

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 9 April 2014.

Present:

Spencer Flower (Chairman)
Robert Gould (Vice-Chairman)
Toni Coombs, Hilary Cox, Peter Finney, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox.

John Wilson, Chairman of the County Council, attended under Standing Order 54(1).

Members attending


Mike Byatt, County Council Member for Weymouth Town (Minutes 138-148, 152-154)
Ros Kayes, County Council Member for Bridport (Minutes 145-151)
Paul Kimber, County Council Member for Portland Tophill (Minutes 142-148)
William Trite, County Council Member for Swanage (Minutes 155-157)
Peter Wharf, County Council Member for Egdon Heath (Minutes 140-148)

Officers Attending: Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Vanessa Glenn (Head of Family Support), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Paul Kent (Director for Corporate Resources), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Alison Waller (Deputy Director for Adult and Community Services), Fiona King (Public Relations Officer) and Rebecca Guest (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

For certain items, as appropriate:

John Alexander (Policy and Performance Manager), Sam Fox-Adams (Senior Policy and Performance Manager), Helen Owens (Group Manager, Consultation and Research), Peter Illsley (Head of Corporate Finance) and Andrew Shaw (Transport Policy Manager).

(Notes:(1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date. Publication Date: **14 April 2014**.

(2) The symbol () denotes that the item considered was a Key Decision and was included in the Forward Plan.

(3) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **7 May 2014**.

(4) **RECOMMENDED** in this type denotes that a decision is required by County Council.)

Apologies for Absence

131. Apologies for absence were received from Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), David Phillips (Director of Public Health) and Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services).

Code of Conduct

132. There were no declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Minutes

133. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014 were confirmed and signed.

Matters ArisingMinute 117.2 – Panels and Boards

134.1 The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health welcomed the shadowing arrangements in place for members and recommended that more members took advantage of these to greater understand the challenges faced by officers and the County Council.

Minute 121.8 – Corporate Performance Monitoring Report

134.2 The Leader of the Council advised that over £6m had been received in additional funding to support areas affected by flooding. A meeting with Oliver Letwin MP, the ministerial representative for flood recovery in Devon and Dorset, was to take place shortly and members were assured that the MP would be advised of the severe levels of flooding in Dorset. Members would also be briefed on further claims to be submitted. The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications emphasised that the 368 properties flooded in Dorset exceeded the number flooded in Somerset. She also pointed out that relevant officers had carried out three times the normal workload during the exceptional weather conditions.

Public ParticipationPublic Speaking

135.1 A question from Ms Isabelle Allison, a resident of Dorchester, was put to the Cabinet Member for Environment. The question is provided below:-

"Wilts and Dorset bus company have now formally decommissioned the X8 extension to and from Sturminster Newton. What action is the cabinet willing and able to take in terms of subsidising this extension to ensure that workers and students can continue to access employment and education in Poole and Bournemouth? This is having a profoundly detrimental affect on the lives of the people that use this service and their families."

135.2 The Cabinet also received a public statement from Ms Allison, in which she outlined the number of people who relied on the X8 bus service to get to work or place of education. She highlighted that no public consultation or impact assessment had taken place regarding the withdrawal of the service, which was not subsidised by the County Council. She added that the removal of the service was against the Council's aims and policies. Ms Allison likened the withdrawal to holding the County Council to ransom, with the residents as hostages, leaving the Council to decide whether or not to intervene and subsidise the service knowing that if it did not then residents would have to choose between education/work or unemployment and/or moving house. She also raised concerns regarding the perceived monopoly the bus company had in the area.

135.3 The Leader of the Council thanked Ms Allison for her address and confirmed that her concerns would be considered. The Cabinet Member for Environment advised that she was meeting with the bus company that afternoon to seek a way forward.

PetitionsPetition for the continuation of X8 bus service

136.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment received a 351 named petition at the meeting. The petitioners were requesting that the County Council reach an agreement with the bus company to ensure public transport links for the communities of Sturminster Newton,

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Shillingstone and Durweston, to access employment and education opportunities in Poole and Bournemouth, aren't terminated as planned on 25 May.

136.2 It was noted that 77% of signatories were said to live in the DT10 and DT11 area.

Cabinet Forward Plan

137.1 The Cabinet considered the Cabinet Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and items planned to be considered in a private part of the meeting. The current plan was published on 11 March 2014 and included items on the agenda for this meeting. It was noted that the next Forward Plan included items to be considered on or following the Cabinet meeting on 7 May 2014 and was published on 8 April 2014.

137.2 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications asked that an additional item to added to the Forward Plan for 4 June 2014 in relation to a change of statutory duty regarding young people not in education, employment and training.

137.3 The Cabinet Member for Environment informed the Cabinet that two reports listed for 7 May 2014, ('Whether or not to support investment in a solar farm on a county farm' and 'Future highways service delivery options'), would have to be deferred.

137.4 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care advised that subject to approval of a later agenda item, an additional item was to be added to the Forward Plan for 3 September 2014, in relation to delivery and timescales for the recommended options to the Bridport Community Hub.

Noted

Panels and Boards

138.1 The minutes of the following Panels and Joint Committees were submitted:-

- (a) Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development – 5 March 2014
- (b) Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development – 24 March 2014

138.2 In relation to the minutes of the Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development, the Cabinet Member for Education and Communications highlighted that the Panel had specifically looked at SharePoint and the new Members' Gateway during the course of the last two meetings. The County Councillor for Weymouth Town, as the Chairman of the Panel, confirmed that development of these programmes continued.

Resolved

139. That the minutes be received.

Forward Together Progress Report – Community Engagement Programme

140.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive on the forthcoming community engagement programme scheduled to be undertaken in summer 2014.

140.2 The Chief Executive advised members that the Programme was in continual development with a living set of actions, detailing new initiatives to drive forward stronger engagement with communities around Dorset. Considerable work remained outstanding to apply greater detail to the Programme, in particular the work programme was currently being developed. A full presentation would be given to members at the next County Council meeting.

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140.3 Members welcomed the report and the approach undertaken, but highlighted the need for a timetable to be included and the finer details to be considered. It was noted that the Programme would feed into the Corporate Plan and an analysis of results was expected in Autumn 2014.

140.4 The County Councillor for Weymouth Town, as the Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, advised members that the Committee had considered the report on 8 April 2014. Support had been given for the general direction of the Programme and for the member led approach. Acknowledgment had also been given to the challenging timescales across the wide geographical area. He then referenced the distinctive differences between Weymouth and Portland.

140.5 The County Councillor for Egdon Heath asked members to consider greater involvement with local members, in addition to, and sometimes above that of Cabinet Members. He also asked that careful consideration be given to when and where consultations were held, to ensure full engagement with members of the public.

140.6 Members stressed the importance of the document and asked that the presentation to County Council indicate the detail of the Programme. It was agreed that some generalisation was necessary within the document as not all engagement schemes were division specific. Improved liaison with the media was also necessary to increase engagement with constituents.

140.7 It was recognised that the Programme was a huge task and highly ambitious in regards to the allocated timescales. Members agreed that efforts should be made to include all members' comments to ensure that the Council had a detailed programme to promote ongoing community engagement work, and asked Officers to reconsider the Programme in light of the comments made at the meeting.

Resolved

141.1 That the community engagement programme as set out in the Chief Executive's report, be noted.

141.2 That the Programme be referred back to officers for further development, while recognising the urgent timescales involved.

Draft Corporate Plan 2014-2015

142.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the County Council which presented the Dorset County Council Corporate Plan for 2014-15 to meet the aspirations of the Forward Together Programme through a public orientated statement of the County Council's vision. The draft Plan had been considered by all Overview Committees and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee following consideration by the Cabinet at its last meeting held on 19 March 2014.

142.2 Members generally welcomed the Plan, however, the Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health referred to the omission of mental health from the document. He added that as the County Council had recently signed the 'Time for Change Pledge' with partners to make improvements in this area, this should be included.

142.3 The Chairman of the County Council referred to Dorset's Citizen's Panel which currently had 5000 members. He highlighted that the recent Peer Review indicated that the Panel were underutilised and more communication and feedback should be given.

142.4 The County Councillor for Weymouth Town, as the Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the Plan but asked that a member seminar or training session be held to demonstrate how it related to other lead documents such as the

Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan and the Dorset Local Transport Plan. He believed that the Plan had a greater chance of success with full member engagement. The County Councillor for Egdon Heath confirmed that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the Plan and members had been very complimentary. He added that he would be happy to take this to District/Parish councils to discuss. The County Councillor for Portland Tophill had already taken the Plan to his Town Council and they were keen to work together with the County Council to achieve the Plan's aims.

142.5 The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Plan was a living document and initially covered a one year period to gather data and establish best practices. A further Plan would evolve for the following 3 years.

RECOMMENDED

143.1 That the Corporate Plan set out in Annexure 1 to these minutes, and any final amendments, be submitted to the County Council for approval on 24 April.

143.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Leader of Dorset County Council, to make any final adjustments to the Corporate Plan 2014-15.

Reason for Recommendations

144. The 2014-15 refresh of the County Council's Corporate Plan provided an overarching strategic framework for ensuring strong corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements in light of the Forward Together programme and the current financial challenges.

Introduction of Divisional Budgets

145.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the County Council in relation to the introduction of divisional budgets of £5,000 per annum for each member of the Council to be spent on the provision of local services in a way that was sensitive to the immediate needs of the individual communities members were elected to serve. A revised appendix 1 to the report was circulated to members. This contained minor grammatical amendments.

145.2 Members discussed the document and welcomed the simplicity of the proposed scheme. However it was noted that administration costs would require monitoring to ensure that they did not escalate and that monies were not used by local members to circumvent the Council's policy decisions, but to empower them to help communities and kick start local projects.

145.3 The County Councillor for Egdon Heath voiced his misgivings about the proposals and the potential for the County Council's reputation to be damaged should monies be used inappropriately. He asked the Cabinet to consider a number of points, including training for members, all expenditure to be 'signed off' by Group Leaders, a nil carry forward balance, and suspension of any expenditure 12 months prior to local elections. The Cabinet understood the member's caution but considered that many of his concerns were covered within the proposed framework.

145.4 The County Councillor for Bridport commented on the need for proper governance and controls, asking that any expenditure under the new scheme be suspended in the 6 months leading up to County Council elections. She asked that leniency be given to ensure any expenditure was not overly restricted. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the proposed framework already provided flexibility for the use of the money allocated to each member.

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145.5 The County Councillor for Weymouth Town supported the introduction of divisional budgets but asked that the governance arrangements be fine-tuned, adding that this was a great opportunity to endorse the Council's member led approach. He highlighted that clear guidance could be given at any time by appropriate officers, without any additional cost. The County Councillor for Portland Tophill advised that he had previous experience regarding distribution of grants and had found a simple questionnaire very effective.

145.6 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications referred to the 'Publicity' section within the framework and highlighted that the Council's communications unit were available to help promote any proposals. Members should aim to make the most of this opportunity to inform the public of their plans.

145.7 Following discussion on the proposals, the Leader of the Council reminded members that this was a trial scheme. Members should be trusted to review and choose projects within their divisions and adhere to the proposed framework. The proposals would benefit the community and this should be promoted.

Resolved

146. That the allocation of £250,000 from contingency to form a divisional fund and the allocation to each elected member of the County Council of a divisional budget of £5,000 on a trial basis for 2014/15, be approved.

RECOMMENDED

147.1 That the County Council be recommended, subject to the views of the Standards and Governance Committee, to approve the divisional fund scheme rules and payment request form and flowchart, for inclusion in the County Council's Constitution, as attached as Annexure 2 to these minutes.

147.2 That the divisional fund and the framework for its operation be reviewed in November 2014.

Reason for Decision and Recommendations

148. To reflect the importance of the local member role and the need to become a more member led authority.

Bridport Community Engagement and Consultation – Recommendations for Service Provision

149.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on the outcome of a major public engagement and consultation programme about adult social care services delivery in Bridport and surrounding areas, which ended on 7 March 2014.

149.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care presented the report, emphasising that this was a new way for the Council to engage with people in Dorset. She advised members that through consultation, it was clear that people trusted and supported council services. Some concerns were raised that services could be placed in the private sector. Following further clarification of the terms used and confirmation that this was not going to happen, people were happy with the proposals.

149.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, in the absence of the County Councillor for Marshwood Vale, read out his observations to the community engagement and consultation. He expressed his pleasure with the levels of consultation carried out and confirmed that the majority of people saw the integration of services into a hub as a positive way forward.

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149.4 The Cabinet Member then referred to the public's request that services in a hub be placed in a central location. Consideration by property services of the sites and future buildings would be part of the next phase.

149.5 The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families, as County Councillor for Beaminster welcomed the highly visible public engagement that had taken place. She suggested that this approach be distributed to the surrounding areas of Bridport to allow other users to have sight of the proposals.

149.6 The County Councillor for Bridport agreed that the consultation had been an excellent exercise and welcomed the Cabinet Member's confirmation that there would be no private provider. She asked that the recommendation be amended to confirm this statement, as she was uncomfortable with the possibility of a private nursing home being introduced and any possible increase to costs. The Cabinet considered the member's concern and were mindful not to restrict future consultations with partners. Members agreed that the wording of the report's recommendations were therefore appropriate.

149.7 Concerns were then raised regarding the sale of Sidney Gale House and the future use of the land/building. Cabinet members confirmed that there was no restrictive covenant on the land and that any reuse would be in accordance with the County Council's capital and reinvestment processes. The Cabinet member for Adult Social Care confirmed that Sidney Gale care home would not be disposed of until a replacement building was available and service provision would remain in control of the County Council. However, there was an acknowledgement that people had to be kept abreast of developments.

Resolved

150.1 That the results of the public engagement and consultation programme be noted.

150.2 That work with a strategic partner or partners to develop a new care home for older people be agreed.

150.3 That work in partnership with a strategic partner or partners to develop extra care housing in the area be agreed.

150.4 That delivery of a multi purpose community hub be agreed.

150.5 That officers be authorised to continue to consult and engage with the community and potential partners to formulate details of each of the recommendations.

150.6 That a further report be presented to the Cabinet in September 2014 providing details for delivery and timescales for the recommended options.

Reason for Decisions

151. To contribute to the County Council's aims to:

- (i) help build strong communities for all;
- (ii) protect and enrich the health and wellbeing of Dorset's most vulnerable adults;
- (iii) provide innovative and value for money services, and
- (iv) enable the Council to respond positively to the views expressed through the engagement and consultation exercise.

Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3: Implementation Plan 2014 – 2017

152.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) as a strategy for transport for the Dorset sub region from 2011 to 2026. An initial Implementation Plan detailed proposals for the first 3 years, and a second three year Implementation Plan detailed proposals for the period 2014–2017.

152.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment introduced the report and highlighted that no policy changes had been included within the new Plan, but that it specifically outlined changes to the funding received from the Department for Transport, and how this would be used.

152.3 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications asked that new strategic guidance from the Department for Education relating to young people not in education, employment and training be included within the Plan. The Director for Environment and the Economy advised that this should be achievable. In addition he confirmed that the Plan had working links with other County Council statutory plans.

152.4 The County Councillor for Weymouth Town stated that the Plan was visionary, but asked members not to underestimate the need for sustainability and to recognise the complexity of the document. It was reliant on future funding arrangements and he referred to the investment priorities for other agencies as detailed within the Plan. The Transport Policy Manager informed members of ongoing developments by the Highways Agency and Network Rail. He expressed the hope that the Weymouth to Bristol line would be expanded, but noted that this was reliant on franchising rules and whether the business case would be accepted.

Resolved

153. That the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3: Implementation Plan 2014 – 2017, be approved.

Reason for Decision

154. Improving delivery of the transport infrastructure of Dorset would help support Corporate Aim 4 – safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support its local economy.

On-Street Pay and Display Parking

155.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment on the Council's Policy in relation to pricing for on-street parking and when it would be appropriate to implement on-street pay and display parking schemes by introducing criteria. The Policy Development Panel on On Street Pay and Display Parking and Enforcement considered the policy as part of a schedule of meetings in the past few months and had made proposals regarding the criteria to be included in the policy.

155.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment presented the report and thanked the Policy Development Panel for their recommendations. She advised that clear criteria should be used to supplement the existing LTP policy to ensure the process for any future delivery was robust, transparent and allowed for local distinctiveness.

155.3 The County Councillor for Swanage, as Chairman of the Policy Development Panel on On Street Pay and Display Parking and Enforcement, commented on the report and the Panel's considerations. He asked members to note a number of minor amendments to the proposed Policy, which were distributed at the start of the meeting and were reported orally.

155.4 The Chairman of the Panel emphasised that a Pay and Display scheme would only be considered if an issue was clearly identified which would be resolved by a scheme, following specific analysis of the impacts and benefits to the local community. In addition, he advised that the question of enforcement had not been considered by the Panel,

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but would be, if instructed by the Cabinet and/or the Environment Overview Committee to do so.

Resolved

156.1 That the criteria for on-street pay and display developed by the Policy Development Panel for use when considering and delivering future schemes, be approved.

156.2 That the criteria, to supplement and form a part of the existing Local Transport Plan policy (LTP K-3), be agreed.

Reasons for Decisions

157.1 To help meet the corporate aim of “safeguard and enhance Dorset’s unique environment and support our local economy”.

157.2 To provide clarity and transparency as to how on-street pay and display parking schemes would be delivered.

157.3 To provide a formal status to the criteria so that they supplemented and underpinned the existing Local Transport Plan policy (LTP K-3) as approved by the County Council in April 2011.

Corporate Governance Framework – Annual Compliance Assessment 2013/14

158.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the County Council regarding the Council’s Annual Compliance Assessment for 2013/14 to inform the Annual Governance Statement and in its own right as an assessment of the Council’s approach to governance and a record of improvement actions being taken.

158.2 The Head of Corporate Finance advised that a useful discussion had taken place at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 8 April 2014, following which the document was to be refined, although no substantial changes were necessary. A number of views had been expressed at the Committee, including a request for a wider role to look at compliance statements, without adding unnecessarily to the current process. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee requested sight of a set of the draft terms of reference detailing how to increase member engagement within the process, before the annual audit statement report in June 2014.

158.3 Members sought clarification regarding the different compliancy ratings for principles 1e and 1g, when the same evidence was used for both. Members were informed that although the same data was available to evidence compliance, its lack of use had been criticised in regards to 1e, hence the lower score.

158.4 Following the recent Peer Review, members also questioned the compliancy rating of green for principle 6f, relating to effective community engagement. The Head of Corporate Finance agreed to reconsider this rating and reassess the score.

158.5 The Leader of the Council also referred to the report’s recommendation (number iv) regarding member involvement, which appeared to be slightly contrary to paragraph 5.2 within the report. However, he commented that there was sufficient flexibility to consider different approaches in the future.

Resolved

159.1 That the Annual Compliance Assessment 2013/14 be noted.

159.2 That comments made by the Cabinet be considered and any necessary amendments be carried out.

Reason for Decisions

160. Production of an Annual Governance Statement was a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations. It was subject to external audit. The governance compliance assessment informed the Annual Governance Statement

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and constituted the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that also became a statutory requirement when the regulations were revised in 2011.

Recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview Committee

161.1 The Cabinet considered the following recommendations from the meeting of the Children’s Services Overview Committee held on 18 March 2014.

Recommendation 39 – Proposed Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board

162.1 The Chairman of the County Council welcomed the inclusion of the Virtual Head to the Board Management within the recommendations, but highlighted that the report to the Standards and Governance Committee on 10 April 2014 did not refer to this.

162.2 The Cabinet Members for Education and Communications, and Children's Safeguarding and Families, supported the proposed recommendations.

Resolved

163. That the Terms of Reference for the new Corporate Parenting Board be agreed, subject to the following:

- (i) inclusion of the Virtual Head listed within the Board Management under reference number 4; and
- (ii) A greater prominence being given on the Board’s safeguarding function.

Reason for Decision

164. To offer clarity to the new Corporate Parenting Board as to its role and purview.

Recommendation 41 – Admission Arrangements 2015-16 and Sixth Form Transport

165.1 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications highlighted that changes to the sixth form section of the transport policy were as a result of statutory guidance and that members had discussed the Armed Forces Covenant and the need to ensure Armed Forces children (past or present) were not disadvantaged when applying for a school place.

165.2 The Head of Family Support confirmed that where issues were raised in regards to entitlement to sixth form home to school transport, officers would consider these on an individual basis.

Resolved

166. That the following be formally adopted:

- (i) The guidance produced for Families of the Armed Forces;
- (ii) The Admission Arrangements for 2015/16 incorporating the Local Authority Admissions Policy, the In Year Fair Access Protocol and Co-ordinated Scheme;
- (iii) The changes in concessionary fares for home to school transport;
- (iv) The changes to the sixth form section of the transport policy in line with statutory guidance;
- (v) The changes to Purbeck School’s admission number;
- (vi) The changes to Sherborne Abbey’s catchment area.

Reasons for Decision

167.1 To determine admission arrangements in accordance with statutory requirements.

167.2 To ensure compliance with legislation and subsequent regulations

Recommendation 56 –The future of DCC Nursery and Out of School provision (North Dorset)

168. The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families introduced the recommendation.

Resolved

169.1 That the implementation of a new engagement and consultation plan in regard to the proposed model with both staff and parents/carers who currently use the nursery and out of school provision managed by Dorset County Council be supported.

169.2 That the timescales in which the consultation will take place be noted.

169.3 That the new proposed model of operational delivery for both Shaftesbury, Blandford nurseries and the Out of School Club (Oscars) be supported.

Reason for Decisions

170. Support needed to be given to the new proposed model which would allow the Local Authority to demonstrate that it was sustainable both in respect of quality and in terms of financial integrity. Therefore the timeline previously agreed needed to be extended to July 2015, in order that appropriate arrangements could be put in place.

Recommendations from the Environment Overview Committee

171. The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Environment Overview Committee held on 27 March 2014.

Recommendation 98 - Policy Development Panel on Highway Vegetation Management

172.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment highlighted the need for the Policy Development Panel on Highway Vegetation Management to meet again as a matter of urgency to determine the criteria for the bidding process, following a modest contingency fund being allocated to carry out additional vegetation management. A further report would be brought to the Cabinet following this meeting.

172.2 In response to a question, the Director for Environment and the Economy confirmed that a link for the amended road map had been attached to the Environment Overview Committee paper.

172.3 The Leader of the Council stated that there was a significant difference between rural and urban verge management requirements. Acknowledgement was given that the proposed recommendation allowed for some flexibility in meeting these needs.

Resolved

173.1 That a fund of £50,000 be established for the 2014 growing season to help finance additional cuts to highway verges, where necessary, to be funded from contingencies.

173.2 That the amended Road Map for Future Arrangements which incorporated this change be approved.

Reason for Decisions

174. To respond to a request from the Cabinet to improve arrangements for highway vegetation management during the 2014 growing season.

Questions from Members of the Council

175. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20.