

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 19th October 2010

Time: 10.35 am – 4.45 pm

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor L J Oliver (Chairman)

Councillors S Austen, J D Batchelor, I C Bates, N Bell, K Bourke, B Brooks-Gordon, D Brown, F Brown, R Butcher, C Carter, K Churchill, J Clark, N Clarke, S Criswell, M Curtis, P J Downes, J Dutton, R Farrer, S Gymer, G Harper, N Harrison, D Harty, S Hoy, W Hunt, C Hutton, S Johnstone, E Kadić, G Kenney, S G M Kindersley, V Lucas, I Manning, L W McGuire, V McGuire, R Moss-Eccardt, L Nethsingha, T Orgee, J Palmer, D R Pegram, J A Powley, P Read, P Reeve, J E Reynolds, K Reynolds, T Sadiq, S Sedgwick-Jell, C Shepherd, M Shuter, M Smith, T Stone, S Tierney, S van de Ven, J West, R West, F Whelan, S Whitebread, K Wilkins, M Williamson, G Wilson, L J Wilson and F H Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors P Brown, N Guyatt, G Heathcock, J D Jenkins, S King, A K Melton, A Pellew and J Tuck

107. MINUTES: 20th JULY 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th July 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

108. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting, reminding them that the Council does not allow photography or filming in its meetings without prior permission.

The Chairman also welcomed Ian Manning, the newly-elected member for the East Chesterton Electoral Division.

Appointments

The Chairman announced the following appointments by the Council's Appointments Committee:

- Hannah Woodhouse to the post of Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning, Children and Young People's Services, on a two-year secondment
- Claire Bruin, previously Service Director: Adult Support Services, to the new post of Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning.

The Chairman also advised members of the following appointments within Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) which had been approved by the LGSS Joint Management Board:

- Nick Dawe, the County Council's Corporate Director: Finance, Property and Performance, as LGSS Director of Finance
- Christine Reed, the Head of Organisation Development and Human Resources at Northamptonshire County Council, as LGSS Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development
- Rocco Labellarte, the Head of IT at Northamptonshire County Council, as LGSS Director of Operations
- Quentin Baker, the Head of Legal Services at Cambridgeshire County Council, as LGSS Director of Legal Services.

She congratulated Nick Dawe and Quentin Baker on being appointed to these posts, and reminded members that LGSS had gone live on 1st October 2010.

The Chairman reported that Stephen Moir, the Council's Corporate Director: People, Policy and Law, had commenced a part-time secondment as National Advisor: Organisational Development and Transformation, with Local Government Improvement and Development, formerly known as the IDeA at the end of August.

Awards and achievements

The Chairman led members in congratulating the following:

- Stephen Moir, who for the third year running had been placed in the top 30 of HR Magazine's 'Most Influential' list, which includes people working in the private, voluntary and public sectors
- Brigitte Squire a Consultant Clinical Psychologist seconded to the County Council as Multi Systemic Therapy Programme Manager, on being awarded an MBE for her services to Youth Justice
- Professor Robert Edwards on winning this year's Nobel Prize for Medicine. Professor Edwards, together with his colleague Patrick Steptoe, founded the IVF clinic at Bourn Hall, near Cambridge. They worked tirelessly to perfect the IVF method of treating infertility, leading to the birth of the world's first test tube baby in 1978
- the Cambridgeshire athletes Luke Folwell, Anita North, Ellen Faulkner, Hannah MacLeod, Louise Hazel and Grace Clements, who had contributed so energetically to England's impressive haul of medals from the Commonwealth Games in Delhi
- the Transitions Team for reaching the top three in the national Skills for Care Accolades Awards, in the category for 'Most Innovative Workforce Development Practice in a Specialist Service'
- Cambridgeshire Direct on being named as one of the top 50 contact centres in the country for delivering excellent customer service for the third year in succession
- Kick Ash, a Cambridgeshire programme to reduce smoking in the under 16's, on being shortlisted for a PRide Award by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. The programme was developed through partnership working between the Council and NHS Cambridgeshire and is peer led by young people from Bottisham Village College

- all those in Highways and Road Safety teams who had worked on improving safety on the A1307 Fourwentways to the County boundary; the Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards judges had awarded the County Council a Commendation Certificate for this work to improve safety.

Service Developments

The Chairman drew members' attention to the 'Flood Memories Project', run by the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership to support the implementation of new statutory duties under the Flood Risk Regulations and the Flood and Water Management Act.

The Chairman advised members that the new cycle route between Babraham Road Park and Ride and Wandlebury Country Park had been opened in August. This was a shared use foot and cycleway which provided a link from existing cycle routes in Cambridge and would encourage further use and sustainable access to this area.

Thanks

The Chairman advised members that Michael Brown, Democratic Services Team Manager, was leaving the Council after nearly 25 years' service in Democratic Services. On behalf of the Council, she thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Council and wished him well for the future.

Other Matters

The Chairman reported that the first Civic Service had been held in the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge. She had received many compliments on the occasion from those who had attended this celebration.

The Chairman advised members that the Chairman of the Police Authority, Ruth Rogers, would be attending the meeting to respond to questions about Police Authority matters. The Chairman therefore intended to vary the order of business so that item 12(a) on Police Authority issues could be taken immediately after the lunch break.

The Chairman advised members that in order to avoid a clash with the King's College Carol Service for secondary school pupils, the start of the next Council meeting on 7th December 2010 would be put back until 2.00pm. She encouraged members to attend this civic occasion.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor	Minute	Details
Batchelor	113	
	121	
	122e	Member of the Pensions scheme
		Member for this Council on the Police Authority
		Governor of Linton Village College, which is in the process of becoming an academy

Bourke	112a	Member of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign
Curtis	113	
122e		
124b Member of the Pensions scheme		
Chairman of Governors at Alderman Jacobs School, which is considering academy status		
Governor of a school benefitting from the Building Schools for the Future programme		
Downes	113	Member of the Pensions scheme
Dutton	113	Member of the Pensions scheme
Harty	122e	Governor of Crosshall Junior School
Hunt	113	as a future recipient
M McGuire	113	In receipt of a County Council pension
V McGuire	113	Husband in receipt of a County Council pension
Orgee	122d	Member of the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Board of Governors
Sadiq	122e	Governor of Parkside, which has voted to become an academy
Shuter	121	Governor of Bottisham Village College
van de Ven	121	

124b Member of the practical solutions group, under the Crime and Disorder Partnership and associated with the Neighbourhood Panel

Member of Melbourn Library Access Point

R West	113	In receipt of a pension
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Whelan 117

122e

124a

124b

Parent of children who travel on school transport

Parent of two children at Comberton Village College, which is voting to become an academy

Board member of the National Autistic Society for Cambridgeshire; member of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

Associate member of COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise)

Whitebread	112a	Member of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign
Wilkins	121	Member of Cambridgeshire Police Authority
G Wilson	General	On flood and climate change issues as an Employee of the Environment Agency

The following member declared a prejudicial interest under Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct:

Councillor	Minute	Details
D Brown	118a	Wife runs two local newspapers in the County

110. REPORT OF THE COUNTY RETURNING OFFICER

Members noted that Councillor Ian Manning had been elected on 16th September 2010 to fill the vacancy in the East Chesterton Electoral Division.

111. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

112. REPORTS OF CABINET MEETINGS – ITEM FOR DETERMINATION

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M McGuire, moved receipt of the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 7th and 28th September 2010.

(a) Capital Programme Adjustments and Minor Highways Policy Changes (28th September 2010)

It was proposed by the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, Councillor R Pegram, and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, that the Council

Approves the revised Capital Programme 2010/11, reduced by £2,035,000 due to grant cuts, and the reduced works programme contained within the Revised Network Service Plan 2010.

Discussing the proposal, several members raised matters local to their electoral divisions:

- Councillor Batchelor reported that he had only learnt of the deferral of further work on the Inter-Urban Corridor Bus Schemes and Inter-urban Corridor Other Schemes (intended to cover improvements to the A1307 corridor) by reading the report to Cabinet; it was important that local members be advised directly of projects affecting their electoral division as soon as possible. A significant sum (£75,000 in total) had already been committed to these schemes without any apparent benefit to date; these might be desirable projects, but were hardly vital

He drew attention to the consequences of the loss of Local Area Agreement (LAA) reward grant for the A1307; although government funding had been lost, he hoped that the local matched funding would still be available for further speed reduction measures on the A1307.

Councillor Batchelor congratulated the Road Safety Team on the recent commendation for its work to improve safety on the A1307. Further work was needed to maintain the improvement in accident and casualty figures since 2008, including a safe right turn into Hildersham, but work carried out to date represented a real achievement and real value for money.

- Councillor Whelan reminded members that Madingley Road required merely £10,000 to be spent on measures to reduce deaths and serious injuries. There was little hope of success in the October list of traffic management and safety schemes even if the money were to be raised locally, to the frustration of local residents. Madingley Road was listed as number 14 out of 125 accident black spots in the county.

- Councillor Brooks-Gordon drew attention to the reduction in funding for the Magdalene Street one-way bus flow feasibility study from £25,000 to £15,000, despite the ill effects to the street's mediaeval buildings and high levels of carbon emissions and accidents resulting from the present traffic levels. The consequences of the withdrawal of the park and ride stop in Northampton Street continued, with a loss of footfall in local businesses.

More general matters raised by members included:

- assurance was sought from the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning that only the minimum necessary number of copies of the Revised Network Service Plan had been printed prior to the meeting, given that the Plan had not yet been approved
- it was pointed out that deferral implied that something would be done at a later date; however, there was no indication that funding would be available in future to carry out the works to be deferred in the Revised Network Plan
- the removal of money from cycleway schemes would have an adverse effect on the many residents who relied on cycling; cuts to the cycleway and footpaths budgets could have been avoided had the Liberal Democrats' alternative budget been adopted for the current financial year, in which an additional £3m had been proposed for roads, footpaths and cycleways
- the statutory authorities should not view their budgets in isolation, and should be prepared to spend money to save money for another authority; for example, the reduction in cycleway maintenance would increase costs to local hospitals in treating any consequent injuries
- any cut in investment in transport was a huge mistake, because good transport links were crucial to becoming a successful economy again
- other authorities had had government-imposed cuts of 25% to their Local Transport Plan (LTP), but because of the costs of the guided bus, Cambridgeshire was experiencing a 37% cut. The Liberal Democrats' alternative budget had made £6m capital available for accident reduction and major projects, and had proposed £490k for community transport
- attention was drawn to the good work being undertaken by the Fenland Transport and Access Group, which had for example shown up the lack of public transport in the area to enable people to access jobs; assurance was sought that this project would continue to be supported, and would be transferred to other districts
- it was pointed out that the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the revised Capital Programme had been available at the Growth and Environment Policy Development Group. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Whelan, replied that Liberal Democrat members would attend meetings of policy development groups if they were made open to the public
- local members faced pressure from residents to have minor highway improvements carried out; it would be better to be honest and say that the money was not available, rather than raise false hopes by promising support
- there was a long tradition of good highways projects done well in the county, but rather than always insisting on delivering a gold-plated scheme, officers

and members should be prepared to change their mindset and find less elaborate, but still effective, ways of carrying out works. This should make it easier for a parish council willing to fund small-scale improvements from its precept to get its scheme accepted. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Access confirmed that he would be assessing the scope of schemes to make them more affordable as well as seeking third-party funding.

Summing up, the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning responded to members' comments. Once the County Council's funding allocation was known in early December, the Integrated Planning Process would enable spending priorities to be identified. Highways schemes that had been deferred would be re-prioritised in the light of available funding, communities would be supported in their initiatives where funding was available, and alternative sources of funding would be pursued; officers were already investigating possible European Union funding for cycleways, for example. He acknowledged the importance of a flexible approach in making the best possible use of the resources available.

Following the debate, a vote was taken and the motion was carried.

[Voting pattern: Most Conservatives and the UKIP member in favour; one Liberal Democrat and the Green member against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman, most Liberal Democrats and the Labour members abstained.]

113. PENSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Chairman of the Pensions Committee, Councillor J Reynolds, moved receipt of the annual report of the Pensions Committee for 2009/10.

Councillor Stone asked whether Councillor Reynolds was sanguine about fluctuations in the fund value. Councillor Downes said that he supported efforts to reduce fund administration costs, and to change the remuneration pattern to fund managers away from a percentage basis to one in which performance played a larger part in determining remuneration. He also referred to the need to address the cost and affordability of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Councillor Moss-Eccardt noted that issues of performance had been dealt with in the past year and sought assurance that they would be dealt with more rapidly in future.

Councillor Reynolds explained that fluctuations in fund value related to volatility of investments; the income from investments and current contributions was sufficient to meet the fund's current commitments, though the improvement in asset values was outweighed by the negative impact of liabilities. Local Government Shared Services had already started to look at the reduction in pension fund administration costs.

Council noted the report.

114. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Chairman of the Audit and Accounts Committee, Councillor T Stone, moved receipt of the annual report of the Audit and Accounts Committee for 2009/10.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt asked whether Councillor Stone was confident that

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) would be met in time, and that the treatment of capital expenditure was correct. Councillor Sedgwick-Jell drew attention to the frequent appearance of the Guided Busway in the report as an issue of concern, and urged that, should the Council find itself with such a major contract again, thought should be given to the audit process at a much earlier stage than had occurred with the Busway.

Summing up, Councillor Stone confirmed that the Council should be ready for the start of IFRS next year. He acknowledged that the Busway initially had not had audit embedded in it, but audit was now embedded and internal audit had made useful contributions in relation to the contracts process. He believed that the Audit and Accounts Committee was carrying out its duties effectively.

Council noted the report.

115. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 AND STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Group, Councillor Johnstone, moved receipt of the Scrutiny annual report for 2009/10 and the strategic work programme for 2010/11. Her proposal was seconded by the Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, Councillor N Bell.

Introducing the report, Councillor Johnstone, on behalf of the scrutiny members, thanked supporting officers for their work. She highlighted the importance of scrutiny as holding to account not only Cabinet but also other organisations, and drew attention to the member-led review being conducted jointly with Fenland District Council by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, the first example of such joint scrutiny working.

Council noted the report, and agreed the scrutiny committees' strategic work programmes for 2010/11.

[Voting pattern: Chairman and Vice-chairman abstained, all other members in favour.]

116. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Nine written questions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.4:

- Councillor Harrison had asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor J Tuck, about a report submitted to the Cambridgeshire Together Board which had appeared to suggest that the Public Service Board might become the commissioning group for all locally delivered services.
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt had asked the Cabinet Member for Customer Service and Transformation, Councillor S Criswell, to confirm that that the Council was confident that any risks associated with the current way of working for Members' email were acceptable.
- Councillor Bourke had asked the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, Councillor R Pegram, for the current cost of the guided busway project, and the Council's maximum technical exposure to the cost of the guided busway project
- Councillor Nethsingha had asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and

Access, Councillor M McGuire, about the cost of re-surfacing Grange Road, following the postponement of the work in 2009/10.

- Councillor Moss-Eccardt had asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, about the reinstatement of road markings in Stretten Avenue, Cambridge.
- Councillor Whitebread had asked the Cabinet Member for Economy and the Environment, Councillor A G Orgee, about the availability of, and publicity about, energy monitoring meters for loan to members of the public.
- Councillor Brooks-Gordon had asked the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown, about the process by which Kentwood Associates had been chosen to undertake the Strategic Review of the Library, Archive and Information Service.
- Councillor Pellew had asked the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown, about the process and cost of purchasing books and other stock by the Library Service.
- Councillor Pellew had asked the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown about the scoring on deprivation in the Library Assessment methodology and about the library catchment areas.

The responses were circulated at the Council meeting and are posted with these minutes on the [County Council's website](#).

117. ORAL QUESTIONS

Nine oral questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 9.1:

- Councillor N Clarke asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M McGuire, to review induction training to members to ensure that members had a better understanding of how to seek information from officers and did not make unnecessary Freedom of Information requests. Responding, the Deputy Leader confirmed that, as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for member training, he would pursue this matter with colleagues on the member training panel.
- Councillor Sedgwick-Jell asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M McGuire, whether, in the light of current enthusiasm for shared services, the Council was minded to revisit unitary authority status for the county. Responding, the Deputy Leader pointed out that there were good examples of two-tier working and said he thought it unlikely that there would be any further investigation of unitary status, given the previous lack of support for this status.
- Councillor Bourke asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, and the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, Councillor R Pegram, about the increase in the cost of a park and ride ticket in the period 2000-2010 as compared with the decrease in the departure charge levied on bus operators during the same period, enquiring whether this represented good value for the tax-payer. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access said that park and ride represented good value for money for the community; he drew attention to recent proposals to increase charges for on-street and residential parking, the revenue from which contributed to the costs of park

and ride and said that park and ride could not be looked at in isolation.

- Councillor Austen asked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor F Yeulett, what measures were in place to monitor the implementation of the policy on medication management training for domiciliary and care home staff. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing advised that the Care Quality Commission required care home managers to provide training, and monitored this as part of its inspection visits; the Council's contracts team also checked that staff had received training and if necessary included this in a home's improvement action plan.
- Councillor van de Ven asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, about the proposal to remove the main road in and out of Great and Little Chishill from the winter gritting schedule, and about the difficulty she had experienced in trying to contact him about this matter. The Parish Council had wished to ask an oral question about the gritting at Council, but had missed the deadline for applying to do so. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access said that he was happy to give her his telephone numbers and apologised for the delay in answering emails. He reminded the questioner that the opportunity to discuss gritting prioritisation had been available through the Growth and Environment Policy Development Group. He advised that Cabinet would be considering the winter gritting schedule at its meeting on 26th October.
- [Councillor Kindersley asked the Cabinet Member for Learning, Councillor D Harty, about the delay in providing a secondary school at Cambourne and, in a secondary question, asked him whether he could confirm that there were no plans to redraw the catchment area for Comberton Village College either now or in the future. The Cabinet Member for Learning undertook to provide a written answer to these questions.](#)
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt sought assurance from the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor M McGuire, that there would be no cost to the Council arising from the recent creation of Cabinet Assistant posts. The Deputy Leader confirmed that there would be no costs to the Council associated with these posts.
- Councillor Brooks-Gordon drew the attention of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, to the high rate of serious accidents in Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, and reminded him that he had undertaken to support agreements reached at a meeting of officers and members planned for the coming month. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access said that he had attended one meeting along with the local member for Bar Hill, Councillor J Reynolds, and continued to liaise with Councillor Reynolds to ensure that measures to reduce speed and improve conditions for cycling were addressed; he would become personally involved if his presence would assist in achieving a common-sense solution.
- Councillor Whelan asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, to reconsider proposals not to include a number of school bus routes in winter gritting runs. Responding, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access referred the questioner to his answer to Councillor van de Ven on winter gritting.

A transcript of the questions and responses is posted on the [County Council's website](#).

118. MOTIONS

Five motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10. These motions were also discussed under Minute 120 and 122 below.

(a) **Motion from Councillor N Harrison**

It was proposed by Councillor Whitebread, on behalf of Councillor Harrison, and seconded by Councillor Bell:

The Council notes:

1. that the Liberal Democrat budget amendment proposals for 2007/8, 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 proposed significant reductions in the Council's budgets for Press, Public Relations and other Communications activities;
2. that, regrettably, the Council's Conservative administration failed to support any of these savings proposals; and
3. that, regrettably, until the publication of a report to the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee on 29 September, the Council was unaware of the scale of its annual budget for these activities.

The Council agrees:

- a. that the current annual budget of £2.05 million is far too high and must be cut back to reflect the public's desire to protect front line services such as social care, libraries and transport at this time of severely reduced public sector spending;
- b. that the current budget should be cut by at least 50% for the years 2011/12 and beyond; and
- c. that in future, the budget should be strongly focused on public consultation activities and the communication of information that is useful to the public.

Speaking against the motion, Councillor Criswell said that the organisation-wide review of communications currently being undertaken would bring all communication activity together and would take account of service changes and the need to communicate with residents. The review findings would inform the Integrated Planning Process, and any resulting figures in the budget would not be arbitrary, unlike the Liberal Democrat budget figures. Councillor Harrison's motion had no relevance at the present time.

It was then proposed by Councillor Criswell and seconded by Councillor Curtis that Council vote on the motion without further discussion. Councillor Whitebread voiced opposition to this motion, but on being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

[Voting pattern: Most Conservatives and the UKIP member in favour; most Liberal Democrats and the Green member against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman, one Conservative and one Labour member abstained.]

Speaking in support of the original motion, Councillor Whitebread suggested that members who were happy that over £2m was being spent on publicity, much of it unnecessarily, should vote against the motion.

On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green and UKIP members in favour; most Conservatives against; the Chairman, Vice-chairman and one other Conservative abstained.]

(b) Motion from Councillor R Moss-Eccardt

It was proposed by Councillor Moss-Eccardt and seconded by Councillor Williamson:

This Council notes the continuing drive for transparency and openness that is responding to the expectations of the public.

This Council also notes that, currently, the Register of Members Interest is not readily accessible.

This Council further notes that other authorities publish the Register on a public Web server.

Therefore this Council requires that the Register be published on the Internet.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Criswell and seconded by Councillor Johnstone:

That the following changes be made to the motion submitted by Councillor R Moss-Eccardt:

- (a) In the first sentence replace the word 'notes' with 'fully supports'.
- (b) Delete everything after the first sentence and replace with the following:

'Therefore, the Council asks the Leader of the Council, in consultation with opposition Group Leaders, to consider ways in which more information about elected members can be made available on the Internet. This should include access to the Register of Members Interests and details of Members' Criminal Record Bureau status, and take account of advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer on compliance with data protection and other relevant statutory requirements.'

Speaking on the amendment, Councillor Criswell said that the Register was readily available to those who wished to inspect it, but making it available on the internet would be cost-effective and promote transparency. It would, however, be necessary to allow time for advice to be sought on data protection implications.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt asked that, were the amendment to be carried, there be some commitment that the matter be brought back to the next meeting of Council, or the one following, though the protocol of CRB checks might prohibit publication of the results of the checks.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

[Voting pattern: Most Conservatives, the Labour members and the Green and the UKIP member in favour; no members against; the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Liberal Democrats abstained.]

Speaking on the substantive motion as amended, Councillor Williamson reiterated the request for programming the implementation of the publication of more information about elected members, pointing out that some neighbouring authorities and four of the five Cambridgeshire District Councils already did so.

Summing up, Councillor Moss-Eccardt accepted the motion as amended, and looked forward to rapid plans for implementation being developed.

On being put to the vote, the motion as amended was carried.

[Voting pattern: Most Conservatives, the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green and UKIP members in favour; no members against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman abstained.]

119. QUESTIONS ON FIRE AUTHORITY ISSUES

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

Councillor R Pegram, as Chairman of the Fire Authority, presented and commended the report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority to members and invited their questions.

Councillor Sedgwick-Jell asked whether there were any financial implications for the Fire Authority arising from the current status of regional fire control centres. The Chairman of the Fire Authority advised that there was no financial obligation to the Fire Authority or to the Fire and Rescue Service in connection with the regional fire control centres; these were the property of Communities and Local Government.

A full transcript of the question and response is available from Democratic Services.

120. MOTIONS (continued)

(c) Motion from Councillor R Moss-Eccardt

It was proposed by Councillor Moss-Eccardt and seconded by Councillor Stone:

This Council notes that Full Council is another forum in which Cabinet members can make commitments for action.
This Council also notes that it isn't always easy to remember and track the commitments made in the heat of debate.
Therefore this Council requires that, in future, all commitments made are recorded and tracked.

Explanatory note: The mechanism for doing this is left to be determined but a section in the Cabinet agenda - Issues Arising From Council might

be a simple and effective solution.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor J Reynolds, pointed out that it had long been standard practice that undertakings given by members in the course of Council meetings were recorded in the minutes and reinforced by a confirmatory email from Democratic Services after the meeting. Although the commitments usually applied to Cabinet members, they could also apply to others. It was neither necessary nor appropriate to have a Cabinet agenda item as suggested, and the motion should be rejected.

Other members speaking against the motion made the following points:

- there was no need for the motion because extensive minutes were produced; officers should be commended for the high quality of minutes
- there was always an opportunity for members to question the accuracy of minutes before they were signed.

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

- at the previous Council meeting, during the debate on Councillor Bourke's motion about publicity for the period of public scrutiny of the Council's accounts, Liberal Democrat members had proposed that a press release be issued drawing public attention to the provisions of the Audit Commission Act, and a commitment to do so had been made but not recorded in the minutes and not subsequently honoured; no challenge to the minutes had been made before they were signed because officers had no record of the undertaking when asked about it some time after the meeting
- reports to Council were often not received sufficiently far in advance to allow members to meet the deadline to lodge a written question; Cabinet members should, however, be able to answer oral questions
- although officers did an excellent job, mistakes did sometimes occur, and despite exchanges of emails in relation to the specific example cited above, it had proved difficult to challenge something of which there was no record.

Summing up, Councillor Moss-Eccardt said that, while the Council minutes did record major commitments, other undertakings, such as to reply in writing to a question, did not necessarily appear, and there was a considerable delay between the meeting and the publication of the minutes. If a Cabinet member made a commitment in Council this was not a private matter, and the current system did not provide a mechanism for the public to see that a commitment was being followed up within the time promised.

On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, the Labour and UKIP members in favour; most Conservatives against; the Chairman, Vice-chairman and the Green member abstained.]

121. QUESTIONS ON POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES

Ruth Rogers, Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority, attended the meeting to present a report on recent issues relating to the Cambridgeshire Police Authority and to respond to members' questions and comments.

- Councillor J West reported good results from close working with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on anti-social behaviour in March, and expressed the view that mixing Police meetings with Neighbourhood Forums was not working well in his area.
- Councillor Palmer reported that a Youth Safe project at the recreation ground in Soham had been very successful and crime rates had dropped over the summer; he asked whether there were plans to roll this scheme out to other parts of the county. Ruth Rogers said that she would enquire whether the Youth Safe Controlled Zone would be used elsewhere.
- Councillor Sedgwick-Jell asked the Chairman of the Police Authority whether she felt that a directly elected police commissioner would actually enhance the operational efficiency of the Police Authority.
- Councillor Nethsingha asked whether the Police Authority had been consulted on the Council's winter gritting review, as it had become apparent that the Fire Authority had not been consulted. Ruth Rogers said that she would ask about this.
- Councillor Curtis thanked the Police for their participation in a recent public meeting at Wisbech about problems of anti-social behaviour and vandalism associated with a new play area; he asked the Chairman of the Police Authority to ensure police support for efforts to deal with a longstanding underlying issue of underage alcohol consumption there. Ruth Rogers said she would report back on the desire for more police support around these issues.
- Councillor Reeve welcomed the proposal for elected police commissioners, and praised the work of the local neighbourhood sergeant in Ramsey and the operation of his local Neighbourhood Forum. He drew attention to a lack of information coming back to the daytime neighbourhood police team from the evening response units and asked what the Authority was doing to address the problem of prompt feedback from evening to daytime officers. Ruth Rogers welcomed this and the earlier comment on Neighbourhood Forums, and said that whenever a member of the Police Authority attended a neighbourhood panel meeting, they wrote a report which was seen by senior officers.
- Councillor Brooks-Gordon suggested that people did not necessarily want directly elected police commissioners, and asked what the right reasons were for having them. Ruth Rogers said that the decision to have these commissioners was not hers, and there was a variety of views on them within the Police Authority
- Councillor Shuter drew attention to anti-social behaviour in Bottisham involving youngsters in vehicles driving round the village college car park until 4am; in contrast to the helpful neighbourhood policing team, the traffic police in the evenings had shown little interest in the problem. Ruth Rogers said that, as Chief Executive of Red2Green, which had a site at the back of the village college, and as a member of the Trust Board of the College, she had an interest in anti-social behaviour at Bottisham Village College. She would take back the issue about communication and differences of attitude between different shifts, which several members had raised and had also arisen elsewhere in the county.

A full transcript of the questions asked and responses given is available from

Democratic Services.

122. MOTIONS (continued)

(d) Motion from Councillor T Sadiq

It was proposed by Councillor Sadiq and seconded by Councillor Carter:

1. This Council notes the proposals to hand control of £80bn of health spending to GP consortia in the White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS which will see local authorities like Cambridgeshire taking on "the function of joining up the commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement."
2. Two pilot GP Consortia have already been established in Cambridgeshire: Hunts Health and Borderline Commissioning in the Huntingdonshire area and Yaxley and Whittlesey.
3. Doctors' organisations have expressed serious reservations about the reforms. In a letter to the Editor of The Times, more than 20 GPs call the plans a 'dangerous leap into the dark, putting in jeopardy the greatest of our public services.' The Royal College of General Practitioners has also reported major unease among its members, including fears that the reforms could mean the 'break-up of the NHS'.
4. This Council calls on the Cabinet to report to Council on the operation of the pilot GP consortia in Cambridgeshire and to consider how they and the wider NHS reforms might specifically affect the provision of healthcare in the County and the delivery of the priorities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Shepherd:

Delete paragraph 4 and insert:

4. This Council recognises the failure of the PCT system to deliver balanced NHS budgets, including within Cambridgeshire and especially at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, with the consequent crises in service provision and public confidence.
5. This Council is concerned that GPs, by becoming responsible for healthcare commissioning, may lose their role as the chief advocate within the NHS system of their patients' health and well-being.
6. Therefore, this Council calls on the Cabinet to report to Council on the operation of the pilot GP consortia in Cambridgeshire and to monitor the effects they have on the provision of healthcare in the county, especially relating to the priorities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire.

Members speaking against the amendment:

- were unable to accept that a GP's relationship with a patient would be changed by GPs taking on a commissioning role

- speaking from personal experience paid tribute to the high quality of service delivered by GPs and the staff at Addenbrooke's Hospital
- pointed out that the GP practices participating in the two existing consortia had welcomed their commissioning role, and that 20 GPs signing a letter were a small fraction of the total number of GPs in the country
- reported that the Borderline Commissioning Consortia had already started to address the problem of health inequalities
- commented that the people who were most accountable were being given the power to make decisions
- suggested that there was a potential benefit in a closer working relationship between localities and GPs, which should help to resolve the long-standing problem of lack of communication between health and education professionals; this would be particularly beneficial to young children
- pointed out that the Primary Care Trust (PCT) had been involved in scrutinising the way forward in Cambridgeshire.

Members speaking in support of the amendment:

- commented that there was a large gap between the skills required of GPs and those of health commissioners
- suggested that the time might come when GP consortia would merge into larger consortia to help them cope with the bureaucracy of commissioning; there was a dilemma between direct accountability versus economies of scale, closeness to the people versus taking the burden of management away from the health practitioners
- in monitoring the effects of the introduction Cabinet would be supporting GPs in this time of enormous change
- it was wrong for this Council not to take on responsibility for ensuring that the reforms did not adversely affect the delivery of service and care for the people of Cambridgeshire.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats in favour; most Conservatives, the Labour, Green and UKIP members against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman abstained.]

Members then debated the original motion. Points raised included:

- the motion was unnecessary because the concerns raised in it had already been addressed by other routes, as could be seen for example in the report of the Cabinet held on 28th September; both the Council and the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee had submitted responses to the consultation on the White Paper in which they had pointed out that many of aspects of the White Paper were risky and lacked detail
- in a globalised world where freedom could be a euphemism for bean-counting and jobs could be transferred overseas, it was important that the Council monitor the effects of the implementation of practice-based commissioning, and the motion highlighted this, so deserved support
- the White Paper proposals placed a large amount of health spending in the

hands of GP consortia; risks included the diversion of resources from clinical care, the introduction of privatisation, the eventual break-up of the NHS, and greater difficulty for the Council in delivering joined-up services.

Summing up, Councillor Sadiq said that the motion offered an opportunity for the Council to place on public record that it was committed to taking monitoring of the NHS reforms seriously, in particular the operation of the GP consortia and ensuring that the changes did not impact adversely on healthcare in the County.

On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green members in favour; most Conservatives and the UKIP member against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman abstained.]

(e) Motion from Councillor P Downes

It was proposed by Councillor Downes and seconded by Councillor Nethsingha:

Council notes that:

1. schools proposing to convert to academies may be under-estimating the extra risks and responsibilities they take on by becoming fully independent of the Local Authority and answerable directly to central government
2. every Cambridgeshire school that converts to an academy removes funding from the Local Authority that would be spent on children and young people in Cambridgeshire with particular behavioural, physical and educational needs.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to ensure that Heads, Governors and parents/carers of pupils in schools thinking of converting to academy status are made fully aware of:

- (a) the extra risks and responsibilities they are taking on as an independent school; and
- (b) the financial impact on the rest of the Local Authority provision in other schools for some children with behavioural, educational and physical difficulties.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Curtis and seconded by Councillor Harty:

That the following changes be made to the motion submitted from Councillor P Downes:

- (a) In the first line remove 'notes that'.
- (b) In 1, delete 'schools proposing to convert to academies may be under-estimating' and replace with 'Recognises that whilst schools are fully taking into account' and add the following after 'central government':

‘, the fluid circumstances surrounding the funding regime make this task difficult to assess accurately.’

- (c) Add ‘Notes’ to the beginning of 2 and the following after ‘needs’:

‘, but recognises the role the pupil premium will play in mitigating this.’
- (d) Add ‘continue to’ after ‘Council therefore calls on Cabinet to’.
- (e) Amend (b) to read as follows:
 - (b) the financial impact on the rest of the Local Authority provision in other schools for all children in the County including the role of the pupil premium.’

The amended motion would therefore read as follows:

Council:

1. Recognises that whilst schools are fully taking into account the extra risks and responsibilities they take on by becoming fully independent of the Local Authority and answerable directly to central government, the fluid circumstances surrounding the funding regime make this task difficult to assess accurately.
2. Notes every Cambridgeshire school that converts to an academy removes funding from the Local Authority that would be spent on children and young people in Cambridgeshire with particular behavioural, physical and educational needs, but recognises the role the pupil premium will play in mitigating this.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to continue to ensure that Heads, Governors and parents/carers of pupils in schools thinking of converting to academy status are made fully aware of:

- (a) the extra risks and responsibilities they are taking on as an independent school; and
- (b) the financial impact on the rest of the Local Authority provision in other schools for all children in the County including the role of the pupil premium.’

Councillor Harty stated that he had taken no part in the decision about academy status taken by the junior school where he was a governor. Councillor Curtis stated that he would not be voting in his governing body’s decision on academy status, but he would speak and ensure that all the facts were known. Councillor Sadiq said that he had himself been involved in the decision of Parkside to seek academy status; he was sure governors had made the decision with the best interests of the children at heart, though he had not been personally convinced.

Members speaking against the amendment:

- said that there was a danger that schools were taking decisions on academy status based on inaccurate and incomplete information

- emphasised that the original motion had not been intended to imply any disrespect for headteachers, governors or officers
- suggested that, as there had been examples of problems with the process of schools seeking academy status, it was important that the Council issue guidance
- gave the example of one village college simply using parent mail to send a letter inviting comments on the proposal to seek academy status, without supplying any supporting information
- said that although the changes in wording might seem minor, the effect of the amendment was to negate the original motion, the point of which had been to ask the Council to do something different; it was important to do something different because the fluidity of the situation made it hard to know what was involved in becoming an academy, and some of the guidance being received by schools was political in nature.

Members speaking in support of the amendment:

- suggested that parents had a responsibility to find out for themselves what was involved in academy status
- expressed the view that the original motion expected headteachers to take the needs of other children into account, whereas their responsibility was for their own schools and pupils
- urged that schools be allowed to exercise their own judgement and be set free to make their own decisions about status
- suggested that the view expressed in the motion was too narrow; it was necessary to develop good working relationships with the Coalition Government, and to move forward with a positive approach, with the local authority providing advice to schools.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

[Voting pattern: most Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green and UKIP members against; the Chairman and Vice-chairman abstained.]

Members then debated the motion as amended. Councillor Sedgwick-Jell suggested that the motion could be applied even more strongly to free schools. Responding to the suggestion that the introduction of the 'pupil premium' would meet the needs of pupils with special needs, Councillor Downes pointed out that the size of the pupil premium and the method of distribution had still not been finalised, but it appeared probable that additional money would be paid directly to schools on the basis of the number of qualifying pupils in the school; this would not compensate local authorities for loss of funding to support pupils with high-cost low-incidence special needs when schools became academies. Councillor Curtis recalled that Councillor Downes, who had been a headteacher in the early days of Local Management of Schools, had himself said that LMS had made all involved at a school more careful in the handling of money. Councillor Downes replied that LMS had operated in a context of schools working collaboratively within the local authority, whereas academy status represented a fundamental change in the education system.

On being put to the vote, the motion as amended was carried.

[Voting pattern: most Conservatives, the Labour, Green and UKIP members in favour; one Conservative and one Liberal Democrat member against; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and most Liberal Democrats abstained.]

123. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Oliver, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Powley and agreed unanimously to make the following appointments to Committees and outside organisations:

- (i) to replace Councillor C Carter with Councillor T Sadiq as a member of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee
- (ii) to replace Councillor T Sadiq with Councillor C Carter as a member of the Standards Committee
- (iii) to replace Councillor T Sadiq with Councillor C Carter as a member of the Cambridge City Traffic Management Area Joint Committee
- (iv) to replace Councillor M Curtis with Councillor N Clarke as a member of the LGSS Joint Committee
- (v) to replace Councillor L W McGuire with Councillor M Curtis as a substitute member of the LGSS Joint Committee
- (vi) to replace Councillor L Nethsingha with Councillor D Jenkins as a member of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee and to replace Councillor D Jenkins with Councillor L Nethsingha as a substitute member of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee
- (vii) to replace Councillor S van de Ven with Councillor I Manning as a member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
- (viii) to replace Councillor B Brooks-Gordon with Councillor K Wilkins as a member of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee and to replace Councillor K Wilkins with Councillor B Brooks-Gordon as a substitute member of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee
- (ix) to replace Councillor N Harrison with Councillor S van de Ven as a member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee
- (x) to replace Councillor K Wilkins with Councillor B Brooks-Gordon as a member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee and to replace Councillor B Brooks-Gordon with Councillor K Wilkins as a substitute member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee
- (xi) to appoint Councillors A Pellew, D Jenkins and G Wilson as substitute members of the Audit and Accounts Committee
- (xii) to replace Councillor B Brooks-Gordon with Councillor R Moss Eccardt as a member of the Development Control Committee
- (xiii) to replace Councillor N Clarke with Councillor R Farrer as a member of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee
- (xiv) to replace Councillor Bates with Councillor N Clarke as a substitute member of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

124. REPORTS OF CABINET MEETINGS – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Report of the meeting held on 7th September 2010

- 1) Integrated Resources and Performance Report July 2010

Members made several comments and put various questions to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Yeulett and to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor J Reynolds:

- Councillor Wilkins asked, looking at National Indicator (NI) 130, why self-directed support had achieved only 36.8% at the end of July, against a year-end target of 80%.

Councillor Shepherd said that self-directed support was a key part of the delivery of adult social care. As such it had already been debated by the health scrutiny committee and would be subject to further examination next year; a challenging target had been set because of its strategic importance.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Yeulett, advised members that the Council was 10th out of 110 authorities nationally; the figures quoted in the report related to the number of assessments conducted and would show a good position on delivery at year end.

- Councillor Stone pointed out that budget planning assumed that there would be no substantial change in demand for services, yet pressures in two demand-led services, Adult Services and Children and Young People's Services, had led to overspends in both being predicted; he asked whether the virement of £2.9m was based on the original budget or the new. Councillor Harrison asked how this £2.9m represented savings.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor J Reynolds, advised that this sum represented a reallocation based on cuts by the Government. The revenue grant cuts had led to a continuing pressure on all departments for expenditure to come in 1% below budget in the current year to contribute to the effective use of resources, but there had been some reallocation of resources amongst services in order to share the burden of cuts more equitably.

- Councillor Reeve observed that neighbourhood management made a very positive contribution to deprived areas and that the research from the Place Survey was important to neighbourhood managers; he asked how neighbourhood managers would now be supplied with this information.
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt, observing that the number of appraisals conducted on time had been falling, drew attention to the importance of appraisals as ensuring clarity of understanding about roles and reducing uncertainty for staff.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor J Reynolds, explained that the normal cycle involved conducting the majority of appraisals in autumn, so figures reported earlier in the year would be affected by this. Because of staff turnover, it would never be possible to achieve a 100% appraisal rate.

- 2) Developer Section 106 Deferral Request - Section 106 Papworth Bypass Contribution

- 3) Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) – proposed minor changes to services in scope

Councillor Wilkins said that the Chief Executives of both Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils had agreed that LGSS should have its own chief executive, because of the need to have clear leadership for LGSS, but that nothing should be done about this until after the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20th October. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor J Reynolds, advised that no decision had been made, and any need for a separate chief executive needed to be proven.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt urged an urgent review of the Council's Constitution to reflect changes following the introduction of LGSS; the Chairman expressed certainty that this was already being undertaken.

- 4) Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: National Adult Autism Strategy for England

- 5) Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS)

- Councillor Nethsingha expressed concerns about the IYSS process and the serious consequences of its proposals, particularly as changes were to be effected by March 2011.
- Councillor Williamson reminded members of his question to the Chairman of the Police Authority about problems of young people's behaviour in villages. He said that there was an excellent open access youth group in Waterbeach, which worked closely with the Police, and a very low level of youth misbehaviour; such open access youth groups were of crucial importance in preventing serious issues arising elsewhere.
- Councillor Gymer drew attention to members' need for mapping information about youth provision, which had been promised but not yet received.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, advised members that he had spoken to locality teams about IYSS; there had been no criticism of the consultation process and officers were aware of the reasons for the changes; the Council needed to focus its efforts on the most needy, and much open-access youth work did not achieve this aim. Different options for delivering youth work were being actively explored, including local action and local fundraising to mitigate the effects of reduced county expenditure.

- 6) Office For Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) Evaluation of Serious Case Reviews in Cambridgeshire

- 7) Issues arising from Scrutiny

- A) Corporate Issues Scrutiny Report on the Council's response to the Coalition Manifesto and Emergency Budget and the proposed response
- B) Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny of the implementation of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy

- 8) Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

Discussion of this item was included in Minute 124 (b) below.

- 9) Petition in support of improving pavements for wheelchair and mobility chair users in Burwell

(b) Report of the meeting held on 28th September 2010

- 1) Capital Programme Adjustments and Minor Highways Policy Changes
Discussion of this item was included in Minute 112(a) above.

- 2) Library Service Review Update Report

- Councillor Hunt complimented the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown, and the Executive Director: Community and Adult Services, Rod Craig, on their conduct of the Library Service Review. He had himself witnessed members of the public applauding and Library Access Point volunteers contributing ideas at a well-attended consultation meeting at Ely; the Review was an example of doing things with rather than to the public. Other members also complimented officers on their work and attention to detail in this consultation, which had attracted an enormous response.
- Councillor van de Ven pointed out that the Library Access Points had shown great resilience over the last eight years, and that there was a strong campaign to protect the smaller city libraries.
- Councillor Gymer urged that the decision to charge library users over 60 for audio books be reconsidered, because of the benefit of audio books to people whose eyesight was deteriorating.
- Councillor Brooks-Gordon pointed out that the report to Cabinet had not pursued some of the recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee's examination of the review proposals; if there was time to consult on closures, there ought also to be time to look at possibilities for income generation.
- Councillor Lucas asked that all those who had responded to the consultation receive a reply, and urged members to find ways of maintaining the quality of the Library Service

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Yeulett, thanked members for their comments, which he would convey to the Cabinet Member for Communities.

- 3) Establishment of a new maintained school through competition in Gunhild Way, Cambridge

- 4) Third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) Public Consultation and Government Consultation on Funding Formula

Councillor Bourke drew attention to the statement that the Cabinet had approved the proposal that the County Council's Strategic Objectives supersede the Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) objectives as the overarching objectives of the LTP. He asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access, Councillor M McGuire, how the exclusion of school bus routes from winter gritting was compatible

with the Council's objectives, and he asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Access and the Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, to describe the consultation and feedback from schools on this matter.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Access advised Councillor Bourke that the question of gritting school bus routes had been included in the discussion of winter gritting at the Growth and Environment Policy Development Group.

5) Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Councillor Downes welcomed the good news that the six Fenland secondary schools would continue to receive BSF funding and reminded members that the Thomas Clarkson Community College had achieved its best results since its opening in 2007. The Cabinet Member for Children, Councillor Curtis, reported that he had talked to the Thomas Clarkson headteacher about publicising the message of the College's progress.

6) Corporate Risk Register

7) Health White Paper Reforms of the NHS and associated consultation

8) Neighbourhood Panels – review of arrangements

Members raised various points and reported differing experiences of neighbourhood panels, including:

- Councillor Downes expressed some scepticism about the panels; while nobody wished to discourage public involvement, he was concerned that the cost and time involved were disproportionate to the level of public involvement in the panels. He also expressed concern that the panels would have an executive function, despite not being democratically constituted.
- Councillor van de Ven reported that her local panel took the form of a police panel; recent consultation around the South Cambridgeshire model had shown that those who attended thought they worked well.
- Councillor Palmer said that the panels were very helpful for small parishes, and provided a direct link between the public, parish councillors and members of District and County councils.
- Councillor Tierney stated that neighbourhood panels were an excellent route to deliver localism, suggested that people were reluctant to attend them because they believed them to be merely a talking shop; this could be remedied by giving the panels some degree of executive power.
- Councillor Butcher suggested that, rather than neighbourhood panels where the members of the public attending were outnumbered by officers, residents should be encouraged to attend meetings of their town and parish councils to put across their views.
- Councillor Hoy reported that her local panel in Wisbech, attended by about 50 members of the public, was so successful that it was splitting into two.

- Councillor Shuter said that in his experience the panels could provide an opportunity for neighbouring parish councils to get to know and co-operate with each other.
- Councillor Wilkins suggested that what worked for one panel would not automatically work for another; it was necessary to see what was successful in a particular area, and to consider what powers might usefully and sensibly be devolved to them.
- Councillor Gymer suggested that the panels could be used to talk about such matters as libraries and winter gritting.
- Councillor Moss-Eccardt pointed out that Cambridge City had its Area Committees instead of neighbourhood panels. In his experience, meetings were most successful where there was some specific reason for people to attend.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor M McGuire, said that the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Sir Peter Brown, would have welcomed the opportunity to hear the debate, which had highlighted the successes as well as some of the problems posed by neighbourhood panels. Whatever the solutions were, they would not necessarily be the same throughout the county; the intention was to achieve more localism and involve local communities in making local decisions.

- 9) Grant Formula Consultation : proposed response
- 10) Objection to Traffic Regulation Order: Byways open to all traffic No3 Wentworth, No4 Wentworth, No5 Wentworth, No6 Wentworth, No8 Witchford, No9 Witchford, No19 Coveney and No13 Haddenham
- 11) Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

Councillor Bourke followed up the response to his written question (minute 116), in which he had asked the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, Councillor Pegram, for the current cost of the guided busway project on an equivalent basis to the original estimated cost, and the Council's maximum technical exposure to the cost of the guided busway project. He thanked the Cabinet Member for his straight answer to the second question and asked him for a more adequate answer to the first question.

Councillor Bourke said that the original cost had been estimated at £116m, made up of £87m contractual costs and £29m non-contractual costs. According to the answer to his second question, the cost of the contract was now £151m, to which £30m non-contractual costs should be added. He asked the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning whether he could confirm that £181m was correct as the answer to his first question.

[The Cabinet Member replied that the figure of £151m was according to BAM Nuttall, and that he was unable to confirm if £181m was the correct figure for the total cost, because compensation and outcomes had not been taken into account. He agreed to supply a written response to Councillor Bourke's question if he was able to identify the answer.](#)

- 12) Petition requesting abolishing the bus fare for children from Yaxley to go

to Sawtry College

Chairman: