

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2013 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Birch, Daniel, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Fawthrop, Field, Freebody, Freeman, Glazier, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Hughes, Jones CBE, Kenward, Lambert, Livings, Lock, Maynard, O’Keeffe, Ost, Pragnell, Reid, Rodohan, Rogers OBE, Scott, D Shing, S Shing, Simmons, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Mrs Tidy, Tidy MBE, Tutt, Waite, Webb and Whetstone.

51 Minutes of last meeting

51.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 4 December 2012 as a correct record.

52. Apologies for absence

52.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gadd and Harris

53. Chairman's Business

NEW YEAR’S HONOURS

53.1 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated all those who worked or lived in East Sussex who were recognised in the New Year’s Honours. In particular he congratulated Peter Jones who had been awarded a CBE for services to local government in the south east.

ADVERSE WEATHER

53.2 On behalf of the Council the Chairman expressed his thanks to all staff who ensured that services were maintained during the snow last month and stated that their efforts were greatly appreciated.

CHAIRMAN’S ACTIVITIES

53.3 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: visiting the Friends of Sussex Hospices Christmas fair at the South of England Centre, Ardingly and the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility. I attended the East Sussex Academy of Music Christmas concert and the Federation of Small Businesses St Leonard’s Business EXPO. In early December I held a Christmas reception, which was attended by members of voluntary groups, organisations and businesses which I had visited over the previous few months. The Vice Chairman attended a number of events including the Mid Sussex Chairman’s Civic Service and

the Lewes Civic Carol Service at St Anne's Church. The Vice Chairman and I had undertaken 25 engagements in total since the last County Council meeting.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

53.4 The Chairman indicated that the Chinese New Year began on 10 February and this year was the year of the Snake. The Chairman wished all present a very happy Chinese New Year.

PRAYERS

53.5 The Chairman thanked Reverend Judith Egar, Minister at St Anne's Church, Lewes for leading the prayers before the meeting.

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PETITIONS

53.6 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received petitions from members as follows:

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| Councillor O'Keeffe | - calling on the County Council to introduce a 20 mph speed limit from the junction of Bell Lane and Winterbourne Lane to the junction of Brighton Road, A277 and Montacute Road, Lewes |
| Councillor St Pierre | - calling on the County Council to introduce a 20 mph speed limit to the neighbourhoods of Old Malling and New Malling, Lewes to improve road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers within 2013/14 |
| Councillor B Tidy | - calling on the County Council to amend the speed limit on the B2100 at Catts Hill, Mark Cross to 40 mph |
| Councillor Tutt | - calling upon the County Council to reinstate the crossing patrol on Milfoil Drive, Eastbourne ousted Shinewater Primary School |

54 Questions from Members of the Public

54.1 There were no questions from members of the public

55. Declarations of Interest

56.1 There were no declarations of interest

56. Reports

CALLOVER

56.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following paragraphs for discussion:

Cabinet - paragraphs 1 and 2

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

56.2 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports of the Committees that had not been reserved for discussion.

57. CABINET REPORT – RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES

57.1 Under Standing Order 23, the Council agreed that the speeches of the Leaders of the four groups (or their nominees) on paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report should be extended beyond five minutes.

57.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Tutt and seconded:

Replace paragraph 1.13 (2) and (7) with:

(2) approve the net Revenue Budget estimates for 2013/14 set out in Annex 1 of the commentary on the revenue budget circulated to all Members (Appendix 2); with the following amendments:

	<u>£'000</u>
<i>Mitigate the savings on community based services for Older People (to lessen the impact on individuals who will have their support packages reduced as the range of ADLs is reduced by £350k)</i>	350
<i>Mitigate the savings on community based services for Working Age Adults (to lessen the impact on individuals who will have their support packages reduced as the range of ADLs is reduced by £1m)</i>	1,000
<i>Mitigate cuts to resources for School Intervention and Improvement £250k</i>	250
<i>Mitigate cuts to Trading Standards services (to reduce the impact on services to the vulnerable £50k)</i>	50
<i>Provide additional funding of £1m for a programme of permanent repairs to pot holes and for pavement improvements</i>	1,000
TOTAL	2,650

Funded by:

Reduce the amount spent on external venues across the Council by £50k p.a. 50

<i>Reduce the amount spent on Temporary, Agency staff and consultants across the Council, by £1m p.a.</i>	1,000
<i>Accelerate the Agile working programme to generate savings of £650k in 2013/14.</i>	650
<i>Accelerate the charges being introduced to utility companies. This income will follow from the implementation of a Permit Scheme, which provides a framework for utility companies undertaking work on the highway and how we manage them (350k).</i>	350
<i>(v) Accelerate and increase cash savings to be achieved through the ICT; property and procurement work streams of SE7 (£600k)</i>	600
TOTAL	2,650

(7) approve the Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2013/14 and 2014/15, to note the schemes provisionally included in the Capital Programme in future years, as set out in Appendix 3; and to agree to allocate £250k to commence rollout of 20mph speed limits outside schools as a priority from the Local Transport Improvements budget

57.3 A recorded vote on Councillor Tutt's amendment was requested and taken. The amendment was LOST, the votes being cast as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT

Councillors Field, Freeman, Healy, Heaps, Lambert, Ost, Rodohan, Rogers, Sparks, St Pierre, Thompson and Tutt

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Fawthrop, Freebody, Glazier, Howson, Hughes, Jones, Kenward, Livings, Lock, Maynard, Pragnell, Reid, Simmons, Stogdon, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Mrs Tidy, Tidy, Waite and Whetstone

ABSTENTIONS

Councillors Birch, Daniel, O'Keeffe, Scott, D Shing, S Shing and Webb

57.4 The following amendment moved by Councillor Birch and seconded was LOST:

Replace paragraph 1.13 (2), (3) and (4) with:

(2) approve the net Revenue Budget estimates for 2013/14 set out in Annex 1 of the commentary on the revenue budget circulated to all Members (Appendix 2); with the following amendments:

	<u>£'000</u>
<i>Increase the council tax by 1.95% (net benefit over and above what the freeze grant would have realised)</i>	1,700

<i>Reduce revenue contribution to capital by £2m (leaving £3m)</i>	2,000
<i>Reduce the Corporate Communications budget (including discontinuing Your County magazine)</i>	<u>140</u>
Total saving	3,840
<i>Maintain activities of daily living for older people</i>	700
<i>Maintain activities of daily living for working age adults</i>	2,000
<i>Additional investment in early help (to assist meeting Thrive targets)</i>	700
<i>Additional investment in Targeted Youth Support</i>	300
<i>Delete the savings proposal to reduce Road Safety in E, T & E</i>	140
Total additional spend	3,840

(3) in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree that:

(i) the net budget requirement is £383.8m and the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its requirements for the year 2013/14 is £217.7m;

(ii) the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as the basic amount of its council tax (ie for a band D property) for the year 2013/14 is £1,180.89 and represents a 1.95% increase on the previous year;

(4) the Borough and District Councils be advised of the relevant amounts payable and council tax in other bands in line with the regulations and to issue precepts accordingly in accordance with the Agreed schedule of instalments (revised version Annex 1b of Appendix 2);

57.5 The following motion moved by Councillor Glazier, to adopt paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report as amended was CARRIED:

(1) approve the draft Council Plan 2013/14 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;

(2) approve the net Revenue Budget estimates for 2013/14 set out in the revised version of Annex 1a (previously circulated and tabled at the meeting) of the commentary on the revenue budget circulated to all Members (Appendix 2);

(3) in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree that:

(i) the net budget requirement is £379.6m and the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its requirements for the year 2013/14 is £213.6m;

(ii) the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as the basic amount of its council tax (ie for a band D property) for the year 2013/14 is £1158.30 and represents a 0% increase on the previous year;

(4) the Borough and District Councils be advised of the relevant amounts payable and council tax in other bands in line with the regulations and to issue precepts accordingly in accordance with the Agreed schedule of instalments (Annex 1b of Appendix 2);

(5) note the fees and charges set out in Annex 6 of Appendix 2;

(6) note the views on the RPPR proposals from engagement feedback at Appendix 5 of the report to Cabinet of 29 January, previously circulated;

(7) approve the Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2013/14 and 2014/15 and to note the schemes provisionally included in the Capital Programme in future years, as set out in Appendix 3; and

(8) adopt the Prudential Indicators in relation to the Capital Programme set out in Annex 6 of Appendix 3.

58. Cabinet Report – Remaining Reserved paragraph

58.2 Councillor Jones moved the remaining reserved paragraph of the Cabinet's report.

58.3 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

59. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

59.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Healy	Councillor Bentley	Counter signatories for Blue Badge applications
Councillor Field	Councillor Elkin	Impact on standards in East Sussex schools of the decision by the Education Secretary not to introduce English Baccalaureate Certificates
Councillor Birch	Councillor Belsey	Impact of potential reduction of housing benefit for registered foster carers who have unoccupied bedrooms
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Lock	Role of Lead Member for Economy
Councillor Pragnell	Councillor Freebody	Progress and timescales for upgrades to libraries in East Sussex

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Shing	Councillor Jones	County Council elections in May 2013 and impact of additional costs associated with the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Role of Highways in facilitating the provision of covered bus shelters
Councillor Webb	Councillor Bennett	Safeguards to ensure that there is no horsemeat in school meals.
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Maynard	Temporary and permanent repair of potholes
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Bennett	Balances on cards used by those entitled to free school meals

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

59.2 Written questions were received from Councillors Tutt, Ost, Lambert and S Shin for the Lead Members for Strategic Management and Economic Development, Community and Resources and Transport and Environment. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes.

59.3 The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions by the questioners for the purposes of clarification.

60. Notice of Motion

60.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Freeman and seconded by Councillor Lambert:

a) This Council requests that officers urgently assess the feasibility of introducing 20 mph limits in residential zones across the county where this is supported by the local community.

The Council recognises that some roads are not appropriate for 20 mph limits, in particular, major routes through towns. However the Council is convinced of the benefits of introducing 20 mph limits in residential zones, where feasible, and in particular, around schools and Children's Centres.

The Council recognises the success of 20 mph limits in other parts of the country in:

- reducing the number of accidents and casualties, in particular for child pedestrians;
- making safer routes for children to walk and cycle to school;

- bringing a wide range of environmental benefits;
- bringing about savings for the health service through improved health and a reduction in accidents and casualties.

The Council requests that officers carry out a feasibility study for the phased introduction of 20 mph limits across the county.

60.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Stogdon and seconded by Councillor Freebody:

~~To delete the words [This Council requests that officers urgently assess the feasibility of introducing 20 mph limits in residential zones across the county where this is supported by the local community.]~~

~~The Council recognises that some roads are not appropriate for 20 mph limits, in particular, major routes through towns. However the Council is convinced of the benefits of introducing 20 mph limits in residential zones, where feasible, and in particular, around schools and Children's Centres.]~~

~~To insert [That] the Council recognises [insert] [that, in appropriate locations, the introduction of] [delete] [the success of] 20 mph limits [delete] [in other parts of the county in] [insert] can play a part in:~~

- reducing the number of accidents and casualties~~[delete] [,- in particular for child pedestrians];~~
- making safer routes for children to walk and cycle to school;
- ~~[delete] bringing a wide range of environmental benefits] [insert] [the possible reduction of carbon emissions];~~
- ~~[insert] [improving health and wellbeing and reducing the cost burden on health services] [delete] [bringing about savings for the health service through improved health and a reduction in accidents and casualties].~~

~~[The Council requests that officers carry out a feasibility study for the phased introduction of 20 mph limits across the county.]~~

~~[Insert] [The County Council requests that its Officers work closely with the County's Partners, Towns, Parishes, Districts & Boroughs, other local organisations and communities in assessing the need for improved levels of safety for pedestrians using the County's Highways, especially in residential areas,~~

~~Where there is sufficient evidence that increased safety benefits shall support the introduction of 20 mph speed limits at locations around schools, this Council shall propose that the introduction of such speed limits be implemented, and,~~

~~In regard to improving levels of safety outside Schools and other locations affecting pedestrians, this Council and its Partners, Towns, Parishes, Districts & Boroughs Councils shall not be confined to consideration of installation of reduced speed limits, but shall have careful regard to other innovative ways with which to moderate and improve traffic behaviour in residential areas.~~

60.3 The amendment was accepted by Councillors Freeman and Lambert and the following was CARRIED:

1. The Council recognises that, in appropriate locations, the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and other innovative measures can play a part in:
 - reducing the number of accidents and casualties,
 - making routes safer for children to walk and cycle to school;
 - the possible reduction of carbon emissions.
 - improving health and well being and reducing the cost burden on health services,
2. The County Council requests that its Officers work closely with the County's Partners, Towns, Parishes, Districts & Boroughs, other local organisations and communities in assessing the need for improved levels of safety for pedestrians using the County's Highways, especially in residential areas,
3. Where there is sufficient evidence that increased safety benefits shall support the introduction of 20 mph speed limits at locations around schools, this Council shall propose that the introduction of such speed limits be implemented, and,
4. In regard to improving levels of safety outside Schools and other locations affecting pedestrians, this Council and its Partners, Towns, Parishes, Districts & Boroughs Councils shall not be confined to consideration of installation of reduced speed limits, but shall have careful regard to other innovative ways with which to moderate and improve traffic behaviour in residential areas.

60.4 The Chairman reported that in accordance with Standing Order 36.6, the Notice of Motion included on the agenda at item 10(b) had been withdrawn.

60.5 The following motion moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Bennett was CARRIED:

c) This Council calls on Her Majesty's Government to unlock the potential of the southern coastal and rural part of East Sussex by upgrading the A27 between Polegate and Beddingham

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.03 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Tutt to Councillor Jones, Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

As Leader of the Council you have for years been providing verbal reports to Council on the progress of the South East Seven. I am sure that we all welcome the prospect of financial saving for East Sussex. Please can you provide details of the estimated savings which will be realised by East Sussex in each of the next 4 financial years?

Answer by Councillor Jones

The most up to date estimates of savings that could accrue to ESCC as a result of our engagement in the SE7 were shared at Cabinet on 29 January 2013 – attached as Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

The savings estimates will be updated over the coming months in time for the new financial year. These figures will be shared with Members as part of our regular reporting to Cabinet.

2. Question by Councillor Tutt to Councillor Jones, Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

I understand that talks have been taking place with BDUK over the deployment of superfast high speed broadband services for East Sussex. Please will you update Council as to the outcome of those talks and provide details of when superfast high speed broadband will be deployed in each of the Boroughs and Districts?

Answer by Councillor Jones

Nationally, private sector communications providers are already delivering superfast broadband services, with Virgin Media and BT rapidly deploying networks. Already, nearly 50% of households in the UK can access 50 megabits per second. Superfast networks are already being rolled out across East Sussex, mainly in more populated areas where it is economically attractive for commercial operations to invest. This is known as the “commercial” rollout and does not use any public money. ESCC has no control over the commercial rollout and decisions are made entirely on a commercial basis by private sector investors.

Government recognises that the business case for investors is more challenging in less densely populated areas, such as the rural parts of East Sussex, which is why it is providing funding as well as ensuring the right regulatory and policy environment to allow the market to deploy further. This is the BDUK programme which forms the basis for the current ESCC project.

BDUK approved the East Sussex Broadband Plan in April this year which has secured £10.64m from £530m being distributed across the UK to support the rollout of superfast broadband. Since then, we have been working through the steps necessary to launch the formal procurement exercise, using the BDUK national framework.

We have just concluded an Open Market Review with the industry to ascertain future investment plans, and are mapping details of where we believe the final project intervention area to be. The next stage is to publish draft maps in order for the industry to provide comments on the accuracy of the data. This is a State Aid requirement.

We estimate, based on current data and modelling predictions, that the Superfast commercial deployment will reach 50 – 60% of premises in East Sussex. The remainder will be covered by the Broadband Project.

Until we have appointed a delivery partner we are not able to provide granular detail about rollout since this will be discussed as part of the procurement negotiations and will also be dependent upon site surveys once the selected supplier is in place. We expect to conclude the procurement in the Spring.

Funding must be spent by end March 2015 and we will publish details of implementation when we have them.

3. Question by Councillor Ost to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Now that most of the Districts and Boroughs of East Sussex are working with this Authority in a waste collection and disposal partnership, and given its success in previous years in winning 'Green Apple' and other environmental awards, why was there no County-wide announcement of the success of one of the partners in its application under the DEFRA "Household Reward and Recognition Scheme" to encourage households to reduce waste?"

Answer by Councillor Maynard

Through improvements made to the waste service it is forecasted that 95% of all household waste will be re-used, recycled or recovered. As well as the Joint Waste Collection Contract providing significant financial savings to Council Tax payers, it is also anticipated that it will facilitate improvements to recycling rates. The Waste Team have also been working together with Veolia and Brighton and Hove City Council to formalise a waste minimisation strategy and plan. The teams working on waste management for East Sussex County Council (ESCC) have been streamlined from three teams to one over the past three years so have been focussing their efforts on these priority areas of work which have and will make significant improvements in our waste operations. Therefore a bid to DEFRA was not made by ESCC.

Rother District Council's successful application to the "Household Reward and Recognition Scheme" was good news. The 'Green Point Pilot' will give residents or communities green points for increased recycling or reduced residual waste, the green points can then be used to buy discounted eco-products and access to council facilities. However this is a Rother initiative and therefore it is for them to promote the scheme and advertise their success. The "Household Reward and Recognition" scheme has now closed and we are not aware if the scheme will be extended or not. However, ESCC will continue to review future opportunities to bid for external funds

and it is anticipated that through the development of the joint waste strategy there can be a more co-ordinated approach to such bids.

4. Question by Councillor Ost to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Why has there been no County-wide initiative to take up and use the DEFRA sponsored 'Household Reward and Recognition Scheme', to reduce waste generation, at source, by households across our county? The DEFRA scheme has been designed to support 'reward and encouragement schemes' for householders, thus directly encouraging and promoting waste reduction by individuals and families, and would appear to fit well with the work of our East Sussex waste management partnership.

Answer by Councillor Maynard

Please refer to the answer to question 3 above

5. Question by Councillor Ost to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Now that Rother District Council has been successful, winning over £50, 000 (2012 – 2014) towards its scheme, will the Leader of Rother District Council now use his influence as Lead Member for Transport and Environment in East Sussex County Council to develop a scheme to encourage participation in waste reduction by more East Sussex residents, and when can we have details of what he is proposing for the rest of this county?

Gloucestershire Waste Partnership, Norfolk County Council, the West London Waste Authority, and Rother District Council, among others, have been successful, why not East Sussex?"

Answer by Councillor Maynard

Please refer to the answer to question 3 above

6. Question by Councillor Lambert to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

There are zig zag markings outside all schools in East Sussex. Unfortunately, many of these markings are not enforceable.

Parents park on these markings which is dangerous to children attending the school and frustrating for residents and police.

The zig zags outside Seaford Primary School have recently been enforced and this has led to a significant improvement in parking around the school as well as making access safer.

Will Councillor Maynard request officers to carry out a feasibility study to be completed in the next financial year to:

- cost out the necessary action to make zig zags outside all schools in East Sussex enforceable; and
- draw up an implementation plan.

Answer by Councillor Maynard

School Keep Clear markings have historically been well respected generally by parents who recognise their effectiveness in the close vicinity of a school. There is however a growing trend that some parents see the markings as a convenient place to stop when dropping off or collecting their children.

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is now able to legally enforce School Keep Clear markings by way of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the Local Traffic and Safety section do include School Keep Clear markings within any parking restrictions they are investigating so that they can be enforced.

ESCC has been approached previously about covering all School Keep Clear markings in the County under one TRO.

The most efficient use of our limited resources is to include School Keep Clear markings alongside any other parking restrictions that are being investigated as part of our continual rolling programme of works; with the priority given to areas containing School Keep Clear markings enhanced to ensure that they are progressed as soon as is practical. This approach is seen as a cost effective way of addressing local concerns and allows the local community to engage with the process.

7. Question by Councillor Ost to Councillor Glazier, Lead Member for Community and Resources

Given the limited public attendance at Cabinet meeting on the 29 January 2013, could the Lead Member tell us what extra costs have been incurred in demonstrating the public accountability of our processes, and in ensuring the safety of members of the public and of elected members, who attended our budget setting meetings, both on the 29 January and the 12 February 2013?"

Answer by Councillor Glazier

Both the meeting of Cabinet on 29 January 2013 and of today's Council meeting are key to the democratic decision making process of the County Council. Therefore it is appropriate that officers take proportionate measures to ensure that these meetings are completed without disturbance or interruption and that those attending are free to do so without risk of interference or harm. As a result it was deemed necessary to take additional security measures at a cost of £870.79 to the Council to facilitate the meeting on 29 January. It is anticipated that today's meeting will be secured at a similar cost.

8. Question by Councillor S Shing to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

I am sure you have investigated and studied the street light energy reduction proposal thoroughly but some Town and Parish councils and residents have concerns regarding the proposals.

a) In the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources report considered by the Cabinet on 29 January 2013, on page 68 the savings due to be made in 2013/14 of £85,000 and in 2014/15 of £800,000 as a result of the street light energy reduction proposals were outlined.

Savings of £85,000 in 2013/14 will be saved through the part night lighting (reduce usage of electricity), but once ESCC use less energy, it might not necessarily get the large user rate that and costs might therefore rise.

Has the Council budgeted for the possible increase in electricity cost in order to achieve the £85,000 savings?

b) In order to achieve savings of £800,000 in 2014/15, I presume that the Council will switch off about 33,000 streetlights to save energy. If so, EDF have previously indicated that they would allow a column to be off for about 2½ years, but in the third year EDF usually insist that councils remove the columns once there has been no energy supply for 2 ½ years. The Council would then have further costs to remove the columns (cost around £250-400 per column) the costs of which for ESCC is estimated to be between £10-15 million. So council can achieve the savings in 2014/15? Has a deal already been negotiated with EDF to ensure that these additional costs will not need to be met in 2015/16 either by budgeting for the increase in energy usage, or by budgeting for a lump sum payment of £10-15 million?

c) The County council will still need to pay for maintenance whilst the streetlight columns are standing for health and safety reasons. Has the maintenance cost been factored in for 2014/15? What is the council planning from 2014/15 onward?

d) Has the Council fully informed the Town and Parish councils about the proposed changes? Particularly in relation some of the streetlights which are not owned by East Sussex County Council? For example, I understand that Lewes Town Council street lighting is wholly ESCC owned, this change in 2014/15 if accepted would result in all of their lights being off.

This could be the case for many parishes, as there is not enough time to give parishes notice of this. Many parishes could be caught unawares and be unable to budget for this, and it could result in parishes wishing to take on the lighting but unable to afford them. It is not clear whether County would be able to allow the towns and parishes to take on the columns even if they could afford it.

e) Why is ESCC converting approximately 33,000 lighting columns to part night lighting at £30 per column with a pay back period of 2.4 years, if it intends to dispense with street lighting in 2014-15?

Answer by Councillor Maynard

a) The County Council's electricity bill for street lighting is currently £1.25m per annum with approximately 40,000 street lights across the county. EDF Energy Ltd are our current energy supplier and we are having discussions with them about the possible increase in electricity tariff as we reduce our consumption during the early hours of the morning. So far EDF has indicated that electricity prices may increase as night time use diminishes although no actual figures have been quoted. However EDF has advised that any increase will be small compared to the level of savings. The County Council purchases its energy through a framework agreement so our energy demand is combined with other users to ensure we get a competitive electricity supply rate.

b) There are a number of options available to us to deliver further savings to our electricity bill beyond 2014/15 and Officers are busy looking at a range of options. Switching off street lights permanently is only one of the options being considered. And if we were to do that UK Power Network's current policy requires street lighting or any other equipment left idle for a period longer than 30 months to be permanently disconnected. Other options being considered could involve a combination of investment in energy saving LED lanterns, an increase in part-night lighting controls and the permanent switching off of some street lights. However we have yet to finalise our plans and won't do so before we've carried out proper consultation with residents, town / parish councils as well as the police; as we have been doing in the roll out of part-night lighting.

c) The largest cost in our street lighting budget is the electricity bill and that has been the focus of our attention; it will also make significant reduction to our carbon footprint. The savings that have been identified so far are solely from a reduction in electricity consumption. If street lights are switched off but left in place there will be an on-going need to continue maintenance and safety inspections. The cost of these inspections will be balanced against the cost of removing the street light, but these are all factors that have to be taken into consideration when finalising our plans.

d) The savings identified by the County Council relate to our own street lighting and do not include lighting which is owned and operated by parish and district councils. The parish and town councils may choose to either switch off, and eventually remove, their own lighting or to leave their lighting switched on all night or on a part-night basis. We will consult with town and parish councils, as well as the police, residents and traders before finalising our plans, but we do have to find a way of reducing our energy bills that will only increase year on year.

e) The Council isn't converting anywhere near that number of street lights to part night lighting. Our current part-night lighting project is converting approximately 8000 residential street lights to part-night operation and installing dimming controls in lighting on some of our main roads. This project is currently focussed on those towns and villages outside Eastbourne and Hastings, and so far feedback has been extremely positive.

9. Question by Councillor S Shing to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

- a) How many claims have been made to East Sussex County Council in relation to potholes on highways and defective kerbing in 2011/12 and for 2012/13?
- b) How many successful claims have been made to East Sussex County Council in relation to potholes on highways and defective kerbing and what is the total amount ESCC paid out in relation to such claims in 2011/12 and 2012/13?

Answer by Councillor Maynard

Claims are recorded by Policy Year (1 April to 31 March). Accordingly, the figures shown are for the period 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012 (2011/12) and 1 April 2012 to date for claims in 2012/13. The figures shown are for claims which have been settled but there are many which are still in progress for both policy years where liability has yet to be decided or quantum agreed.

- a) The number of claims made to East Sussex County Council in relation to potholes on highways and defective kerbing in 2011/12 was 290. Of these, 86 have been settled to date. The number of claims made to East Sussex County Council in relation to potholes on highways and defective kerbing in 2012/13 to date is 553. Of these, 81 have been settled to date.
- b) The total amount paid out to claimants to date, in relation to these claims for 2011/12 is £55,454.46 and for 2012/13 is £23,166.35

10. Question by Councillor S Shing to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

There are a number of potholes on roads in the County which do not qualify for priority treatment either because of the road they are on or the size of the pothole. A number of these are on bus routes or routes used by children on bicycles to get to school. Would the Lead Member consider reviewing the current policy to enable remedial works to be undertaken as a matter of urgency to deal with potholes on such routes? Any issues on such routes reported by the public, highway stewards could then be dealt with in a more timely manner thereby helping to ensure the safety of the public, including young children.

Answer by Councillor Maynard

I have recently approved an amendment to our maintenance policy to aid more timely and permanent repairs to pot-holes. However, with the squeeze on public sector spending, we still need to prioritise our maintenance work, and the repair of potholes is prioritised according to the size and location of the pothole, as well as type of road and volume of traffic.

We are currently experiencing large numbers of potholes following the wet weather at the beginning of the winter and more recently the cold and icy conditions. In response

we have more than doubled the number of resources and have introduced pothole patrols to seek out and fix all potholes that they find.

The County Council is also investing significant amounts of money to improve the condition of the county's roads, and have made great strides in resurfacing large sections of the county's roads to ensure they are in good condition and to prevent the formation of potholes

Potential SE7 savings/avoided costs identified to date

APPENDIX 1

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total Savings
Highways	£250k	£2m (£2.25m)	£10m (£12.25m)	£15m (£27.25m)	£27.25m
	–	£50k	£50k (£100k)	£50k (150k)	£150k
Waste	£10.1m	£7.9m (£18m)	£8.5m (£26.5m)	£5.5m (£32m)	£32m
	£224k	– (£224k)	£300k (£524k)	£300k (£824k)	£824k
ICT	£5.45m	£1.25m (£6.7m)	£3m (£9.7m)	£4.3m (£14m)	£14m
	–	£550k (£550k)	£1.9m (£2.45m)	£1.9m (£4.35m)	£4.35m
Property	See details below	–	–	–	–
	–	–	–	–	–
SEND	See details below	–	–	–	–
	–	–	–	–	–
Total potential SE7 savings					£73.25m
Total potential ESCC savings					£5.324m

- The ESCC savings for 2011/12 are confirmed
- Figures in brackets () represent the cumulative savings figures
- Fields in LIGHT GREY represent total SE7 savings/avoided costs
- Fields in DARK GREY represent East Sussex County Council savings/avoided costs

Further detail of potential savings beyond 2014/15:

Waste – longer-term plans are based on a notional savings target of £600m by 2020.
Property – the level of savings over the 4 years starting 2011/12 is still to be quantified and will be determined by the level of engagement/collaboration in this area. The workstream is projecting a potential savings figure of £1bn over 25 years (based on extrapolated savings being delivered by Hampshire County Council).
SEND – the workstream aims to explore opportunities to reduce bureaucracy and unit costs in the provision of SEND services through the SEND Pathfinder programme. Subject to the outcome of the Pathfinder, a notional cost reduction of 10% of total SEND spend would deliver somewhere in the region of £100m for smarter investment elsewhere.
The major opportunities for efficiency gains in SEND come from fundamental reform of the system to correct the incentives in the market and to allow freedoms to parents, providers and the public sector to meet needs more creatively and with less waste on conflict and process. At this stage the full financial impact cannot be predicted on a year by year basis, but the group are working to establish the necessary evidence and make forward projections as part of the 18 month Pathfinder programme. The figures quoted in the table above represent an indicative analysis and the cost reductions affect the Dedicated Schools Grant budget and are ‘avoided costs’ rather than baseline savings.