



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## *MINUTES*

## **Cabinet**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Date: Monday 25 September 2006

Venue: Mezzanine Rooms 1/2, County Hall, Aylesbury

Time: 10.30 am

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr D A C Shakespeare (in the Chair).

Mr B Chapple, Mr M Colston, Mrs M Dewar, Mr F Downes, Lin Hazell, Mrs V Letheren, Mr Z Mohammed (as the Lead Spokesperson (Secondary Schools) for Children's Services) and Mr R Royston

### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr B Allen, Mrs P Birchley, Mr H Cadd, Mrs B Jennings, Mr A Oxley and Mr M Tett..

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr G Batchelor, Ms P Camerilli, Mrs C Capjon, Mrs A Davies, Tracie Evans, Mr N Gibson, Ms C Gray, Mrs G Hibberd, Mrs S Imbriano, Mr H Jones, Mr P Loose, Mr D O'Donnell, Mr D Taylor, and Mr I Trenholm

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Clayton, Mr C Williams and Mrs R Lally.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

#### **1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 September 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **2 PORTFOLIO ROUNDUP**

The following Members of the Cabinet reported on key issues within their portfolio areas:-

**The Deputy Leader of the Council** reminded Members to submit their Community Leadership applications by early January 2007, particularly in view of forthcoming District Council elections.

**The Cabinet Member for Resources** reported that at Regulatory and Audit Committee on 20 September 2006 the Audit Commission signed off the Council's accounts. This is the earliest accounts have been signed off and the Commission commented that the audit had gone very smoothly. The Finance Team were congratulated for their work.

**The Cabinet Member for Children and Families Social Care Services** reported on the verbal feedback received from the Joint Area Review Inspection. The Inspectors had commented on the commitment of the Service to the regular supervision and training of staff and recognised the effort of all managers. The Cabinet thanked the Service.

**The Lead Spokesperson for the Cabinet Member for Achievement and Learning** also thanked officers for their hard work during the CPA Inspection and reported that the major current issues for the Achievement and Learning Services have been reported in the next County Council agenda. He highlighted a few items:-

#### ***Headteachers' Conference***

A conference was held at Adams Park, High Wycombe, last Friday for Buckinghamshire headteachers. The conference explored the development of personalised learning, with sessions and seminars jointly led by headteachers and advisers, and a keynote address by Mick Waters, Director of Curriculum at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (the QCA). 127 headteachers attended.

#### ***On-line School Admissions***

On 6 September 2006 a major new initiative was launched: on-line school admissions. This year, parents were being encouraged to apply on-line for primary, junior and secondary school places instead of using the paper application form.

Parents of children who were already at a Buckinghamshire school will have an added incentive – a Unique Identity Number (UID) that, when entered, automatically completes their child's details ready to add their school preferences.

The on-line portal will remain open till 5.00 pm on the respective closing dates for primary schools (18 November) and secondary schools (20 October).

#### ***Changes to Schools***

There were two changes to schools at the beginning of this term.

Chackmore Church of England School has been amalgamated with St James Church of England School, Akeley, from 1 September 2006. The new school has been named St James and St John Church of England Primary School, and is operating on both of the old school sites. Technically it is an enlargement of Chackmore Church of England School.

Up to last term the two schools were, in effect, first schools, with ages of transfer at Year 4 and Year 3 respectively. The new school is a combined school, with the normal age of transfer at Year 6. This is a more satisfactory arrangement for local families.

Hughenden Infant School has extended its age range to become a combined school from 1 September, and has been renamed Hughenden Primary School.

**The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care** reported that on 15 September 2006, he attended Well Street Centre in Buckingham where he presented certificates to Learning Disability clients for their attendance and work at College. One client received a certificate for achieving City & Guilds in IT and others in catering skills. Their delight was mirrored by the Cabinet Member and carers who celebrated their progressive development.

The first sessions of physical intervention training for family carers took place this weekend. Some Learning Disability clients can demonstrate challenging behaviours and staff training has been shared on how to avoid physical intervention in challenging circumstances. This is an important step in support of those who look after the disabled every day at home.

### ***Continuing Care***

The last update was reported to Cabinet on 4 September 2006. As a result of changes made by Primary Care Trusts to the definitions of terminal illness into two categories of acute progressive and chronic, NHS funding was withdrawn in those cases where clients were classified as chronic or survived beyond 12 weeks. As a result that placed a charge on the client and/or Social Care. Legal advice was that this change might be unlawful as it caused clients to be charged under Social Care legislation for services that should be provided free. Discussions with Health colleagues have been constructive and they agreed last week to revert to the previous definition of 'end stage terminal illness'. That means that residents of Buckinghamshire will access free health care at a time when they are terminally ill and require sensitive palliative care.

In answer to a question regarding 16 community nurses being removed from the Service, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported that he would be responding to the Primary care Trust separately on this issue, which was part of a consultation.

**The Cabinet Member for Community Services** reported on the following:-

- There was a new adventure activities trail at Green Park Centre Activity Centre, Aston Clinton. Facilities had been extended as a result of lottery funding (£130,000). Outdoor activities are a valuable learning tool and good for team building. These facilities included climbing, absailing (with zip wire), a high rope course and wheelchair challenge course.
- Black Park Country Park has achieved Green Flag status, which is a commitment by Government to create cleaner, safer and greener communities. This recognizes that Black Park reaches national standards for green space management.

**The Cabinet Member for Transportation** reported on the following:-

### ***Seatbelt Laws***

Changes to the law concerning the carrying of children in cars, came into force on 18 September. The Service has been raising the awareness of the changes over the summer including press releases, in various ways.

The regulations outlined below aim to make it safer for children to travel in cars:-

- All children under 3 years must be in an appropriate child restraint when travelling in a car.
- Children aged 3 years or more and up to 135cm (4ft 5") in height must use a child restraint (ie child seat or booster) appropriate for their weight in any vehicle.
- Rear facing baby seats must not be used in seats protected by an air bag.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that children are in the correct child car seat and a £30 fixed penalty notice is applicable to those drivers not complying.

The 'Get in the Habit', campaign had been launched which encourages drivers and passengers across the County to put on their seatbelt. The launch took place on the 25 September 2006 in Aylesbury and 27 September 2006 in High Wycombe, with the Road Safety Team raising awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and handing out promotional material reminding everyone to belt up on every journey.

The number of drivers and passengers either killed or personally injured has decreased. Twenty-two car drivers and passengers were killed and 173 seriously injured last year.

### ***GC2C Launch – Chesham***

As part of the Getting Closer to Communities change programme, the official launch of the Chesham Town Council devolvement of highway functions will take place at 3 pm in the Town Council Offices in Chesham today.

A number of responsibilities (listed below) will be handed over to the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk – the local media will be there.

The Town Council will be reimbursed for this work from the Council's revenue highway maintenance budget (ie the budget that would have otherwise been used by the Council to carry out this work in Chesham).

Devolved responsibilities include:-

Sign cleaning, hedge trimming, serving hedge cutting notices, approval of charity event signage, removal of fly posters and minor repairs to traffic signs.

Additional functions would transfer next year after training has taken place for the Town Council's workforce.

Cabinet welcomed this initiative and noted that a similar devolvement with Buckingham Town Council should be implemented in the future.

### ***Local Area Technician Launch***

Work to develop the new "Local Area Technician" role in the Area Offices is progressing well. There will be 20 technicians – each working in either one or two GC2C areas and having responsibility for all issues relating to highway maintenance, traffic management, public utility works and smaller scale development sites.

Each technician will play a key role in engaging with partners at Parish, Town and District levels. There will also be four Highway Inspectors, who will be responsible for the highway inspection regime.

New pool vehicles are being commissioned to raise the profile of the technicians and the wide variety of work that they are to undertake. The vehicles will be branded to promote the County Council using the swan logo, the 'Getting Closer to Communities' strap line and the "Highways On Call" telephone number. In effect the Council will have 24 mobile billboards promoting the County Council locally across Buckinghamshire.

### ***Accessibility Planning Workshop***

This was held last week and involved ten areas with 40 people in each workshop.

**The Leader of the Council** reported on the Corporate Preference Assessment. Initial feedback was that Buckinghamshire was strong in all areas. There were three Inspection Groups: Joint Area Review, Corporate Performance Assessment and the Inspection of the Youth Service. There were 20 inspections overall. The Inspectors particularly referred to the Council being exemplary in performance management. Aidan Shutter and David Henson in the Policy Team were thanked for helping the Inspectors during this process, who had specifically been mentioned by the CPA. The draft report was expected by mid October.

**The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning** reported on the following:-

### ***Milton Keynes Growth Strategy Consultation***

The Consultation period commenced on 17 July 2006 and originally ran until 15 September 2006. The closing date was later extended to 30 September 2006 following ongoing problems with the distribution of consultation brochures and questionnaires by Milton Keynes Partnership.

Buckinghamshire County Council have held three public exhibitions and two open discussion meetings with the residents of Newton Longville and surrounding villages at which representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Planning and Transportation, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Milton Keynes partnership answered questions from the floor.

The responses to the consultation are being collected and logged by Milton Keynes Partnership and forwarded to Milton Keynes Council who have allocated staff to input the data and carry out analysis of the responses. To date 700 written responses and 165 on-line responses have been received. It is anticipated that further responses will be received as the consultation period draws to a close.

Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council have commissioned Colin Buchanan Associates to undertake a review of the Growth Strategy. This work is ongoing and should be completed by early November.

Aylesbury Vale District Council have separately commissioned Consultants to undertake a critique of the Urban Potential Study and the first draft report has now been received.

The outcome of this work will inform the positions to be taken by Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council at the forthcoming Examination in Public (EIP) of the South East Plan.

The Milton Keynes Growth Strategy will be examined in the Sub Regional discussions of the EIP in March 2007. The deadline for the Buckinghamshire County Council submissions is 22 January 2007 and will be agreed at Cabinet on 18 December this year.

## ***SE – Plan***

The South East Plan EIP Timetable is now out and can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/timetable.html>

### ***Waste Permit Scheme***

In response to concerns raised by residents and the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that confusion over DIY waste might lead to an increase in fly tipping, the new waste permit scheme has been simplified. Residents using a private car, 4x4 or MPV will now not have to request a permit to take DIY items of waste to the sites. Furthermore the unpopular height barriers will still be opened 7 days a week providing improved access for householders wishing to use commercial type and high sided vehicles.

Permits will be required for commercial vehicles, people on foot, or those with large trailers (up to 1.8m x 1.2m maximum), and they will be valid for a 31-day period. The quantity of DIY waste will be limited to up to 6 items per permit.

The permits will be easily obtainable and free, but will have to be applied for some three working days in advance of any trip to allow for the post.

The Permit scheme is expected to go live from 16 October.

### ***Waste Procurement***

The Waste Procurement Project continues to move forward in its objective of procuring a solution to replace those landfill contracts coming to an end in the next 3 to 5 years. Following the development of a Technology Study by our external advisors RPS, the Waste Project Board and some County Council Members have undertaken a number of site visits.

Advisors have recommended a primary technology solution should be taken forward to financially model, and have also recommended that a second technology option should be considered. This is being assessed currently using market analysis.

Cabinet will consider these recommendations at the 16 October 2006 meeting. Following this decision, the final full business case will be developed.

### ***Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy***

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Buckinghamshire (Waste Strategy) setting out the vision; the policies and the core strategy that will determine future waste management activities in Buckinghamshire was approved by the Joint Waste Committee for Bucks on 7 September and now requires full adoption by all the partner authorities over the next few months. Cabinet will be considering this item at today's meeting.

## **3 SCANNING AND PLANNING – CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The Cabinet noted the Forward Plan. The following points were reported:-

- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care decision for September 2006 – Home Options – should be removed as it already appeared in December 2006.
- Modification of Policies regarding access and control at the Household Waste Recycling Centres had been re-published, taking into account comments made by

Overview and Scrutiny. This had meant that there had been some relaxation of restrictions which would make it more difficult for the Council to stop these sites being used improperly.

- Sustainability Business Case – October 2006 (Cabinet). This should be the responsibility of the Deputy Leader rather than the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning.

#### **4 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

Cabinet noted the report.

#### **5 REVIEW OF THE REALISATION OF DOMICILIARY CARE SAVINGS**

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care introduced the report. He reported on the following:-

- In May 2004, following a market test of two options in relation to domiciliary care, Option C was agreed. This option involved a mixed economy of in-house and private sector domiciliary care for older people, the external provision of all specialist domiciliary care, and changes to the management and administration of the in-house service.
- The review stated that Option C would achieve savings of £900,000 in a full year from the point of implementation. Whilst the Domiciliary Care Service has not achieved the full £900,000 savings expected, the portfolio as a whole has delivered savings to date in excess of £900,000 per annum.
- The Cabinet Member asked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate why the savings had not been achieved as expected and what, if anything, could be done to realise the savings.
- The Committee were informed that although the full savings had not been realised as expected, the Review and its implementation has resulted in some considerable achievements for the Service. This included a 15% improvement in assessment waiting times in Older People's Services and a £11 unit saving for those care packages transferred from in-house to external provision.
- The Committee found, following its investigation, that when fundamental changes are made to the way services are delivered, the principles of project management should be adhered to.
- A number of other recommendations were also put forward to maximise the benefits of the Review.

The Cabinet thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and noted the following recommendations:-

#### **1 The Adults' Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that in future in all cases when the organisation is considering making fundamental changes to the way in which services are delivered, Cabinet should require that the principles of project management are adhered to, and in particular:**

- i) Robust business cases are provided with realistic timescales and defined milestones with associated, achievable savings which can be secured.
- ii) All projects have risk strategies attached.
- iii) All projects to have appropriate levels of financial and procurement support allocated to them.

- iv) Criteria are developed outlining project management requirements for different sized projects, such as what size of project would require a project board to oversee implementation.
- v) All projects have clearly assigned project management roles and responsibilities.
- vi) All project managers, whether internally or externally appointed, are appropriately trained and adhere to the organisation's project management standards.
- vii) All projects have opportunities for evaluation, review and revisiting of original targets built in, to ensure where necessary remedial action is taken promptly and targets remain realistic. This should include a process by which staff have the opportunity to challenge assumptions, savings etc.

**2 In addition, in order to maximise the benefits of the Domiciliary Care Review and to ensure domiciliary care services are able to manage future demand, the Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet:**

- viii) Reviews the in-house domiciliary care service and assesses whether it should provide more of the specialist domiciliary care for supporting people with physical or sensory disabilities, or those with learning disabilities or mental health needs. The conclusion of the review should be included in the domiciliary care purchasing strategy for these services.
- ix) Reorganises the management of the two sections of the domiciliary market, both the in-house provision and the external market, so that they are brought together under the remit of one senior manager.
- x) Reviews the Intake function and separates the assessment function from the other intake team roles to ensure every new client receives a full assessment of need within a realistic time frame.
- xi) Ensures that operational managers own, and are fully conversant with, the management information with which they are provided.
- xii) Builds on the current recruitment strategy for domiciliary care to ensure the issue of the impending crisis in the caring profession is addressed, building on recommendations from the Laing and Buisson report. In developing this strategy, the Service should investigate the benefits of developing a joint strategy with external providers to maximise limited workforce opportunities.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care responded as follows:-

**Recommendations i - vii**

**With reference to recommendations i to vii, it needs to be clear that the Council has adopted, as a guide to project management, a Prince 2 methodology. Whilst this domiciliary care project was not managed to these current standards, it did have a steering group, which consisted of a number of key officers. Standards can always be improved and if a similar project was initiated today, then the current Council standards would be utilised.**



#### **Recommendation viii**

**This recommendation is accepted. The in house domiciliary care service will be reviewed by the end of March 2007 with a clear implementation plan put in place for developing the service.**

#### **Recommendation ix**

**This recommendation is not accepted. The domiciliary care services already come under the remit of the Head of Service and it is not considered appropriate to change this. In the course of reviewing the internal operation, the management arrangements at more junior levels will also be evaluated.**

#### **Recommendation x**

**This recommendation is accepted. The variety of functions that are carried out by intake will be reviewed by April 2007 and a judgement will then be made as to what functions will be carried out. This will be done within the existing resources.**

#### **Recommendation xi**

**This recommendation is accepted but it needs to be acknowledged that the ownership of management information by Adult Social Care managers is extremely good and whilst it can always be built upon, it is important to reflect the huge strides that have been made over the past four years.**

#### **Recommendation xii**

**This recommendation is accepted but it can only be delivered within existing resources and workloads.**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The Cabinet agreed the response to the recommendations put forward by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.**

## **6 REVISED CORPORATE PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING STRATEGY**

The reason for the decision was to adopt the revised Corporate Procurement and Commissioning Strategy. The Cabinet Member introduced his report and the following points were made:-

- In 2005/06 Buckinghamshire County Council including schools expenditure, spent £1.8m per day. Of this £970k was on staff and £830k with suppliers. The Council currently has 10,600 vendors, however only 260 accounts for approximately 70% of the Council's non-pay spend (the equivalent of £580k per day).
- A number of the high value vendors have relationships with more than one portfolio but the Council's contractual and commercial arrangements do not recognise this. In addition, there are a number of high value vendors supplying the Council with similar services or goods where opportunities for consolidation of total spend (aggregation of demand) may reduce unit cost.
- The proposed strategy envisages the creation of a commissioning led procurement environment.
- A resultant Commissioning Strategy that follows this approach would feature the

following:-

- A detailed demand or needs analysis;
- User and stakeholder consultation;
- A review of best practice and emerging policy;
- An economic profile of available resources both capital and revenue;
- A review of current provision;
- Development of outcomes and key performance indicators (“KPI’s”) including a continuous improvement plan;
- A benefits realisation plan; and
- A procurement strategy.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and made the following points:-

- Considerable savings should be made and it was hoped that £5m would be saved by way of reduction in the overall cost of commissioning, procurement and transaction costs.
- The sustainability issue and the potential to influence suppliers was emphasised and in particular to achieve the following:-
  - Increase recycled paper
  - Increase use of double sided printing (direct from computer printers)
  - Increase use of recyclable materials
  - Decrease packaging.

A comment was made regarding the complexity of commissioning Social Services. The Strategic Director reassured members that by the Contracts Team working in partnership with each portfolio, overall cost for the commissioning and procurement of services should be achieved.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1 The Cabinet adopted the revised Corporate Procurement and Commissioning Strategy. This should be reviewed at the end of 2008;**
- 2 The Cabinet approved the recommended phased approach to its implementation;**
- 3 The Cabinet noted the savings target of £5m plus additional efficiency savings by way of reduction in the overall cost of commissioning, procurement and transaction costs.**

#### **7 APPROVAL OF THE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

The reason for the decision was to approve the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The Cabinet discussed the following:-

The Waste Strategy is designed to:-

- Provide a clearer picture as to how municipal waste is managed;
- Provide a clear programme to meet Government landfill targets;
- Improve the sustainability of municipal waste management;
- Secure ongoing public understanding and support;
- Lay down future initiatives to deliver on all of the above;
- Provide guidance for procurement of future service.

Following the two phases of public and other stakeholder consultation a revised Waste Strategy has been produced, which was approved on 7 September 2006 by the Joint Waste Committee for Bucks (JWCB). It now requires full adoption by the Waste Collection Authorities (Aylesbury Vale, South Bucks, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils) and the Waste Disposal Authority, Buckinghamshire County Council. A strong interest has been shown by the public with 11,000 responses.

In summary the Waste Strategy has three main strands. The first is a concerted action programme to reduce the growth in waste through waste minimisation initiatives and communication projects.

The second strand is to collect more materials at source through improved household waste collections, including the two wheeled bin alternate week system (two wheeled bins are used and refuse and biodegradable wastes are collected on different weeks). New enhanced recycling facilities will be required in the next few years, to process the materials collected.

The third strand of the strategy is to manage the refuse left over after recycling and composting (sometimes called 'residual waste'), as it cannot be landfilled due to legislation. The procurement of an alternative solution to landfill through a major new contract has already started. This is designed to coincide with the end of current landfill contracts, and seeks to avoid the expensive penalties for non-compliance with the legislation.

Formal authority approval via political processes will be required from each partner authority before finally being adopted during December – January 2007. The final version will then be issued to DEFRA for approval. After this, a Government approved version will be printed and distributed. The implementation of the strategy should begin in Spring 2007.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Cabinet approved the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy so that it can be adopted by the County Council.**

## **8 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2006/07**

The reason for the decision was to agree the Youth Justice Plan for 2006-2007. The Plan detailed the objectives of the Youth Offending Partnership; how partners will meet their duty to prevent youth crime and the objectives and plans for the Youth Offending Service. A bid was made of £172,000 from the Medium Term Plan, which was successful, and the extra resource will be used to create posts where gaps were identified and to meet the increased demand on workload. The Youth Justice Board had made money available for prevention work for the next two years. This amounts to £147,192 in 2006/2007.

The Cabinet welcomed the report. During discussion the following points were noted:-

- Confirmation was received that the money would be used for prevention and partnership working.
- The Youth Offending Service had an additional sum of £57,000 to manage the equivalent of two staff for 'Positive Activities for Young People' to cover the County's most at risk young people.
- Particular mention was made of the Risk of Harm Assessments which would need to be completed in all appropriate cases, in relation to vulnerability and re-offending.
- The Plan would contribute to the five outcomes in 'Every Child Matters'.
- Specialist groups would be developed for young people and their families which should feed into the Action Plan.
- Funding has been received from the Youth Justice Board for children 13+ years but all prevention funding is due to cease in 2008.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet on behalf of the County Council agree the Youth Justice Plan 2006-2007**

## **9 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE REPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented this report to set out the Council's projected outturn position as at 31 March 2007 for both revenue and capital. It is based on the end of July monitoring position. The projected outturn position at portfolio level on the revenue budget is a £6.6m overspend. This represents a £0.6m improvement on the end of June position. The capital position has worsened by £2.2m and is currently projecting a £2.1m overspend. The forecast outturn for delivery of efficiency savings is currently £6.7m.

Members noted that officers were drawing up and reviewing action plans in an attempt to contain costs, but it is unlikely that this will be achieved in all areas and bids against the budget risk contingency (£2.18m) will be made. Application of the contingency would reduce the overall revenue forecast to a £4.4m overspend.

The key pressures to each portfolio were set out in the report. Particular mention was made of 3 Service Areas and Cabinet Members made the following comments:-

### **Children Services**

- Costs in Social Care were volatile because of the uncertainty of external placements.
- There would be no recruitment to vacancies in Achievement and Learning. An assessment would be undertaken to understand the level of risk of not appointing on an individual basis.
- Further efficiency savings would be investigated in travel and subsistence and administration.
- Potential changes to policies in Home to School Transport should produce savings.
- Each Head of Service would circulate a detailed Plan and Risk Assessment.

### **Adult Social Care**

- Managing the level of risk through vulnerable adult placements had already made a reduction of £1.3 million.
- Adult Social Care had been under funded nationally by £1 billion last year.
- The Scheme for mental health placements would have to be delayed.
- Any level of reduction beyond this would mean making some very difficult choices and a request would be made to use some of the contingency budget.

### **Resources**

- Some vacancies were not being filled.
- Delaying implementation of schemes would make some savings.
- It was noted that there was a high increase in the cost of energy.

The overall position for the capital programme has deteriorated by £2.2m since the end of June. The reasons for the key variations are set out within the report. With regard to the Capital Programme the following points were noted:-

- It would be difficult to reduce the capital programme in relation to the Schools Programme. However, no new schemes are being started.
- There were difficulties with now not having supported borrowing and Government was looking at increasing grants instead. Members noted that not carrying out Local Transportation Schemes would create anxiety in the local community. Other areas were being looked at such as increasing on street parking charges.
- The Stoke Hammond Project should be concluded by May but because of complications the Scheme had to be moderated.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted and the actions be taken to address the pressures within the revenue budget.**

### **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 16 October 2006, 10.30am, Mezzanine Rooms 1/2 County Hall, Aylesbury.

**D A C SHAKESPEARE OBE  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**