

West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

20 July 2012

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 20 July 2012, at County Hall, Chichester, the members present being:

Mr M W G Coleman (Chairman)

Mr W E Acraman
Mrs P A C Arculus
Mr L H Barnard
Mrs E A Bennett
Mr B K Blake
Mr G G Blampied
Mr P J J Bradbury
Mr D N Britton
Mr M J Brown
Mrs H A Brunson
Mr R G Burgess
Mr R D Burrett
Mr P C Catchpole
Mrs C A Coleman
Mr B K Coomber
Mr D G Crow
Mr D R Deedman
Dr N P S Dennis
Mr J E Doyle
Mr R B Dunn
Mr T M E Dunn
Mr P C Evans
Mrs C M Field
Ms M L Goldsmith
Mr P A Graysmark
Mr P A D Griffiths
Mrs A B Hall
Mr M N Hall
Mr W J Hellawell
Miss N J Hendon
Mr M P S Hodgson
Mr P E Jones

Mrs A J Jupp
Mr R A Lanzer
Mr J Livermore
Mr S E McDougall
Mrs A F Mills
Mrs M E Millson
Mrs J S Mockridge
Mr J A P Montyn
Mr J J O'Brien
Mr C G Oxlade
Mr N F Peters
Mr A J E Quirk
Mr A S Rice
Mr R Rogers
Mrs H J Ross
Mr D P Sheldon
Mr D J Simmons
Mr A R H Smith
Mrs B A Smith
Mr R J Smytherman
Mr C H Stevens
Mr G M Tyler
Mrs D L Urquhart
Mrs N J Waight
Mr S G Waight
Dr J M M Walsh, CStJ, RD
Mr B R A D Watson, OBE
Mrs E M Whitehead
Mr D R Whittington
Mr F T Wilkinson
Dr C E Wilsdon

Apologies and attendance

41 Apologies were received from Dr Bloom, Mr Duncton, Mr B Hall, Mrs Knight, Mr Oppler, Mrs Richards and Mr Wells. Mr Livermore gave his apologies for the morning session. Mrs Bennett left at 12.15 p.m. and gave her apologies for the remainder of the meeting. Mr Hellawell and Miss Hendon gave their apologies for the afternoon session. Mr Smith left at 3.30 p.m. Mrs Jupp was absent for the afternoon session.

Minutes

Deaths of Mrs Elizabeth Clarke and Mr Peter Moor, OBE, QPM, CPM

- 42 The Chairman reported the deaths of Mrs Elizabeth Clarke, a former member of the County Council, who represented The Witterings from 1973 to 1989, and of Mr Peter Moor, who was Vice-Chairman of the County Council and represented the Rustington division from 1997 to 2009. The Council stood for a minute's silence.

Interests

- 43 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

Minutes

- 44 It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the County Council held on 18 May 2012 (pages 77 to 96) be approved as a correct record.

Cabinet and Written Questions

Written Questions

- 45 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

- 46 Members asked questions on the Cabinet Members' reports (pages 97 to 103), as set out at Appendix 3.

Leader's Question Time

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

Annual Report 2011/12

- 48 The Leader moved the Annual Report 2011/12 (pages 104 and 105). The Chairman informed the Council that this year, for the first time, the End of Year Performance Report had been combined with information on financial results, compliments, comments and complaints and the Annual Governance Statement to form a comprehensive Annual Report for 2011/12.

- 49 Resolved -

That the End of Year Performance Report 2011/12, included within the Annual Report 2011/12, as enclosed with the report, be approved.

Treasury Management Annual Report 2011/12

- 50 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources moved the Treasury Management Annual Report 2011/12 (pages 106 to 121).
- 51 Resolved -
- (1) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2011/12, as set out at the Appendix to the report, be noted; and
 - (2) That the amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, as set out above at paragraph 23 of the report, be approved.

Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel

- 52 The Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel moved the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel (pages 122 to 126).
- 53 Resolved -
- That the report be noted.

Governance Committee: Sussex Police and Crime Panel

- 54 The County Council was asked to consider the terms of reference, Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure for the Sussex Police and Crime Panel, to come into effect from 1 November 2012, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 127 to 138).
- 55 Resolved -
- (1) That the draft Police and Crime Panel terms of reference, Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure, as set out in the draft constitutional documents at the Appendix to the report, be approved to take effect from 1 November 2012; and
 - (2) That the County Council's representatives to the Police and Crime Panel be made annually by the Leader, with any minority group member being nominated by the leader of that minority group where the Panel has requested that the second member be from that minority group. Each representative will have a substitute appointed in the same way.

Governance Committee: Nomination of Authority Governors by County Local Committees

- 56 The Council considered changes to the arrangements for the appointment of authority school governors, to take effect from 1 September 2012, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 139 to 141).

57 Resolved -

That Part 3, Appendix 3 of the Constitution be amended to include the nomination of local authority governors by County Local Committees with effect from 1 September 2012, together with the minor change to Section D paragraph 3, as set out at the Appendix to the report.

Annual Report of the Standards Committee

58 The Council considered the Annual Report of the previous Standards Committee on its activities over the last 12 months (pages 142 to 144).

59 Resolved -

That the report be noted.

Policy and Resources Select Committee: Select Committee Work Programme 2012/13

60 The Council considered the Select Committee work programme for the coming year (pages 145 to 160).

61 Resolved -

That the Select Committee work programme 2012/13, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Notice of Motion by Mrs Millson

62 At the County Council meeting on 18 May 2012 the following motion had been moved by Mrs Millson, seconded by Dr Walsh, and referred to the Planning Committee and the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise for consideration. A report by the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Deputy Leader was included with the agenda (pages 161 and 162).

'This Council acknowledges the significant public concern about the possible impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the county and resolves that:

- (1) the Planning Committee be invited to consider that the County Council takes the precautionary principle in considering applications for planning permission for exploration which may lead to fracking, so that if there is a risk of harm to people or the environment or an absence of clear evidence to discount such risks the application should be refused; and
- (2) the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise be asked to write to the Government to express the Council's continuing concern about the potential impact of fracking

in the county.'

- 63** An amendment was moved by the Deputy Leader and seconded by Mr Lanzer as set out below.

'This Council acknowledges the significant public concern about the possible impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the county and resolves that:

- ~~(1) the Planning Committee be invited to consider that the County Council takes the precautionary principle in considering applications for planning permission for exploration which may lead to fracking, so that if there is a risk of harm to people or the environment or an absence of clear evidence to discount such risks the application should be refused; and~~
- (2) the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise be asked to write to the Government to express the Council's continuing concern about the potential impact of fracking in the county.'

- 64** The amendment was agreed.

- 65** The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

'This Council acknowledges the significant public concern about the possible impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the county and resolves that the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise be asked to write to the Government to express the Council's continuing concern about the potential impact of fracking in the county.'

Notice of Motion by Mrs Millson

- 66** At the County Council meeting on 18 May 2012 the following motion had been moved by Mrs Millson, seconded by Dr Walsh and referred to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families for consideration. A report by the Cabinet Member was included with the agenda (pages 163 to 165).

'This Council supports the coalition Government's troubled families programme which will provide funding to this authority in order to provide support to families that meet the eligibility criteria and resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to:

- (1) Provide support to young people in order to encourage them to remain in education, employment or training and not to become involved in crime or anti-social behaviour; and
- (2) Consider putting measures in place to identify young people between the ages of 14 and 16 at risk of meeting the troubled

families criteria in future in order to minimise the level of intervention required at a later stage.'

67 With the agreement of the Council Mrs Millson withdrew the motion.

Notice of Motion by Mr Burrett

68 The following motion was moved by Mr Burrett and seconded by Mrs Brunsdon:

'This Council notes that:

- (1) It is on course to achieve the required £79m of savings during the three-year period 2011-2014, and that a total of £38m of those savings had already been delivered by the end of the 2011/12 financial year;
- (2) It has been successful in keeping the level of Council Tax increases to the absolute minimum, and has achieved Council Tax freezes during both 2011/12 and 2012/13;
- (3) During the 2011/12 financial year the Council's spending has been contained within budget, with no overspends recorded across a wide range of services, whilst at the same time a total of £15m has been earmarked for a variety of initiatives to boost the economy of West Sussex;
- (4) Throughout this period the Council has maintained a prudent level of reserves consistent with the Chief Financial Officer's statutory report on the adequacy of reserves; and
- (5) It holds £158m in earmarked reserves for financing capital investment, spreading the costs of long-term projects such as Private Finance Initiative schemes, and for the up-front investment necessary to realise longer-term savings, and that it would therefore not be prudent to use these funds for other purposes.

In the light of this, the Council therefore recognises that:

- (1) Only £18m of its reserves are available to be spent on unforeseen contingencies, such as dealing with events of flooding; and
- (2) It would be irresponsible for the Council to use such contingency reserves to selectively increase expenditure on other budget headings on a one-off basis.'

69 The motion was agreed.

Notice of Motion by Mrs Knight

- 70 The following motion by Mrs Knight was moved by Dr Wilsdon and seconded by Mrs Millson:

'This Council is concerned that 40% of young people nationally live in homes containing 10 books or fewer and believes children should be encouraged to develop their reading skills as early as possible and not be constrained by social or family financial limitations.

This Council values the free book gifting scheme known as 'Bookstart' in conjunction with the charity Booktrust which provides free books to children living in West Sussex and resolves to ask the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise to explore ways to enable all children starting and joining school in West Sussex to be automatically enrolled at their local library and provided with a library card.

Furthermore, this Council asks the Deputy Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Education pledging support for the Bookstart scheme and asking him to ensure sufficient funding is made available for Booktrust to continue their highly valued book gifting scheme during 2014/15 and beyond.'

- 71 The motion was referred to the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise for consideration.

Notice of Motion by Mr Deedman

- 72 The following motion was moved by Mr Deedman and seconded by Dr Walsh:

'This Council recognises the detrimental effect that congestion on the A27 has on the economy of West Sussex, particularly at the three main bottlenecks around Arundel, Worthing/Lancing and Chichester. This also causes many drivers to 'rat-run' through rural villages such as Storrington to avoid the congestion on the A27.

At the present time the Department for Transport does not propose bringing forward funding to address these issues before 2015 although a feasibility study considering options for bringing private investment into the national road network is expected to be published in the autumn.

The Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in the meantime to:

- (1) Investigate all possible options for funding improvements to the A27, including making a contribution from the County Council towards the Arundel Bypass; and
- (2) Write to the Minister for Transport, suggesting that the A27 be used

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as a pilot for a new owner and financial model.'

- 73** The motion was referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for consideration.

Report of Urgent Action

- 74** The report of urgent action taken under regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (pages 166 to 167) was noted.

Chairman

The Council rose at 3.57 p.m.

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 4(a) Written Question 16	Mr Acraman	Blue Badge holder
	Mrs Coleman	Blue Badge holder
	Mr Coleman	Wife is a Blue Badge holder
	Mrs Smith	Husband is a Blue Badge holder
Item 4(a) Written Questions	Mr Brown	Son is a Director of Deloitte
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 7 (Youth Support and Development Service)	Mr Evans	Chairman of East Preston Youth Centre and a Trustee of Ferring Youth Club Chairman of East Preston Youth Centre and a Trustee of Ferring Youth Club
	Mr Lanzer	Member of the Oriel Advisory Group
	Mrs Millson	Member of the Management Committee of Horsham Youth Centre
	Mr Oxlade	Member of management committees of Bewbush, Oriel and Ifield Youth Wing and governor of Waterfield and Three Bridges Junior Schools
	Mr Rogers	Vice-Chair of the Maybridge Keystone Club
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 9 (Conversion to academies)	Mr Bradbury	Director of Warden Park Academy
	Mr Evans	Governor of Littlehampton Academy

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Item	Member	Nature of Interest
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 9 (Conversion to academies) (cont)	Mr Quirk	Governor of Broadfield East Junior School
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 11 (Youth Theatre)	Mrs Coleman	Friend of Chichester Festival Theatre
	Dr Dennis	Friend of Chichester Festival Theatre
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 13 (community asset transfers)	Mr Evans	Trustee of Ferring Youth Club
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 14 (Investment strategy of the pension fund)	Mr Burrett	Individual member of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and as a member of the Local Government Employers (LGE) Local Government Pensions Committee, appointed by the Local Government Association
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 19 (Carers Week)	Mr Catchpole	Wife is an employee of Carers' Support, Crawley & Horsham
Item 4(b) CMQT Paragraph 21 (Consultation on the combined Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern rail franchise)	Dr Dennis	Annual rail season ticket holder between Horsham and London
	Dr Wilsdon	Member of Hassocks Amenity Association Rail Group
Item 8 Governance Committee: Sussex Police and Crime Panel	Mr Watson	Chairman of Shadow Police and Crime Panel

20 July 2012

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

Question

In May, the 'Big Switch' campaign organised by Which? Magazine and the campaign group 38 Degrees resulted in 30,000 households getting cheaper energy bills, saving up to £180 per household by collective buying. A similar collective buying campaign for the 332,000 households in West Sussex could therefore result in a county-wide saving of nearly £60m.

Would the Council consider negotiating either directly or via an arms-length organisation with energy suppliers on behalf of interested residents with the aim of achieving such savings?

Answer

The County Council will explore the opportunities to lead communities in energy-buying through an arms-length organisation, as it develops its approach to the procurement and mobilisation for Green Deal over the next 18 months. The County Council has set aside resources as part of the fund to kick-start the local economy to develop a programme to deliver what it is calling 'Green Deal Plus' which should, through the retrofit of energy conservation measures, photovoltaic solar panels and renewable heat, make a significant contribution to the reduction of domestic energy costs as well as reduce the county's carbon footprint.

One of the work streams of the programme will involve the engagement of community groups and voluntary sector partners in helping the County Council to take forward the kind of behaviour change that should create the customer base to enable these measures and initiatives like collective buying to be adopted. The Councils wants to encourage community groups to explore this kind of initiative, much as community volunteers have helped it move forward its work on recycling. Whilst 'switching' between energy providers may be better organised through virtual communities, there may well be a strong case for encouraging geographically-based community groups to develop collective buying for certain fuels on the lines of the Amberley Oil Syndicate or even to develop small-scale energy generation. The work on 'Green Deal Plus' is progressing well and there are plans to update members at a seminar in November.

Supplementary Question

As the scheme will be part of the Green Deal, will the Deputy Leader ensure that the Council's buying power is used so that as much energy as possible comes from green sources?

Supplementary Answer

I am very keen on the Green Deal which is part of the Kick Start programme. A business case is being developed and the Council will soon be looking for partners.

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Green energy and carbon capture are very important to the Council, as is insulating homes.

2. Written Question from **Dr Walsh** for reply by the **Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise**

Question

Recent press reports have suggested that potential funding from the European Rural Development Fund (ERDF) of around £1 billion has not been claimed in the UK, I understand the shadow Foreign Minister has blamed the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies and a loss of expertise. I understand that the County Council uses Southern England Local Partners (SELP), to provide information on available European funding available and they assist with lobbying to support bids submitted. In 2011 I believe five bids for European funding were submitted by the County Council (one of which was a joint bid), three of which were successful, and two were not. So far this year one joint bid has been submitted, the outcome of which is still awaited.

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources please confirm:

- (a) When the County Council first entered into a financial arrangement with SELP and the cost of the service they provide;
- (b) How the number of bids submitted compare to the days when this authority had a dedicated Europe Office to prepare such bids;
- (c) When it was decided that bids for European funding would be prepared by staff within the service areas instead of through the European office;
- (d) To what extent European Union funding opportunities, bid submissions and lost bids are monitored by the Cabinet Member; and
- (e) That he is satisfied this authority has not missed out on potential funding from the Europe Union that could have benefited the economy and/or residents over the past 3 years as a result of not submitting a bid for which we were eligible?

Answer

- (a) The County Council joined SELP at its inception in 2006/07. It was closely involved in the set up and secured a top-level subscription and a seat on the board held by Mr Watson. The current annual subscription in 2012/13 is £13,200.
- (b) The Europe Office was disbanded in April 2011. Since then the County Council has submitted six EU bids (five in 2011/12 and one so far in 2012/13) with three bids being successful, two rejected and one pending. For the previous two financial years the County Council submitted 13 EU Bids, five in 2010/11 and eight in 2009/10. From that 13, seven were successful and six rejected. From late 2009 support for EU funding bids has

also been available via Corporate Finance, who work on supporting services with EU and domestic external funding opportunities, and this support continues.

- (c) Bids have always been made through the service even when the County Council had a Europe office. The reason for this being is that the service holds all the subject knowledge and so would be in a better position to write a successful bid. The Europe office were mainly tasked with policy building relationships with key EU funders, sharing best practice and supporting the services who were writing bids.
- (d) A monthly bidding snapshot is taken and shared with all services. This is augmented with a bidding monitor distributed quarterly. It is normal practice to brief the portfolio holders on bids in their areas and to brief the Deputy Leader on issues of greater or wider significance.
- (e) In times of financial hardship it is important to seek out lines of external funding. This must always be balanced against it rarely being free money and that the County Council's own scarce resources of money and time must continue to be tightly focussed on this Council's priorities and not diverted solely to meet the other priorities from Brussels.

Supplementary Question

I understand that the European Commission prefers larger funding bids benefiting a greater number of people. Will the Deputy Leader therefore dedicate more staff resources to co-ordinate the creation of more joint bids with other authorities?

Supplementary Answer

The Council is always talking to partners as part of the policy of 'Better Together' and funding is an uppermost consideration. Whilst it would not be right to expand the Europe Office, all staff look out for possible European funding options.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mrs Millson, Mr Watson and Dr Wilsdon.

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

Question

The Children's Minister recently announced urgent reforms to protect children in residential care homes from sexual exploitation and an overhaul of the wider system. The announcement followed a progress report on the national action plan to tackle this issue and a report published by the Deputy Children's Commissioner after the sentencing of nine men who groomed and abused youngsters in Rochdale. In the light of the urgent reforms and changes to be consulted on in the autumn, can the Cabinet Member confirm:

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- (a) To what extent such exploitation of vulnerable young people in West Sussex is an issue;
- (b) What safeguards have been put in place currently to protect young people in care from being groomed and sexually exploited;
- (c) How many young people in care are currently being looked after outside of West Sussex; and
- (d) Whether before young people are sent to an area outside of West Sussex to be looked after, the County Council currently carries out an assessment of the geographical area to determine whether it is safe based on what is known about the risks facing the child?

Answer

- (a) Currently the County Council has no evidence that the sexual exploitation of looked after children is a significant issue in West Sussex. However it has for some time recognised that the nature of such exploitation requires vigilant and proactive approach to both identification and prevention. There are a number of generic indicators suggestive of risk to sexual exploitation, particularly vulnerable are children who go missing from home or care. In West Sussex a multi-agency, bi-monthly meeting between Children's Social Care, Police, Health and Learning identifies young people reported as missing. This 'Misper' meeting is also alert to the issue of sexual exploitation. It considers risks and ensures all agencies have a robust response in place for individual children and then follows up progress. The meeting also shares intelligence and considers any emerging patterns or trends. The impact of this has been very positive reducing rates of missing young people in West Sussex over the past two years.
- (b) Protecting vulnerable children young people in care from harm is always a priority for the County Council. Where a young person is assessed as being vulnerable or at risk of sexual exploitation the Council ensures the assessment planning and review processes address these risks. Where children or young people engage in potentially risky behaviour the Council actively works with the young person based on harm reduction models. Effective support means both addressing immediate needs and risks while also encouraging participation in wider activities that raise self-esteem and the young person's ability to control their life. The County Council will shortly be launching a project with Barnado's to increase the profile of the issue of child sexual exploitation and offer a tailored service.

The County Council contributes as a key partner Operation Newbridge, a police-led investigation aimed at reducing child trafficking. The Gatwick Children's Team provides specialist training to partners as part of this investigation.

- (c) There are currently 666 children looked after by West Sussex. Of these, 31 are placed outside of the county boundaries (of which 17 are in specialist disability placements). However, many of those placed outside of the county are placed very close, indeed closer, to their family than if they were

in certain parts of West Sussex. Only two are placed any significant distance from Sussex. Based on the most up-to-date information the Council currently has, the number of children placed by other authorities in West Sussex is 560. However, this figure should be treated with caution as the Council is not always told when they leave.

The County Council is developing more robust processes to ensure that the information it has regarding the placement of children by other authorities in West Sussex is current, and that the reasons for the placements within West Sussex have been clearly assessed and signed off by the appropriate senior manager within the placing authority.

- (d) The County Council always seeks to place children in care locally. Before any child is placed there is a thorough assessment of the ability of the placement to meet the identified needs of the child. This will include arrangements for education, health care, and contact with family members amongst other concerns. While the County Council does not carry out a specific assessment of the geographical area, it will only make a placement outside of West Sussex when it is satisfied that all the young person's needs including their safety can be best met in the proposed placement, rather than one closer to home. The County Council always notifies the host authority that the child has been placed so that they can ensure they receive the services appropriate to their needs.

Supplementary Question

If a looked-after young person from another part of the country commits an offence whilst in the care of the County Council, will the Council face additional costs and can it recharge the other authority?

Supplementary Answer

Any costs incurred would fall on the Council as the responsibility rests with the home where the young person is placed.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mrs Arculus and Mr Rice.

In response to a question from Mrs Arculus about the responsibility of other authorities who placed their children in West Sussex to monitor those children in line with their duties as corporate parents, the Cabinet Member said he would highlight the importance of the County Council knowing both when children came into West Sussex and when they left.

4. Written question from **Dr Wilsdon** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

Question

In October last year the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the County Council Report
19 October 2012

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Cabinet Member for Education and Schools welcomed the annual report from the Director of Public Health which made recommendations to the County Council for action within the Child Poverty Framework. The Framework requires the County Council and its partners to look at areas including how many children in West Sussex are living in poverty, risk factors and drivers for child poverty and its impact. The Cabinet Member said he would be preparing a response for action to be taken to reduce the number of children living in poverty and mitigate the impact poverty has on children in West Sussex. Can the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Share that response with members;
- (b) Provide an update on what work to tackle this important issue has been undertaken in the past 18 months;
- (c) Confirm whether child poverty as defined in that report has increased in West Sussex since the report was published given the current recession; and
- (d) Clarify how members can monitor the action being taken to tackle child poverty across West Sussex in order to meet the national target of no more than 10% of children living in households with relative low income by 2020?

Answer

(a&b) Since the publication of the strategy, considerable work has been undertaken to integrate the framework into planned and existing multi-agency workstreams including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Think Family Partnership which is overseen by the West Sussex Co-operative. By using existing mechanisms rather than establishing yet another programme specifically for Child Poverty, we will avoid duplication and ensure it is everyone's business.

Action taken under the Think Family: Early Intervention and Family Support Initiative will mitigate the impact that poverty has on children in West Sussex. The initiative has resulted in the development of the West Sussex Family Intervention Project (FIP) which is targeted in the areas of highest child poverty (in accordance with the rationale laid out in the 'identifying Communities in Most Need Report (available on request)) and the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) which, whilst delivered countywide, mostly works with young women who live in areas of high child poverty. The Think Family Initiative has also facilitated families' access to 'Progress' a Department for Work and Pensions/European Social Fund project run by Skills Training UK. This programme supports families who are not in work through a coaching model.

The West Sussex FIP will support 144 families over three years. The programme will address a range of issues but these will include helping parents/carers get back into work, helping to address housing and debt problems and helping children to get on better at school. The FNP will support 100 young women and their children over three years. This programme will support young families with a range of issues but will also help parents to get into work or training. It will help young mums to give their

baby the care it needs which can sometimes be difficult when the mother themselves are struggling because of the effects of poverty. 'Progress' will support around 1,000 families over three years. They will help parents develop the skills to get into work.

The Think Family: Early Intervention and Family Support Initiative is at a stage of further expansion with the introduction of the Troubled Families Initiative by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It has been agreed by the Think Family Partnership Executive (previously the Children's Trust Executive) that the rationale outlined in the Communities in Most Need Report will continue to influence decisions regarding the targeting of intervention. Communities and families with the highest levels of child poverty will be targeted for support. At least 1,165 families will be supported. Getting parents/carers into work will be an outcome of this programme of work.

- (c) The data in the report relates to 2009 and was published in September 2011. No further data is available yet. Data for 2010 is due to be published in September 2012 and will be available on the HMRC website http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm.
- (d) The performance of the Think Family: Early Intervention and Family Support is monitored through the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Quarterly reports are provided. Monthly performance data is provided through 'Perform'.

Supplementary Question

As meetings of the West Sussex Co-operative are not held in public, will the Cabinet Member update members regularly on progress in addressing the recommendations in the Child Poverty Programme to ensure that child poverty remains on everyone's mind?

Supplementary Answer

I will provide a six-monthly update for members of the Council.

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

Question

What are the County Council's criteria for supporting or opposing free school proposals from groups which endorse creationism, faith healing, or which prohibit membership or employment of homosexuals?

Answer

A Free School can be set up by any suitable proposer, where there is evidence of a demand from interested parents, a clear business case and by application to the Department for Education (DfE). The DfE consider and grant the applications and

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in the second stage will seek and consider the views of the local authority on the suitability and contextual information in relation to the proposed Free School.

The West Sussex Education and Schools' Policy states in its addendum that, in the desire to promote diversity to enhance school improvement, it will engage constructively with those wishing to set up Free Schools. Hence, the County Council will wish to encourage Free Schools proposals which:

- help to address the need for additional school places;
- enhance parental choice for a community as a whole;
- adhere to the letter and spirit of the admissions code;
- follows the law with respect to The Equality Act 2010 and any relevant educational legislation;
- demonstrate an intention to work with parents, the County Council and other local schools to ensure inclusive provision for all children - including those with statements of SEN and those at risk of exclusion;
- demonstrate the capacity to make provision which would be judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted; and
- provide sufficient time for meaningful consultation with the local community.

Following the Equality Act of 2010 the Act protects against discriminatory treatment and cites nine protected characteristics, two of which are sexual orientation and religion or belief, therefore West Sussex would not be able to support any bid which outlined discrimination against the employment of homosexuals. The essence of the Free School movement promotes bids from organisations that are clear about having a faith or belief ethos which the County Council would encourage to be made explicit in the mission statement for the school. In a recent case of an application that included the teaching of creationism, the DfE said it would support beliefs of this nature to be included in the teaching of RE within the school. There is more detail available on Free Schools under the academies and Free schools section of the West Sussex Grid for Learning website at https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/west_sussex_grid_for_learning/academies/free_schools.aspx which also links to the DfE information.

Supplementary Question

Would the Cabinet Member look again at the proposal for a free school by a Christian Church in Haywards Heath given the views expressed on their website and their failure to answer questions about their beliefs or how they would implement those in a free school?

Supplementary Answer

Yes I will.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Dr Walsh.

6. Written question from Mr Smytherman for reply by the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools

Question

What percentage of children in West Sussex schools are SEN registered - School Action, School Action Plus and SEN statemented children - and what is WSCC doing to safeguard funding and services for this percentage of vulnerable children in spite of the programme to encourage conversion of maintained schools to academies?

Worthing High School (WHS) in my division has an average number of SEN children and children with disabilities, although the percentage of children at the school with a SEN Statement is 'higher than average', according to June 2011 Ofsted report.

If the school converts to an academy as Governors wish, how will the County Council ensure that the correct funding and services are delivered to those children?

Answer

The percentage of children in West Sussex at School Action, School Action Plus or with statements is shown below:

	Number of Pupils	Percentages
School Action	12,277	11.72%
School Action plus	7,987	7.62%
Statemented	2,777	2.65%
None of the above	81,718	78.01%
WSCC School population as of January 2012 Census (including Academies)	104,759	

The funding for children with special educational needs in maintained schools comes through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and this has not been reduced. The DSG is ring-fenced and so wider County Council savings programmes have only a minimal impact on the schools' budgets. Schools that become academies take a pro rata amount of the DSG with them and this is then paid to them through a central grant. Specialist services that are provided for children with statements of SEN are statutory and are provided to eligible children in academies as well as maintained schools. All schools, including Academies, can use their funding to buy further discretionary services. Some schools do this by commissioning services jointly through their locality arrangements, thereby achieving significant economies of scale.

Under the School Funding Reform that takes effect from April 2013 there will be national changes to arrangements for children with statements high level needs. The County Council will continue to prioritise funding for statutory services to support vulnerable children and those with SEN.

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If Worthing High School (WHS) was to become an academy it would receive the correct funding through its central grant which is based on the West Sussex schools' SEN funding formula with a separate top-up for children with statements for high level needs. WHS has a Special Support Centre for children with Additional Learning Needs and, subject to any changes arising from the School Funding Reform, eligible children will continue to attract additional funding through West Sussex.

As with maintained schools it is up to the leadership of academies to decide how this funding is deployed and managed within the school to meet the needs specified in each child's statement. However, the County Council has a duty to monitor the progress of children with statements of SEN, and if any child is failing to make the progress required, this will be picked up with the relevant school, whether maintained or academy, to ensure that action is taken to improve the provision.

Supplementary Question

In view of a recent strike at Worthing High School about issues relating to academy status, will the Cabinet Member ensure that equality duties are monitored as part of the audit to be undertaken on the effect of the school becoming an academy?

Supplementary Answer

I suggest Mr Smytherman writes to me setting out his specific concerns around equalities duties and I will provide a response.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Mrs Waight.

7. Written question from **Mr Oxlade** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

Question

In December 2011 the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member decided to allocate a fund of £15m in order to invest in infrastructure to support growth. As part of the fund, it was decided that the County Council would generate £1.5m to the redevelopment of Chichester Festival Theatre. The funding was conditional upon the Arts Council grant being achieved and an enhanced youth offer. It was stated that the funding was key to the tourism offer of West Sussex and would directly and indirectly support up to 400 local full-time equivalent jobs with construction work generating additional jobs. According to the Chichester Festival Theatres' website they still need to raise £4m for the project.

Can the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Confirm when he anticipates the funding being handed over;

- (b) Given that the building work for the project is expected to take around 18 months, confirm when he anticipates the economy of West Sussex benefiting from this investment; and
- (c) Specify in relation to the 400 local full-time equivalent jobs this project is intending to directly and indirectly support (i) how many will be newly created positions, and (ii) in which sectors those jobs are likely to be created?

Answer

- (a) The County Council's contribution is conditional on the decision of Arts Council England to support the scheme. If the scheme does not go ahead, for whatever reason, the grant is not due. Based on the current plans and cash flow forecasts for the scheme, the County Council will pay the £1.5m in March 2013. The grant will also require Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) to take on the county-wide Youth Theatre and will also mean the end of the revenue grant when the current scheme comes to its end.
- (b) As the work will start in this calendar year and continue in earnest in during 2013, the impact on the local economy will begin to be felt then.
- (c) It is not possible to say exactly how many of the jobs will be newly created or sustained by the impact of this investment. What matters is that there will be positions filled with people economically active because of this investment. The jobs will be supported most immediately in construction and technical trades, but felt widely across the county as it holds and builds on West Sussex as a destination to rest and play. The on-going success of CFT will continue to employ people in a range of sectors including manufacturing and utilities, transportation, banking and finance, property letting and sales, business services, education and health, and especially distribution, hotels and catering, and culture, recreation and sport.

Supplementary Question

With reference to paragraph (c) of the answer, and in view of the fact that the Cabinet Member cannot say how many jobs will be created, is he less certain about the impact on the economy of Chichester and West Sussex than he was when he reported to the Policy and Resources Select Committee in December 2011 with an estimate of around 400 local jobs?

Supplementary Answer

The estimate of 400 jobs came from the Chichester Festival Theatre which is managing the project but it is difficult to be precise about the number of jobs that will be generated. I am however confident that either new jobs will be created or existing jobs protected.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mrs Millson and Dr Walsh.

8. Written question from **Mr Oxlade** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

Question

Could the Cabinet Member please confirm how many staff (headcount as opposed to FTE) have lost their jobs with West Sussex County Council since February 2010 (and of those, how many were employed to support young people)?

Answer

During the period February 2010 to June 2012 inclusive there have been 314 redundancies within the County Council. Of these, 98 have been within service areas directly supporting young people i.e. within Children's Services. The vast majority of these were voluntary redundancies. During the same time period 22 staff that were 'at risk' of compulsory redundancy within Children's Services were redeployed.

Supplementary Question

Has the Cabinet Member contingencies in place to address any increase in demand for either social care services or an increase in youth offending as a consequence of the loss of services to young people?

Supplementary Answer

There are adequate reserves should spending be required in the areas mentioned.

9. Written question from **Mr Rogers** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

Question

I understand that consultants were employed to benchmark this authority in terms of income generation and to consider ways in which further income could be generated. Could the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Confirm the full cost of this consultancy service and when the work was commissioned;
- (b) Confirm how much additional income the proposals are expected to generate;
- (c) Specify what aspects of the County Council's business were highlighted as being able to generate further income;
- (d) Confirm when he anticipates the County Council benefitting from additional income generation; and
- (e) Confirm that he is satisfied the expenditure on this consultancy work (a) represents good value for money and (b) could not have been carried out

by officers within the County Council?

Answer

- (a) The benchmarking commission cost £17,425 and was commissioned in October 2011.
- (b) The work will show where there is scope to increase charges closer to a national average. It is too early in the process to propose specific amounts for named services. Further work will need to be undertaken including validation of the outcomes and assumptions included in the benchmarking work. Across the County Council it is hoped to raise total income by £500,000.
- (c) The benchmarking work indicated that areas the County Council should consider further work on were Adults' Services and Communities and Infrastructure, and work should include evaluation of the consistency of policy application and procedures i.e. to ensure the yield is maximised.
- (d) Opportunities for increasing charges, providing more differentiated charges and /or consistency improvements will be built in the business planning cycle this year with a view to bring forward recommendations. Fees and charges are usually increased from 1 April. However, there is no reason why some fees and charges cannot be increased in year.
- (e) The County Council generates £58m of pounds each year in fees and charges. It makes sound business sense to have the fees and charges that make this up scrutinised by an external firm with an established practice able to share best practice.

Supplementary Question

Who will be doing the work to validate the outcomes and assumptions of the benchmarking? Will consultants be employed to do it and, if so, at what cost?

Supplementary Answer

There will be no need to employ more consultants and much of the work has already been done.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mr Burrett, Mrs Millson and Dr Walsh.

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

Question

The former Robert May County Primary School in Furnace Green which is the

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subject of planning permission for 76 new homes was recently burnt to the ground. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what security arrangements were in place and to what extent other unoccupied sites owned by the County Council have reasonable security arrangements in place?

Answer

The fire at the Furnace Drive site, most recently used as the North East Area Professional Centre, destroyed about 10 per cent of the former school building. The County Council employs Allied Facilities Ltd to monitor this site. Uniformed guards visit the site daily with at least one extra visit at the weekend to check for signs of unauthorised entry, damage and vandalism and to provide a visible presence to anyone watching or monitoring the site. The security contractor provides the County Council with a rapid notification if a problem is noticed and keeps logs of all of their visits to the site. During the three months April, May and June the site was visited 163 times.

More generally, all surplus properties are assessed on an individual basis when they become vacant to determine the level of security required. The County Council is confident from its experience over recent years that this approach balances the likely risk of damage and break in with the reasonable cost of the security measures put in place.

Supplementary Question

How much has the security at the site cost and what is the annual spend on security at all surplus property?

Supplementary Answer

The cost of security at the North East Area Professional Centre is £5,817 and, in the previous year, the annual spend on all surplus property was £227,000.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Mr Crow

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

Question

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me how many West Sussex residents with dementia who have been referred to social services are waiting (a) to be assessed and (b) to have a social worker allocated to them and the waiting times in all cases?

I would be grateful if the information could be provided in respect of each district.

Answer

District	Those with dementia awaiting assessment / allocation	Waiting Time
Adur	1	0
Arun	10	Early June to date
Chichester	10	Early June to date
Crawley	4	12 June to date
Horsham	7	19 May to 30 June
Mid Sussex	19	9 May to 30 June
Worthing	9	0

The assessment and allocation target is four weeks from point of referral. The target for assessments to be completed within four weeks is 62% and the actual for June was 61.8%. There can be delays in the process because of NHS diagnostics or the customer/family taking time to return their self-assessment. All cases are prioritised on need with urgent cases being dealt with at the time of referral and typically the wait is no longer than two to three weeks. However, the Dementia Crisis Service which includes social workers deals with any emergency cases and these are assessed within 48 hours.

Supplementary Question

In view of the disparity across the county, to what extent are waiting times monitored and can the Cabinet Member ensure that regular information is provided to members?

Supplementary Answer

May I remind the Council that there is a process for emergency cases. I will provide information to members in my quarterly bulletin.

12. Written question from **Dr Walsh** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services**

Question

What is the average length of each visit from care services to adult clients per day? What is the actual minimum time? What is the actual maximum time?

Answer

Customers in the community have 'personal budgets' from which they can agree with the care provider how long visits should be, and when. Most homecare calls are either 30 minutes or 45 minutes. The actual minimum time is 15 minutes. These short calls, known as 'pop ins' are used for specific purposes for the administration of medication, or perhaps heating a frozen meal.

All care providers have protocols to ensure that urgent and immediate needs that a careworker may unexpectedly find are properly addressed and reported. This

may mean a careworker waiting with a customer for an ambulance or a family member to arrive, which could necessitate other calls being re-rostered. The longest length of care provision is of course 24 hours a day seven days a week, as some customers do have live-in carers.

Supplementary Question

Will the Cabinet Member commission research into the 15-minute 'pop-in' visits and the extent to which they fulfil the care needs of customers in the community and whether time constraints have a detrimental effect on service users?

Supplementary Answer

I will report to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee on the issues raised but I emphasise again that service users will not be left in a poor condition because of time constraints.

13. Written question from **Dr Walsh** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services**

Question

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that all the 13 recommendations of the independent Verita inquiry into the stabbing of a young woman in a Littlehampton supermarket by a schizophrenic client of Sussex Partnership NHS Trust have been accepted by the Trust and fully put into practice, rather than just noted?

Answer

I have been advised by the Medical Director at Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust that all the 13 actions recommended within the Verita report have been accepted and implemented. There is an action plan in place that is updated regularly to monitor the implementation of the recommendations by the Trust. A copy of the most recent action plan is available on request in order to see the full details.

Supplementary Question

Does the Cabinet Member consider that funding and support for community-based mental health support is adequate?

Supplementary Answer

Such situations are given priority by the County Council and its partners in the Sussex Partnership Trust but I will respond in more detail to Dr Walsh.

14. Written question from Mr Deedman for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question

Now that the final bus subsidy reduction decisions have been made, can the Cabinet Member please list the bus routes where general bus subsidies will remain in the County Council budget in a full year and the total amount involved? This should exclude those bus routes where a subsidy is provided for the provision of bus services relating to those children eligible under the statutory requirement for transport to school.

Answer

In response to Mr Deedman's request above, I list below the bus routes where general subsidies will remain in the County Council budget for a full year and the total amount involved. Gross spend listed: £2,815,217 (does not include income).

Operator

Route Details

Compass Travel	8 Worthing - South Ferring
Compass Travel	8A South Ferring - Worthing
Compass Travel	12 Littlehampton local service
Compass Travel	16 Lancing - Tarring
Compass Travel	19 Shoreham Beach - Holmbush
Emsworth & District	27 Hants Cross Boundary
Countryliner	30 Haywards Heath Town Service
Countryliner	31 Uckfield - Haywards Heath
Countryliner	33 Hurstpierpoint - Haywards Heath
Countryliner	331/33 Albourne - Downlands
Countryliner	33 Hurstpierpoint - Haywards Heath
Countryliner	34/35 Burgess Hill town service
Countryliner	39 Northlands Wood - Bolnore/Cuckfield
Countryliner	40 Haywards Heath - Bolnore/Cuckfield
Compass Travel	42 Loxwood diversion
Stagecoach South	47/47A Chichester - East Broyle
Stagecoach South	50 Chichester - Graylingwell
Compass Travel	52/64 Plaistow/Rusper – Horsham
Countryliner	54 Chichester - Petersfield
Stagecoach South	56 Old Bosham - Arundel Park
Stagecoach South	60 Chichester - Summersdale
Stagecoach South	60 Midhurst - Bognor Regis
Metrobus	61 Horsham - North Heath
Arriva	63 Cranleigh - Horsham
Metrobus	65 Horsham - Oakhill
Stagecoach South	66/66A Bognor - Yapton
Compass Travel	69 Alfold - Worthing
Stagecoach South	70 Midhurst - Haslemere
Compass Travel	71 Storrington - Chichester
Compass Travel	72/3 Pulborough - Storrington
Compass Travel	74/5/6 Horsham - Petworth/Ashington
Metrobus	82 Crawley Down - Haywards Heath
Metrobus	84 East Grinstead - Crawley

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Operator

Compass Travel
Compass Travel
Countryliner
Compass Travel
Compass Travel
Compass Travel
Compass Travel
Compass Travel
Metrobus
Metrobus
Metrobus
Metrobus
Metrobus
Metrobus
Stagecoach South
Stagecoach South

Route Details

84 Worthing - Arundel - Chichester
89 Horsham - Haywards Heath
91/2/3 Midhurst - Petersfield
93/6/7 Midhurst area shopping buses
99 Petworth - Chichester
100 Burgess Hill - Storrington
109 Shoreham - Horsham
150 West Itchenor - Selsey
200 Bewbush - Horley
270 Haywards Heath - East Grinstead
271 Crawley - Haywards Heath
272 Balcombe - Crawley
273 Brighton - Crawley
291 East Grinstead - Crawley
400 East Grinstead - Caterham
658 Chichester - Westergate
U700 Bognor - Chichester

Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member say how much of the gross spend on the list will be met by the County Council's subsidy?

Supplementary Answer

I will respond to Mr Deedman with details.

15. Written question from **Mrs Richards** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

Question

University College London recently published a study entitled 'Most older pedestrians are unable to cross the road in time: a cross-sectional study'. The study found that the mean walking speed of older men was 0.9 meters per second and 0.8 for older women. This is significantly slower than the 1.2 meters per second required to use a pedestrian crossing in the UK. The study found that as age increased in the participants of the study, the speed at which they could cross the road also decreased. Can the Cabinet Member please:

- (a) Confirm the current time pedestrians have to cross the road at the pedestrian crossings in place across West Sussex;
- (b) Confirm whether the average gap weighting for over 65s which is used to justify the installation of a proposed pedestrian crossing should be removed;
- (c) Confirm whether he considers this authority should take any action in light of this information given the ageing population of this county?

Answer

The current standard for the timings on all new and refurbished County Council puffin crossings allow sufficient time for pedestrians to cross the road, even if the walking speed is 0.8m per second. All such crossings need to be installed and set up to operate in accordance with national (Department for Transport) guidelines, and members will be pleased to hear that the County Council's crossings comply with current guidelines, and where options exist it chooses to give the most generous timing available to pedestrians.

The reporting of this research showed a lack of understanding of the operation of these crossings. When a 'green man' shows, this is an invitation to cross - although the reporting implied that this was the only time available for pedestrians to cross. However the 'green man' phase is intended to be an invitation to start crossing the road, the signal timings then give time for pedestrians to complete their journey before the green light shows to motorists. All this is explained in the Highway Code.

In answer to the specific questions:

- (a) The time given to pedestrians to cross the road depends on the width of the road. As an example, most roads are about 8m wide, for which the County Council would allow nearly 15 seconds (from the start of the green man to the start of showing amber to cars), allowing it to be crossed at 0.5m per second which is even lower than the recent research identified.
- (b) There are no plans to remove the weighting factor from the scoring used to advise members of relative priority between sites where a crossing has been requested. Currently each over 65 year old counts as four (rather than one). I consider this gives recognition to the fact that some of our elderly population benefit from improved facilities to help them cross the road.
- (c) I do not propose to take any further action in the light of this information as the County Council already follows national best practice and has already given the most generous allocation of time for pedestrians when options allow.

16. Written question from Mrs Smith for reply by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question

I understand that Simon Kirby, MP for Brighton Kemptown, is sponsoring a Private Member's Bill which will enable local authorities to recover blue badges that have been cancelled, expired, or are being misused by a third party or are fake as there would appear to be a loophole in the legislation. Does the Cabinet Member welcome the aims of the Bill and if so, agree to ask local MPs to support it as it goes through Parliament?

Answer

Simon Kirby, MP for Brighton Kemptown, is sponsoring a Private Member's Bill which was debated at second reading on 6 July. The Bill will, amongst other measures, provides local authorities with a power to cancel badges that have become lost or stolen and, most significantly, in terms of your question, will enable local authorities to recover badges that have been cancelled, have expired, or are being misused by a third party or are fake. It is also intended to remove ambiguity from the existing Blue Badge misuse offences so that it is clear that it is an offence to use a badge that should have been returned to the issuing authority.

The House of Commons voted for the Bill to be sent to a Public Bill Committee that will scrutinise the Bill and the membership of that committee will be found on the Commons Public Bill Committee pages when it has been announced.

If the Bill is successful then it will close a number of loopholes in current legislation and fit perfectly with the overall aims of the Department for Transport's on-going Blue Badge Improvement Service project. It will also enable the County Council to 'legally' pursue the return of expired badges.

The aims of the Bill are broadly welcomed and I would be very happy to ask local MPs to support it as this Bill passes through Parliament.

Supplementary Question

Would the Cabinet Member let me know in due course if the local MPs support the Bill?

Supplementary Answer

Yes, I will let you know when there is a response and will send you copies.

Additional Questions

Additional questions were asked by Mrs Coleman and Mrs Millson.

In response to a comment by Mrs Millson about the readability of the instructions for picking up blue badges from libraries, the Cabinet Member said he would ensure that it was looked at.

17. Written question from **Mr Smytherman** for reply by the **Cabinet Member for Public Protection**

Question

Could the Cabinet Member tell me if any premises operated by WSCC Fire and Rescue Services have been refurbished since April 2011?

If any have been refurbished or upgraded, could you confirm the location, the reason for refurbishment and the breakdown of cost for each location.

Answer

Improvements to the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service building infrastructure are part of an on-going programme delivered via a combination of the County Council's Capital Programme, its Property Services Capital Maintenance Programme and also through Property Services and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service revenue funded improvements.

Details of amounts spent on improvements and upgrades are summarised below.

Capital, maintenance and revenue funding summary

Financial Year	2011/12 £	2012/13 £
Capital Maintenance	138,029	328,755
Capital Major Projects	456,435	531,798
Property Services and WSF&RS Revenue Funded projects (over £10K) since April 2011	156,525	
Total	750,990	860,553
Overall Total		1,611,542

Given the scale of the question, the Cabinet Member will be pleased to update Mr Smytherman after the meeting on the specific schemes in which he has an interest.

Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member reassure me that any upgrades to existing fire station premises will not be carried out on buildings which could soon be surplus to requirements?

Supplementary Answer

The County Council needs to continue to invest in its services but I will be happy to provide Mr Smytherman with information about particular locations on request.

Additional Question

An additional question was asked by Mr Rogers.

Agenda Item No. 4(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 paragraph 1, Building a Strong West Sussex Economy, from Dr Walsh.

Leader/Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Leader and Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraphs 2 and 22, West Sussex emergency services' and communities' response to the extreme weather/floods of 10 to 12 June, from Mr Blampied, Mr T M E Dunn, Mr Hellowell, Mr McDougall, Mrs Millson, Mr Rogers, Mrs Smith, Dr Walsh and Mr Wilkinson.

In response to a request from Mr Blampied for information about what the County Council was doing to help avoid future problems with drainage, the Leader said she would ensure that he and other members whose divisions had been affected were kept informed.

In response to a request from Mr McDougall the Leader said the County Council would support Bersted Parish Council in urging Southern Water to up-grade the sub-pump station at Bersted given the new development in the area and the recent flooding problems.

In response to a request from Mrs Millson that the County Council should lobby the Government for the power to charge people for the damage done to the highway when they did not clear their drains, the Cabinet Member said he would see how best to tackle the issue.

In response to a request from Mrs Smith for surface water drains in pavements to be cleared regularly (and the detritus taken away) to prevent flooding, the Cabinet Member said it would be looked at as part of the response to the recent flooding.

In response to a question from Dr Walsh about the reason for the current road resurfacing in Orchard Street in Chichester, the Cabinet Member said he would provide Dr Walsh with a written response.

Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise

The Deputy Leader answered questions on the paragraph 6, Volunteer Policy Framework, from Mrs Jupp, Mrs Millson and Mrs Whitehead.

In response to a question from Mrs Millson about highways volunteers under the Active Local Communities initiative and whether there would be pilots of the use of such volunteers to ensure highways staff were not overloaded with reports of problems, the Deputy Leader said he would let Mrs Millson have details of how the initiative would work.

Cabinet Member for Children and Families

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the paragraph 8, Troubled Families Initiative, from Mrs Millson and Mr Simmons.

In response to a request from Mrs Millson the Cabinet Member agreed to ensure that members saw the financial model for future funding of the initiative once it was available.

Cabinet Member for Education and Schools

The Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraph 9, conversions on academies, from Mr Bradbury, Mrs Mockridge, Mr Quirk, Mr Rice and Mr Smytherman.

Mr Rice commented that the Government had announced that for the next two years it would refund any local authority where the amount deducted from formula grant was greater than it would have been had the deduction been based on the number of pupils at academies. In response to his question as to whether the County Council would benefit and if so by how much, the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools confirmed that the County Council would benefit and agreed to let members have details in due course.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

The Cabinet Member answered questions on the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 13, community asset transfers, from Mr O'Brien, Mr Oxlade and Mr Peters.

Paragraph 27, support services, from Mr Bradbury and Mr Doyle.

Cabinet Member for Health and Adults' Services

The Cabinet Member answered questions on paragraph 18, Prevention Assessment Team, Mrs Arculus and Mrs Jupp.

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Agenda Item No. 4(c) - Leader's Question Time

The Leader answered questions from members on the following topics:

Security at Gatwick Airport re the Olympics from Mrs Coleman.

Speed limits in rural areas from Mr M N Hall.

Extension of Thameslink service to Littlehampton and Bognor, from Dr Walsh.

The Leader agreed to circulate to members the response to the Thameslink consultation once it was available.

Potential impact of free schools on existing neighbourhood schools, from Mrs Smith.

East Grinstead Hockey Club hosting the Euro Hockey League Championships, from Mr O'Brien.

New hospital for the north of the county, from Mrs Millson.

The Leader agreed to keep members and the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee informed of any outcome from negotiations around the establishment of a new hospital in the north of the county.