

**AGENDA ITEM: 8**

**CABINET**

**HELD: 18 NOVEMBER 2008**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 8.50pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Grant (Leader – in the Chair)

Councillors:           Ashcroft                               Mrs Hopley  
                              Forshaw                               Owens  
                              Greenall                               Westley  
                              Hammond

Officers:                Chief Executive  
                              Deputy Chief Executive  
                              Council Secretary and Solicitor  
                              Assistant Chief Executive  
                              Chief Accountant  
                              LDF Project Manager  
                              ICT and e-Government Manager  
                              Strategic Housing Manager  
                              Economic Regeneration Manager  
                              Technical Services Manager  
                              Member Services Manager

In attendance:  
Councillors            Furey                                   R A Pendleton  
                              Mawdsley                            Swiffen  
                              McKay

**64. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**65. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS**

No items of urgent business were taken at the meeting.

**66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor Forshaw declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5e (New Standards for private rented accommodation), as he owns properties for rent, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.
2. Councillor R A Pendleton declared personal interests in relation to items 5(k) (Second Homes Council Tax), 5(p) (Highway Consultation Procedures) and 8(b) (Residual Highways Agreement) in view of his membership of Lancashire County Council.

**67. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2008 and of the Special meeting held on 15 October 2008 be received as correct records and signed by the Leader.

**68. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to reports relating to matters requiring decisions, as contained on pages 929 to 1083 to of the Book of Reports.

**69. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Councillor Grant introduced the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor drawing Cabinet's attention to the request of the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee following that Committee's consideration of the Quarterly Performance Indicators for the period ended 30 June 2008. The Committee had asked that consideration be given to ceasing the inclusion of WL78 (Right to Buy offers issued in time) and the inclusion of an appropriate indicator in relation to property maintenance.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to cease the inclusion of Performance Indicator WL78 (Right to Buy Offers issued in time) and include an appropriate property maintenance performance indicator to "monitor repairs completed on time", be incorporated within the 2009/10 Business Planning Cycle.

**70. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services on issues relating to the use of Transitional Housing Capital Receipts (THCR) funding for affordable housing purposes and suggesting the establishment of a Cabinet Panel to shape, monitor and approve the Council's approach so that there is a viable affordable housing policy to meet housing need, deal with other associated issues and assist wider regeneration proposals.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: A. That an Affordable Housing Cabinet Panel comprising 3 Cabinet members together with co-opted members with no voting rights be established to:

- drive forward the Council's work on developing affordable housing by ensuring that the local affordable housing policy is conducive to realising positive affordable housing outcomes;
- ensure appropriate housing need and housing market information is available to support need for affordable housing interventions, including LDF policy formulation;
- explore delivery mechanisms that will enable maximum benefit of THCR and any other funding that is levered in to West Lancashire;
- commission appropriate research to further the affordable housing agenda; and
- consider how to use THCR to invest in appropriate affordable housing schemes,

and to report back to Cabinet with recommendations as appropriate.

- B. That the Cabinet Panel agree a spending plan for the use of THCR funds, subject to any decisions made by Council during the budget process on the future Capital Programme.
- C. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be given delegated authority to agree the terms of reference of the Cabinet Panel after consultation with the Leader.
- D. That it be noted that the Leader will advise officers of the names of the Cabinet and co-opted members to serve on the Panel.

## **71. REGENERATION OF THE TANHOUSE ESTATE**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services apprising Cabinet of the current position in relation to proposals for the regeneration of Tanhouse and advising that due to conditions in the housing market these proposals were not considered by developers with whom the Council had been in dialogue to be viable. The report went on to suggest that the matter could be referred to the Affordable Housing Cabinet Panel established at Minute 70 above could.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services conclude the dialogue with developers.
  - B. That no further action be taken on the pilot until the market conditions are favourable on the basis set out at paragraph 5.1 of the report.
  - C. That the Affordable Housing Cabinet Panel be asked to consider, as part of its remit, whether it would be beneficial to purchase land on the Tanhouse Estate to facilitate the pilot regeneration process.
  - D. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be authorised to take matters forward, in line with the resolution of 23 May 2006, at the appropriate time.

## **72. REVIEW OF REDECORATION ALLOWANCES**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services reminding members of the decision at Council on 27 February 2008 that Cabinet should review the Council's Redecoration Allowances Policy. The report advised that the review had now been undertaken and had shown that whilst the scheme reflected current good practice and a financially prudent approach, it did not provide for an element of annual uplift in line with inflation.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the current Redecoration Allowance Policy remains unchanged, subject to B below.
  - B. That redecoration values be uplifted annually in line with inflation as part of the normal revenue estimate cycle, subject to any decisions made by Council in its consideration of the budget estimates.

## **73. NEW STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services providing details of new standards for private rented accommodation and suggesting that the Council adopt guidance relating to fire safety and enter into a protocol with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to require owners to improve fire safety in private rented accommodation.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the duties and powers given to the Council under the Housing Act 2004 and associated regulations to improve standards in private rented housing be noted.
  - B. That the guidance entitled "Housing – Fire Safety" and described in Section 4.5 to the report be adopted by the Council and delegated authority be given to the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services to apply the guidance, in accordance with the relevant legislation.
  - C. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be authorised to sign a protocol on behalf of the Council setting out joint working arrangements with the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service in relation to improving fire safety in housing.

(Note: Councillor Forshaw, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room during consideration of the above item).

#### **74. CHANGES IN THE PROVISION OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services in relation to changes in the legislation relating to the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and giving details of new powers available to the Council in recovering a proportion of such grants in the event of the sale of a property in respect of which a grant had been made.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the changes made by Government in the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report be noted.
  - B. That consideration be given to how best to provide financial support to meet the adaptation needs of disabled residents in West Lancashire through the DFG Programme as part of the process for setting the Capital Programme.
  - C. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services to seek the recovery of a proportion of DFG where the property subject to the DFG adaptations is sold, in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of the report.
  - D. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be instructed to make any necessary amendments to existing Council Policy governing the way disabled adaptations are provided through Council funding to reflect the changes detailed in this report.

**75. REVIEW OF COUNCIL HOUSING FINANCE**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services reminding members that the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered at its meeting on 2 October 2008 a report relating to a consultation on the Government's review of housing finance. In this respect the Executive Manager advised that he had drafted a response to the Government which he had based on the discussion at the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and at a related Workshop session.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the response contained as Appendix 2 to the report be submitted as the Council's response to the Government's Review of Council Housing Finance.
- B. That call in is not appropriate for this item, as it has already been considered by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**76. WEST LANCASHIRE INSPIRE - PROJECT UPDATE**

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Executive Manager Regeneration and Estates giving a progress report on schemes under the West Lancashire Inspire project. In relation to a number of schemes the report advised that these were unable to be progressed due to financial or technical reasons.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED A. That the contents of the Report, including the remarkable success of the grant schemes under the Inspire themes Building Development Grant; Restyle for Rural and Secure Business Initiative be noted.
- B. That the work already undertaken on a number of the schemes under the various themes be noted, including works to several Gateways across the District, the many improvements undertaken in Ormskirk Town Centre such as new paving and lighting columns, the variety of work undertaken through the Employment Area Remodelling theme such as the Fairey Firefly fighter plane 'wings' estate makers at Burscough Industrial Estate and the partnership development through the Secure Business Initiative.
- C. That it be noted that the proposed scheme for Banks Shopping Centre, under the Town and Village Centre Enhancements theme, cannot go ahead due to technical reasons, and that the additional schemes put forward for possible implementation (including two

additional, alternative schemes) cannot go ahead due to technical and/or financial reasons.

- D. That, under the Employment Area Remodelling theme, it be noted that the proposed feasibility study for Pikelaw Place industrial units is not to be undertaken, the proposed scheme at Burscough Industrial Estate to improve business signage cannot now go ahead due to financial reasons and the two proposed schemes in Gillibrands will not go ahead unless an underspend is identified towards the end of the project.
- E. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Manager Regeneration and Estates, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Estates and the Council Secretary and Solicitor, to negotiate and enter into all necessary legal agreements in connection with the Hesketh Bank village improvement scheme and the Booths supermarket development, to enable the project to go ahead and to spend and defray its expenditure commitment before January 2010 to enable the final claim for the West Lancashire Inspire project to be submitted in a timely manner before the end of the Investing in Business Programme in March 2010.
- F. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Manager Regeneration and Estates to prioritise the implementation and scale of schemes in relation to funds available towards the end of the project.
- G. That, given the need for urgent action to ensure full implementation of the remaining Inspire schemes within very limited timescales, the call in procedure shall not apply in relation to this item.

## **77. COMPLAINTS MONITORING**

Councillor Grant introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive presenting the latest available data on complaints received by the Council for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The report noted that the number of complaints (as defined in the report) had reduced by 70% when compared with the previous year.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the dramatic fall in the level of official complaints to the Council in 2007/08 be noted.
  - B. That call in is not appropriate for this item as it is being considered at the next meeting of the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**78. CORPORATE PRIORITIES 2009/10**

Councillor Grant introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive seeking approval of the draft Corporate Priorities Statement for 2009/10, (a copy of which was appended to the report) prior to its submission to Council on 17 December 2008. Members noted that the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering the report at its meeting on 4 December 2008..

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the draft Corporate Priorities Statement 2009/10, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved,
  - B. That the draft Statement be forwarded to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
  - C. That the draft Statement be forwarded to Council with a recommendation that it be agreed and adopted as the Council's Corporate Priorities Statement 2009/10.
  - D. That the Vision and Priorities be used to inform the budget setting process and the corporate and service planning processes for April 2009 to March 2010.
  - E. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as it is being considered at the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**79. SECOND HOMES COUNCIL TAX**

Councillor Grant introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive reminding members of arrangements whereby income generated by charging Council Tax on second homes would be passed to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to assist in achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Lancashire Local Area Agreement.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: That decisions to allocate Second Homes Funding in accordance with the recommendation of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.



**80. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS CABINET COMMITTEE - 10 NOVEMBER 2008**

Councillor Hammond introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive in relation to the annual review of the Council's funding for voluntary bodies and other organisations, which had been conducted by the Working Group, whose recommendations had been endorsed by the Cabinet Committee appointed for that purpose. Members noted that the recommendations would be subject to consideration in the budget for 2009/10.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That it be noted that the Funding of Voluntary Bodies and Other Organisations Cabinet Committee held on 10 November 2008, supported and endorsed the recommendations of the Funding of Voluntary Bodies and Other Organisations Working Group of 9 October 2008 and these minutes be approved.
- B. That the recommendations within minute no. 11 of the Funding of Voluntary Bodies and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group held on 9 October 2008 be supported in principle and determined when the budget is set on 25 February 2009.

**81. REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MID YEAR REVIEW 2008/2009**

Councillor Westley introduced the report of the Council Secretary & Solicitor giving an overview of the progress in relation to the Revised Capital Programme for 2008/09 and giving details of suggested changes to the programme to reflect changes in circumstances since the Programme was approved.

Members noted that the report was to be submitted to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Council.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the Revised Capital Programme, including the virements contained within it, be approved for consideration by Council.
- B. That the progress against the Revised Capital Programme at the mid-year point be noted.
- C. That call in is not appropriate for this item as it is being referred to Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council.

**82. REVENUE BUDGET MID YEAR REVIEW**

Councillor Westley introduced the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor giving an indication of the projected position on the General and Housing Revenue Accounts at the end of the financial year.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the financial position of the Revenue Accounts together with the levels of working balances be noted.
  - B. That call in is not appropriate for this item, as it is to be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**83. BUDGET PROSPECTS 2009-2010**

Councillor Westley introduced the report of the Council Secretary & Solicitor providing members with an initial assessment of the Council's budget position for 2009/10. In relation to revenue budgets the report drew attention to the low level of grant assistance in the next two years and the effect of this in the light of the current inflation rate and the uncertain financial markets throughout the world. In relation to capital expenditure the report drew attention to the significant decrease in the number of Council house sales and the impact this could have on the resources available for capital projects.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A That the Council's difficult budget prospects for the next financial year, including the combination of limited resources and spending pressures, be noted.
  - B. That call in is not appropriate for this item as it is to be submitted to the next meeting of Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**84. HIGHWAY CONSULTATION PROCEDURES**

Councillor Forshaw introduced the report of the Technical Services Manager seeking approval of arrangements for responding to consultation in relation to various highways and rights of way issues, such as the provision of disabled persons parking bays and footpath diversion orders.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Manager Planning and Development Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation and relevant Ward Members, be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council to consultations from LCC in respect of highway and public rights of way matters.

**85. SAVING THE POLICIES OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN**

Councillor Forshaw introduced the report of the LDF Project Manager reminding Members that the Council's current Local Plan was under review as part of the establishment of the new Local Development Framework (LDF). In this respect the LDF Project Manager reported that the Council was unlikely to have the new arrangements in place by July 2009, which was when the existing Local Plan would cease to have effect. He therefore went on to suggest arrangements for securing the protection of policies in the Local Plan beyond the expiry date and advised that these needed to be completed by 5 January 2009.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the LDF Project Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to submit draft proposals for the saving of policies within the West Lancashire Replacement Local Plan to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2008, to enable that Committee to submit agreed comments for consideration by Council on 17 December 2008.
  - B. That the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the LDF Project Manager, be given delegated authority to submit firm proposals to Council on 17 December 2008 to enable the list of Local Plan policies intended for saving to be finalised, and in this respect the Portfolio Holder take into account any comments agreed by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - C. That call in is not appropriate for this item as it is to be submitted to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 December 2008.

**86. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ICT NETWORK**

Councillor Westley introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive in relation to the review of procedures and protocol for the use of ICT by Members of the Council. The report reminded members that the current arrangements had been introduced in April 2008, with a commitment to review them after 6 months and in this respect drew attention to the issues arising from the review and the resultant recommendations.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the policy agreed by Council on 23 April 2008 be confirmed, viz: -
- i. That the policy of offering the MPLS enabled broadband line to Members, together with a laptop PC and associated hardware and software be confirmed.
  - ii. That in the event of a Member rejecting the offer of an MPLS line, the policy be: that they have Council emails redirected to their own personal email accounts on their own computer or mobile device where appropriate; that they will not be provided with a Council laptop PC and associated hardware and software; that they be emailed a copy of the Council's email address book each month.
  - iii. That Members who are provided with an MPLS line, laptop PC and associated hardware and software can also have Council emails redirected to their own personal email accounts.
  - iv. That the Council continue to offer a mobile device to Members of the Cabinet.
  - v. That Members who are also Lancashire County Councillors have the option of accessing the secure Council network through the Lancashire County Council network using a Council laptop
  - vi. That Members not currently operating within the above choices, be advised of the options and they be invited to choose one of these options.
  - vii. That Members note that for security reasons, personal PCs can no longer be permitted to have access to the MPLS line.
- B. That arrangements be made for Members who do not use their MPLS line for connection to the WLDC network, to have their line discontinued.
- C. That the Protocol in the Constitution on the use of ICT by Members be reissued to all Members.

**87. PARTNERSHIP WORKING - WLDC AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS/AGENCIES**

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Executive Manager Regeneration and Estates in relation to potential arrangements with external organisations, such as the Primary Care Trust, whereby they would occupy a desk space within the Regeneration and Estates Division, located within the West Lancashire Investment Centre.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Manager Regeneration and Estates, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Estates and Council Secretary and Solicitor, be authorised to negotiate and enter into necessary agreement(s), to provide a desk space within the WLDC Regeneration and Estates Division, in the West Lancashire Investment Centre to external organisations and agencies, such as the PCT, to enable the delivery of shared projects and initiatives for the benefit of the West Lancashire community.

**88. SKELMERSDALE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT: FACILITATION BUDGET**

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Deputy Chief Executive in relation to the Facilitation budget used in connection with the regeneration of Skelmersdale Town Centre. Members noted that the initial budget of £50,000 had now been expended and that the provision of additional funding would enable the Council to continue work on the project.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

**RESOLVED:** That the Facilitation Budget for the Skelmersdale Town Centre Regeneration Project be increased by £25,000, funded from Usable Working Balances and that the Deputy Chief Executive continue to have authority to use this budget.

**89. KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS - 1 JULY-30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Leader introduced the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 1085 and 1086 of the Book of Reports, advising Cabinet that no decisions had been made during the last quarter in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 (Special Urgency).

**RESOLVED** That it be noted that Procedure Rule 16, Special Urgency, was not exercised during the period ending 30 September 2008.

**90. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**91. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

The Cabinet gave consideration to reports in relation to matters requiring a decision, as contained on pages 1087 to 11094 of the Book of Reports.

**92. REVIEW OF PLUMBING/MULTITRADE AND ELECTRICAL IN-HOUSE SERVICES**

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services in relation to arrangements for the in-house provision of plumbing, multi-trade and electrician services for the repair and maintenance of the Council's corporate buildings.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: A. That the principle of tendering Plumbing and Multitrade Corporate Building Services be agreed.

- B. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Estates, be authorised to determine the timescales in relation to the tendering exercise.
- C. That the electrical maintenance arrangements continue and be reviewed periodically.
- D. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be instructed not to prepare an in-house bid.

**93. RESIDUAL HIGHWAYS AGREEMENT**

Councillor Forshaw introduced the report of the Technical Services Manager advising Cabinet of the forthcoming termination of arrangements with Lancashire County Council in relation to grass cutting, tree maintenance, street furniture, road signs etc and seeking authority to enter into a new agreement with effect from 1 July 2009.

Officers noted the County Council's intention to discontinue making a contribution towards this Council's costs in dealing with telephone calls etc in relation to services provided by that authority and in this respect officers undertook to seek to negotiate continuation of this contribution.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

**RESOLVED:** That the Technical Services Manager be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Street Scene Manager and relevant Portfolio Holders, to negotiate and enter into a new Agreement for the residual highways function.

.....  
- LEADER OF THE COUNCIL -