

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 2.00PM
AT COUNTY HALL**

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

Members:

*Dr Andrew Povey (Chairman)
*Mr David Hodge
*Mrs Mary Angell
*Mr Michael Gosling
*Dr Lynne Hack

*Mr Tim Hall
*Mrs Kay Hammond
*Mr Ian Lake
*Mr Peter Martin
*Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos

* = Present

**PART ONE
IN PUBLIC**

17/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

18/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 5 JANUARY 2010 (Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

19/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Dr Povey declared a prejudicial interest concerning the Budget 2010/2011 – 2013/14 (item 7) because he was a director of a company that supplied social care to adults in Surrey and had contracts with Surrey County Council. He withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion and decision thereon.

20/10 PROCEDURAL MATTERS (Item 4)

(a) Public Questions

The Cabinet received and responded to a question from Gerald Gilbert (attached at Appendix 1).

The question and agreed response is set out at Appendix 1.

(b) Member questions

The Cabinet received and responded to two Member questions: (i) from Hazel Watson; and (ii) from Stephen Cooksey.

Both questions and responses are set out at Appendix 2.

21/10 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND ANY OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL (Item 5)

None

22/10 2008/09 EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (Item 6)

Mr Iain Murray and Ms Lynn Clayton, from the Audit Commission attended for this item.

Mr Nick Harrison, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and confirmed that the committee would be closely monitoring all the auditors' recommendations.

The Deputy Leader endorsed the report and the views of the Audit Commission in relation to the 2008/09 financial year. He recognised the progress made since the compilation of the External Audit Annual Audit Letter and welcomed the continued monitoring by the Audit and Governance Committee, with reports back to Cabinet. He hoped that the changes in governance arrangements and the new Cabinet and Council Leadership Team would continue to deliver sustainable improvements over the next three / four years.

He also made reference to the auditors' comments on both the Fire Fighters' Pension Fund accounts and the Local Government Pension Fund accounts. He also said that their comments, relating to Treasury Management reflected the good management within the Finance Service and thanked officers for their work.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety drew Members' attention to paragraph 51 of the Annual Audit Letter – on Partnerships. She recognised the issues raised and confirmed that work on the project initiation documents was being taken forward.

The Chairman requested that future Audit Letters come to Cabinet more promptly in order that any necessary actions could be quickly addressed. The Head of Finance confirmed that drafts of this report had been received several months ago and officers were already acting on the recommendations.

Ms Clayton, from the Audit Commission, explained the process to Cabinet and responded to questions raised on timescales and reporting standards.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the Annual Audit Letter be acknowledged.
- (2) That progress on the recommendations be monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee, with a report back to Cabinet by September 2010.

Reasons for decisions:

To ensure that the Cabinet is satisfied that all material issues have been raised and represented correctly in the Audit Commission's Annual Audit

Letter for 2008/09 financial year and that progress on governance recommendations will be monitored.

23/10 BUDGET 2010 / 2011 – 2013 / 2014 (Item 7)

Dr Povey declared a prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion. The Deputy Leader took the Chair for this part of the meeting.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report drawing the Cabinet's attention to two further amendments to the report on page 10, paragraph 51, which had been tabled on a separate sheet. These were:

- Total reductions and efficiencies in 2010/11 should read £31.9m (not £28.9m)
- Total over the four year period should read £79m (not £76m)

These reflected adjustments within the Adult Social Care Budget.

Comments from the Adults and Community Care Select Committee, Children and Families Select Committee, Corporate Management Select Committee, Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee and the Schools and Learning Select Committee were tabled at the meeting (attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes).

The Deputy Leader said that the objective today was to set a 'headline' budget, which would be recommended to the County Council on 9 February 2010. Following agreement of the budget, detailed budgets would be prepared and submitted to Cabinet for approval on 30 March 2010. Select Committees would have an opportunity to scrutinise these budgets.

He also mentioned the pressures on the budget, in particular the pressure on school places, and the funding received from Central Government. He acknowledged the risks attached to this Budget and recognised the need for it to be monitored throughout the year, to ensure that the promised savings were being delivered. However, it was important to deliver the right services for Surrey residents. He also said that this was the lowest council tax rise in Surrey since the inception of the council tax.

Finally, he thanked the Chief Executive, the Council Leadership Team and the Head of Finance and his staff for compiling and producing all the information required and commended the recommendations set out in the report to the Cabinet.

He invited Cabinet Members to mention anything specifically relating to their portfolios.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care considered that, in the past, insufficient attention had been paid to monitoring the implementation plans to control spending in the service and said that this was beginning to happen now. He made reference to the Adults and Community Care Select Committee's comments and said that since the committee's meeting on 21 January 2010, further progress had been made. He considered that the plans were robust and that the savings could be achieved, which he hoped would satisfy the committee's concerns.

The Chairman of the Adults and Community Care Select Committee was

invited to address the Cabinet. He expressed concern about the figures and the short time in which to make the required savings. The Deputy Leader reminded him that there would be an opportunity for the select committee to scrutinise the detailed budgets prior to them being agreed by Cabinet on 30 March 2010.

The Cabinet Member for Transport acknowledged the Budget pressures but said that he was pleased that an extra £5m was in the capital budget for Highways. He also mentioned that the Highways contract was being re-tendered and this had been taken into account in the budget savings. Both capital and road maintenance were priorities but the recent adverse weather had further increased pressure on these budgets.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services said that the Change and Efficiency Directorate was working through a number of initiatives to make the required savings, in particular, he mentioned savings in the recruitment process and also the MyWork project. He also said that bringing the building maintenance contract back 'in-house' would provide a more effective service.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning said that he was pleased with the work undertaken by the Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families to address the challenges. He cited the pressure on school places and the underlying demand in Children's Services.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families made reference to the report of the Children and Families Select Committee and the reluctant agreement of this committee to the proposed savings saying that it would be difficult to make the savings in one financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety made reference to the comments made by the Schools and Learning Select Committee and the Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee relating to the Youth Service and the Youth Justice Service. She also mentioned the proposed savings within the Fire Service and the Public Value Review currently being undertaken on the service, whose findings would be reported to Cabinet later in the year.

Finally, the Head of Finance drew the Cabinet's attention to Annex 4 of the budget report, his Section 25 report. He confirmed that the proposed budget was robust and sustainable, providing the savings, as detailed in the report, were made.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNTY COUNCIL:

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2010/11 is £680.4m.
- (2) That the Council Tax precept be set at £551.5m.
- (3) That Council Tax Band D be set at £1,116.36, which is a 2.5% increase.
- (4) That detailed revenue budget proposals, as set out in Annex 2 of the submitted report, be agreed.
- (5) That additional one off revenue funding (£2.4m plus £1.5m) be applied to 2010/11.
- (6) That sustainable revenue funding be applied to the capital programme

- (7) That a risk contingency of £8m be created to mitigate against non-delivery of reductions & efficiencies (rather than add to balances).
- (8) That capital budget proposals, as set in Annex 3 of the submitted report, be agreed.
- (9) That it seeks to secure capital receipts of £73m, over the 4 year period.
- (10) That essential schemes be funded over the 4 year period (schools and non-schools) to the value of £486m, including ring-fenced grants.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Head of Finance produce all necessary formal recommendations to support the proposals for County Council, including prudential indicators and Treasury management
- (2) That the Corporate Leadership Team establishes robust procedures in order that Cabinet can monitor achievement of efficiencies and service reductions through the quarterly member accountability meetings
- (3) That all invest to save proposals and capital schemes have an approved business case before expenditure can be committed.

Reasons for decisions:

The County Council will meet to agree the budget and Council Tax on 9 February 2010.

24/10 CORPORATE STRATEGY 2010 - 2014 (Item 8)

The Chief Executive was invited to introduce the report and said that the Corporate Strategy had followed a parallel process, similar to that undertaken on the budget. He said that a key change this year was to take a longer term view and plan for the full life of each Council. He confirmed that the budget decisions, taken in the previous item, did reflect the policy priorities in the Corporate Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games asked, and was given confirmation that the Corporate Strategy would be published on the Surrey County Council website.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNTY COUNCIL:

- (1) That the Corporate Strategy be approved (subject to the inclusion of detailed budget figures and design changes) as a suitable means of communicating the Council's corporate priorities and strategies to Members, staff and partners.
- (2) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make any necessary final amendments to the Corporate Strategy following the approval of the Budget by the Council.

RESOLVED:

That Directorate Strategies and Plans be approved by Cabinet and that the authority to approve service plans be delegated to the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Strategic Directors, in consultation with the

relevant Cabinet Member.

Reasons for decisions:

- (1) The Corporate Strategy is a key part of the communications process both within the Council and beyond to the public and our partners.
- (2) Surrey County Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2008 highlighted the need to demonstrate the 'golden thread' in all business plans; the need for long-term strategic objectives; and the need to show that the priorities of the organisation are communicated widely.
- (3) The effectiveness of our partnership working in Surrey and the associated planning arrangements are assessed within the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework. The Corporate Strategy is a key component in the evidence of how the Council sets and communicates priorities with partners.
- (4) The medium term outlook for public sector finances, the impact of the financial downturn and the rising expectations of our residents combine to put pressure on us to do our utmost to provide value for money. A sound Corporate Strategy is vital to achieve this.

25/10 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008 - 2011 – REFRESH (Item 9)

The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that NI 112 would remain a designated target in the Local Area Agreement following a concern from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the County Council adopt the 2010 refresh of the Local Area Agreement 2008-11. Specifically this means:

- a. To withdraw the target for reducing underage conceptions (NI 112) from the reward framework but for it to remain a designated target in the Local Area Agreement.
- b. To set the following Health and Wellbeing targets for 2010-11:
 - 48% of adults with learning disabilities living in settled accommodation (NI 145).
 - 80% of older people benefiting from intermediate care/rehabilitation still living at home three months after discharge from hospital. (NI 125).

Reasons for decisions:

- (1) To support delivery of the Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan - Standing Up for Surrey (Surrey's Sustainable Community Strategy).
- (2) To comply with Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

26/10 CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS (Item 10)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report. The following changes to the report were tabled at the meeting:

Paragraph 7: the last sentence should read:

'So there are new delegations to the Assistant Chief Executive, the Assistant Directors of Adult Social Care, the new Head of Corporate Policy, Head of Performance and Audit and the Assistant Director for Services for Young People'.

Paragraph 10: Three additional bullet points as follows:

- That Highways and Transportation delegation T12 be extended to include power for the Parking Strategy and Implementation Manager to make temporary road closures.
- That Highways and Transportation delegation T24 be extended to clarify the powers of officers receiving the delegation to make Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders and issue penalty charge notices associated with that Order.
- That a new Highways and Transportation delegation be included at T25 to reflect the power already delegated by Council to Local Committees, in consultation with officers, to decide whether to confirm a Traffic Regulation Order where significant objections have been received.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that it was important that the County Council had a scheme and explained that it set out the authorisation for officers to do their work. She added that there were very few substantive changes, apart from those set out in paragraph 10 of the report (and which included the three bullet points above). She confirmed that the scheme was part of the Constitution and would be reported to the County Council on 9 February 2010.

The Chairman asked if there was a definition of 'out of hours' and was informed by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that there was no legal definition but that she would consider his point and report back to him.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (1) That the changes to delegations of executive functions listed in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this report be agreed and the County Council be **RECOMMENDED** to approve the changes to non-executive functions.
- (2) That the further proposed changes to the delegation of executive functions set out in the revised Scheme of Delegation to Officers attached to this report at Appendices A, B, C and D be agreed, and the County Council be **RECOMMENDED** to approve changes to any non-executive functions.
- (3) To note that the revised Scheme of Delegation, if approved, will be

included in the Council's Constitution.

Reasons for decisions:

To ensure that the Scheme of Delegation accurately reflects the powers conferred on officers and enables officers lawfully to take the actions required.

27/10 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STATEMENT OF READINESS TO DELIVER (Item 11)

An additional recommendation was tabled at the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning invited the Cabinet to approve the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – Readiness to Deliver document, which would be submitted to Partnership for Schools, to confirm that Surrey County Council wished to be included in the programme. He said that the earliest possible start date was Autumn 2012. However, there was a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the programme and considerable doubt as to it continuing in its present form.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety challenged the Equalities Implications statement in paragraph 34 of the report, which stated that there were no equalities implications in this report. She considered that it was essential that officers properly considered equalities implications when preparing reports. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning drew Members' attention to the Annex, where equalities implications were fully addressed. However, he agreed that they should also have been set out in the main body of the report.

The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that she would be addressing this point and writing to all senior officers shortly, requesting confirmation that all implications were fully considered by report authors.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the submission of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF): Readiness to Deliver statement to Partnerships for Schools be approved and, in so doing, formal entry into the national BSF programme be requested.
- (2) That approval of any further necessary minor amendments to the Readiness to Deliver statement, prior to its submission to Partnership for Schools be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning in consultation with the Strategic Director Children, Schools and Families.
- (3) To recognise that BSF in its current form may not proceed and to request officers to consider alternative proposals.

Reasons for decisions:

The successful submission of a Readiness to Deliver statement is an essential requirement for Surrey to gain entry to the national Building Schools for the Future programme.

[Note: The item on Waste Class Waste Solutions was taken after item

14 so that the Cabinet could easily move into private session to consider the confidential financial and legal implications set out in item 16.]

28/10 SPEED LIMIT POLICIES (Item 13)

The Cabinet Member for Transport informed the Cabinet that Mr Ivison, Chairman of the Transportation Select Committee, had requested that his select committee and the local committees were consulted on the revisions to the Speed Limit Policy prior to a new policy being agreed by Cabinet.

After a short debate, during which the Cabinet Member for Community Safety strongly objected to delaying the implementation of the proposed changes to the policy, it was agreed (with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety abstaining) to defer this item until there has been wider consultation with the Transportation Select Committee and local committees.

29/10 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING (Item 14)

RESOLVED:

That the following decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet be noted:

(1) BUDGET VIREMENT– FROM SCHOOLS AND LEARNING TO CHILDREN’S SERVICES

That the permanent budget virement of £505,967 from Schools and Learning (Special Educational Needs) to Children’s Service (Head of Children’s Service, Fostering/Family Placement Management and Safeguarding Support Services) be approved.

Reasons for decision

To ensure that budget accountability reflects the management accountability following the changes made in the Children Schools and Families directorate.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Learning –14 January 2010)

(2) BUDGET VIREMENT– FROM SCHOOLS AND LEARNING STEPS TO SCHOOLS AND LEARNING SEN SERVICE

That the permanent budget virement of £106,678 from Schools and Learning STEPS to Schools & Learning SEN Service be approved.

Reasons for decision

To ensure that budget accountability reflects the management accountability following the changes made in the Children Schools and Families directorate.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – 14 January 2010)

Reasons for decision:

To note the decisions taken by Members under delegated authority.

30/10 WORLD CLASS WASTE SOLUTIONS (Item 12)

The Cabinet Member for Environment set out the key elements of the Waste Strategy. She said that it was crucial to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and that the Council was aiming to increase re-cycling rates to 70%. This would be achieved by improving the re-cycling centres and encourage all Districts / Boroughs to provide food waste collections.

She announced that the County Council was aiming for zero waste to landfill by 2013. She also mentioned the development of the Eco-Park, proposed for Charlton Lane, Shepperton, which would have gasification and anaerobic digestion plants. This development would provide a major environmental benefit.

Finally, she said that the savings made by pursuing the World Class Waste Solutions rather than the previous waste solution had been taken into account in the budget.

The Cabinet moved into private session to consider the confidential financial and legal information set out in item 16.

31/10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Item 15)

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS WERE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE BY THE CABINET. HOWEVER THE INFORMATION SET OUT BELOW IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL.

32/10 WORLD CLASS WASTE SOLUTIONS (Item 16)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services drew Members' attention to the legal assessment, as detailed in the confidential annex after which the matter was debated by Cabinet.

Members recognised the importance of this decision and asked for confirmation from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance that they had covered all the issues that needed bringing to Members' attention. This was confirmed. It was agreed that the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Environment would receive monthly briefings on the progress of the negotiations, with the option to brief the full Cabinet if considered necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the confidential Annex 4 to agenda item 11 be noted.

Following consideration of the confidential annex, the Cabinet reconvened in public session to consider the recommendations set out in the World Class Waste Solutions report (item 12).

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the World Class Waste Solutions described in Annexes 1 – 3 to the submitted report be adopted as the Waste Disposal Authority Action Plan.
- (2) That approval of those amendments to the Waste Disposal Project Agreement within the current contractual context necessary to deliver new services and infrastructure by 2013 be delegated to Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Head of Finance.
- (3) That authority to work with the Surrey Waste Partnership to develop a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey by 30 June 2010, be delegated to Cabinet Member for Environment

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations will enable delivery of World Class Waste Solutions for Surrey by 2013 in a manner, which meets legal requirements, represents value for money and is the lowest cost option to the County Council.

33/10 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS (Item 17)

RESOLVED:

That no information be made available to the press or public in relation to the items considered in Part 2 of the agenda.

[The meeting closed at 4.15pm]

Chairman

Public Questions

(a) Question from Gerald Gilbert

“Has the Cabinet recently considered the possible potential financial, political and democratic benefits of greater vertical delegation of authority to Boroughs (as distinct from horizontal delegation to its own staff): and if so, with what conclusions?”

Reply:

The Cabinet has approved discussions with our partners (e.g. District and Borough Councils, the Primary Care Trust, Surrey Police Authority) to seek efficiencies by, for instance, combining back-office function.

There is considerable support for the Conservative Party proposals to eliminate the current regional structure and devolve powers to elected authorities. Savings would accrue to the public purse by this change and we believe it would allow better co-ordination of economic initiatives with infrastructure proposals.

We have made clear our wish to strengthen Local Committees by giving more decision-making to them and hope to pursue a ‘localism’ agenda in the future. The extent of this would be dependent on Central Government support.

**Cabinet
2 February 2010**

Member Questions

(i) Question to Tim Hall, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, from Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

'How much money has the County Council spent on each of the following between 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009: consultants, agency staff and production costs of County Council leaflets, newsletters and other printed publications?'

Reply:

Production costs of County Council leaflets, newsletters and other printed publications:

For the period 1 April to December 2009, the County Council spent £1.8m consisting of £959,263 on publicity and £904,703 on printing.

Of the total spent to date, these figures include £610,088 in Schools, £465,862 for Communications eg: Surrey matters etc, £140,670 for Children, Schools & Families publication and printing such as children's records and Early Years Foundation stage documentation.

Other items included are £78,072 for Adult Continuing Learning eg: prospectus and Transport £47,652 eg: bus timetables and cycle maps.

Consultants:

The total figure for consultancy for the council is £20,341,348, of which nearly £17m is Schools and FourS.

Agency Staff:

The council spent £11,829,352m on agency staff in this period, of which just over £4m was spent by Adult Social Care and £4.3m on Children's Services. This includes coverage for vacant posts and irregular cover plus staff on particular contracts.

**Tim Hall
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
2 February 2010**

(ii) Question to Ian Lake, Cabinet Member for Transport, from Stephen Cooksey (Dorking and the Holmwoods):

'Would the Cabinet Member for Transport please indicate how many grit bins were refilled by County Highways in each District in the week beginning 11th January 2010?'

Reply:

During the lengthy snow event and subsequently the priority has been public safety. During the snow we focused the majority of our resources on clearance of the network, and since then the extensive localised disintegration of the highway has required the majority of resources to be diverted onto emergency patching. During this time the refilling of the salt bins has been ongoing, although in the east of the

county it did not take place until 18 January due to the level of emergency responses being dealt with. In the west approximately 75 salt bins had been filled in the week beginning 11 January.

With over 1,400 salt bins needing to be restocked it is recognised that this will be a lengthy process, with current resources meaning that only 200-250 bins are being filled per week, although we will look to increase that if more resources become available. In order to conserve stocks all salt bins are now being filled using a 3-1 sand-salt mix.

Ian Lake
Cabinet Member for Transport
2 February 2010

ADULTS AND COMMUNITY CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: Report to support development of Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/11 to 2013/14

Date Considered: 21 January 2010

The Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Adults Social Care directorate and expressed a series of concerns over whether the budget figures were sufficiently reliable or achievable. In particular, they were concerned by how far the figures had changed in a short space of time as well as the level of risk that was attached to the current budget for 2010/11.

Therefore the committee did not feel sufficiently confident to approve the budget proposals.

Therefore, the Committee recommends:

- (a) That the Cabinet does not approve the current budget proposals for Adult Social Care.
- (b) That a reconsidered budget should recognise the full overspend in 2009/10 as the starting point for the 2010/11 budget.

Chris Pitt – Chairman of the Adults and Community Care Select Committee

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: BUDGET 2010/2011 to 2013/2014

Date considered: 28 January 2010

At its meeting on 28 January, the Children and Families Select Committee considered budgets proposals for the Children, Schools and Families Directorate. Although clearly concerned by the challenging financial position of the Council, the committee was reassured by the Director's assurances that the proposed budget would not lead to an unsafe service. On this basis, the committee felt able to accept the proposals outlined in the report prepared by the Director and presented to them at the briefing on 27 January.

Members voted on a proposal to accept the proposed funding level for the Children's Service, which was carried. **The committee therefore recommends that the total budget allocated to the Children's Service be accepted.** Some members requested that their dissatisfaction with the figures provided be recorded.

However, the committee placed a number of caveats on this acceptance:

- a) The committee must have the opportunity to scrutinise the detail of the budget cuts and identified pressures to help make decisions regarding the proposed changes. This must happen before the Cabinet meeting in March.
- b) The proposals for cuts must explain the associated risks to enable Members to make an informed decision.
- c) The service must explore the budget pressures, particularly the national drivers for change and the implications of the Laming report, in more detail to see if additional efficiencies can be identified.

Yvonna Lay
Chairman, Children and Families Select Committee

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: Budget 2010/2011 - 2013/2014

Date considered: 25 January 2010

Comments regarding Change & Efficiency Directorate

1. The Committee considered the Draft Change and Efficiency Directorate Plan for 2010 – 2014, including the proposed cumulative budget changes (£12.7m), at its meeting on 25 January 2010.
2. Members were keen to see a reduction in the amount of agency staff and consultants being used. The Committee was informed that this was built into the Human Resources and Organisational Development delivery plan and noted that it was a requirement of all directorate service plans. The Recruitment Public Value Review, due to report back to the Committee in 3 to 4 weeks time, had identified this as an area that could reap significant cost savings.
3. The Committee noted the upfront costs relating to the MyWork Project, which expected to achieve savings in the region of £4m in the 2012 – 2013 financial year. However, Members were pleased to note that the Project had already saved the Council £600,000 by releasing office buildings.
4. It was also noted that although a pay-freeze was proposed by the Council, increases to National Insurance contributions of 0.5% meant an increase in the pay bill.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Change and Efficiency Directorate Plan for 2010 – 2014 be noted.

Comments regarding Chief Executive's Office

The Committee has not yet had an opportunity to look in detail at the Chief Executive's Office Directorate Plan for 2010 – 2014, due to the recent arrival of the Assistant Chief Executive. However, Members met Susie Kemp, the new Assistant Chief Executive, at its meeting on 25 January 2010 where she gave a brief outline of her vision for the Directorate.

The Committee has arranged an additional meeting on Thursday 11 February 2010 to scrutinise in further detail the Directorates' Plans and will make comments back to the Cabinet in due course.

Mrs Helyn Clack – Chairman of Corporate Management Select Committee

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEES

Item under consideration: 'Environment and Infrastructure Business Plan'

Date Considered: 12 January 2010

1. The Committees considered the revised Environment and Infrastructure Business Plan for 2010 – 2014 including the identified savings within the Directorate for the years 2010/2011.
2. Members noted the financial position of the Council and acknowledged that savings needed to be made across the Council in the next four years. It was noted that the majority of the proposed efficiency savings were achievable.
3. However, the Committees expressed grave concerns regarding the reduction in the funding relating to the Highways and Local Committee Allocation Budget and the impact this would have on the ability of the services to carry out their responsibilities.
4. Members therefore wanted the Cabinet re-consider the reduction of spends of the budgets in these areas.

RECOMMENDED, That the Cabinet re-consider the reduction of spends identified within the Highways and Local Committee Allocation Budgets.

Carol Coleman – Chairman of Environment and Economy Select Committee

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

**Item under consideration: Children, Schools and Families Directorate:
Financial Challenge**

Date Considered: 27 January 2010

Members considered the Children, Schools and Families Directorate budget proposals, giving particular attention to the area that falls under the remit of the Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee - the Youth Justice Service.

Although the Committee were reluctant to see the removal of four posts within the service, they understood the need to make the budget cuts and felt that the service managers would be able to manage this change and continue delivering their statutory obligations successfully. The Committee therefore agreed to approve the proposals; subject to close performance monitoring to ensure the service continues to perform at a high standard.

Therefore, the Committee **recommends:**

That the Cabinet approves the budget proposals for the Youth Justice Service subject to proper performance monitoring mechanisms being put in place to ensure that the service continues to perform to a high standard.

Lavinia Sealy – Chairman of the Safer and Stronger Select Committee

SCHOOLS AND LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: BUDGET 2010/2011 to 2013/2014

Date considered: 28 January 2010

At its meeting on 28 January, the Schools and Learning Select Committee considered budgets proposals for the Children, Schools and Families Directorate. The committee felt able to accept the proposals outlined in the report prepared by the Director and presented to them at the briefing on 27 January.

The committee were keen that the proposed changes to staffing structures within the Youth Development Service, which will save £370,000, should be taken forward and not deferred. The committee voted on a proposal and it was carried by 7 votes to 2. The committee therefore recommend:

That the proposed management rationalisation within the youth development service, contained in the budget proposals, be taken forward as quickly as can reasonably be done.

The committee stressed that their acceptance of this proposal was in order to protect vital front line services. Members were keen that there should be a focus on the quality of provision and not the quantity.

Dorothy Ross-Tomlin
Chairman, Schools and Learning Select Committee