budgeted?

Reply from Councillor Ian Bates, Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning

Thank you Mr Chairman and can I first of all say thank you to Mr Mason for his question. The full cost of repair to the busway following the B1050 incident are being paid for by the bus operators insurers. There is no County Council money being used for these repairs. Since opening in August 2011 there has been no other incident with the busway are required to be repaired and therefore no issue of cost falls on this Council. The general wear and tear and maintenance of the busway are covered by the access charges levied on all buses using the busway, paid by all operators. This means that the operation of the busway is cost neutral to this Council, there is no additional costs to the Council in utilising and diversion of routes in the event of any incident taking place on the busway.

Supplementary Question to Councillor Ian Bates, Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, from Mr Mike Mason

Yes I note the answer but this has not actually quantified the amount of damages that have been assessed for the B1050 incident, I would have appreciated that to have been given in figures. I note also that your answer mentions the access charges and my supplementary question is Chairman will Councillor Bates now publish the amount of access charges the Council received from the two bus operators during the first year of operation. If he can't give that figure today could he please make that available to me in a written answer?

Reply from Councillor Ian Bates, Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning

Thank you for the supplementary question and I intend to take away that question Mr Chairman and provide a written answer in due course.

2. Question to Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, from Mr Edward Cearns

Given the previous lack of understanding under the PFI contract of the need to protect heritage lighting in conservation areas, what confidence can the Council now give Cambridge's residents that such lighting will be protected?

Reply Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure

Thanks very much and thank you for the question. I think it's fair to say that the County Council is fully aware of the importance of heritage lighting within the City of Cambridge and I should say within other areas of Cambridgeshire. In consultation with the City Council all street lights of historic importance have been identified within the Street Lighting PFI Contract. Cambridge's 33 gaslights have recently been refurbished and will not be altered by the PFI contract. A number of street lighting columns known as Richardson's Candles have recently been listed by the City Council and English Heritage and discussions are presently being undertaken with the City Council as to how these columns can be refurbished, so that they can be preserved whilst at the same time not being a safety risk to the public.

Supplementary Question to Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, from Mr Edward Cearns

I welcome that given the fact that none of that would have happened without residents speaking up for you like for their heritage and working with Councillors to help the Council to look at this. What confidence and what opportunity will there be for residents to be involved in the consultation process about how to protect those heritage street lights.

Reply Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure

When any particular area is tackled under the Street Lighting PFI there's a consultation in relation to that area and this no different.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 26 MARCH 2013

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent /No Vote	COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent /No Vote
AUSTEN S	LibD			√		LUCAS V H	Con	√			
BACHELOR J D	LibD			√		MANNING I	LibD			√	
BATES I C	Con	√				MCGUIRE L W	Con	√			
BELL N	LibD				√	McGUIRE V	Con	√			
BOURKE K	LibD			√		MELTON A	Con	√			
BROOKS-GORDON B	LibD			√		NETHSINGHA L	LibD			√	
BROWN D	Con	√				OLIVER L J	Con	√			
BROWN F	Con	√				ORGE E A G	Con	√			
BROWN P	Con	√				PALMER J	Con	√			
BUTCHER R	Con				√	PEGRAM D R	Con				√
CARTER C M	Lab				√	PELLEW A	LibD			√	
CHURCHILL K	Con				√	POWLEY J A	Con			√	
CLARK J	Con	√				READ P	Con	√			
CLARKE N	Con	√				REEVE P	UKIP				√
COUNT S	Con	√				REYNOLDS J E	Con	√			
CRISWELL S J	Con	√				REYNOLDS K A	Con	√			
CURTIS M	Con	√				SADIQ T	Lab			√	
DOWNES P J	LibD			√		SALES P	Lab			√	
DUTTON J J	Con	√				SEDGWICK-JELLS	Grn				√
FARRER R	Con				√	SHEPHERD C	LibD			√	
GUYATT N	Con	√				SHUTER M G	Con	√			
GYMER S	LibD			√		SMITH M	Con	√			
HARPER G F	Con	√				STONE T J	LibD			√	
HARRISON N	Ind		√			TIERNEY S	Con	√			
HARTY D	Con	√				TUCK J M	Con	√			
HEATHCOCK G J	LibD				√	VAN DE VEN S	LibD			√	
HOY S	Con	√				WEST R	Con	√			
HUNT W T I	Con	√				WHELAN F	LibD			√	
HUTTON C	Con	√				WHITEBREAD S	LibD			√	
JENKINS D	LibD				√	WILKINS K	LibD				√
JOHNSTONE S F	Con	√				WILLIAMSON M	LibD			√	
KADIĆ L	Con				√	WILSON G	LibD				√
KENNEY G	Con	√				WILSON L	UKIP				√
KINDERSLEY S G M	LibD				√	YEULETT F H	Con	√			
KING S J E	Con	√				TOTAL		35	1	18	15

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor I Manning

I'm sure the Commissioner is aware that in the City of Cambridge there is a lot of debate between cracking down on anti-social cycling and anti-social driving and I hope he can just say a few words about where, if, he believes is a priority difference between the two, what is it, and what his views are on those two issues?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

I don't see them as two issues it's one – it is anti-social use of the roads and that also includes pedestrians as well. The whole idea of mine was to ensure that we had safer roads in Cambridge and it didn't just come from me, it was driven by what people were telling me and you didn't have to drive far round Cambridge to understand that there was a problem, I know Cambridge very well. The interesting thing is that having raised that profile which is what we did, more people are now conscious of it. It's quite interesting that I was with the Specials one evening looking at people cycling without lights and in the course of 25 minutes they pulled over 17 cyclists, and that was outside of Parkside Police Station so they weren't very observant from that point of view. The whole idea has been not to prosecute people, bring it to their attention, get them to have lights - that's good, and one of the things that the Chief Constable is trying to do is to get some of our Specials to have ownership of this in making things better in Cambridge. It also looks at anti-social behaviour by motorists particularly those that park on the pavement that is seriously anti-social. So it's not just anti-social, it's extremely dangerous for anyone cycling or motorists who use their texts while driving and that happens, you know you can't believe it but it happens, you only have to stand on a corner and you can see it. So I don't differentiate, what we are trying to do in a modest way is to make Cambridge streets a little safer.

Question from Councillor V Lucas

My question regards neighbourhood meetings and as the Vice-Chairman of the former Police Authority I appreciate the comments that you have made in your report about the fact that the Police Authority members were assiduous in attending the Neighbourhood Forum meetings around the County, and I'm delighted to see that you're continuing that trend for with yourself and the Deputy as often as you can. However, I'd like to know what your plans are for Huntingdonshire, the biggest District Council, where there are no neighbourhood forums and at the moment, well until today, none of the parishes or parish councils in my own division had anything from you with regard to any proposals for the budget or any proposals for the Police and Crime Plan and feel a little frustrated that they've not yet had an opportunity to engage with you.

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

As far as involving oneself with all the public right across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - don't forget it's a very large chunk as well that I also deal with. There are a number of things happening on that front first of all I'm doing my best to see as many as I can but obviously it's impossible to go to everything, so is my deputy, so are members of my staff but we do post everything on our website so for people to say they didn't know or weren't understanding what was going on they need to go on to the website, that's what it's there for. The Police and Crime Plan was on there for

some weeks before I went to the Panel, so too were the decisions I made as far the precept was concerned, it was on there so people could obviously comment on that. I have been, I say, to a lot of meetings so far and you may be interested to know a number in Huntingdonshire are coming on to the calendar within the next few weeks. I'm also as you probably know having an outreach worker, I'm hoping to have two but the first one's in the north of the County based at Peterborough and Fenland but also covering part of Huntingdon as well. That person will be going round talking to Parish Councils, talking to voluntary bodies, talking to businesses and talking to schools because I'm very keen to get input coming from those people, not just pushing it out but bringing it in, that's so important if I am going to do what I plan to do. My plan is obviously to represent the people, I'm the face of the public not face of the police, and most of the policies that I'm putting forward are driven by what people are telling me. So yes I'm engaging with Huntingdonshire and Huntingdon itself and I will be appearing there and I'm looking forward to it.

Question from Councillor S Gymer

I would like to say that I've heard good reports of you engaging with our neighbourhood representative Polly locally and I would ask when we may get some feedback from what you're gathering and just to check that you are hearing loud and clear that we are worried about all sorts of things in South Cambridgeshire. One of the things that comes up time and time again is speeding and poor parking and of course we don't have parking attendants in South Cambridgeshire and it's the role of the police to enforce any parking, and then secondly I wonder what the fate of Histon police station's going to be or what the timetable of finding out what's going on there?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Again if you look at the Police and Crime Plan it does cover pretty well everything, it's amazing the number of issues, and you'd be surprised what people write to me about as well, I've had over 600 letters already, I've replied to them all. I've even had one just the last week coming back to say how amazed they were that I had bothered to reply, that's what it's all about, I used to be an MP so I know how people expect replies and I make sure they get them. Polly is a wonderful person you know and with the Neighbourhood Watch we're hoping to do quite a lot of work, I've actually put some funds aside to help them. We're going to introduce a new piece of software, called Alert, which is bang up to date from the night before saying what activity there's been, whether there has been burglaries, whether you've had anti-social behaviour or whatever it is it's there, flagging it up asking if help is required for information. So it could not be more up to date and I'm hoping that that is going bring in a lot more people being involved with neighbourhood watch, particularly mums with children because they are the best communicators going in any village, they're good networkers because they won't have to go to meetings it's there for them in front of the screen the same with business people. So I'm putting a lot of effort behind getting the public on side, because the original police was set up policing by consent and that's got to work both ways and I'm very keen on saying to our policemen that you really to have to engage with the public and I want the police to react to the public in the same ways as members of staff at John Lewis would to the public – there to serve. But at the same time we have got to get the public to engage as well so that is important. Issues like speeding is a problem right the way through the County and there are big issues on that front, as you know we do have Speedwatch sometimes they are a bit over enthusiastic but you know they are terribly important with the work that they do and I support them for it. I think you'll find that every concern that people have are being addressed one way or the other. Obviously we have to prioritise, our overall objective is to make Cambridge a safer place to live in and that is for everyone

be young or old. The overall objective is to keep the crime rate falling, it's interesting you said South Cambridgeshire it's probably one of the safest places in the country let alone the County but I inherited falling crime rates and it's quite a challenge to keep them going that way. I'm very lucky to have a really first class Chief Constable, who's really working on this and we're working with them and if he requires resources we'll do our level best to make sure that he's got them. Coming back to Polly and Neighbourhood Watch it's something that I give real high priority to, because they are reacting with us, they give us a lot of information and it's going to drive the agenda as far as I'm concerned and some of the sort of nitty gritty bits that we have remember, it's not just the big things we have to look at the little things as well.

Question from Councillor S Whitebread

I was quite interested to see on page 3 of this report in the performance overview section it says that the proportion of residents who perceive a high level of ASB (anti-social behaviour) in their area has remained very low at 1.4%. I just wanted to highlight that to members of the chamber because I was very surprised at that figure, I think that's very low and particularly the rhetoric from you leading up to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections you were very much focused on anti-social behaviour as one of the big things that you were going to tackle. So when you were elected to office were you surprised at that figure, is my first question? Secondly is there any sort of stats behind that and I represent a City Centre ward, so obviously in my patch anti-social behaviour problems are a real concern but maybe this statistic is reflective of the wider picture across the County and if we could have that broken down by area that might reveal so more interesting detail but interesting for all of us to note that actually concerns about ASB are very low.

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

In terms of anti-social behaviour that figure did surprise me, yes, and I still don't think it's accurate because you've only to go chatting to people wherever you go and it is a concern. It's a concern not just from elderly people, who you'd expect to be concerned about it but youngsters. I've been particularly interested in young people who are very concerned about anti-social behaviour and they get quite frightened if you've got that sort of thing going on around them. I don't think that that figure is as accurate as it should be and I've asked how it's measured and where we get it from. What is important is that people's views are monitored and they're monitored now on a local basis. As you know we have localised policing and each of the stations do in fact carry out their own research, so you do get a bit of variation according to where you are but I believe that anti-social behaviour has to stay as a priority and we have to deal with it. It varies from sort of someone doing what many people did when they were youngsters ringing someone's doorbell and running off, that's anti-social behaviour not as serious as when you've got people fighting or daubing or vandalising or generally making other people's lives a nuisance, which is how I sort of see anti-social behaviour but it all needs to be dealt with and a lot of that can be dealt with by the public themselves because you know youngsters that get up to mischief have got parents and we do hope that they take an interest in them. I'm very keen in doing whatever I can to prevent young people from getting into trouble because at the moment we have an excellent service in Cambridgeshire, the Youth Offending Service but is only dealing with it once it's happened and those young people have already got a black mark that is going to stay with them for the rest of their lives. So I'm trying to engage with industry, I'm trying to engage with schools, I'm trying to get more provision to give youngsters something to do and if you've got a real troubled person or troubled family, to get someone alongside them to keep them out of trouble because a lot of the anti-social behaviour comes from that sort of region. So I wear

two hats the Police Commissioner's and the Crime Commissioner's and I can tell you that the Crime Commissioner's hat that I wear which is reducing crime and preventing crime takes the most of my time I'm pleased to say that because I think it's the big challenge we have.

Question from Councillor C Shepherd

I have a City ward that there seems to be a culture within the City, a level of expectation about certain things, and one of them is about cycling which is that nobody need bother about good cycling, nobody need bother about the Highway Code - people aren't particularly concerned about it. There seems to be a general level of expectation now within the City, we have near where I live some small narrow streets, narrow pavements, one way roads, can we get people not to go the wrong way cycle on the pavements - no, we've been to the schools, we've asked the schools/headteachers, we've urged their children not to cycle irresponsibly and we just tell them everybody does it. It's a culture and expectation of poor quality cycling behaviour, and the second culture that I do see as getting into is a sense of well you don't need to sharpen up our driving skills, we don't need I know to be particularly on the ball and drive particularly well, we just drive like everybody else and so lack of enforcement of holding up to higher standards. There's a roundabout near where I live which is the highest blackspot for cyclist crashes because it's a big wide roundabout. I've had an accident on there, my husband was nearly killed on it, it's a wide roundabout and one of the problems is that cars don't know how to drive around mini roundabouts, so they are over it and not round it. It's a perceived lack of enforcement, the 20mph was another one where people think there is no point to it because it's not enforced, I wondered if you could comment a bit on that?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

I commend the City Council on having 20mph limits because frankly if you're sensible you can't really drive any faster than that actually where they've got the 20mph limit placed. As I said earlier on it's all about safety and if you're a cyclist and you go up a one way street the wrong way not only are you endangering other people, you are endangering yourself. Same as if they ride without lights, they are endangering themselves, if they cycle on footpaths, if they jump a red light they are endangering themselves and motorists likewise. Perhaps it's a bit easier to stop motorists going where they shouldn't by having these blocks that come up in the road, it wouldn't make much difference to cyclists they just whip round it. We've got to try to get people to understand that yes there are road traffic laws and there's the Highway Code but it's there for their safety and for the safety of others and one of the things I am trying to do is to raise the number of Special Constables. A Special constable has full powers of any constable, they are volunteers, they enjoy doing the job, and we are going to try and target from I think we are 245 up to 350 and I'm trying to give them much more of a role in policing the sort of behaviour that we certainly have experienced in Cambridge itself. It's not just Cambridge you can go to any of the urban areas, it's a smaller problem obviously in Huntingdon or Ely but to encourage people to behave in a safe manner to protect themselves but certainly to protect others and I'd be horrified if a cyclist were to knock a youngster down because they could kill them, you think because you're a bike that you can't but you could. The same as you could with an elderly person, so it is important I keep flagging it up and I will certainly carry on flagging it up. I think we have had a bit of a cultural change already in Cambridge with the cyclists with lights on, that's good but we've got to keep plugging away to get everyone to recognise it's their duty to be safe for themselves and safe for others.

Question from Councillor S Count

This is not something you may have a definite answer for - it's more about strategic thinking an area that concerns me for the future. A lot of us do work with the police in our other roles whether it is in our community, town council, district council. As a Town Councillor I have supported the funding of various CCTV cameras, PCSOs are going to schools that sort of thing. Now the great advantage of that working together system is that we have seen a serious reduction in crime, with the police we engage very well. The knock on effect later on is you have to prioritise your resources and when you look a crime statistic, in my area now, as opposed to somewhere a little bit further away then the police then move elsewhere and the PCSOs move elsewhere, we've just had PCSOs cut from twelve down to six. Now that then becomes difficult for me and other people to justify spending or effort or resources to assist the police in doing what is their intrinsic role. So the question is if you roll that out to the future there is a real risk of alienating people that make serious effort there, how can you combat that and yet still prioritise the resources. I know it's a bit of blue sky thinking, I do appreciate that I haven't warned you of it, I just wonder if it's something that's come across your radar before and if you've got any thoughts on it?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Yes it's all a huge balancing act, we have finite resources as you know, the Government have continued to reduce the amount of money that comes in. I've got to find a saving of something like £7.5m by 2016 which is a lot of money and we're planning to do that not by cutting things but by joining forces with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and I've put out feelers to other neighbours Suffolk and Northamptonshire to see if we can spread it further and reduce costs and you'll notice that this year it was only a small amount but we did increase the number of policemen by ten. I was able to do that and I want to flag that up as a signal. We need to do that and we also need to do it because I heard previous debates about expansion in Cambridgeshire, we are a rapidly expanding area and so the police have got to expand obviously to sort of keep up with that. We need to balance that with the way in which we deal with things, which is why I flagged up the specials again, we hope to use them in a much more proactive basis than we have in the past. But the public obviously if you talk to them and I do regularly, want to see the policeman, we never see the policeman, why don't we see a policeman? For every policeman you see we have to employ five, it's a huge resource just to have a policeman. What we can do though is to ensure that we can get police to any point within minutes and we've upgraded to the system that we have for the 101 number. The 101 number when I took office was a disaster because one of my first meetings I went to I dial 101 and was on the line for nine minutes and ten seconds and pointed that out and no one would believe me, so we dialled it again and there you go, it's now thirty seconds. So the public you know in terms of having a policeman on site, they can dial 101, we can get police within two or three minutes to pretty well anywhere in the County and that's important and if it's a real emergency and it's 999 your answered instantly and you'll probably get more than one policeman, you'll get quite a few if you do that in an emergency so we've got to make sure that is there. The public though do have to play their part this is something that I'm trying to get over. This is the idea of neighbourhood watch getting people to co-operate with the police, there are thousands millions of eyes and ears out which obviously if they are all used in the correct manner and they inform the police if there is a problem. If there is something suspicious going on, they've seen something happen what I say to everyone please report it because you're not wasting time it all goes on the log, it's all there for the police to use and that is important. Now what I've got to try and do is to bring and I mentioned this a moment ago, is the trust of the police to the public and the public to

the police and I'm sure, I really am, that in the next few years while I'm trying to do this, that is going to be a key thing in reducing crime still further and remember it is reducing, it's going to be a big effort to keep it going that way.

Question from Councillor P Reeve

I was intrigued to hear about the main form of communication from the Police Commissioner being based around websites because certainly our town council and many of the parishes around us have very little understanding of this and perhaps it's why the perception is so poor. On that basis my question is to what extent do you think that the perception of not yourself but a Police and Crime Commissioner office is untenable, the Electoral Commission have recently put out an article how not to do an election and have used the Police and Crime Commissioner as a prime example of that. The public as far as I can hear on the streets, although they love their police and neighbourhood police officers are still very well thought of, generally believe that they have lost the policeman off their streets and gained a very expensive politician who appears in the newspapers and that's not something that seems to be making people very happy. My question is can you overcome that and it's not a criticism of yourself it's a criticism of the role itself.

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Well the election was a dog's breakfast but it wasn't to do with me, I've run many elections in the past and if I was running I wouldn't run it like that. I'd never have an election in November but that was something to do with our partners in Government who had quite a lot to say when that election came along, it should have been in May, and also we should have had freepost because that's why so many people didn't actually get the information they should have had. That's changed quite a bit people are now understanding about what Police and Crime Commissioners are about. Far from reducing the number of police I have actually increased them only by ten but they're increased and one of my pledges is that we've got to keep police man hours available to the public. We do intend to go into a pretty massive high tech operation of avoiding policemen having to come off the street and go inside to make reports, they can make them whilst they are outside. They can get a huge amount of information while they are outside and it's going to increase man hours on the streets enormously and that's what we are actually trying to do. So you are not going to lose policemen, unless there's a serious deterioration in the amount of money that I get and I'm very conscious of the fact that I don't want to keep making it up by putting on the precept, in the future I want to say fairly that we want to keep that certainly below inflation because that is the right and sensible way of doing things. I believe that the next election people will understand what the Police Commissioner is about, far more than they did last time and I just hope that you will all help me in getting that message across.

Question from Councillor S van de Ven

I represent the Melbourn area, a rural area in South Cambridgeshire, the neighbourhood panel system has worked really well over the years and from what I've experienced of it, it has encouraged people to be interactive with the police, it's helped new neighbourhood watch schemes get off the ground and people share information and come along to the panel meetings. I know there's been the view here at the County Council that those panel meetings may need to change and become less police focused and in South Cambridgeshire we have been asked our views about changing on several occasions and the consensus has always been that it works really well as it is because it's a good way of making best use of limited police

resources in a rural area, which is difficult to police. So I hope that we can keep going. I'm disappointed that there is no more County Council representation at the panel meetings although Councillors are encouraged to attend. I just wanted to flag up the fact that it seems to be doing a very good job and I hope that it can continue, the setting of priorities by the public who attend these meetings is a very valuable exercise and I think it gives confidence to people that we know what's happening and we can all do our best to contribute, people keep an eye on ECOPs and so on. So I just wanted to register that because I think it has been a little bit embattled the panel meetings in South Cambridgeshire.

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Unfortunately due to a technical problem at the council meeting the audio for this response was not captured. The response is therefore based on the Acting Democratic Services Manager's notes of this item.

Neighbourhood panels were important and he was very interested to hear what they had to say.

Question from Councillor S Tierney

You are probably aware that in the town of Wisbech some activists are planning an anti-immigration march at the end of May and I've got to tell you that local residents have raised with me grave concerns about this, both businesses and individuals. There is also a rumour that the rival group Unite Against Fascism are planning a counter demonstration, and so my two part question is are you confident that the police have the man power and the ability to properly man this just in case problems occur and secondly what budget and pot does this additional man power come out of?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Unfortunately due to a technical problem at the council meeting the audio for this response was not captured. The response is therefore based on the Acting Democratic Services Manager's notes of this item.

The Chief Constable was fully aware and would have the manpower using arrangements with other neighbouring forces. Funding would come out of the Police pot so he encouraged the Council to do all it could to discourage the event.

Question from Councillor G Kenney

I think the education that you give to motorists who disobey the law is very effective and I wondered if you would take it forward for cyclists as well?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

Unfortunately due to a technical problem at the council meeting the audio for this response was not captured. The response is therefore based on the Acting Democratic Services Manager's notes of this item.

The Police had power over motorists and Police Specials were dealing with cyclists. He acknowledged that this was a big issue and had put this view across when he had been out.

Question from Councillor B Brooks-Gordon

Two questions please, Sir Graham, one is what is your view of the implementation of the Corston report on women's prisons?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

That is something that I haven't sort of come to any sort of decisions on, we're aware of it and my Chief Executive, Dorothy, is in fact attending a number of meetings on that particular thing at the moment. I shall also be attending some meetings in London and we've now set up Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to look at things nationally, this is very much a national thing rather than a local thing but we have to never the less introduce that locally. I'll be honest with you I haven't spent a lot of time studying it yet, it's on the horizon on the radar if you like and Dr Gregson is doing some work on it at the moment in order to report back to me.

Question from Councillor B Brooks-Gordon

Thank you that's my first question, I'm glad it's being looked at as it's really important to this area we don't have a women's prison and prisoners from this area end up a long, long way away from their families held in conditions, I'm really grateful to hear that. I should declare an interest I am afraid as well because I have a son who is a police special and I'm an adviser to the ACPO working group on the night-time economy and that's my next question. I'm really glad that you're having a focus on hate crime along with these other key issues that you are going to focus on. Would you extend that view on hate crime to be amenable to exploring the Liverpool model here in Cambridgeshire, which was taking violence against sex workers as a hate crime because sex workers, particularly migrant sex workers, end up exposed to not only particularly rancid forms of racism but also become magnets to violent men and when violence against them is taken as a hate crime then it affords the police, it's better trust of the police. It also opens the police to much better intelligence because once that trust is increased then on the drugs economy and all sorts of other information. It's very useful for the police, and the Police Commissioner in London when he was head of the police in Liverpool, as was Simon Byrne his deputy, they found it to be an extremely useful thing and are looking at it in the Met. I'm keen to know if you are amenable in policy terms to looking into it here in Cambridge?

Reply from Sir G Bright, Police and Crime Commissioner

I am sort of looking around the country to see best practice in a number of areas, I'm running a seminar at Cambourne in May and I've got the people from Glasgow coming down because they've got a tremendous model, which Peterborough have been following and we're going to look at that and benchmark and put back best practice out. In terms of, you mentioned ACPO, of course that is going to be dealt with by the Police College in the future which is run by the Police Commissioners, and it's going to be interesting to see how that works out because hopefully we will have a much bigger input than we ever had with ACPO. In terms of the sort of specialty, we do have some real specialists here in Cambridge within our force that operate from police headquarters and from another building that they have and I have been more than impressed particularly with hate crimes and dealing with people who generally abuse sex workers etc, etc. They've got a huge database they are following this through, they are looking at all times to be able to actually prosecute people, so that is good news but obviously you have to be even more proactive but I spent some time with them and I was more than impressed with the way in which they work, they've got a terrific team both young and old and ladies and gents who really, really, really

dedicated but you don't see that so much because that is hidden away from you but it's there

Question from Councillor L Nethsingha

There was a very serious story in the press this week about the very tiny number of prosecutions for false rape allegations that are made every year. Could he confirm that Cambridgeshire Police take every allegation seriously and maintain an initial assumption that any allegation of rape should be taken seriously and the person making the allegation treated with the greatest respect and sensitivity?

Reply from Sir G Bright the Police and Crime Commissioner

Again that's something that's dealt with the unit that I just talked about and the answer is yes.

FIRE AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor T Stone

This report makes difficult reading because it assumes that we know something and when we are talking about removal of HAZMAT Unit and OSUs really it gets frightfully difficult. Could we have possibly a Members' Seminar on the Fire Authority so that we can make sense of it?

Reply from Councillor F Brown, Chairman of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

Well hopefully I should back to arrange that seminar Chairman, I think it's a good idea because quite clearly there is only so much we can put in the report. The rescue vehicle is our OSU and we have in fact this year been able to put on the road six brand new rescue pumps, one of which goes into service in Cambridge in the very near future.

ORAL QUESTION TIME

1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor P Downes

Would Councillor Harty join me in welcoming the statement made yesterday by the Minister David Laws, when he was speaking at the Association of Teachers and Lecturers conference in Liverpool, when he talked about the importance of schools paying attention to better performance by children from disadvantaged backgrounds and in particular he said that future inspections by Ofsted will look at this in particular, and he said no school however impressive can be an outstanding school if it is not achieving excellence for its most disadvantaged pupils. So even where overall attainment is high, we want schools to focus relentlessly on closing the gap by improving outcomes for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. I think that is a very important statement and one which is particularly relevant to this authority, where we have a number of high performing schools who do not do well by disadvantaged pupils.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

I have to say I haven't seen the reports on David Laws's comments yesterday but I do obviously agree with him that the closing of the gap is very important and it's an area that we in Cambridgeshire need to close and certainly to continue to improve standards.

2. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor S Whitebread

I welcome very much that East Road is going to be resurfaced in April that is fantastic. It's going to be done over a week-end which I can understand to minimise the disruption to the economy and so on but obviously the notice that has gone out to residents has caused a bit of concern in the last 48 hours, I'm not sure if you have been copied in on any of this email barrage that I have. There is a concern because the works are going to be going on for 24 hours a day, particularly about night time noise impact, and I wonder whether you would be prepared to just talk with the people doing the work, maybe with me, about if there are ways that we can minimise the noise levels. Obviously there will have to be noise because it's roadworks but maybe the work at night time could be done further away from the residential parts of the road if possible.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thanks very much for that question, just to explain it's felt that by doing all this work over a single week-end will actually cause less disruption than spreading the work over a much larger period of time, so that's why it is being done in this way. In answer to your question yes I am very happy to meet with you and to discuss the issues that you have raised, I am very happy to do that indeed.

3. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor K Bourke

I recently did a survey in my Division and a very large number of responses indicated that people had concerns about the provision of childcare places in Romsey, which is

not surprising because the capacity problems we're seeing in my Division are amongst the most extreme in the entire County. Some of the comments made were eye-opening, for example one family has to travel out every day from Romsey in Cambridge City to a nursery in Great Wilbraham to find a place for their daughter, another single mother gave up her job because she couldn't find childcare. So my biggest concern is that this is stopping parents working, which is especially concerning in what is a very expensive area to live. I've had a briefing, a very helpful briefing from officers, which I know you have been copied into and I'm trying to find out whether I'm able to circulate that or not. I was wondering if the Cabinet member would be willing to meet with me and representatives of two local childcare provision organisations Romsey Mill and Patacake Nursery and some local parents to discuss the issues and what action the Council is looking at taking, what options there are because we are all very keen to find a solution as soon as possible and I'm sure that would be a very constructive discussion.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you Mr Chairman and thank you very much for the question, in fact I'm quite happy to join you, to come down to join with you meeting parents and the special schools attendance.

4. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor Brooks-Gordon

At the end of last year parents of children with SEN needs were sent a letter by the County Council relating to the future funding changes to their children's SEN provision. Now this letter told them that any change would be explained at their child's next annual statement review. In response to a question from Councillor Downes on the unnecessary anxiety that this letter might cause parents, Councillor Harty was confident that the information would be forthcoming shortly. Now many parents in schools are still waiting for this information, including those in my ward, almost five months later. Now as I understand it the new Education Health and Care Plans are only £10,000, if I understand it correctly, now if a pupil has a full statement of 32¹/₂ hours a week this represents £16,500 that schools are being asked to fund and that's the first £6,000 of any statement. How is this funded? how does the money come into school for this? what's it called of my questions because there's talk that £4,000 comes into the school for each student but this pays for teachers and everybody gets this? So if this amount is going to the SEN budget that is in effect a cut, so parents are very confused about this. Can he explain so I can go back to them with some information?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you Mr Chairman and thank you for the question, if I had had some notice of it I could well come back with an answer and given you more figures. At the moment I have no detailed information and I'll come back to you with a written reply.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor Brooks-Gordon

In that case I will send it as a written, I would be grateful just to have an indication now of how the funding is done though just a brief outline and then I can send this for a specific one.

5. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor P Reeve

My question is to Councillor Orgee but firstly I would start by thanking him for taking the time out to come up to look around Ramsey with me at some of the traffic calming issues that we are looking at there, he was very attentive and our community were really grateful of him coming up. My question isn't about any of the issues that we are in communication over outside of this meeting but one of the things that came up more generally, is when the County Council does road resurfacing or its partners do road resurfacing there seems to a widespread problem of them not replacing some of the markers in the road, 30 signs, 40 signs, various painted elements and leaving bits of them but not replacing the bits that they've covered over. Can more be done by this County Council to address that and also to address the issue which the previous Leader of the Council said she would address in a previous term which was the gold plating of work done by this County Council, how come it does cost £5,000 to build a speed bump?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

The first question, I regularly have one to ones with senior officers and I did have a meeting last Thursday with the relevant officer, and this is about where a little stretch, a narrow stretch of a road is resurfaced but it actually goes over a 30mph roundel in the road for example so that part of the roundel is obscured by the patching and part of it remains. I did take that up with officers and the answer is twofold, one of which is we need to look to the future to see if that road for example is going to be resurfaced in the near future in which case nothing would be done in the intervening time but the roundel would be replaced in due course, but if that is not in the programme then the roundel should be replaced.

6. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor I Manning

I've got a number of traffic management schemes in my Division that are fully funded and they've reached a roadblock which seems to be at the TRO stage. Is he aware that I've been told by officers that the two highways officers who are able to use the system which draws up TROs are both being allowed to leave at the same time and there is a real issue with that knowledge not being passed on.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I am aware of the situation and I have been dealing with a number of TROs in delegated meetings over the last few weeks and I expect them to have to deal with a number in the very near future.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor I Manning

If I send him the details of the schemes I'm talking about, I've tried to go through senior officers and got nowhere, so if I can send them on to him will he undertake to move those forward?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I will undertake to check with officers and get back to Councillor Manning with exactly where we are with the individual schemes.

7. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor F Whelan

If you would just indulge me for a minute while I just quickly explain to you the background to this. On the 3rd January 2011, BT announced that two exchanges Madingley and Caxton in South Cambs had won the Race to Infinity and would be added to BT's superfast roll out of broadband. BT promised that superfast broadband would be available to these areas by beginning of 2012. It's now more than two years since the villages served by these two servers won the Race to Infinity and many residents are still waiting for that promise by BT to be fulfilled. In particular the villages of Caldecote and Madingley, and in fact if Councillor Lister Wilson was here he would probably throw in many of his villages in the Bourn Division, are still waiting and for almost the last five months they have been continuously fobbed off by BT with excuses of technical problems and system issues as the reason for the continued non-delivery of this long promised service. It would appear that BT does not have a grip on its own technology and is still learning or making it up as it goes along. Cabling and wiring put into Caldecote then had to be almost immediately be removed because it had been put in incorrectly, or the wrong materials had been used. The superb team that District Councillor Tumi Hawkins led to win the Race for Infinity are local residents and are local businesses in these communities are getting increasingly frustrated by the unexpected delays and find their businesses continuing to be hampered by very slow broadband speeds. So my question is, given the signing of the recent contract with BT for Connecting Cambridgeshire, could the Leader now step in and get BT to provide a full and proper explanation of the problems causing this ongoing delay to explain exactly what it is doing to solve the issues and a timescale of when these communities will get the service that they were promised 26 months ago?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

Thank you for raising the issue of broadband because as you know we've let that very successful contract of £20m to bring superfast broadband across the whole County. I am aware of the Race to Infinity, which is a commercial activity BT launched ahead of anything that we're doing, so that is completely separate and that must be made clear, and why they have stalled. I know there have been lots of issues around that is a technical issue that I am not familiar with - that's BT itself. The more general principle about will I be stepping in anywhere to affect BT's rollout, no I won't, and that is because as part of the tender process we are quite clear that we want the very best outcomes across Cambridgeshire and the best way of doing that to get the best value for our money is to see the project plan that BT first of all came up with and to overlay over that our own views about economic development to make sure that they are both compatible wherever possible. Now that is not to say that we as a County Council can't provide some input into BT on this particular issue but I just need to caution that if it looks like I'm combining the two projects there could be confusion in BT's mind and in terms of a supplier we may inadvertently get less good value from our bit because they are focussing on there. So I'm very happy to take away and see what can be done but with a backstop that I'm not going to put at jeopardy our own project.

Supplementary Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor F Whelan

It's very much actually in that vein and I entirely understand what you are saying. The timeline for Connecting Cambridgeshire is to have it completed by 2015, the County is a largely a rural area and the villages that I have just talked about are less than 10 miles away from Shire Hall. So as BT have shown itself having huge difficulties getting broadband into these two rural communities, what confidence do we have that we will be getting superfast broadband to all the hundreds of exchanges throughout the County within the timeframe that BT have set? I'm a very optimistic person but even by my half full approach if they can't do something 10 miles outside of the City Centre and they've had over two years, how confident are we that they are not going to have the same problems and they are actually going to deliver within rural communities across the whole County. So my question is can you allay our fears and tell us what if any due diligence was undertaken to check BT's capability to deliver to rural exchanges and what will the County do to ensure that they do actually deliver on the contract within the agreed timeframe? I think we are singing from the same hymn sheet but local residents have heard so often from BT that it's just about to be there.

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

It is not about whether it's 10 miles out of Cambridge or not, there are some tremendous broadband installations in the north of our County so it's nothing to do with the proximity to Cambridge. What it is about is the particular technology in each of those smaller relay stations that exist around the County and the ability to use public land and the conduits and overhead and going across people's land and all that sort of thing, and I know that was particularly an issue at the Caxton exchange so that's what was going on there. We have absolute confidence that BT will comply with the mandates of the contract but remember we are now in a phase where the project plan itself is being worked through. So whilst we expect it all to be done within three years I would rather that it was less than that but that is not the contractual obligation. What we need to make sure is that in agreement with ourselves we now have BT staff that have been imbedded within the organisation here so that they are working both on the commercial aspects of the work that they are doing and the grey areas and white areas that we are dealing with to bring them together in a sensible roll out procedure. Clearly throughout the tender process and we had this competitive tender, there were unusually, this County compared to up and down the Country had more than one supplier at the end of the process. So all the way through the tenders were marked, they were scored, questions were asked, there's a whole page which I have seen and so has Councillor Bates seen, so we are very comfortable that the process is robust. But look, it's a little bit like saying a green car bashed into me yesterday therefore all green cars are dangerous and that isn't the case. In this particular case BT is an enormous organisation looking after a lot of the infrastructure across the whole country and elsewhere and there will always be times when some things go wrong but we are expecting that, the MD of this particular division of BT is very keen to work on it ,and what's in our favour here is that Cambridge University is one of there three universities across the world that they actually in bed with, that they are championed up as part of what they want, they need it to work here for their own reputation as much as anything, so I have every confidence.

8. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor P Read

Thank you Chairman, many of our minor Fen Roads are deteriorating to such an extent that they are little better than cinder tracks, and my main question is when can

the people of Coveney expect to see repairs done to the road that links the village to the A10 Ely bypass, which is one of their main accesses out for travelling to work. When can they expect to see that repaired, it's getting into a perilous state as many of the roads through to the minor villages in the Fens such as Way Head which is a very small community but that is there only means of access and egress to get into the wider world and during the winter months especially when the weather is bad those roads are getting into a really terrible state now and I just hope that they can do something about it.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I didn't have a forewarning of this question, I just have to say that I don't details of every single road in the County at my fingertips immediately, so I'm afraid Councillor Read will have to be satisfied with a written answer in this case.

9. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor J Batchelor

As I'm sure you are aware a number of key officers will be leaving their jobs at the Whittlesford Highways Department at the end of this week. These are the sort of public facing officers who I and the eleven parish councils I represent deal with, we know they're going but no-one has yet told us who we now should be dealing with, perhaps you could let me know Councillor who we should be dealing with?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Although Councillor Batchelor's question refers specifically to the Whittlesford Depot it actually refers to Highways across the whole County and so the answer is to every Councillor and the answer is at the minute you should be dealing with whoever you've always dealt with in the past. I have spoken to Nicola Debnam who is in charge of this area of the Council's activities and she will be circulating, in due course - end of this week, details of who people should contact in the future. So as far as this week is concerned who you normally contact and then details will be out of the new contact people.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor J Batchelor

I would like to thank Councillor Orgee for that response and perhaps you will be kind enough to pass on my thanks and the thanks of the communities that I represent to Keith Faunch, David Lines and Mike Oakman who have given excellent service over many years, we would like to thank them very much.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Very happy to do so.

10. Question to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count, from Councillor A Pellew

My question relates to the written answer he has already provided in relation to the Council's use of open source software. First of all it's slightly disappointing to note

that there are no large scale Open Source software implementations within this Council. We're still tied on to Windows on the desktop, Office for documents, Sharepoint for collaboration and Oracle business suite for finance, procurement, asset management amongst other things. Given the time it takes to transition between computer systems do you really believe that the best approach for planning these far reaching changes is an as and when as they occur approach. Should the Council not be planning these significant changes as far in advance as possible and finally can I ask you what efforts you are personally making to ensure that the proportion of Open Source software increases as you claim to be expecting in the written response.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count

Thank you for very much that question it's based on the written answer and as you know I am a computer absolute wizzkid, technologically aware of everything that is going on and as such I shall impart my knowledge. With regards to what we are doing about adopting large scale open source software, I think that was encompassed in the answer. We have where it has been appropriate in the past used open sourced freeware software, and where we have found that it is not compatible with our systems or poor value for the County or perhaps there might have been security issues we have gone down a more mainstream route. We've put in the answer the fact that we will actually be working on driving on each and every decision to see what the best option is at the time. Now you ask me is that the best way to handle this, no you are right, it isn't the best way to handle this. The best way to handle this is to have a strategy and we do have that in fact we're working up a new one at the moment, we have two strategies we have the Digital by Default Strategy which tackles one area and we actually have our IT Strategy which tackles the other. Now you, I believe, do have some technical knowledge in this area as opposed to someone like me and whilst we have an overriding strategy for how we are going to achieve things, such as the use of open source software, you must realise that when our contract runs out or is coming to run out for something like Microsoft Word that is the perfect time to plan ahead for what to do then because this is a changing world. It changes rapidly every week, every month there is new software out there, there's new developments out there, there's new technology out there, so to come together with a strategy now and say that when the Microsoft Office Word falls out we will adopt this freeware programme doesn't make sense, the sense is to have the strategy.

Another part of the question is what am I going to do personally to make sure that we have an increased use of Freeware Shareware and I'm not going to do an awful lot, I'm going to continue with the strategy of the doing the best thing for the Council all the while. If that happens to be Freeware or Shareware at that point in time that will be our Council's decision but to go down predetermined routes until we know what the options are doesn't make much sense.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count, from Councillor A Pellew

First of all can I ask you for the IT budget we've got at the moment, if you can provide me with a breakdown as a written answer unless you know it off the top of your head of how much of that money is actually spent towards companies in Cambridgeshire? Also you talked a bit about Freeware and Shareware, they're are not quite the same as Open Source so I was going to ask what efforts are you making to draw on the experience of other public organisations that already using Open Source software, also can I ask in relation to your written answer on contributions to Open Source projects by members of staff, is there anything in your policies which either

encourages or discourages it and just to be clear I'm asking not about large projects in collaboration with other organisations such as the excellent one with Cambridge University you cited, I'm interested in individual contributions to public projects. How many bugs or anything have you reported?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count

Rather than expose any further lack of knowledge that I have on this subject Freeware, Open Source and software and firmware, no in view of the depth of the question that you have asked me it would be more appropriate if I came back to you with a written response hopefully finding out some of those issues.

11. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor L Nethsingha

My question is about the future of the 199 bus in Newnham, the 199 bus runs twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and collects a largely elderly clientele from Newnham and takes them into Cambridge. It then returns them to Newnham after they've had some time to do their shopping. The bus is a critical lifeline allowing many residents to retain their independence and giving them regular access to the City and it is one of many services which are due to be cut in the next tranche of bus subsidy withdrawals in September. I have been working with the residents and officers at the County Council to try and ensure that Cambridgeshire Future Transport can offer an alternative service in time to make a smooth switch from the current subsidised bus service to some form of community transport. However I have now been told by the officers concerned that due to staff vacancies and other issues they will not be able to meet with the residents or take this project forward in the immediate future. I have also been told that lack of staff will mean delays to the withdrawal of the subsidy. Please could the Cabinet member confirm that the subsidy will not be withdrawn in September as planned and could he give an undertaking that the 199 bus will continue to run on its present schedule until after Christmas, so that residents can have some sense of security in their reliance on this service?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thank you to Councillor Nethsingha, she did give me advance warning of this question and I think we have made clear throughout the whole of CFT process that we would not withdraw any bus subsidies until we had had consultation and until an alternative provision was in place and that remains the commitment. There is no change in that whatsoever.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor L Nethsingha

The crucial point of my question is that I need some dates, so that they can feel relaxed for the next six months. They've asked for consultation, they can't have it now because the staffing is not available, they need a certain amount of time to get that provision in place. So please can you give me a commitment that the subsidy will continue with a date, so that I can give them that sense of security and the date I am asking for is Christmas but if you say November that will be acceptable, I need some kind of concrete commitment.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I can answer the question but I can't give you a specific date, consultation takes some very considerable time, as those Councillors present who have been through the process will know and it's very difficult to put a precise date on the end of that consultation. All I can say is that there will be consultation and there will be alternative provision in place before any subsidy is withdrawn.

12. Question to the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty from Councillor R West

I visited the St Neots rural Children's Centre in Bushmead Road and met Nicky Munro and her team and I'm very impressed with the work that they are doing for the youngsters and also the help they are giving to parents. Can you speak about the future of the Children's Centres and do you in fact support them?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty

Thank you Chairman and Councillor West and thank you very much for the comments on the Children's Centre in St Neots. It provides an excellent learning opportunity for pre-school children as many, many of these Children's Centres do within Cambridgeshire and I'm pleased to pass on your comments to the Locality Manager in St Neots.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor R West

May I say in the four years can I please thank a number of people for the help they have given to Buckden Division and myself. A question I want to put to Councillor Orgee was how much West Division have helped in diminishing responsibilities a great of deal problems they had and they've helped the Buckden residents and myself a great deal, Chairman. I'm thinking now of Grant Murdoch who has given so much help, Sharon Piper and also Emma Murden so may if I pass that on Chairman

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Very happy to.

13. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor T Sadiq

Does the Leader of the Council agree with the Leader of Tory run Chiltern District Council, Nick Rose, who said the way central Government was treating local Councils and local people was "immoral" and he continues Eric Pickles told us that it would be immoral for Councils to put up Council Tax, when it comes to morality their immorality is in a different league. Do you agree or disagree?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

Central Government has very wisely set out a policy of driving out the fat and the waste and the inefficiency, typically of Labour run Councils of the North of England and that policy is one that we would all support, I am sure, with one or two exceptions I'm guessing. We saw Bob Neil only on Friday and Bob was very kind in his words for

Cambridgeshire, he was very kind in his words for the work on driving the economy here and fully understands our position. Equally branding the rest of the Minister responsible for the Council Tax did tell me and have told the LGA that I'm the only Leader in the Country that has made the case for a Council Tax rise and I take some pride in the fact that we set our arguments clearly to him. So I don't think that it's about morals, I think that it's much more about a departing Labour Councillor trying to leave me with a problem to sort out for the benefit of election of his group I'm sure which such that as it is. I'm not going to make any comparisons with that, I think we have done the right thing for the people of Cambridgeshire and that's what drives me and that's what drives my Cabinet and my Group and we're less concerned with political mantra from elsewhere.

Supplementary Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor T Sadiq

Chairman, it's not really a question but would he accept my statement that I wish the Council all the best to those returning Councillors who are coming back and hope they will act morally in every case.

14. Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor T Stone

In the Duxford Division we continue to grow rapidly particularly in biotech and high tech, it was a delight to see the Leader at the TWI last week but the Duxford Division is very much open for business, we love it . But while all this is happening we are closing post offices, we have lost them in Thriplow and Fowlmere and there is now a serious possibility that Duxford post office will go as well and that's largely because of a change of post office limited rules. The response I have had from the County and District Councils is to say the least lukewarm and Duxford Parish Council is still awaiting a response from the local MP. Would Councillor Clarke undertake to take action to stop this haemorrhage of post offices in the County?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

If you remember at the last Council I tried to get this Council to focus on what it should be doing, which is clearly the business of this Council and post offices isn't within our remit. Now that's not to say that we shouldn't be lobbying the post office to retain local post offices wherever we can, of course we should. I was involved locally in Fulbourn doing exactly that and as the post office closed it was then relocated to the local supermarket so these things can be done. But that is very much about local Councillors fulfilling the role of local Councillors standing up for the people they represent and I don't think necessarily this Council should be dictating, even if it could, to Post Offices plc what it should be doing because there are clearly economic reasons why these post offices are closing and some of that is about the changing nature of what we do, it's a changing nature of how people interact and whenever you attempt to subsidise one part of an industry you are putting costs elsewhere. So the post offices must be able to make their own decisions but I would encourage yourself to think about your own protesting and lobbying on behalf of those post offices and if I can do anything personally, happy to do that but it's not really a business for this Council.

Supplementary Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, from Councillor T Stone

We've tried in the past, we've tried with Thriplow, we tried with Fowlmere and we are trying with Duxford but the problem is there is absolutely no backup but yet this County is supposed to be responsible for the wellbeing of all its citizens, it would be nice even without money to have some kind of backup from somebody.

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke

As I suggested I'm quite happy on a personal basis to help you but it's really a local matter for you as the local Councillor to deal with. All I can say from your tale of despair is that I've got involved with saving one post office, which is in Fulbourn and it's been saved. So if I can help just let me know.

15. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor P Sales

My question follows on from the question asked by Councillor Batchelor, I was going to ask something very similar. My question is quite simple when are we going to get a definitive list of which officers, particularly in relation to highways, when are we going to get the list that will tell us who is exactly doing what because it's very disabling to have a list in which quite a lot of people have left and quite a lot of people moved around and are not willing to take on for instance responsibility accountability for new work as you might well understand. It would be greatly appreciated, it is actually a working document having that list and it does help with the disposal of residents' queries.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

Thanks for the question but I did think I answered it before and that is people are in post at the minute they are continuing with their roles until they leave the Council and at that point information will be provided as to who will be taking on those roles.

Supplementary Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor P Sales

When are we going to get the definitive list? Saying that's when they assume their new roles is one thing, saying when the senior management are going to produce a new list which is a working document for Councillors is another matter, now you must be able to tell us when that is going to be?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

It was in my previous answer I said by the end of the week, this week.

16. Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee from Councillor V Lucas

This is a question for Councillor Orgee and he is aware that last summer the Ministry of Defence announced that about 2,000 additional service personnel and civilians would be moving into RAF Wyton. This is causing some concern amongst Local Members and the communities around and about because it will cause a choke point

with traffic on the busy A141. My question for Councillor Orgee is when will he be responding to the request for information as to what's going to be done about removing that choke point so that we're not going to be subject to the huge traffic jams that we are anticipating.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee

I'm pleased to be able to say that Councillor Bates is willing to answer this question.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

Thank you Councillor Lucas, as you're well aware as I live relatively local I'm fully aware of what you are talking about. I think bearing in mind the concern of local residents and obviously the Parish Councils of Wyton on the Hill, the sensible way forward is for me to give you a proper written answer as soon as I can so that you can pass that on to local residents.

Supplementary question from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates from Councillor V Lucas

When will the written answer be please?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

If I can get out of the Chamber I might be able to talk to someone about it.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

Question from Councillor A Pellew to the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor A G Orgee

"King's Hedges Guides, as part of the national Go For It! Streets ahead project, have just completed a survey of members of the public regarding broken street lights within their neighbourhood and the effect this can have on peoples behaviour. While unscientific this survey highlighted the impact broken street lights can have on transport patterns with almost 1/3 of people reporting that they felt vulnerable when passing through an area with a broken street light, and a vast majority (over 90%) of people considering taking an alternative (longer) route to avoid an area without street lighting.

Those taking part in the survey were then asked how longer it should take, after a broken street light has been reported, before it is fixed. This was an open-ended question and those being asked could pick any time they liked.

Their responses were;

- Next Day 39%
- 2 days 11%
- 3 days 11%
- 4 days 6%
- a week 33%

Given the clear expectation of members of the public that broken street light should be fixed within a week can I ask the relevant cabinet member;

- a) what the figures are across Cambridgeshire regarding the speed of repairs (including any targets that are currently set),
- b) whether he is aware of any similar studies being conducted, and
- c) what effort the County Council has made to communicate with local residents regarding setting expectations for the repair of broken street lights"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor A G Orgee

- a) The County Council would like to thank the King Hedges Guides for the results of their recent survey. The Authority's policy on the maintenance of its street lighting assets fully supports the importance of the need to get lights not working back in light as soon as possible.

During the winter months, the Authority's service provider scouts all 56,000 street lights in the County every 2 weeks to ensure they are all working correctly. In the summer months, they are scouted every 4 weeks. Additionally, a free phone telephone number is provided enabling anyone to register any street lighting problem that requires fixing.

The Authority has a number of targets in the Contract with its service provider to get lights back working as quickly as possible depending upon the severity of the fault.

Emergency Faults

The County Council sets a target of 1 hour. In February 2013, the service provider achieved 100%

Urgent Faults

The County Council sets a target of 1 Day. In February 2013, the service provider achieved 100%

Non-Emergency Faults

Indicator	Period covering 01 July 12 to 30 June 13			
	Month (Dec 12)	Year to date	Predicted outturn	Target outturn
LP1 The average number of days taken to repair a street light fault, which is under the control of the Authority.	4.51	3.58	4	5
LP2 The average number of days taken to rectify a street light fault, which is under the control of the DNO or IDNO.	13.46	14.51	15	30
LP3 Percentage of Lighting Points not working as planned.	0.92	1.12	1.5%	<1.5%
LP4 The average number of days taken to replace or reposition a complete unit of Apparatus from first being reported (excluding DNO or IDNO equipment).	6.89	4.63	5	5

- b) The Authority's targets are amongst the most stringent in the UK. If the service provider does not achieve the required targets, he is penalised financially.
- c) The County Council's web site explains the street lighting fault repair policy to local residents so that they are able to understand the reasons for different response times.

Question from Councillor S van de Ven to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count

"Given the importance of promoting public transport in Cambridgeshire, especially in terms of councillors leading by example, would it be possible to introduce 'Rail' and 'Bus' as specified means of transport on the members' expenses claim form and the publication of the 'Councillor Allowances Paid' document? At the moment, the Member Allowances Paid

document includes categories for 'Vehicle Miles' and 'Bicycle Miles', but reimbursement for travel by rail and bus shows up as 'Other Expenses.'

Response from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count

While being absolutely clear about the need for effective promotion of the use of public transport, I cannot see any way in which the proposal contained in the question would achieve such an end. The amendment of claim forms would also require the recoding of budgets which would not be a straight forward process and would serve no useful purpose. If Members make increasing use of public transport, or car sharing for example, then the expenditure on "vehicle mileage" will demonstrably reduce and that in itself will provide a more effective measure of our contribution to reducing care usage. I see no benefit of initiating the proposed change at this time.

Question from Councillor S van de Ven to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

"What efforts are being made to expedite the opening of the new Trumpington Meadows-Hauxton cycle path, which if opened by September 2013 would help encourage new sixth formers from south of Cambridge to take advantage of County Council Education Transport incentives to cycle to college?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates

There are a network of cycle/pedestrian routes planned as part of the Trumpington Meadows Development. A number of these will be through the Country Park that will extend south of the M11 and link to the current cycle and pedestrian path to Hauxton.

The Country Park and cycle routes within it are likely to open in Summer 2014. The Council has discussed the timing of the opening with the developer and some paths may now be made available for use earlier. As well as this, Officers are working with the A10 Cycle Campaign Group and the developer to bring forward the delivery of a link to Hauxton Road that would better facilitate cyclists travelling into Cambridge.

Should the local community wish to financially support the new cycle path this would be helpful in enabling this route to be brought forward at the earliest opportunity.

Question from Councillor A Pellew to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor S Count

"For the first time the Coalition Government has mandated a preference for "open source" software in Government procurement (see Government Service Design Manual - <https://www.gov.uk/service-manual>). The manual actually goes further than ever before in that proprietary product usage must only be used in "rare" circumstances.

The "Open Source Options for Government" document (April 2012) lists the benefits of Open Source as lower procurement costs, no license costs, interoperability, easier integration and customisation, fewer barriers to reuse, conformance to open technology and open standards giving autonomy over your own information, and freedom from vendor lock in (Context, Point 2 in the document).

What open Source Software does Cambridgeshire County Council use? What contributions, if any, has the County Council or its staff made to Open Source projects?

Given this new government mandate what efforts are the County Council making to increase their usage or open source software?"

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance,
Councillor S Count**

The IT Service will always seek to utilise the optimum software solution, taking into account cost (including migration, support and training costs), interoperability with existing systems, and exploiting existing investment, in the context of Coalition Government's advice to "fully evaluate open source options when designing solutions and services".

Consequently a significant amount of Open Source software is in use, as follows:

- Server software: Red Hat and Suze Linux operating system; JBoss application server; MySQL; Apache Tomcat web sever.
- Desktop software: 7-zip file compression; DVDVideoSoft video editing; GNU flow diagram, mind mapping, drawing and vector drawing; Mozilla web page creation; OpenProj gant chart creator; PDF Forge pdf creator; Render Soft screen capture; and VideoLAN video player.

In addition there are a number of "freeware" products in use (software available free of charge but without open source code).

Our existing investment in Microsoft desktop products allows us to upgrade as far as Office 2010 with no further software purchase cost. Once Office 2010 comes to the end of its life we will again review options including Open Source.

Regarding involvement in Open Source projects, the IT Service has worked with Cambridge University to support development of an Open Source Android bus timetable app for Cambridge, miniBus.

Whilst it is true to say that Open Source applications are the smaller proportion of software in use, we fully expect the proportion to grow as we actively consider opportunities for cost-effective alternatives to proprietary solutions as they occur.