Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 25 August 2009 at 10.00 am at County Offices, Kendal.

PRESENT

Mr J Buchanan (Chair)
Mrs A Burns
Mr D S Fairbairn
Mr A J Markley
Mr E Martin
Mr O Pearson
Mr G B Strong
Mr S F Young

Officers in Attendance:-

Acting Chief Executive, Corporate Director – Environment, Corporate Director – Children’s Services, Interim Deputy Chief Executive, Acting Head of Adult and Cultural Services, Corporate Director – Safer and Stronger Communities, Head of Service: Commercial Partnerships, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Legal Officer, Principal Democratic Services Manager.

Leadership Support Officers for the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups were also present.

PART I ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mrs Mallinson and Mr Knowles.

27. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.
28.  MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29.  EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the Agenda for which it would prove necessary to exclude members of the press and public.

30.  STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader advised that this would be the last Cabinet meeting attended by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive, Charles Green as he was due to leave the Council. Cabinet joined the Leader in thanking Charles for his hard work over the past 18 months particularly in bringing the Environment directorate together and on his work on locality working and wished him every success in the future.

31.  PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCHEME

There had been no requests to address Cabinet under the public participation scheme for this meeting.

32.  LOCAL COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Cabinet Member for Communities reported on proposals to amend the Scheme of Delegation both to update existing terms of reference of local committees and to reflect additional devolved local committee responsibilities recommended by the Constitution Review Group. The proposals had been considered by the Constitution Review Group, Cabinet and the Scrutiny Management Board. Members were in receipt of the Appendix to the report which identified the changes proposed.

RESOLVED, that

(1) County Council be RECOMMENDED to amend the Terms of Reference of Local Committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;

(2) it be noted that a more wide ranging review of the scope for devolving greater powers to bodies below
Cabinet would be taken later this year through the Devolution Working Group.

33. SCHOOL ORGANISATION: A STRATEGIC APPROACH – THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING RESOURCE PROVISION AT TRINITY SCHOOL, Carlisle

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services reported on a proposal for Trinity School, Carlisle to become a resourced school for hearing impaired pupils. He reported on the outcome of a consultation exercise undertaken which had received overwhelming support for the proposals including a unanimous decision by the Governing Body to endorse the plans to create resourced provision at the school.

RESOLVED, that Cabinet agree that all necessary action be taken to enable Trinity School to become a resourced school for pupils with hearing impairment with effect from January 2010.

34. NORTH WEST FIRE CONTROL COMPANY – CONSTITUTION

The Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities reported on a proposal made by the North West Fire Control Company on behalf of Greater Manchester Fire Authority to increase the number of Directors on the control company from 10 to 11 by increasing their authority’s representation from 2 to 3. The proposal suggested that each of the four other authorities would maintain their current two directors.

RESOLVED, that the maintenance of the status quo in relation to the membership of the North West Fire Control Company, being two directors from each authority, be supported.

35. CONSULTATION ON UK STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT OF LOW LEVEL RADIO ACTIVE WASTE

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport the Cabinet Member for Economy and Highways presented to Members the terms of the Council’s response to the consultation on the National Low Level Waste (LLW) strategy which was due to close on 11 September 2009. He confirmed that the County Council should support the strategy’s emphasis on waste avoidance, segregation of waste, minimising and reusing waste, to reduce the amount needing disposal. The proposed strategy identified a need for new sites, particularly to dispose of very low level waste. The strategic environmental assessment
which partnered the strategy did not accept that there were wider social and economic impacts of disposing of these wastes away from nuclear sites. The Cabinet Member advised that the proposed response from the County Council confirmed that this was not the experience in Cumbria. The response suggested that opportunities to treat and dispose of the waste at or adjacent to Sellafield should be seriously examined and used in preference to sites away from Sellafield, which were likely to generate greater concern from communities and deter investment.

Members were in receipt of a letter from Radiation Free Lakeland addressed to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport which had been circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED, that Cabinet agree the County Council response as set out at Appendix 1 to the report for submission to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

36. CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – PREFERRED SITE ALLOCATIONS, POLICIES AND PROPOSALS MAP

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport the Cabinet Member for Economy and Highways reminded Members that the Council had already formally adopted the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) core strategy. This included policies that set out what provision needed to made for minerals and waste management developments in the planned period, which ran to 2020. He reported on an extra round of consultation that was needed for the site allocations policies and the proposals map which were the two remaining development plan documents that the County Council was preparing for the MWDF. These documents would identify sites and areas of land for working and safeguarding minerals and for managing wastes. A large number of sites had been put forward for consideration and these had been assessed with regard to site selection and sustainability appraisal criteria. The report made recommendations for the sites which should be identified as the Council’s preferred ones for the next round of consultations. The Cabinet Member confirmed that copies of the site allocations policies and associated maps had been placed in group offices for inspection.

RESOLVED, that

(1) for the purpose of consultation in accordance with Regulation 25, Cabinet approves the list and the maps as the basis for the Council’s draft preferred site and
areas for working and safeguarding minerals and for managing waste;

(2) That the Head of Planning and Sustainability be authorised to make editing changes to the site allocations policies document prior to the consultation.

The Meeting ended at 10.20am