Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 26 July 2011.

PRESENT

Mr. D. R. Parsons CBE, CC (in the Chair)
Mr. R. Blunt CC
Mr. J. T. Orson JP, CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC
Mr. I. D. Ould CC
Mrs. L. A. S. Pendleton CC
Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. D. A. Sprason CC
Mr. E. F. White CC

Also in attendance.

Mr. G. A. Hart CC, Mr. D. W. Houseman MBE, CC, Mr. A.M. Kershaw CC, Mr. G. A. Boulter CC, Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC, Mr. S.J. Galton CC, and Mr. B. L. Pain CC.

Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Mr. N.J. Rushton CC.

362. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

363. To advise of any urgent items.

The Chairman advised that there was one urgent item for consideration; a report of the County Solicitor to the Cabinet sitting as the Trustee of the Kibworth Beauchamp High School Foundation (minute 379 below refers).

364. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

With regard to Paper M on the agenda (District Council Consultation on Planning Application 2011/0100/01, New Lubbesthorpe) -

Mr. E.F. White CC declared a personal, non-prejudicial, interest as a member of Blaby District Council.

Mr. D. R. Parsons CBE, CC said that he had previously expressed a view on the application and that therefore he would not speak or vote on the matter and would leave the Chair during consideration of that item.
365. Supported Accommodation for Older People in Leicestershire - The Melton Project - Outcome of the Pre-qualifying Questionnaire Process.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, regarding the outcome of the stand-alone procurement of Extra Care and specialist dementia care at the Catherine Dalley House Elderly Persons Home and the Silverdale Hostel site, to establish a flagship model of care in Melton. A copy of the report, marked ‘B’, is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Sprason said that the site was ideal for the development and he was pleased that there had been a good level of market interest.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the outcome of the first stage of the procurement exercise be noted;

(b) That the Director of Adults and Communities and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to open the competitive dialogue with the pre-qualified bidders and issue an Invitation to Submit Outline Proposal (ISOP);

(c) That the Director of Adults and Communities be requested to submit a further report to the Cabinet on 22 November 2011 to make recommendations in relation to the selection of shortlisted bidders for further dialogue.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The delegation of the next stages in the procurement process to the appropriate Chief Officers will enable the project to be progressed efficiently.

The initial indication from bidders is that the existing site occupied by Catherine Dalley House EPH and Silverdale Hostel is viable to deliver the County Council’s proposals of Extra Care and specialist dementia care.

(KEY DECISION)


The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, concerning the review of in-house Mental Health Residential Services provided at Ashcroft Hostel, Narborough, and seeking approval to consult on a move to a supported living model. A copy of the report, marked ‘C’, is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the outcome of the review undertaken by the Adults and Communities Department on In-house Mental Health Residential Services be noted;

(b) That approval be given to commence formal consultation to produce an Equality Impact Assessment on the basis of recommendations arising
from the review as set out in the report, including -

- The strategic direction to move to a supported living model
- Closure of Ashcroft Hostel

(c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet, outlining the outcome of the consultation and making recommendations in respect of the proposed new service model and potential closure of the Ashcroft Hostel.

REASON FOR DECISION:

There is a continued need for rehabilitation and respite services for people with mental health difficulties and their carers to support people in the community that avoid greater social care costs. While Ashcroft Hostel is meeting the need for rehabilitation it is in an outdated model and the building is in need of modernisation.

There is a need to ensure that the redesign of the service meets the Council’s ongoing strategic priorities, reduces reliance on Council funded support, and supports the personalisation agenda. The proposals have support from NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland as they correspond well to the strategic direction for joint health and social care commissioning. Procuring effective supported living which can continue to rehabilitate people will ensure that costs are not transferred to the NHS and prevent unnecessary long term health care.

There has been a reduction in demand for the current services at Ashcroft Hostel which has made it more expensive compared to similar facilities within the independent sector and less sustainable as a long term service model.

It is necessary to consider the redesign of In-house Mental Health Residential services in order to ensure delivery of the savings as set out in the MTFS. The proposal achieves these savings whilst recognising that a capital investment may be required to develop alternative support, eg supported living.

(KEY DECISION)

367. Partnership Arrangements for Adult Mental Health Services.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, seeking approval to terminate current partnership arrangements in place with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) for the joint provision of social care and health care services to adults with mental health needs. A copy of the report, marked ‘D’, is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the current Partnership Agreement dated 10 September 2009 made under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 between Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and LPT be terminated on 31 March 2012;
(b) That the Director of Adults and Communities, in consultation with the County Solicitor, be authorised to approve the arrangements to be put in place for adult mental health services from 1 April 2012 onwards and to complete any legal agreements in respect of the arrangements.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Since the development of the Section 75 agreement in 2009, significant change has taken place within the local authorities, including the implementation of personalisation, the requirements for efficiencies and service reductions, and development of new care pathways. LPT has also seen significant changes, the most recent being the transfer of community health services, and it is undergoing significant structural change.

All the partner agencies support the termination of the arrangements. It will allow each to adapt to key issues and to refocus management capacity to deliver main priorities. For the County Council these are: to embed personalisation, strengthen the focus on high quality social care, and improve performance management.

The changes will also allow the savings identified within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/15 to be achieved within adult mental health for the care pathway and revised management structure.

368. Proposals to Amend Opening Hours of Libraries, Museums, and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, regarding the outcome of consultation on the opening hours of Libraries, Museums, and the Record Office, and seeking approval for a schedule of reduced opening hours. A copy of the report, marked ‘E’, is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Sprason said that consultation on the proposals had been extensive and he was very pleased that so many people had responded - amendments to the proposals had been made in light of comments received. He emphasised that the County Council was not having to close any of its libraries or museums, unlike some other local authorities.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the responses that have been received during the consultation period be welcomed and noted;

(b) That the revised library opening hours based on an analysis of least used hours and user/stakeholder feedback, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed and implemented from April 2012;

(c) That Sunday opening be retained at the Loughborough and Oadby libraries;
(d) That the revised opening hours for the Melton Carnegie Museum, the Donington le Heath Manor House Museum, and the Record Office, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed and implemented from January 2012;

(e) That related changes to service provision be implemented as identified in paragraphs 39 and 48 of the report for the two museums referred to in (d) above;

(f) That the Equalities Impact Assessment as attached at Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

It is necessary to implement the proposed changes in order to ensure the delivery of the savings set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, 2011/12-2014/15.

(KEY DECISION)


The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive seeking approval for the implementation of a participatory process to award £320,000 through Community Forums to enable local communities to invest in local improvements of their choice. A copy of the report, marked ‘F’, is filed with these minutes.

With the consent of the Chairman, Mr. B.L. Pain CC spoke on the report. He welcomed the proposals, which would complement the funding provided under the ‘Big Society’ initiative (agreed by the Cabinet on 3 March).

It was noted that the funding was provided directly by the County Council and as such there would be no need for bids to be considered or approved by District LSPs.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the funding criteria and eligibility for Community Forum Budgets as set out in the report be approved;

(b) That the distribution of funds to Community Forums by population size, using a banding system be agreed;

(c) That the outline participatory allocation process for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be agreed;

(d) That Community Forums and partners be advised that the key relationship is between the Forum and the County Council as the funding body and that there is no expectation or requirement for Forum bids to be considered by District Local Strategic Partnerships.
REASON FOR DECISION:

The County Council agreed, in its Medium Term Financial Strategy, to make funds available through Community Forums to enable local communities to invest in local improvements of their choice.

The adoption of a consistent countywide approach to allocate the funding through a robust participatory process will ensure that these funds support the Council's commitment to involve local people and communities in decision-making as part of the development of the Big Society in Leicestershire.

370. Green Spaces in Leicestershire.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided initial feedback from the county-wide green spaces engagement exercise and an update on the preparation of sub-regional green spaces policies. A copy of the report, marked 'G', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted comments received from Mr. Max Hunt CC, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Parsons said that the consultation exercise had attracted a great deal of interest, with a total of 1200 people attending the Community Forum meetings where it had been considered. He said that comments submitted as part of other consultations (for example, with regard to planning applications) would also be taken into account. Mr. Parsons hoped that green spaces policies could eventually be developed into supplementary planning guidance.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the progress made in analysing the results of the county-wide green spaces engagement exercise and the arrangements for disseminating this information be noted;

(b) That the Government's clarifications on green spaces policy as set out in the Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature' be noted;

(c) That progress with the development of sub-regional green spaces policies as detailed in paragraphs 24 to 27 of the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that local communities and partners are able to make use of the information collected through the green spaces engagement exercise, to ensure members are fully up to date with developments in national policy, and to put in place policies which will support Local Development Frameworks in giving added protection to green spaces valued by local communities.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People's Service seeking authority to establish the necessary arrangements to enable Leicestershire schools to convert to academies. A copy of the report, marked 'H', is filed with these minutes, as is a supplementary report, marked 'H2', which was circulated separately.

Mr. Ould said that officers were working hard to expedite the conversions, but it was important that schools were realistic about the issues involved and worked with the County Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the position in relation to the nine schools currently engaged in the conversion to Academy status (as detailed in the Appendix to the report) and in particular the ambitious deadlines chosen by schools and the risks associated with this be noted;

(b) That the County Solicitor, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Children and Young People's Service, be authorised to complete all necessary transfers and other arrangements to facilitate conversion of schools to academies in the County;

(c) That it be agreed that the deficit within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) that relates to active and non-active members be transferred to schools converting to academies;

(d) That the approach to former teachers' pension costs as set out in paragraph 13 of the report be agreed;

(e) That the Director of Children and Young People's Service be requested to submit further reports to the Cabinet on the development of academies as appropriate.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Developing Academies locally is in keeping with central Government policy, which promotes the expansion of popular and successful schools as a means of raising standards and improving outcomes for children and young people. In most cases the dates indicated reflect the aspiration of schools for early change, rather than dates agreed after consideration of the particular risks and challenges of the conversion process.

The Government’s drive to see more Academies developed as early as possible places an enhanced expectation on local authorities to seek to meet the aspirations of those schools seeking to convert, their pupils, parents, and the community. This requires the County Council to meet very short timescales in order to facilitate the conversion and ensure both the schools' and its interests are protected.
If all schools transferred the County Council would be left with a deficit liability of circa £40m in respect of non-active local government scheme members who work in the schools - equating to an ongoing revenue cost of circa £2.5m per year, with no Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to fund it. If some schools remained with the local authority they would also have to bear some of this cost. At present all schools meet these costs through their contributions to the LGPS. There is disagreement with converting schools about accepting these liabilities. Having sought DfE advice they believe they should not accept pension liabilities for staff who are not currently members of staff, and unless the position can be resolved within days there is a risk of missing the first four schools' deadlines for conversion.

372. **Consultation on Special Educational Needs Transport Policy.**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People's Service regarding proposals to consult on changes to the Special Educational Needs Transport Policy. A copy of the report, marked 'I', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the current position in relation to the application of the Special Educational Needs Transport Policy be noted;

(b) That approval be given to commence consultation for 12 weeks from 19 September to 16 December 2011 to seek stakeholder views on the proposed changes to the Policy;

(c) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in February 2012 on the outcomes of the consultation referred to in (b) above, in order to determine the next steps and whether to proceed with the proposed changes outlined in this report.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

The current Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport Eligibility Criteria was drawn up and implemented following a review in 2002/2003. It no longer reflects adequately the needs of pupils having SEN, or duties placed upon the County Council by legislation, such as the Equality Act 2010. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council required savings to be identified.

A widespread consultation will allow parents/carers and other stakeholders to understand and comment on the proposed changes.

(KEY DECISION)

373. **Schools (Funding) Forum Constitution.**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People's Service concerning a revised constitution for the Schools (Funding) Forum which was required to enable it to operate in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2010. A copy of the report, marked ‘J’, is filed with these minutes.
RESOLVED:

(a) That the amended name and revised constitution for the Schools Forum be approved;

(b) That the Director of the Children and Young People’s Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to effect changes in the proportionality of Schools Forum membership annually at the commencement of each academic year.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the constitution of the Schools Forum accurately reflects current legislation.


The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport seeking approval to terminate the County Council's long-term waste treatment project following the decision by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in October 2010 to withdraw funding support in the form of Private Finance Initiative credits. A copy of the report, marked ‘K’, is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Blunt said that the economic downturn that had resulted in the withdrawal of PFI funding had also led to a reduction in the amount of domestic waste. This, along with the continued improvement in Leicestershire’s recycling performance, meant that existing treatment arrangements would now suffice for the short to medium-term.

Mr. Rhodes said that the proposed disposal of the Bardon site had implications for the County Council's Waste Development Framework Site Allocations, which was being reassessed.

RESOLVED:

(a) That approval be given to terminate the current long-term waste treatment procurement project and that the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised to take all necessary action to give effect to this;

(b) That it be noted that the County Council is in a position to meet its short to medium term targets for landfill diversion;

(c) That the Director of Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Waste Management, be authorised to determine the appropriate timeframe and scope of a new procurement process and to proceed with that process to deliver additional residual waste treatment capacity as necessary;

(d) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to arrange the sale of the site at the Interlink Business Park, Bardon at the appropriate time;
(e) That the Director of Environment and Transport be requested to submit a further report to the Cabinet at its next meeting on 13 September following consideration of the matter by the Scrutiny Commission.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The withdrawal of funding support in the form of PFI credits by DEFRA has had a significant adverse financial impact on the long term waste treatment project. In addition, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England published in June 2011 includes the Government’s intention to remove one of the key drivers for the project, namely, the need for Local Authorities to ensure Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme compliance beyond 2012/13. However, the current national, regional and Leicestershire waste management strategies together with the European Landfill Directive make it essential that the County Council continues to explore proposals that will deliver alternatives to landfill disposal.

(KEY DECISION)

375. **Street Lighting Policy.**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport regarding proposed amendments to the Council's Street Lighting Policy with regard to the night patrol frequencies and the response times for defect repairs. A copy of the report, marked ‘L’, is filed with these minutes.

Mrs. Pendleton emphasised that the standard of service would remain high, and said that problems in rural areas were often reported by parish council clerks and local residents, rather than through the inspections.

RESOLVED:

That the Street Lighting Policy be amended in accordance with the standards now included in "Well-lit Highways", as follows -

(i) Night patrol frequencies - to be amended from the current standard of “Carry out inspections of all units at night to ensure that they are operational on a fortnightly basis” to “Carry out inspections of all units at night to ensure they are operational once a fortnight in the market towns and urban areas surrounding the City and once a month in rural areas”;

(ii) Street lighting and illuminated sign defects - the response time for repairs to be amended from 3 to 5 working days.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The measures will assist in achieving the County Council’s savings target and will not have a significant impact on service delivery.

Mrs L.A.S. Pendleton CC in the Chair
RESOLVED:

(a) That comments of the County Council as the County Planning Authority be forwarded to Blaby District Council, as follows:-

"It is acknowledged that in terms of housing need, the proposed development is consistent with the regional plan, the draft Blaby District Core Strategy and the interim housing requirement agreed by the District Council. On the basis of those figures and previous consultation responses, there is a clear need for significant housing development within the District. The form of development and location proposed are considered to be in accordance with the provisions of the development plan and consistent with good planning principles. There is an argument that a decision on such a major proposal should ideally be delayed until the Blaby Core Strategy is adopted. However, all the evidence, including, the consideration of alternatives, the need to meet housing needs and avoid delay in bring forward sustainable development, points to this being a suitable location, subject to the satisfaction of other planning matters. Therefore there is no objection to the principle or location of the proposed development.

However, in the context of the planning application as submitted, a number of issues have not been addressed satisfactorily. Until such time as these issues are addressed, the County Council is unable to support the application on the following grounds:

Further details should be submitted by the applicant in respect of gypsy and traveller, and elderly persons accommodation to ensure that adequate provision is made.

On the basis of the information submitted there is insufficient evidence to verify the size, and employment opportunities within the Strategic Employment Site proposed as part of the development. The applicant appears to have given insufficient consideration to not only the wider needs of the District and County, but also whether the employment provision would lead to a truly sustainable form of development.

There are significant deficiencies in the information submitted by the applicant in respect of archaeology and cultural heritage that means there is doubt of the conclusions of the Environmental Impact
Assessment, and does not pass basic policy tests in PPS5. Significant amounts of additional work needs to be undertaken by the applicant to determine whether the proposed development would be acceptable.

Given the potential sand and gravel resource within Area 2, further investigation should be undertaken prior to the determination of the current planning application. Depending on the findings of this assessment, it would allow the applicant to draw-up proposals to demonstrate how the mineral would be extracted, how restoration of the site would be achieved to allow the proposed build development to proceed, and how the mineral would be used within the proposed development. The applicant needs to establish whether any part of the development site will impact upon the River Bytham.

There is insufficient detail about the provision of sporting infrastructure within the development proposal, which is a key component of any sustainable community, and should be provided by the applicant. There are other concerns that the applicant needs to address (which the County Council should be re-consulted upon) that can be found in Appendix B of this document, before the application is determined.

The transport assessment work has not yet been completed in sufficient detail to fully assess the highway impacts of the development and identify mitigation. The applicant has commissioned further modelling using the Leicestershire and Leicester Integrated Transport Model (LLITM) which will be used to complete the transport assessment work. Therefore the highways work has not been completed to a sufficient stage to make a recommendation on the application.

The District Council is also requested to include the County Councils service requirements in a section 106 agreement if the development were to be approved. The requirements have been submitted to the District Council separately and include (inter alia) a request for the land and funding for two primary schools and one secondary school, a £230,990 contribution towards library services, and a £119,510 contribution towards the improvement of household waste facilities. It is also likely that works and contributions towards highway infrastructure will be required, however these will not be known until the work to assessment the development using the Leicester & Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model has been carried out and the results considered."

(b) That the Development Control and Regulatory Board be requested to give further consideration to the planning application when transport assessment work has been carried out and the highway impacts of the proposals can be properly considered.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To comply with Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000. Reasons for the recommendations on this particular application are set out in the appendix to the report.
Transport assessment work has not been completed in sufficient detail to enable a full assessment of the highway impacts of the proposed development, and the Cabinet wishes the Board to give further consideration to the matter when this information is available.

Mr. D.R. Parsons CBE, CC in the Chair


The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources concerning progress with the development of the East Midlands Shared Services (EMSS) through the procurement of a managed hosting service and seeking approval to award a contract for consultancy support to assist in the implementation of EMSS. A copy of the report, marked ‘N’, is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

(a) That progress with the current tendering exercise be noted;

(b) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to award the contract for a managed hosting service for a period of 4 years extendable up to 8 years (by 1-year increments), following the completion of the current procurement exercise;

(c) That it be noted that, subject to the approval of Nottingham City Council’s Executive Board, the County Council will be asked to accept a time-limited delegation of the procurement function from the City Council for the purposes of securing consultancy support to assist in the implementation of EMSS.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Shared services provide an opportunity for the County Council and Nottingham City Council to make efficiency savings over the coming years.

The operating model for these shared services agreed by both authorities will be underpinned by a managed hosting service, which is being purchased by the County Council on behalf of both authorities.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both authorities to cover the procurement process, costs and early EMSS activities. A partnership agreement between the County Council and Nottingham City Council to support shared services is being finalised and will be signed before the contract award. This will include provision for the establishment of a Joint Committee, as agreed by the County Council in September 2010.

The procurement of consultancy support to assist in the delivery of implementation of EMSS will require a time limited delegation of the procurement function from Nottingham City Council to the County Council under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000.
378. **Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.**

There were no items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

379. **Urgent item: Report to the Cabinet sitting as Trustee of the Kibworth Beauchamp High School Foundation.**

The Cabinet, sitting as the Trustee of the Kibworth Beauchamp High School Foundation, considered an urgent report of the County Solicitor seeking agreement to submit an application to the Charity Commission for a revised Scheme to amend the terms of the Kibworth Beauchamp High School Foundation Trust, in order to enable the School to convert to an Academy. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

The reason for urgency was that the School wished to convert to Academy status with effect from 1 October 2011 and there would be insufficient time to resolve the matter if a decision was delayed until the next meeting of the Cabinet in September.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That a request be made to the Charity Commission for an amendment (in the form set out in the Appendix to the report) to the Scheme governing the affairs of the Charity known as the "Kibworth Beauchamp High School Foundation" which would provide for it to be subject to the inclusion of an additional provision granting power to the Trustees to lease land comprising part of the Charity property;

(b) That in the event the Scheme is amended as requested, the County Solicitor, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, be authorised to grant a lease for 125 years to the Company operating Kibworth High School as an Academy.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**

The current scheme for the management of the Charity does not allow for the possibility of the Trustees leasing out of this part of the Trust property.

The proposed additional provision in the Scheme will enable a lease for 125 years to be granted to enable the Kibworth High School to convert to an Academy.

2.00 - 2.46 pm
26 July 2011