CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 December 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members:	Councillor Keith R. Mitchell CBE – in the Chair Councillor David Robertson (Deputy Chairman) Councillor Arash Fatemian Councillor Ian Hudspeth Councillor Jim Couchman Councillor Kieron Mallon Councillor Michael Waine Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat
Other Members in Attendance:	Councillor Liz Brighouse OBE (Agenda Item 7) Councillor Hannaby; Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Services (Agenda Item 8) Councillor Janet Godden (Agenda Item 9) Councillor Jean Fooks, Opposition Deputy Leader (Agenda Items 11, 12 and 13)

Officers:

Whole of meeting	Chief Executive, S. Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of Meeting Agenda Item	Officer
6	K. Wilcox(Corporate Finance)
7	Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer
8	Director for Social & Community Services
9	C. Cousins, D. Round (Environment & Economy)
10	Director for Children, Young People & Families, R. Leach
12	Head of Law & Governance
13	G. Shaw, Acting Head of ICT

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

132/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Rodney Rose and Louise Chapman.

133/10 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2010 were approved and signed.

134/10 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Councillor John Tanner had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure:

"Does the portfolio holder agree that closing half of Oxfordshire's recycling centres will make it more difficult for residents to recycle, risks increasing flytipping and will increase car journeys across the county. Will he look again at keeping the popular Redbridge recycling centre, in Oxford, open to the public, as well as to trade customers. Where does he suggest residents of Bicester, Chipping Norton and Faringdon should take their waste in future?"

Councillor Hudspeth replied:

The phased withdrawal (over the next 3- 4 years) of waste recycling centres is possible due to the new collection services introduced across Oxfordshire. Services at the kerbside have expanded greatly in the last year and fewer people need to visit the sites, reducing the number of trips and associated CO2 emissions. The waste collection authorities have done a tremendous job in expanded recycling services, supported by "no side waste" policies to stimulate behavioural change in the way that residents manage their waste. In addition, the work that the Oxfordshire waste partnership has done on home composting, waste reduction and re-use has seen many people utilising the community action groups, swap shops, making use of free-cycle and donating goods to charity.

The proposal to close some sites is supported by a contribution to district councils to expand and reassess bulky waste charges. There are two authorities working with the county on reuse of bulky items under a trial at present. The services at the kerbside will be regular and economically attractive, meaning that the householder will find it more attractive and cost effective to utilise the services (already passing their home), reducing CO2 emissions and knowing that their goods are following a systematic waste management process.

As for fly-tipping, residents are aware of the law and those currently legally

depositing rubbish at the sites are unlikely to turn into law breaking fly-tippers, especially with the choice of services on offer at the kerbside. The proposal is also supported by a contribution to enforcement and education to mitigate any risk.

Redbridge is not fit for purpose and is in need of major investment to upgrade the road infrastructure, concrete and drainage. The Kidlington site will be closer for all those residents in the north of Oxford and will have a reuse shop to maintain the theme of the waste hierarchy, gaining value from commodities rather than labour intensive recycling. It would be very expensive to keep both sites open in the current economic climate and therefore the Kidlington site will be the primary Oxford City facility. Residents from Bicester, Chipping Norton and Faringdon will all have a facility within their local authority area, making consistent services across the whole of Oxfordshire.

Combined with the above will be the Energy from Waste facility at Ardley, which will generate electricity for 22,000 homes. This will avoid landfill tax and LATs penalties, provide an income stream for the tax payers. To produce a similar quantity of electricity 120 wind turbines would have to be built creating a blot on the landscape of Oxfordshire."

Supplementary: Councillor Tanner sought clarification of where the residents of Faringdon and Chipping Norton would take their recycling and when was it planned to close Redbridge.

Councillor Hudspeth replied that residents of Faringdon would use Drayton. There was a process to be followed with regards to Kidlington and once this site was open Redbridge would close and the work on it would begin.

Councillor Roy Darke had given notice of the following question to the Leader of the Council:

"Can the Leader tell us the number of redundancy notices already issued to County Council staff prior to Christmas 2010 and the expected number by the end of this financial year? What is the scale of other redundancy notices relating to indirectly-employed workers involved in County Council-led activities that have been issued already and the number expected to be issued by 1 April 2011? Will he also confirm the overall and anticipated cost to the council of redundancy settlements?"

Councillor Mitchell replied:

"67 employees have been served redundancy notices since 1 April 2010. The total cost of redundancy pay for these redundancies is £1.4 million.

The council is in the process of agreeing a budget for the forthcoming financial year whereby some services are currently proposed to undergo significant transformation. It would be inappropriate to comment on potential

future redundancies at this time. Given this, it is not possible to outline any potential costs.

We do not hold information on the number of redundancy notices issued by other organisations and we would not be able to comment on any proposed redundancies for such organisations."

Supplementary: Councillor Darke queried what was the timetable for the redundancies.

Councillor Mitchell replied that until the budget was agreed in February 2011 it was not possible to be certain or to take forward formal consultation . However the Council had gone to great lengths to talk to staff affected. He paid tribute to the work being undertaken with the unions.

Councillor Sarah Hutchinson had given notice of the following question to the Leader of the Council:

"How has the Big Debate influenced the council's proposed budget, how much did the Big Debate cost (including the Big Debate t-shirts), and why nowhere in the summary of the debates is there mention of the very many people who expressed fundamental scepticism about the need for these cuts to be made, both locally and nationally?"

Councillor Mitchell replied:

"We gained some insight into the values different members of the public place on different County Council services but the overwhelming viewpoint was for different individuals to seek to protect different services and there was little consistency either within each Group or across it.

It was made clear that the purpose of the Big Debates was not to discuss the coalition government's proposals to address the underlying structural budget deficit. The purpose of the Big Debate was to identify relative priorities for County Council services and to capture any helpful ideas for achieving savings. A number of people did indeed tell us that they did not want cuts but no one suggested a realistic alternative. The summary of the Big Debate only reports the headline issues. A more detailed report has been shared with the group leaders. We were also told that the services people were most concerned about were those supporting the vulnerable - older people, children and those with disabilities. Our budget proposals reflect these views but all members will recognise that the scale of grant cuts inevitably means that there will be some impacts on services to the public despite our efforts to maximise cost reduction among back office functions and employee costs.

Over 1,000 people took part in the Big Debate. Much of the promotional activity was at no cost to the council and officers did their best to keep expenditure down, however there were inevitably some costs, particularly arising from the need to ensure appropriate and accessible venues for public

meetings of such a size. The total cost was under £1,500, the most significant of which was spent on venue hire for the five public meetings. The media personalities who chaired the events gave their services at no cost. The cost was funded from the Council's Communications Budget.

I'm sure Group Leaders will make the detailed report available to those who wish to view it."

Councillor Richard Stevens to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services:

"The Report by the Director for Social & Community Services indicates that external providers already provide 72% of home support care in the County. It goes on to say that the intention is to transfer 1,800 service users on to personal budgets by March 2011, including all the current users of the Internal Home Support Service.

Will the Cabinet confirm:
(a) the percentage of current users of the Internal Home Support Service who have been transferred to a personal budget to date (in the light of the target being 100% of such users by March 2011); and

(b) in view of the fact that people do not have to have personal budgets if they do not want them, the arrangements the County Council has put in place for those service users currently receiving internal home support services who elect not to have personal budgets?"

Councillor Fatemian replied:

(a) Only a few users of the internal Home Support Service have been transferred to Personal Budgets so far. A managerial decision was taken to put users of the internal service into the later stages of transition to Personal Budgets, so that they could be made aware of the proposed closure, and take decisions about use of Personal Budget in the full knowledge that the service might be closed. If these Service Users do in fact have to change their Provider in 2011, the intention is that only one change has to be made, following the final decision of Cabinet in April 2011.

(b) As Cllr Stevens should be aware. all eligible Service Users will be allocated a Personal Budget in 2011. The allocation of a Budget is not optional. Service Users do have a choice about how they use that Budget.

They can however, chose how that budget is spent. If they choose not to have a Direct Payment, they can ask the Council to undertake all the arranging and purchasing of their support, according to their own Support Plan. All current users of the internal Home Support Service will be allocated a Personal Budget after their re-assessment, and then offered a choice of how support is arranged.

If they do not wish to take an active role in arranging support, they will be offered a range of alternative Providers to meet their support needs within the budget available. Brokerage advice on the range of support options will be made available from Council staff or external Brokers. The details of how current internal service users will transition into new support arrangements will be refined during the consultation phase, and the plan will be implemented after the final Cabinet decision in April."

Councillor Liz Brighouse had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement:

"The government has said that it intends to protect education funding but it is becomingly increasingly clear that as a result of the cuts schools will find it very difficult to make ends meet. In particular, will the Cabinet Member confirm whether the pupil premium will compensate for the other funding which has been cut or will governing bodies need to make cuts in their budgets?"

Councillor Waine replied:

"The government has announced two year funding allocations for local authorities and one year allocations for our maintained schools. The DfE have confirmed they will continue with the current distribution method for funding local authorities.

They have announced that they are simplifying the historic funding system by mainstreaming relevant grants into the Dedicated Schools Grant. In Oxfordshire we know our overall allocation based on per-pupil distribution within the DSG is the same as last year.

Recognising the potential turbulence for schools, including that some schools may see their individual budget vary in cash terms due to pupil numbers or local distribution of funding, the government will be applying a national protection arrangement for schools, in effect a minimum funding guarantee that no school will see a reduction compared with its 2010-11 budget (excluding sixth form funding) of more than 1.5% per pupil before the pupil premium is applied. We will be working with Schools Forum to look at how the allocations affect our schools.

We have made all Schools aware that the Pupil Premium allocations to Schools, which are designed to close the gaps between deprived pupils and their non deprived peers and also to support service children, will be determined by the School Census completed in January 2011. Children currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) (or service children) and logged as such by the census day will attract the pupil premium. It is vital that Schools ensure eligible pupils are counted and complete their census. We have given information on how our Food With Thought (FWT) team can support them in this and we are providing additional support from the Schools

finance team to add capacity for this process. Any primary school who has Oxfordshire School Meals service will already know how to use the FWT team to check and count pupils eligible for FSM.

The announcements by the DfE should now allow Governing bodies to be considering their budget plans for next year, although we know that many governing bodies have already planned ahead given the national budget context. Our schools finance support team will be assisting any governing body that finds it difficult to set a balanced budget, in each of the three months leading up to April we will be meeting with Schools Forum to support them."

Supplementary: Councillor Brighouse sought information on the number of schools whose budgets would be cut.

Councillor Waine replied that it was not possible to be certain how the settlement would work out but that in the pupil premium a promise had been kept.

Councillor Susanna Pressel had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities:

"If the shocking proposals to close 20 libraries go ahead, when will we know what is happening to the various buildings and stock, what provision will be made for school groups who can't afford to travel greater distances to the nearest library, why is the Council simultaneously cutting the mobile libraries and above all why is the Council not protecting the libraries in our areas of deprivation?"

Councillor Heathcoat replied that in retaining the proposed 20 libraries this provided for 80% of all business. A detailed response to the question of library stock had been given at the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee on 20 December; there would be a lengthy period of public consultation, including an equalities impact assessment with a decision to be taken in June 2012. The use of stock would be considered once decisions had been taken. The mobile service was being reviewed to ensure it was fit for purpose although it should not be seen as a straightforward replacement service. She refuted that areas of deprivation were not being protected as this had been looked at, including travel and transport in rural areas.

Supplementary: Councillor Pressel asked what would happen if 90 -100% of the consultation was against the proposals.

Councillor Heathcoat replied that if there was support for such measures she could look at the opportunities to keep libraries in use through community development.

Councillor Sajjad Malik had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Property:

“Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has recently said that Councils who have balances above 5% of their revenue expenditure should be digging into them to help with adapting to this new age of austerity. Will the Cabinet Member please confirm the level of balances that the Council holds, what that level is in relation to our revenue expenditure, and how the Cabinet intends to utilise those balances to mitigate some of the effects of these appalling cuts?”

Councillor Couchman replied:

“The list of balances produced for every council following Mr Pickles announcement showed Oxfordshire's reserves position at 5 .05 %, so is on the boundary of the category which the Minister was aiming at. The figures for Oxfordshire are:

Non schools reserves £41.835m

Revenue expenditure £828.125m

Reserves 5.0518%

These figures exclude expenditure and reserves relating to schools.

However, we do also review our reserves on an annual basis to ensure that the purpose for reserve is still valid, and that it is necessary to hold those reserves. The detail of the reserves are published in the statement of accounts, and are monitored on a regular basis through the monthly monitoring to Cabinet.

The reserves at 31 March 2010 total led £60.764m (including schools) the major elements relate to:

Capital Reserve and Prudential Borrowing reserve £16.6m
Planned usage within the Capital programme of all funds

Local Management of school and other schools reserves £15.1m
A balance of surplus and deficits, for which the usage determined by the schools who hold the reserve

Budget reserve & Carry forward reserve £7.1m
Planned usage throughout the period of the MTFP
I
Insurance Reserve £6.0m
Held against known and anticipated claims, a reduction in this reserve is already planned for £2.4m

Efficiency Savings and Change Fund £2.8m
Held to manage investments, change management and handle costs of reductions in service

Waste Management £2.5m
Held against planned expenditure to deliver the waste strategy

On-Street Parking £1.6m
Held to manage the year on year cash flows

Shared Services £1.3m
Held to manage the change in working - planned usage within MTFP

Other reserves (less than £1m individually) £7.8m
Smaller reserves under £1m, for a variety of reasons, all of which are reviewed regularly"

Councillor John Sanders had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Transport:

"Does the cabinet member for transport have any plans to extend controlled parking zones in the City? I ask this question because although I have been assured that there are no such plans, I was also assured that increases to CPZ charges would be limited to the RPI and this has not been the case, with CPZ charges increased by 25 percent."

Written response from Councillor Rose:

"Cllr Sanders will see from the budget proposals that we are not planning to carry out or review any such schemes as there is no funding available. However, if funding were to become available in the future this could be reconsidered depending on priorities at the time."

Supplementary: Councillor Sanders sought reassurance that CPZ charges would not be further increased. He queried what would be done for those areas of East Oxford and Oxford borders that had no CPZ.

Councillor Hudspeth, responding on behalf of Councillor Rose, referred to the efforts to introduce a scheme into Magdalen Road but these had been unsuccessful as no local agreement could be reached. There were no plans at the moment.

Councillor Val Smith had given notice of the following question to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families:

"Have the Cabinet seriously thought through the consequences of changing the youth services?

My concern in the City is that the HUBs, unless staffed with experienced youth workers who are well used to managing the behaviour of troubled young people, will fail.

The provision of therapeutic help and rehabilitation is an important part of early intervention that the Council is keen to promote – this kind of provision

needs to be delivered by experienced and professionally trained workers if they are to be successful and create a positive future for young people, their families and the families they will go on to have. Many young people not in training education or work will only connect with the help of trained youth workers

This work, along with that done in my division on sexual health, substance and alcohol misuse and teenage pregnancy, is vital. I feel, by diluting down to the hubs, we are at risk that these services will start to fail, with consequences that we cannot begin to imagine."

Councillor Chapman replied:

"Considerable thought based on local, national and international evidence and analysis of data and other information has gone into the re-shaping of a number of services to create the re-designed new early intervention service.

The new early intervention service will be delivered from 7 hubs and will be funded by joining together resources from youth, connexions, services supporting behaviour and mental heath, attendance and engagement services, family and children's early intervention service and the pre-court prevention team. Staff from **all of these disciplines** will be eligible to apply for the posts in the new early intervention teams. Given that all of these staff already have considerable expertise in working with children young people and families with multiple problems; the skill base of the workforce will be significant and relevant. Rather than a dilution, we see the hub teams as a strengthening of existing arrangements, ensuring that holistic approaches are possible, delivered by a team with multiple skills and experience, allocating the right resources to the needs of each child, young person and family as required.

The model being proposed has been developed by key managers across all of these services aligning with the research evidence on what works for children, young people and their families. We have had very positive early discussions with our partners who are looking forward to working with us in new ways to support young people should the proposal go ahead.

The Directorate has set aside a fund to support further training and development for all staff involved in delivering our new early intervention service; to ensure that skills are transferred, new ways of working are embedded and multi-agency work is effectively supported. (See line 5 in annexe 1 and paragraph 7.4 in the business strategy)"

Supplementary: Councillor Smith queried whether legal advice had been sought on the Youth Centre and Hubs proposals as she felt that there was a legal requirement to provide sufficient leisure facilities.

Councillor Waine, responding on behalf of Councillor Chapman, replied that it was a shared responsibility across all councils including District Councils. He undertook to respond in writing in relation to the legal query raised.

Councillor Jean Fooks had given notice of the following question to the Leader of the Council:

"The Leader appointed Cllr Fatemian as Cycling Champion some time ago. There have been concerns about the lack of quarterly reports from several of the champions and I regret that there is no report since July from the Cycling Champion. Given the enhanced recognition of the importance of cycling in LTP3, this is particularly worrying; what has he been doing in this role since July and should the role be given to another councillor, perhaps a non-cabinet member or even a member of the opposition, to ensure that cycling, which is of course of particular concern in the city of Oxford, is well championed? For instance, there was initial enthusiasm for the Bike Polite scheme; nothing has been heard about this since the elections in May. "

Councillor Mitchell replied:

“I understand the Champion prepared a report for September 2010, sent it the cabinet member for comment but it seems not to have arrived or subsequently uploaded.

With the pressures of the Big Debate, the budget cycle and the illness of our political assistant, the report has not been published. Here it is:

‘Cycling Champion’s September Report
I continue to take an active engagement in cycling all over the county. During August, in my capacity as cycling champion I was involved in a series that the BBC did on television and radio on the numbers of people cycling into the City and the provision of facilities for cyclists.

In a private capacity though obviously linked to the role, I was also at the final stage of the Tour of Britain in early September and, more importantly, set an example because, unlike some other councillors, I will not cycle without a helmet and obey all traffic laws.

More recently I have been in communication with officers from E&E and the local group, Cyclox, over the plans for replacing the cycling lanes on the Old Abingdon Road once the work on raising/replacing Redbridge is complete and have also commented on the proposals from E&E for increased bicycle parking in the city – highlighting reasons for and against the different locations suggested.’

I would add that Cllr Arash Fatemian is an active Tweeter and I am setting out some of his cycling tweets below:

Dec 8 Having a great day at work - just hope the weather holds long enough that the racing bike can negotiate the Oxford roads home tonight..
Dec 1 On the 1st day of Christmas I cycled into work - froze while doing so but felt good to be back on the bike again...

Nov 30 Due to a combination of being away, being ill and now the bad weather, I have hardly been on my bike at all during November #cyclingfail
Nov 15 My cycle in this a.m. included v.cold weather, roadworks, traffic, & fog - about to leave the office for the return journey - oh joy
Nov 10 Tried to be a polite and responsible cyclist earlier but only got abuse from the bus driver - surely that response encourages bad cycling??
Oct 17 Watching tour of Lombardy highlights & respect given the conditions, though just seen one of the world's best descenders come off his bike.
Oct 13 As @OxfordshireCC Cycling champion this site made me smile at the corner of St Aldates this morning... http://twitpic.com/2xbucq
Oct 6 Waterproofs came in handy today - Wet cycle in - wetter than it looked though not as much as I thought, thanks to @106jackfm for the tip...
Sep 20 Good luck to all those taking part in BikeBlenhemPalace at @BlenheimPalace today ... especially in this weather...
Sep 24 Frustrated by the weather...yesterday when cycling 20km [approx 12½ miles] to various meetings it was windy & rainy...on bus today & it's pleasant...
Sep 22 Mildly surprised that my beloved racing bike lasted 2 hours on the Cowley road tonight - Guessing Ox bike thief fraternity on a night off
Sep 11 Caught out by freak hailstorm on cycle to South Hinksey Surgery...Jeans no longer solid & desperately trying to dry out in surgery...
Sep 8 Schoolboy error - left cycle lights at home so forced to leave bike at county hall and now on bus home...
Aug 25 The 'strategic' decision to leave my waterproof trousers at home this morning led to an 'interesting' cycle home - soaked from waist down."

Supplementary: Councillor Fooks asked when he had met with Cyclox and Area Committees over the Local Transport Plan 3. Councillor Fatemian replied that he had not been invited to Area Committees. He met with Cyclox and was in email communication with them regularly.

135/10 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following petitions were submitted:

Petition from Liz Edwards and youth worker for Wolvercote and Cotteslow, supported by Councillor Fooks that expressed profound concerns over the youth service proposals.

Petition from Richard Bryant – Trustee, Wood Farm Youth Centre that expressed concern over the youth service proposals and the uncertain future of the Wood farm Youth Centre if they were implemented.

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed.

Item 7. Service & Resource Planning – Councillor Brighouse, local member;
Jennifer Chaundy a young carer on Council funding for young carers
Mrs Tamar Thomas, Summertown Library

Item 8. – Internal home support service: Councillor Hannaby;

Item 10. – Botley Primary School: Councillor Godden ; Ms Ahern; Ms Winter

Item 11. – Performance management: Councillor Fooks

Item 12. – Support for members: Councillor Fooks

Item 13. – ICT overspend: Councillor Fooks

Mrs Tamar Thomas, spoke in support of the continuation of Summertown Library and asked that the Council meet with local people who wished to explore options for keeping the library open. She queried whether any of the professional librarians would be kept on to help community groups.

At this point it was proposed and it was agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

136/10 PROPOSED CHANGE TO SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

(Agenda Item. 12)

Cabinet considered a report on the future support arrangements for the Council's political groups in the context of the financial challenges facing the Council. The report outlined the responses made to a recent consultation.

Councillor Jean Fooks, Opposition Deputy Leader highlighted the effects of the proposal on support for members and support for the County Council. If members lost support then they would have to do more administration and clerical duties which would take them away from their community role. It would be more difficult for council officers who currently had one point of contact for political group matters. She commented that there was some benefit to be had from having some non-political support as suggested by Option C.

Following discussion Cabinet Members commented that it was only right that in difficult financial times some of the impact was felt by councillors.

RESOLVED: to ***RECOMMEND*** to Council to agree that the posts of political assistant be deleted as from 1 April 2011 and all the work currently performed by the assistants be absorbed by members of the respective groups.

137/10 FINANCIAL MONITORING - DECEMBER 2010

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered the next in a series of financial monitoring reports for the 2010/11 financial year hat covered the period up to the end of October 2010. Part 1 & 2 set out the Council's forecast position for the 2010/11 financial year and included projections for revenue, balances, reserves. The capital programme monitoring and capital programme review update was included at Part 3.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Property drew attention to the corrected recommendations set out in the addenda.

RESOLVED to:

(a) note the report and approve the virement requests as set out in annex 2a;

(b) approve the creation of the New Dimensions reserve as set out in paragraph 43, and the transfer to reserves set out in paragraphs 42 and 43; and

(c) note the schemes released from the capital moratorium under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer as set out in paragraph 71 to 73 and Annex 7.

138/10 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING REPORT FOR 2011/12 - 2015/16 (DECEMBER 2010)

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet considered the latest in a series of reports on the Service and Resource Planning process for 2011/12 to 2015/16, providing councillors with information on budget issues for 2011/12 and the medium term. The report provided an update on the Service & Resource Planning process, sets out the Business Strategies for all directorates along with proposed savings for the period 2011/12 - 2014/15 and the review of charges for 2011/12.

Councillor Brighouse, speaking as a local member expressed her gratitude that it was being recommended that capital funding had been released for Bayards Hill School.

Ms Chaundy spoke of the experiences of young carers, their hard work and feelings of isolation. The project to allow such young carers to come together was invaluable to them and she asked that funding continue.

The Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer referred to the additional information and recommendations contained in the supplementary report.

Councillor Kieron Mallon highlighted to Cabinet the information contained in Annex 6 setting out the overall equality impact assessment. It was noted that this document would continue to be developed as proposals progressed.

Councillor Heathcoat responding to questions asked earlier in the meeting on the library proposals referred to Annexes 2c and 6. She commented that shorter opening hours would not lead to the required savings as there would still be maintenance and staffing costs. Professional library staff would be in place until the project was concluded. Councillor Heathcoat added that she was happy to attend local meetings with officers as necessary and to work

with locally elected members and small groups representing the local community.

Cabinet Members placed o record their thanks to the Directors and financial team who had worked very hard to produce the paperwork.

Councillor Fatemian referred to the comments from Ms Chaundy and although unable to speak to the specifics he emphasised that there were no cuts in funding for the carer services.

RESOLVED: to:

(a) Note the report and that an addenda will be produced following the publication of the Draft Local Government Finance Settlement;

(b) Agree the revenue prioritisation principles set out in Annex 3;

(c) In relation to the review of charges:

(1) Note those charges prescribed by legislation;

(2) Approve those charges where there is local discretion as set out in Annex 4;

(3) Approve those charges for which an increase will commence before April 2011.

(d) Agree the use of £2.4m of the insurance reserve for alternative purposes in 2011/12;

(e) Agree the capital prioritisation principles set out in paragraph 37.

(f) that the provisional settlement be noted and representation is made to the Secretary of State over the Concessionary Fare;

(g) that a further target of £4.0m be added to 2011/12 due to the shortfall in funding on concessionary fares; and

(h) the current savings targets be maintained for 2013/14 and 2014/15; and

(i) to receive and note Annex 6, the Overarching Equality Impact Assessment.

139/10 PROPOSED CHANGE TO INTERNAL HOME SUPPORT SERVICE

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet considered a report on the future of Home Support Services (CA8).

Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Opposition Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Services spoke of the extremely high level of service that the County had always given. She hoped that it would be possible to find alternative employment so that the skills and experience of dedicated staff was not lost. She suggested that the proposals be taken forward with less speed, waiting until new providers were in place and all personal budgets transferred. She expressed concern at the level of monitoring and safety under the new arrangements.

The Director for Social & Community Services paid tribute to the work of the Home Support Staff. Their value was well recognised but sadly with the advent of personal budgets the internal service was unable to compete with the external market. There was a danger of funding a service that users would not choose to use because of costs. He added that there was an absolute duty to meet care needs at the appropriate level.

RESOLVED: to

(a) agree in principle that the internal Home Support Service will cease to operate by April 2012 at the latest, subject to the outcome of consultation with Service User groups and staff; and

(b) request a further report in April 2011 on the outcome of the consultation programme with Service User groups and staff.

140/10 ECO BICESTER VISION

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet considered a revised Vision following public consultation. Councillor Hudspeth in introducing the report expressed the views of a local member that Bicester has a lack of road infrastructure. Councillor Waine, as a local member indicated that he was supportive of the Vision document but that there was a query over the infrastructure it would bring.

RESOLVED: to approve the vision document contained in Annex 1 as informal county council policy, noting that the district council has also approved it as informal planning guidance for development control purposes.

141/10 BOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL & ELMS ROAD NURSERY/CHILDREN'S CENTRE - STATUTORY NOTICE

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to merge Botley Primary School with Elms Road Nursery School & Children's Centre into a single school and children's centre under one headteacher and a single governing body, and with a new name.

Councillor Janet Godden, speaking as a local member, expressed her gratitude that local members had been involved. She did believe that the proposal was right and that the proposed merger would be enriching for both

schools. She commented that both were strong schools that were esteemed locally.

Mrs Ahern, Chair of Governors of Botley Primary School spoke in support of the proposals referring to the OFSTED inspection and outlining the benefits she saw in merger including the resolution of the issues around Foundation 1, greater flexibility of resources and an improved quality of education for Botley children.

Mrs Winter, Chair of Governors of Elms Road Nursery School spoke in favour of keeping the Nursery School open. It was an outstanding school and her view was that legally it should only close if there were compelling reasons. She believed that the case for closure was not strong and that in terms of quality of education there would be a loss of specialism. In terms of funding the only saving was on the cost of the headteacher.

Councillor Waine in introducing the report acknowledged that it was a difficult decision but that the key issue was to address in a positive way the OFSTED inspection judgement. He moved option (a) set out in the report.

Responding to queries, Councillor Waine confirmed that due to changes in the funding formula the nursery school would be faced with a funding gap; there were sufficient management skills to deal with an extended age range.

RESOLVED: To approve the publication of linked statutory notices for closure of Elms Road Nursery School and for the extension of age range at Botley Primary School to 3-11.

142/10 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2ND QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

(Agenda Item. 11)

Councillor Jean Fooks, Opposition Deputy Leader, commented that the current report did not include much more information than the report for Quarter 1. She highlighted a number of concerns including around carbon reduction and appraisal reporting.

Councillor Robertson replied that the information included was exception reporting. The background was available on request and much of it was available on the web site. He undertook to ensure that future reports included more information on carbon management.

RESOLVED: To note the content of the report.

143/10 ICT OVERSPEND 2009/10

(Agenda Item. 13)

Cabinet considered the report of the Audit Working Group together with an update by the Acting Head of ICT of how the matters raised in the report had

been addressed so that the findings and response can be taken into account as part of the budget process.

Councillor Jean Fooks, Opposition Deputy Leader commented that it was a very thorough report and the update was useful. She expressed a slight concern around the new pressures referred to at paragraph 66 of the report. She highlighted the lack of in-house SAP experts and the need for proper general IT training.

Councillor Robertson thanked the Audit Working Group and Dr Jones for their work on this matter. He accepted the recommendations in the report and commented that many were already done or underway.

RESOLVED: to accept the recommendations set out in the report of the Audit Working Group and to note that many were already in progress.

144/10 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 14)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

145/10 VOTE OF THANKS

(Agenda Item.)

Cabinet recorded their thanks to the Chief Fire Officer and his team for their work during the recent adverse weather conditions that meant that meetings yesterday and today were able to go ahead. Thanks were also recorded to the teams involved in salting and clearing routes.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....