

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

14 December 2012

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 14 December 2012, at County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mr M W G Coleman (Chairman)

Mr W E Acraman	Mr R A Lanzer
Mrs P A C Arculus	Mr J Livermore
Mr L H Barnard	Mr S E McDougall
Mrs E A Bennett	Mrs A F Mills
Mr B K Blake	Mrs M E Millson
Mr G G Blampied	Mrs J S Mockridge
Dr H S Bloom, OStJ	Mr J A P Montyn
Mr P J J Bradbury	Mr J J O'Brien
Mr D N Britton	Mr F R J Oppler
Mr M J Brown	Mr C G Oxlade
Mrs H A Brunsdon	Mr N F Peters
Mr R G Burgess	Mr A J E Quirk
Mr R D Burrett	Mr A S Rice
Mr P C Catchpole	Mrs I C Richards
Mr J L Cherry	Mr R Rogers
Mrs C A Coleman	Mrs H J Ross
Mr B K Coomber	Mr D P Sheldon
Mr D G Crow	Mr D J Simmons
Mr D R Deedman	Mr A R H Smith
Dr N P S Dennis	Mrs B A Smith
Mr C P Duncton	Mr R J Smytherman
Mr R B Dunn	Mr C H Stevens
Mr P C Evans	Mr G M Tyler
Mrs C M Field	Mrs D L Urquhart
Ms M L Goldsmith	Mrs N J Waight
Mr P A Graysmark	Mr S G Waight
Mr P A D Griffiths	Dr J M M Walsh, KStJ, RD
Mrs A B Hall	Mr B R A D Watson, OBE
Mr B Hall	Mr P C Wells
Mr M N Hall	Mrs E M Whitehead
Mr M P S Hodgson	Mr D R Whittington
Mr P E Jones	Mr F T Wilkinson
Mrs A J Jupp	Dr C E Wilsdon
Mrs S Knight	

Apologies and attendance

112 Apologies were received from Mr T M E Dunn and Mr Hellawell. Mrs Bennett, Mr Britton, Mrs Brunsdon, Mrs Coleman, Mr Livermore, Mrs Richards and Mr Wells gave their apologies for the afternoon session. Mr Doyle was absent and Mr Stevens was absent for the afternoon session.

Minutes

Mr R B Dunn, Mrs Knight and Mr Oppler left at 3.00 p.m.

Death of Mr Robin Brown

113 The Chairman reported the death of Mr Robin Brown, a former member of the County Council, who had represented the Bognor Regis West & Aldwick electoral division from 1997 to 2009. The Council stood for a minute's silence.

Dr James Walsh, KStJ, RD

114 The Chairman offered congratulations to Dr James Walsh, on behalf of the Council, on his having been made a Knight in the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem by Her Majesty the Queen.

Dr Howard Bloom, OStJ

115 The Chairman offered congratulations, on behalf of the Council, to Dr Howard Bloom on his having become a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners for services to the College of General Practice and the community.

County Fire Officer

116 The Chairman announced that Sean Ruth, the current Deputy County Fire Officer, had been selected to succeed Max Hood, in the position of County Fire Officer. Mr Ruth had joined the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service in October 2009 as Deputy County Fire Officer, following a career within the Fire and Rescue Services for West Midlands, Surrey and Buckinghamshire. More recently, he had played a key role in the Fire Redesign programmes in West Sussex, and established a prominent role in various regional and national forums.

Interests

117 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

Minutes

118 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 19 October 2012 (pages 247 to 279) be approved as a correct record.

Result of By-Election

119 The Council received the County Returning Officer's return of the by-election held on 15 November 2012 for the county councillor for the Midhurst Electoral Division.

Review of Proportionality

120 The County Council was reminded of its statutory duty to review the proportionality on its committees following the by-election and the recent change in Mr B Hall's group affiliation. A paper on the application of the proportionality rules was set out at page 280. A further sheet showing the proportionality following the by-election had been tabled as page 280A.

121 Resolved - that the review of proportionality on committees be agreed.

Appointments

122 The following changes to appointments were made which took effect from the end of the meeting:

Committee	Change
Children and Young People's Services Select Committee	Remove Mr McDougall and Mr Watson Add Mr Oxlade 1 Conservative vacancy
Environmental and Community Services Select Committee	Remove Mr Deedman Add Mrs Smith
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee	Remove Mrs Richards Add Mr Cherry and Mrs Smith
Policy and Resources Select Committee	Remove Mr Oxlade and Mrs Smith Add Mr Deedman and Mr B Hall
Planning Committee	Mr B Hall to remain on Committee but as Labour member
Planning Committee - substitute	Add Mr Cherry to fill vacancy
Rights of Way Committee	Remove Mr B Hall 1 Liberal Democrat vacancy
Standards Committee	Remove Mr Oxlade 1 Liberal Democrat vacancy

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Address by a Cabinet Member

- 123 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources on the current position on the budget process and how the County Council is managing changes in funding and the delays in the announcement of the local government finance settlement. A position statement by the Cabinet Member had been circulated with the agenda.

Cabinet and Written Questions

Written Questions

- 124 Questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 15(2), as set out at Appendix 2, were circulated. Members asked questions on the answers as set out at Appendix 2.

Cabinet Member Question Time

- 125 The Council agreed to waive Standing Orders to allow a trial of an imposition of a time limit of five minutes for answers to questions on any particular paragraph.
- 126 Members asked questions on the Cabinet Members' reports (pages 281 to 287) and a supplementary report (pages 287A to B), as set out at Appendix 3.

Leader's Question Time

- 127 Members questioned the Leader on matters currently relevant to the County Council, as set out at Appendix 3.

Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2012/13

- 128 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources moved the report on the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2012/13 (pages 288 to 302).

- 129 Resolved -

That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2012/13, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

Corporate Parenting Panel

- 130 The Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel moved the report of the recent work of the Panel (pages 303 and 304).

- 131 Resolved -

That the report be noted.

Governance Committee: Refreshing Council Meetings

132 The County Council was asked to consider initial recommendations arising from the work of the Member Stakeholder Group in relation to the business and management of Council meetings, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 305 to 311).

133 In relation to paragraph 2 of the report and the recommendations in relation to the limit on the number of written questions, it was proposed that answers by officers to further questions received before the deadline beyond the 10 submitted to the Council should be published.

134 Resolved -

That the proposed amendments to Standing Orders to allow a trial of changes to the operation of Council meetings, as set out at the Appendix to the report, subject to the publication of answers to questions beyond the 10 submitted to the Council, be approved.

Governance Committee: Discipline and Grievance – Changes to Standing Orders

135 The Council considered changes to Standing Orders as a result the Governance Committee's revision of discipline and grievance procedures for senior officers, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 312 to 318).

136 Resolved -

That the proposed amendments to changes to Standing Orders 46 to 47 and the Scheme of Delegation, as set out at the Appendix to the report, be approved.

Notice of Motion by Mrs Millson

137 At the County Council meeting on 19 October 2012 the following motion had been moved by Mrs Millson, seconded by Dr Walsh, and referred to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services, for consideration. A report by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection was included with the agenda (page 319).

'This Council supports Jessica's campaign which aims to raise awareness about the extent of the problem of scam mail across the UK. According to statistics published by the Office of Fair Trading, only 1 in 5 cases are reported and therefore the likelihood is there are many vulnerable people across the county who have suffered in this way.

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to:

- (1) Publicise information about the dangers of mass marketing fraud widely to West Sussex residents with a particular emphasis on raising awareness among elderly residents and carers; and
- (2) Write to the Minister for Employment relations, consumer and postal affairs at the Department for Business and Industry pledging our support for the campaign and asking him to take action to prevent vulnerable residents of West Sussex and beyond falling prey to these scams like Jessica did.'

138 An amendment was moved by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and seconded by Mrs Whitehead as set out below.

'This Council supports Jessica's campaign which aims to raise awareness about the extent of the problem of scam mail across the UK. According to statistics published by the Office of Fair Trading, only 1 in 5 cases are reported and therefore the likelihood is there are many vulnerable people across the county who have suffered in this way.

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to:

- (1) Publicise information about the dangers of mass marketing fraud widely to West Sussex residents with a particular emphasis on raising awareness among elderly residents and carers; and
- (2) Write to **West Sussex MPs** ~~the Minister for Employment relations, consumer and postal affairs at the Department for Business and Industry~~ pledging our support for the campaign and **explaining the action we are taking** ~~asking him to take action~~ to prevent vulnerable residents of West Sussex and beyond falling prey to these scams like Jessica did.'

139 The amendment was carried.

140 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

'This Council supports Jessica's campaign which aims to raise awareness about the extent of the problem of scam mail across the UK. According to statistics published by the Office of Fair Trading, only 1 in 5 cases are reported and therefore the likelihood is there are many vulnerable people across the county who have suffered in this way.

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to:

- (1) Publicise information about the dangers of mass marketing fraud widely to West Sussex residents with a particular emphasis on raising awareness among elderly residents and carers; and

- (2) Write to West Sussex MPs pledging our support for the campaign and explaining the action we are taking to prevent vulnerable residents of West Sussex and beyond falling prey to these scams like Jessica did.'

Chairman

The Council rose at 3.20 p.m.

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Agenda Item No. 1 - Interests

Members declared interests as set out below. All the interests listed below were personal but not prejudicial unless indicated.

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 6(a) Address by a Cabinet Member	Mrs Knight	Governor of Oakmeeds Community College, Burgess Hill
Item 7(a) Written Question 1 - Green Deal	Mr Rice	Member of Worthing Borough Council
	Mr Smytherman	Associate member of the Green Deal all-party group and as a member of Worthing Borough Council
Item 7(a) Written Question 4 – short term breaks	Mrs Millson	Associate Governor at Queen Elizabeth II School, Horsham
Item 7(a) Written Question 6 – performance in secondary schools	Dr Wilsdon	Governor of Downlands Community School
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 4 (Green Deal)	Mr Lanzer	Member of Crawley Borough Council
	Mr Waight	Member of Worthing Borough Council
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 7 (Youth Support and Development Service)	Mr Evans	Member of East Preston Neighbourhood Youth Centre and Trustee of Ferring Youth Club
	Mr Oxlade	Member of Bewbush and Oriel Youth Wing Management committees and Ifield Community Youth Service
	Mr Rogers	Chair of the Maybridge Keystone Club
	Mr Smith	Trustee of the Chichester Information Shop for Young People

Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 9 (Academy landscape conference)	Mr Bradbury	Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Warden Park Academy Trust, Governor of St Marks Church of England Primary School, Staplefield and wife is employed by the County Council as a teacher
	Mrs Knight	Trustee/Director of Carers Support Service West Sussex
	Mr Rogers	Governor of Durrington High School
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 12 (funding maintained primary and secondary schools and academies)	Mr Bradbury	Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Warden Park Academy Trust, Governor of St Marks Church of England Primary School, Staplefield and wife is employed by the County Council as a teacher
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 20 (Airports Commission)	Dr Bloom	Member of Crawley Borough Council
Item 7(b) CMQT Paragraph 24 (raising public awareness of flood risk)	Mr Blake	Member of Crawley Borough Council

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1. Written Question from **Mr Smytherman** for reply by the **Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise**

Question

The Green Deal's aims of reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency are welcomed, as are the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded projects in West Sussex, which will help fuel poor residents and vulnerable families. I understand that ECO-funded projects will be taking place from January 2013 to ensure those residents most in need receive energy saving measures to help reduce their energy costs. The Green Deal identifies the positive impact it will have in the long term on fuel poverty but it seems likely that the ECO will have a greater immediate impact in lowering bills for fuel poor and vulnerable residents. Modifications and energy saving measures will be provided by energy suppliers, the cost of which will be recouped from other customers.

A recent study by the energy industry has suggested that the Government has underestimated the cost of ECO projects to energy suppliers and has warned that the introduction of this scheme could significantly increase energy bills.

- (a) Is the Deputy Leader concerned that ECO funded projects could result in an increase to the average customers' energy bill which could increase the number of people in fuel poverty?
- (b) What discussions has he held with energy suppliers to ascertain the likely impact on West Sussex residents?
- (c) Can he provide details of other projects he has considered to alleviate fuel poverty e.g. the bulk-buying of energy on behalf of residents from suppliers offering the lowest tariff?

Answer

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will take over from the existing obligations the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Community Energy Saving Programme. These existing obligations are due to end in December 2012 and the ECO will take over in addressing energy efficiency in the domestic sector. It is likely that this form of support will be heavily linked to the Green Deal and will particularly support the poorest and most vulnerable householders and those types of property e.g. hard to treat, which cannot achieve financial savings without an additional or different measure of support.

- (a) As ECO is a direct obligation on the 'big six' energy companies, it is not surprising that they have initially suggested that this could lead to a wider rise in energy costs. On the other hand, the energy companies need to plan for these costs as part of doing business in the United Kingdom. The challenge for them is to work with councils like West Sussex and its partners to cross-subsidise more expensive measures with the less expensive and absorb the costs, thereby minimising any impact on customers or shareholders. As outlined above, they can also use the

availability of Green Deal Finance to offset the costs of the ECO measures. Therefore the Green Deal initiative proposed by the County Council will assist the energy companies in utilising their obligations in the most cost effective way not only for residents but also to the benefit of their customers as a whole.

- (b) Discussions have been held with several energy companies about ECO at an officer level. These discussions will continue into January 2013. It is hoped that the County Council can act early on ECO and maximise the benefits to those residents who need it most, thus alleviating any energy price increases. Early indications suggest that at least two energy companies are very keen to work with the County Council and we are exploring the best way to achieve this with borough and district council colleagues. The energy companies have stressed that they need to see a mix of eligible measures within an area in order to maximise ECO funding.
- (c) In terms of alleviating fuel poverty, officers are working very closely with the West Sussex Fuel Poverty Co-ordinator. Several oil bulk-buying purchasing schemes are underway in Chichester and Horsham, with a further scheme being planned in Mid Sussex early in the New Year. We were also recently successful in obtaining £397,000 from the Department of Health for a programme called 'Warm Homes, Healthy People'. This will build on the success of previous programmes (notably 'Warmer West Sussex') to:
- provide home health checks and advice for the most vulnerable
 - run a grants scheme for boiler repair or replacement
 - offer a holistic 'warm home' service to households with multiple needs
 - establish ECO demonstration homes

Supplementary Question

Would the Deputy Leader ensure that those residents most in need of home improvements are identified and able to benefit from the programme, in particular lease-hold flat owners who are unable to access the Green Deal in the same way as freehold property owners?

Supplementary Answer

The Council is looking into the issue of lease-hold flats and houses in multiple occupation.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mr Rice, Mr Waight and Dr Walsh.

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2. Written question from **Mr Deedman** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

Question

The Children's Minister, Edward Timpson MP, has criticised the number of Children aged 16 and above who leave care systems with very little onward support. Mr Timpson referred to statistics that showed that about 45% of children who leave care at the age of 16 are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) by the age of 19.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- (a) Since 2007 how many children have left care services in West Sussex at the age of 16 and above and what onward support has been offered to them?
- (b) What systems are in place to record details of the progress of children leaving care at age 16 and above and to assess the success of onward support arrangements?
- (c) How many of those children in West Sussex who left care by the age of 16 and above during 2007 - 2009 were NEETs by the age of 19?

Answer

(a)

Year*	Number of children leaving care
2007/08	151
2008/09	161
2009/10	138
2010/11	136
2011/12	131

* Note: A 'year' runs from 1 April to 31 March

The table details the number of young people leaving West Sussex local authority care at 16 and above. Most of these leave at age 18. A small number return to live with their family between 16 or 17 - if they are subject to a Care Order then they remain in Care but subject to Placement with Parents regulations and, if they are looked after under Section 20 (voluntary care), they become Children in Need. In West Sussex both cohorts of children receive support. At 15 and a half, all children who are looked after are offered a personal advisor whose role it is to work with the social worker to assist the young person with achieving the goals set out in the pathway plan. The role of the personal advisor continues to the age of 21 (or 25 years old if there is a wish to return to further education) and may include other areas of support including education, training, employment, general advice, support and assistance, support with accommodation especially for higher education or residential further education if needed.

- (b) Prior to 2010 systems were not in place to record details of the progress of children leaving care at 16 or above and to assess the success of onward support arrangements. From 2010 the County Council has developed a system that details the information which includes NEET, Apprenticeships, those in employment, further education and higher education as well as the course they are studying and their attainment. The information on the progression of care leavers is cross referenced with the destination data that was held by Babcock on behalf of Connexions.
- (c) The County Council does not have the data requested for 2007-09 for care leavers who were NEET. At any one time there are around 800 (5.8%) 16 to 18-year-old young people who are NEET in West Sussex. This group is constantly changing as young people move between education, employment (with and without training) and training with very few young people (around 1% nationally) remaining NEET through from 16 to 19. Around one third of those who are NEET will be long term NEET i.e. NEET for more than six months.

In October 2012, 98 young people were identified as looked after or as a care leaver at KS4, of these young people 85% were sustained in full time education against a national average of 84%, 2% are engaged in full time employment and 13% are NEET. Of those who are NEET, this can be broken down into 3% actively seeking employment, 1% Post-16 engagement programme, 2% unavailable for work due to pregnancy/illness and 7% were currently NEET and not engaging.

In West Sussex a group meets to develop The Care2Work programme which offers good practice guidance and support to raise the profile of employability on the corporate parenting agenda. The group has agreed to promote the County Council's apprenticeship scheme to care leavers in particular those in office services and work towards the quality mark in order to improve opportunities for care leavers' employability.

Supplementary Question

How successful has the apprenticeships scheme been in relation to children in care and have any of the 40 posts which have been allocated for children with learning difficulties within the County Council been used for employing such youngsters?

Supplementary Answer

The apprenticeship scheme has been successful and is still being developed. I will let Mr Deedman have an answer to his question about the allocation of the 40 posts. The Council is also looking at other ways of supporting young people including the junior ISA savings scheme.

3. Written question from **Mrs Knight** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

Question

The Education Secretary has recently called for a more assertive approach to child

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protection and the placement of more children in care at an earlier stage of neglect or abuse. It is anticipated that this will increase the number of children in care and undermine early intervention and preventative measures designed to prevent taking children into care. Despite the Government's commitment to early intervention, cuts to funding for preventative services will be introduced from April 2013 with the abolition of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). According to the Local Government Association this could result in a reduction in spending of up to 20% on early years and family services at a local level.

The County Council's Performance Framework 2012-15 contains a commitment to Early Intervention and an outcome to be achieved under the Think Family initiative is a reduction in the numbers of children going into care. It appears there is now a divergence between the Performance Framework and government policy. Please can the Cabinet Member answer the following questions to provide an update on the current priorities and structures of Children's Services:

- (a) Can the Cabinet Member detail how resources are currently structured in Children's Services between early intervention/preventative services and acute/looked after children services? Can he provide details of the range of early intervention/preventative measures currently provided by Children's Services?
- (b) Can the Cabinet Member explain how the loss of EIG has affected commissioning intentions for early intervention/preventative services for 2013/14? How will the Cabinet Member mitigate such cuts and loss of services and what is the involvement of the Think Family initiative?
- (c) Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the County Council currently has sufficient resources and suitably qualified and experienced social work staff to increase identification of at-risk children and increase the number of care placements?

Answer

- (a) Services within the Children and Young People's Service are broadly delivered in three areas: Children's Social Care, Early Childhood Services and Youth Services. There are elements of early intervention/prevention services in each service area. With specific reference to children the integrated early childhood services encompass the full range of universal, targeted and specialist services, including:
 - childcare for young people
 - social services functions of the local authority relating to young children and parents
 - health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
 - local authority's information, advice and assistance relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families

The County Council's Children and Family Centres (CFCs) offer access to a universal service for all families.

- universal child and family health services - midwifery and health visiting
- play and learn sessions
- access to services through information, advice and assistance, including health promotion and benefits information.

Through this universal access, CFCs can offer additional targeted services for vulnerable children and families (e.g. teenage parents, disabled children/parents, domestic abuse) in response to identified needs. This is called 'targeted support through universal access' and includes family support services across the continuum of need.

Following a service review and agreed merger of some centres in West Sussex, there are now 45 CFCs across the county. This follows the integration of the former specialist family centres which offered targeted, specialist support for vulnerable children and families with complex needs. This work is now carried out by area Family Resource Teams Under 10s based in three CFCs, and offering a county-wide service.

Within Children's Social Care are six Targeted Integrated Support Teams which lead the multi-agency forums across the county and supporting agencies in completing common assessment frameworks (CAF) and supporting the operation of teams around the child. Where children are identified as having higher needs then they will undertake a CAF+ to support the family. If needs are identified as needing specialist intervention a referral would be made to Children's Social Care where the majority of resources are focused on targeted and specialist interventions.

- (b) The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) was introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2011, replacing numerous grants from central government to local authorities to support services for children, young people and families, and is currently worth £25.2m to the County Council. From September 2013 all two year olds, who are looked after children, or from families which meet the criteria for receiving free school meals, will be eligible for 15 hours of free education and care. Initial funding to support preparations for the build-up in provision for the new entitlement, in advance of the September 2013 roll out, was identified in the EIG allocations for 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, from April 2013 all funding for the two-year-olds entitlement will be transferred from the unringfenced EIG to the ringfenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The consequence of the decision to transfer funding for two year olds to the ringfenced DSG will result in an effective cut to our unringfenced EIG allocation of around £4.4m next year. Since the Cabinet does not believe that the Government's policy to increase funding available for two year olds should come at the expense of other services funded through Early Intervention Grant, the draft budget for 2013/14 will look to make good the shortfall thus mitigating against any cuts or loss of service and negating any impact on the Think Family initiative.
- (c) A report was taken to the last Children's Improvement Board which stated that 92% of all qualified Social Work posts were filled. There are no plans to increase this number. However, the ability of the service to respond to its statutory duties is kept under constant review and is subject to scrutiny

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by the Improvement Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Select Committee.

Supplementary Question

Is there capacity in the current system to increase the number of children taken into care as the Government seems to be suggesting that children should be taken into care sooner with the aim of them not having to be kept in care so long?

Supplementary Answer

The Council is always looking for more foster carers. There is no government directive as yet and I am firmly convinced that early intervention is the best way forward, working through the Think Family Partnership, but not necessarily by taking children into care.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Mrs Arculus.

4. Written question from **Mrs Millson** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

Question

Options relating to the short breaks service in West Sussex for children with complex health needs and disabilities were considered recently by the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee. The report to the committee by the Joint Commissioning Unit and NHS Sussex proposed options for NHS-led residential respite services in West Sussex. These options included: (1) the possible closure of both The Cherries and Holly Lodge; and (2) an invitation from providers to submit viable business plans for the use of the facilities to provide short break respite services.

The premise for these options was an under-utilisation of existing facilities, resulting from changes to NHS funding, and a reliance on the 'NHS At Home' model of care to meet the needs of those families who used the units. The report referred to other forms of funding, in particular direct payments, that could be used to purchase overnight respite care, but doubted that families would favour the use of their personal budgets on this form of care. There has been vociferous opposition to the option to close The Cherries and concern expressed relating to the transportation of children with complex needs to distant facilities. It is recognised that the two units are owned and managed by the NHS but as West Sussex County Council is involved in a partnership with NHS Sussex and Sussex Community NHS Trust to review short breaks services the following questions are posed to the Cabinet Member for response.

- (a) Does the Cabinet Member have confidence that the NHS At Home model will provide a level of respite care to match the effectiveness of overnight short-breaks for those children and families who are no longer eligible for NHS

funding? How can the model replace overnight stays at established units effectively?

- (b) Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on whether business cases from providers have been received by the NHS or if he is aware of forthcoming business cases that will be submitted by the deadline of the end of December 2012?
- (c) Has the Cabinet Member considered the submission of a business case on behalf of West Sussex County Council to retain one or both of the facilities in the short term to allow for more options to be proposed and considered for overnight respite care provision across the West Sussex?
- (d) In light of the changes to NHS funding eligibility and the NHS At Home model, can the Cabinet Member confirm if there are similar plans to review and rationalise short break respite care provided at the three WSCC facilities, particularly Cissbury Lodge?
- (e) Have users of The Cherries and Holly Lodge been approached to ascertain awareness of other forms of funding that can be used to fund overnight respite care and if they would choose to dedicate personal budgets to use of the facilities?

Answer

- (a) The NHS At Home model in West Sussex will be designed to provide integrated teams which can deliver a range of care for children with health needs and their families, from support in their home to expert supportive care in hospital to specialised respite care. This will include both children who meet continuing health care criteria and those who do not. Some children and their families will continue to need overnight breaks.
- (b) Discussions have been taking place about the submission of a business case but none have yet been received.
- (c) The County Council is not intending to submit a business case for the temporary retention of one or both facilities because there will be sufficient capacity within existing County Council disability homes and the Finches and Chestnut Tree House to meet the need for overnight breaks, although there will be budget pressures arising from the changes to continuing health care criteria.
- (d) The short-break care provided through the three County Council facilities is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it meets the needs of families in terms of both quality and quantity.
- (e) The option of personal budgets for disabled children and their families is being developed in West Sussex as part of its role as a pathfinder for the Government's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper. This is at an early stage but families are already beginning to exercise choice and control about support at home and for overnight breaks. Families using

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the Cherries and Holly Lodge have been informed about these developments.

Supplementary Question

Is the Cabinet Member aware that the QE2 school has a vision of taking over Holly Lodge to provide a range of overnight, holiday and after school uses? What can you and the rest of the Cabinet do to support and promote that vision?

Supplementary Answer

I am aware that schools are interested but no formal approach has been made as yet. I will be happy to discuss options should a business case come forward.

5. Written question from **Mr Rogers** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Education and Schools**

The Cabinet Member has recently approved expansion programmes at a number of primary schools in West Sussex, including Edward Bryant School, Bognor Regis, Fernhurst Primary School and Downview Primary School, Bognor Regis.

- (a) How does the Cabinet Member take account of the possibility of free schools becoming established in the vicinity of schools to be expanded?
- (b) What work does the Cabinet Member undertake with boards of governors and academy sponsors to determine if there is an intention to apply for academy status at local schools considered for expansion programmes?
- (c) How is the Cabinet Member working with primary school academies to ensure that academy sponsors are aware of changing local circumstances, such as housing developments, that may require school expansions? Is the Cabinet Member confident that academy sponsors will be prepared to undertake expansion programmes?

Answer

- (a) Submissions for Free Schools are made by sponsors directly to the Department for Education (DfE) and the decision to establish a Free School is made by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State does not just have regard to the need for more school places, but also considers submissions on the basis of extending parental choice. Sponsors need to contact the County Council in order to progress their submissions, for example to obtain information on the expected demand for school places, and the availability of potential sites and premises. The County Council is, therefore, aware of any proposals for Free Schools and supports sponsors in line with its policy as stated on the website. It particularly emphasises the need for consultation with all elements of the intended local community.
- (b) There is a County Council academies project team led by the Learning Service that works with all schools considering conversion to academy status, which deploys specialist staff to support the conversion process once

governors have made the decision to move to academy status. The County Council is, therefore, aware of all schools that intend to convert.

- (c) The County Council has, and will continue to have, the statutory duty to ensure that there is the right number of school places in each area to meet demand. This duty applies, and will continue to apply, to all state funded schools regardless of their status. All primary schools, including academies, have co-operated with the County Council to plan for new places and this is evidenced by the fact that in September 2012 all eligible children in West Sussex were placed in appropriate accommodation in an appropriate school. Plans are well advanced to meet a further increase in demand for September 2013 and to monitor likely future demand for school places.

Supplementary Question

What would the Cabinet Member do in the event that a free school or academy refused to co-operate in planning for the new places and what policy would be followed in the event that a submission from a free school was received in the vicinity of a school which had already been approved for an expansion programme?

Supplementary Answer

Were a free school to refuse to co-operate then the Council would work with the Department for Education to ensure that it did. The Council has suggested to the Minister that there should be more co-ordination in terms of the location of free schools and that the local authority should be able to specify in the areas in which there should be free schools.

6. Written question from **Mrs Smith** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Education and Schools**

Question

Following the publication of the Ofsted annual report there has been negative coverage in the local press relating to the performance of secondary schools in West Sussex. Based on the number of schools assessed as Good or Outstanding, secondary schools in West Sussex are not performing as well as their counterparts in most other upper tier/unitary authorities in the South East. I understand that currently 12 secondary schools in West Sussex (including Academies) are not assessed as Good or Outstanding.

- (a) Please can the Cabinet Member confirm what action he is taking to increase the number of Good and Outstanding Secondary Schools in West Sussex?

Three Academies providing Secondary Education have been assessed as Satisfactory or Inadequate since they became Academies.

- (b) Is the Cabinet Member concerned that the Academies Programme is not delivering improvements to Secondary educational provision in West Sussex?

- (c) What support or advice is he providing to those Academies not currently assessed as Good or Outstanding to help them improve their performance?

Answer

- (a) The County Council's policy is to work with schools to ensure that all children 'will have access to good and outstanding provision within, or as close as possible, to their local community'. It is the responsibility of school governing bodies to raise standards in their schools. The inspection profile of West Sussex schools according to the recent OFSTED league tables was broadly in line with the national average. Currently 77% (75% including academies) of primary schools and 72% (68% including academies) of secondary schools (including Tanbridge House School which has just been designated as outstanding and St Wilfrid's and The Forest School that have moved from satisfactory to good during the autumn term) are judged to be good or better. This represents an improvement of 4% of primary schools and 5% (7% including academies) of secondary schools since 31 March 2012. 92% of special schools are judged to good or better. 67% Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are judged to be good or better and recently the provision made for children with medical needs at the Chalkhill Centre was judged to be outstanding.

The Learning Service continues to monitor the progress made by all schools. Where schools are judged to be making insufficient progress a School Improvement Adviser is allocated to support and challenge the leadership and to broker improvement services. Where schools persistently fail to make progress despite the allocation of additional support, the County Council has powers of intervention and will, where appropriate, work with the DfE to explore conversion to sponsored academy status.

- (b) No, this is not a factually-based observation. The most improved secondary schools in West Sussex in terms of GCSE results (5+ A*-C including English and maths) in 2012 were the established sponsored academies. These schools improved by an average of 12% whereas maintained schools' results declined by 2%. Their results are now close to the West Sussex average. It is too early to judge the progress of converting academies and the most recent sponsored academies as they have not yet had time to establish a track record.
- (c) As indicated by Sir Michael Wilshaw in the recent OFSTED annual report, local authorities continue to have a responsibility to monitor the performance of all schools, including academies. The Cabinet Member is working closely with sponsors of academies in West Sussex to ensure that this monitoring takes place and that sponsors and academy governing bodies are held to account for taking the necessary action to deal with any areas of underperformance. This has been particularly important in the one academy in the county which was placed in special measures by OFSTED at its last inspection. This school's GCSE results (5+ A*-C including English and maths) improved by 14% in 2012 and OFSTED monitoring reports have indicated that the school is making very good progress in addressing areas of weakness previously identified by inspectors.

Supplementary Question

As it is the responsibility of schools' governing bodies to raise standards, what will be the procedure when a school converts to an academy to ensure that standards do not reduce?

Supplementary Answer

The County Council has a mandate to play a significant part in academy trusts to represent parents in the community. The Government supports there being at least one local authority governor on such trusts. The Council also has good working relationships with the chairmen of academy trusts and will ensure that standards are maintained.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mr Bradbury and Dr Wilsdon.

7. Written question from **Mrs Smith** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

Question

I understand that academies qualify for 80% rate relief due to their charitable status as defined under the Academies Act 2010. From April 2013 the business rate retention scheme will be introduced and local authorities will retain a share of the business rate proceeds from their area.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- (a) How rate relief for academies will affect West Sussex's share of business rates under the new business rate retention scheme?
- (b) The amount of local business rates lost to date as a result of rate relief for schools converting to academies in West Sussex?
- (c) What action he is taking to ensure that the share of business rates retained by West Sussex will not be reduced as a result of rate relief for academies?

Answer

- (a) This has not been the subject of final guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The County Council is aware that the Local Government Association, along with the Society of County Treasurers, has been pressing for clarity from the DCLG on this, and lobbying that the business rate allocation to local authorities should not be affected by the change in status of any school. Initial indications are that only charity status academy schools will qualify for the reduction. The County Council will continue to ask representative bodies to lobby on this, and take the opportunity presented by the consultation of the provisional settlement to make the point to the Government itself.

West Sussex schools currently pay around £7.6m in business rates and under the business rate retention system only £0.760m of this sum would accrue to the County Council. Aided schools already receive 80% relief on a mandatory basis (as do charities) so, unless a further discretionary allowance was added to this amount, the sum aided schools would pay in business rates would be unchanged by converting to academy status. The County Council estimates the potential loss for the Council for all schools becoming academies as around £0.6m in business rates.

- (b) The total estimated amount of reduction to business rates to date from schools converting to academies is around £0.7m. However, the County Council's business rate baseline will be based on its business rates proceeds in 2010/11 and 2011/12. This baseline will be used as a benchmark for comparison in future for collection of business rates and therefore takes account of any academy schools in these years. It is only schools converting to academies after 1 April 2012 (and are not aided schools) that will have any impact on the County Council's future funding.
- (c) At the current rate schools are becoming academies, the potential loss mentioned in (a) would be spread over a reasonable enough time that the loss could be absorbed by underlying growth in the economy. That said, the County Council would prefer not to lose any sum and will continue to press the Government to insulate all local authorities funding from this impact.

The County Council continues to work closely with borough and district councils on their business rate policy with the shared aim of encouraging growth in business rate proceeds, whilst being sensitive to the needs of charities and the impact business rates may have on the third/community sector. The County Council will continue to liaise with district and borough councils on these matters including any discretionary areas on business rates that would impact on the County's funding. However, borough and district councils will ultimately decide on their own billing policy, including areas of discretionary rate charges.

Supplementary Question

In relation to the £100m needed for capital investment in schools, as academies do not make any return on assets, will that become a financial burden to the Council? In relation to paragraph (b) of the answer and the business rate baseline for assessments being carried out on a 2010/11 and 2011/12 basis, how long will those assessments be on that basis and what is the potential impact if more schools convert to academies?

Supplementary Answer

The academy status of schools could result in the Council losing a further £7.6m which is yet another burden about which the Council is lobbying the Government. The sum of up to £100m for junior schools and capital expenditure on infrastructure will be a challenge. I can confirm that the baseline could last for as long as 10 years.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Mr B Hall. The Cabinet Member said he would provide a written response to Mr B Hall in relation to his query about whether the Cabinet Member would like to comment on the fact that nationally roughly £1bn had been transferred from mainstream schools to academies and whether, in his view, it was justified and an appropriate use of resources given the needs of mainstream education?

8. Written question from **Mrs Millson** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services**

Question

According to provisional figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the number of confirmed cases of adult abuse or neglect rose by 13% nationally last year.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether or not West Sussex figures are in line with the National figures and if so, tell me what he believes are the causes of the increase and what can be done to reduce the problem?

Answer

The figure quoted is an average from a national report and in fact the range shows a vast difference in figures ranging from an increase in one authority of 676% to a decrease in another authority of 79%. When there is a very high end figure this skews the average. In numerical terms 110 local authorities report an increase; 49 local authorities report a decrease and the other one remains the same. Not all councils provided all of the data required to this collection which makes it difficult to determine national averages. Thirty-one of the 150 councils were not able to provide all of the data, although the County Council did. This makes it difficult to make comparisons. There are changes proposed to the national data collection in an attempt to address this so that it will be easier to compare

The West Sussex figures are not in line with the national rise but have reduced and are due to a reduction in the number of alerts and a resulting reduction in the number of investigations. The reduction is due to:

- Through past experience in dealing with alerts the three pan-Sussex local authorities have jointly agreed to change the way low-level incidents, which are not considered to be safeguarding, are dealt with.
- There has been a decrease in the number of alerts received due to changes in threshold levels. The County Council is still receiving the same number of concerns but some of these are treated as incidents (low level, no harm and dealt with by the provider) and do not progress through the full safeguarding investigation process.

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- It has enabled the County Council to spend less time investigating minor concerns and better results are being achieved where abuse has occurred with a more targeted approach and leading to fewer full investigations.
- Because there are fewer alerts there are fewer investigations and therefore fewer completed full investigations.
- There has been a change of emphasis in the safeguarding process with more work being done at the very beginning to gather information and risk assess. This leads to fewer full investigations but not a reduction in work undertaken to most effectively keep people safe.
- When alerts are received highly trained managers using professional judgement make decisions at various stages and are making proportionate decisions not to continue with the investigation process and closing down the process early when no harm has occurred.
- There are pan-Sussex policies and procedures that all three local authorities work to and there has been a reduction in alerts and investigations across all three.
- The approach being followed in West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove are seen as best practice and in line with national policy and direction.

The County Council's performance position is monitored quarterly by the Director of Adults' Services, senior managers and by the Adult Safeguarding Board and there are regular audits to monitor the quality and appropriateness of the investigations, decisions and actions taken. As well as the internal monitoring West Sussex has commissioned a Peer Review from the Local Government Association to take place in March and bring external independent scrutiny and check that the County Council's systems and processes are proportionate and appropriate.

9. Written question from **Mr Sheldon** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services**

Question

Across the UK, half of all older people (about five million) say that the television is their main company, 11% only have contact with friends, family and neighbours once a month and nearly 200,000 don't get help to get out of their house or flat at all. The Health Secretary has announced that local authorities will be involved in a mapping exercise to identify loneliness black spots across the country. The impact of loneliness and social isolation on the health of the elderly, particularly in regard of heart disease, blood clots and dementia, has been widely acknowledged. A review of the impact of the changes to the eligibility criteria for social care commissioned by LINK found that people who had been reassessed and had their support downgraded reported feeling lonely and not involved in meaningful activity.

- (a) Will the Cabinet Member be taking part in the mapping exercise and what work has already been undertaken to identify those areas of West Sussex

where social isolation and loneliness in the elderly is most prevalent?

- (b) Does the Cabinet Member accept the findings of the LINK report and does he believe that social isolation of the elderly is a problem in West Sussex? Will he share the findings of the LINK report with the Health Secretary to help inform the mapping exercise?
- (c) Please can the Cabinet Member explain what services and projects have been incorporated into commissioning plans for 2013/14 to address loneliness of the elderly in West Sussex?

Answer

- (a) When I receive information from the Secretary of State, I would want to engage positively. Meanwhile, work is underway through various processes nationally and locally to define Social Isolation in order to understand local prevalence for which services can be commissioned. Such understanding and mapping of local prevalence will be drawn from:
 - the newly revised GP Patient Survey (a national survey which includes specific questions for people with long-term conditions)
 - the Older People's Survey which is being undertaken by Public Health with the voluntary and community sector (this will sample the entire Older People population in West Sussex - not just those known to services or with long term conditions - aiming to establish a population wide prevalence/baseline)
 - the Personal Social Services Users Survey (follow up piece of work with people who responded to the statutory questionnaire and have consented to be involved in more detailed research on social isolation and loneliness - these are people who perhaps would not respond to a general population survey - the aim to develop better measures with eligible/higher need groups) along with;
 - Actual output measurements from the Prevention Assessment Teams and commissioned services
- (b) The Local Involvement Network (LINK) report acknowledges that the sample of people interviewed (74 of 3,590) cannot be described as representative; the sample size is too small to produce results that are statistically significant and it is impossible to generalise from the sample. It finds that only very tentative conclusions can be drawn from this work. All of that I agree with. For these reasons I think the work outlined in answer to question (a) will be a more informative, evidenced base from which to inform the Health Secretary's work. The LINK review is a freely available published document and is of course available for the Health Secretary to access. As you know, I am in the process of responding formally to the request of the Health and Adults' Services Select Committee (HASC), to respond to the recommendations in the LINK report and this will be made in full to the HASC before the end of January as agreed at the meeting on 3 October. As a member of HASC, Mr Sheldon does not have too long to wait before he sees my full response. The Health Secretary is clearly concerned about the national issue of social isolation given the nation's growing aging population. Because West Sussex will have a higher proportion of people

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over 65 than England overall it is right that priority is given to tackle Social Isolation in the County. Current commissioning and future investment will continue to target this area as indicated in the response to question (c).

(c) In (a) I have described the actions being taken to undertake research and map the local prevalence of social isolation. In the meantime, the following priority areas are already being commissioned:

- Day activities
- Services that increase independence at home through practical assistance
- Home from hospital
- Services that tackle social isolation (including befriending)
- Information and advice

Meetings have taken place with the voluntary sector to undertake some soft market testing. They have responded to this process enthusiastically and are eager to participate in opportunities to deliver the key areas set out in the Joint Commissioning Plan. Mr Sheldon will also be interested to know that self-advocate members reported to the last meeting of the Learning Disability Partnership Board the outcomes of recent interviews with people attending 'My Network', which, as he knows, addresses social isolation for those with learning disabilities. Every person interviewed has reported positively that My Network enables them to broaden their social activities and offers them more than the limited amount of individual social care that would have been previously available.

Supplementary Question

Having obtained the local data to determine which services could be commissioned, will the Cabinet Member commit to working closely with local organisations to enable them to deliver services that will reduce the prevalence of loneliness across the county?

Supplementary Answer

I am committed to working alongside voluntary groups to help them provide such services.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mrs Knight and Mrs Smith.

10. Written question from Mrs Millson for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question

A new scheme has been launched by some of the country's major bus companies to provide free bus transport for unemployed people to support them in seeking employment.

- (a) Bearing in mind that most buses in the north of the county are provided by Metrobus, which has not yet joined the scheme, will the Cabinet Member be pressing Metrobus and other local companies to join?
- (b) Has the Cabinet Member any plans to help publicise the scheme to unemployed people, so that they can get the maximum benefit from it from the start date in January?

Answer

- (a) The 'Bus for Jobs' initiative has been developed by the five major national bus companies, including Go-Ahead which owns Metrobus, and Brighton and Hove Bus Company and West Sussex Stagecoach, working together with Jobcentre Plus. These operators will be offering free bus passes in January to over-18s who have been out of work for three months or more and are claiming Jobseekers' Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support and are actively engaged with a Jobcentre Plus adviser in returning to employment.
- (b) The bus operators and Jobcentre Plus are to be commended for working in partnership in such a way that with the active engagement of the Jobcentre advisers and jobseekers, the initiative can be targeted at the right people through Jobcentre Plus and the bus operators publicising the scheme jointly.

Supplementary Question

Is any work being done with Compass which provides a lot of bus services to people in rural areas?

Supplementary Answer

The free bus transport initiative has been started by the five major national bus companies and that Compass is not a member of any of them. It is therefore up to them whether they take part. However, I will look at the results of a County Council pilot in Crawley on the 'route to work scheme' for people between 16 and 18 who are NEET to have free travel for one month to see what can be done in terms of extending the pilot across the county, not just to rural areas.

11. Written question from **Mr Rogers** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

Question

The Worthing County Local Committee (CLC) has nine members and, like all CLCs, regardless of number, is allowed up to three traffic regulation orders (TROs) per year. This equates to an average of just one TRO per Worthing member every three years. At the last count there were requests for TROs with up to a 15-year waiting list in Worthing. With some other CLCs having just four members, this equates to an average of nearly one per member per year.

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For too long, I believe residents in Worthing have been treated unfairly. Can the Cabinet Member give me a date when will this be changed, so that there is equality for all; and bearing in mind how patient Worthing members have been, will these members be allowed to 'catch up' so that we are at least equal to the waiting list of all other CLCs.

Answer

The TRO team has 200 TROs so far to deliver this financial year. This includes the 42 (three per CLC) CLC TROs to which members have previously. At a members' seminar last year highways officers explained that it also possible for CLCs to identify TROs as a priority for delivery within the Infrastructure Plan, and therefore deliver changes funded from the capital programme.

Increasing the number of TROs available to members will require additional staff or additional cost to employ external consultants. It is possible to consider a different way of distributing the 42 CLC TROs per year, but any system will have winners and losers. It is therefore recommended that members use the existing allocations to identify the top priorities in their area, while recognising that the more contentious a proposal, the longer it will take to come to fruition. CLCs can identify TROs as a priority in the Infrastructure Plan if they wish to see more TROs delivered in their area, though this will be at the expense of other highways priorities or projects.

The delivery of CLC TROs is often held up due to the difficulty in securing local agreement on a solution. Members can play an important role in securing local agreement, and their timely input to the process could help speed delivery of TROs. It should be remembered that, when solutions require departures from approved County Council policy or fall outside national design standards, then these cause significant delay in the realisation of TRO projects.

Supplementary Question

Would the Cabinet Member agree that it is unfair that the nine-member County Local Committee in Worthing has just three TROs per year when other CLCs with four members also have three? Will the Cabinet Member implement a fairer policy?

Supplementary Answer

Any changes will create perceived unfairness elsewhere. May I remind the Council that CLCs can prioritise TROs to ensure those that are considered most important are brought to the top of the list. In addition, the Communities Team is working with CLCs to review the lists of TROs to see if any can be removed.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mr Acraman, Mr Bradbury Mr B Hall and Mr Waight.

Agenda Item No. 7(b) - Cabinet Member Question Time

Members asked questions on the Cabinet Members' reports as set out below. In instances where a Cabinet Member undertook to take follow-up action, this is also noted below.

Leader

The Leader answered questions on the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 1, Inside Government Adult Social Care Forum, from Mrs Millson.

Paragraph 2, MPs Meeting, from Mrs Jupp and Dr Walsh.

Paragraph 3, Financial Sustainability of Health Systems, from Mr B Hall and Mrs Whitehead.

Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise

The Deputy Leader answered questions on the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 4, Green Deal, from Mr Deedman and Mr Lanzer.

Paragraph 5, broadband project, from Mrs Coleman and Mr B Hall.

In response to a comment from Mr Hall about a 'In Business' broadcast on the BBC World Service which had looked at Broadband for rural areas including the use of church towers with small antennae, the Deputy Leader said he would listen to the programme.

Cabinet Member for Children and Families

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following paragraphs.

Paragraph 7, Youth Support and Development, from Mr Oppler, Mr Smith, Mr Wells and Dr Wilsdon.

In response to comments from Mr Oppler and Mr Wells, the Cabinet Member agreed to look into reports of problems with leaks in the roof of the 39 Club in Bognor Regis.

Paragraph 26, Think Family Programme (Troubled Families Initiative), from Mr Sheldon.

Cabinet Member for Education and Schools

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 9, Academy Landscape Conference, from Mr Bradbury.

The Cabinet Member agreed to a request from Mr Bradbury to work with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to look at County buildings that might

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be suitable for use as free schools.

Paragraph 10, Academy status, from Mr M N Hall and Mr Smytherman.

As a result of a request from Mr M N Hall the Cabinet Member agreed to report to the February Council meeting on the current position with regard to church controlled schools and conversion to academy status.

Paragraph 12, funding maintained primary and secondary schools and academies, from Mr Deedman.

In response to a request from Mr Deedman the Cabinet Member said he would let members know the time table for the publication of details of school funding so that members could ensure they were aware of the impact on the budgets of their local schools.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

The Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraph 15, central government grant, from Mr Quirk and Dr Walsh.

Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following paragraphs.

Paragraph 17, integration of health and social care, from Mr Sheldon.

Paragraph 18, Proactive Care, from Dr Walsh.

The Cabinet Member agreed that the terminology in the paragraph should refer to long-term and chronic conditions rather than complex needs.

Paragraph 19, young adults and adults with autism, from Mrs Jupp.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 20, Airports Commission, from Mr Acraman, Dr Bloom, Dr Dennis and Mrs Smith.

Paragraph 22, Reactive Response Network, from Mr Rice.

Cabinet Member for Public Protection

The Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraph 24, raising public awareness of flood risk, from Mr Acraman, Mr Blake and Dr Walsh.

The Cabinet Member said that a request from Mr Blake for assurance that proportionate measures and actions on flood defence would be taken for water courses in and around Crawley would be taken on board.

Agenda Item No. 7(c) - Leader's Question Time

The Leader answered questions from members on the following topics:

Extraction of shale gas (Fracking), from Mr Crow.

Report on Flooding, from Mrs Mockridge.

Enforcing school keep-clear markings, from Mr Rogers.

In response to a reference from Mr Rogers to a question he had asked the Leader at the last meeting of the Council in relation to the unenforceable nature of school keep-clear markings in West Sussex and his request to the Leader as to whether she was prepared to find the funding to resolve the problem, the Leader said the issue would be discussed by the Cabinet.

Government report on franchising exercise for rail lines, from Mrs Millson.

In response to a question from Mrs Millson about how far advanced the rail franchise process was for lines in West Sussex following the report on the West Coast Mainline, the Leader said she would let members know when information was available.

Request for a seminar on possible government proposals for a second runway at Gatwick Airport, from Mr Waight.

In response to a suggestion from Mr Waight that it would be appropriate to have a seminar for members on the issue of a second runway for Gatwick, the Leader said this would be considered over the Christmas period once more information was available.

Concerns about Fracking resulting in the pollution of aquifers and the need for safeguards following the report on Preece Hall, from Mr B Hall.