



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

Cabinet

AGENDA ITEM: 3

Date: 4 December 2000
Venue: Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury
Time: 11.00 am to 11.55 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr D A C Shakespeare (in the Chair)

Mrs M A M Aston, Mr M C Appleyard, Mr W J Y Chapple, Mrs P M A Dewar,
Mr R S Royston, Mr M W Taylor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr R J Worrall

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

1 The Way Ahead

The Leader introduced his report which set out important elements of the nature and style of future Cabinet meetings and some of the priorities for the coming months. He reported that this Council was one of the first Authorities to modernise in line with the new legislation.

During discussion Members noted the following:-

- The importance of Cabinet Members and General Managers working as a single team;
- The importance of community leadership and partnership;
- The importance of the work of all Members, Select Committees and Policy Advisory Groups which would add value to the Council.

Resolved

That the report be noted

2 Cabinet Forward Plan

The Cabinet received the first draft of the Cabinet's Forward Plan. The report explained that Government regulations under the new Local Government Act would require the Cabinet to set out its programme of work for the coming four months. Members also noted the departing Chief Officer of Council's End of Term Report and the Outline Work Programme for Select Committees, which was being discussed at a joint meeting of Select Committees on 12 December 2000.

The following points were made:-

Forward Plan

- The review of Local Committees should be undertaken recognising that they were still in the early stages of development;

End of Term Report

- In relation to raising standards in the Education Service, a Member commented on the need to recognise that children with disabilities in Buckinghamshire had reached high standards in education this year;
- The importance of being customer focused

Outline Work Programme for Select Committees

- A Member advised that the Select Committee for Lifelong Learning should consider the budgetary issues of Home to School Transport;

Resolved

That the report be noted.

3 Green Paper on Modernising Local Government Finance

The Leader of the Council presented a report which set out a draft response to the Government's Green Paper on Modernising Local Government Finance. Whilst the Cabinet welcomed certain aspects contained within the Green Paper, concern was expressed about the following proposals:-

- Revenue Grant – A member referred to the Learning and Skills Council and expressed his concern regarding the fact that the Council had no representation on the Board, which may have funding implications;
- A member commented on the disadvantages of a plan-based system. The formula based mechanism was still preferable to the bidding process against plans submitted, which could disadvantage those organisations whose plans were not in line with Government policy.

- Council Tax – Members discussed the method of council tax collections and whether the two-tier system was the most efficient way of collecting taxes.

Resolved

That the Cabinet endorses the response to the Government's Green Paper on Modernising Local Government Finance.

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