

20TH DECEMBER, 2005

If you would like to know more about or receive a copy of the papers supporting any of the proposals below please contact the officer shown (✉ address is the name shown with a stop between followed by @westsussex.gov.uk) or access the links via the [County Council's website](#). Significant decisions to be taken in the next four months are included in a [Forward Plan](#) of key decisions. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for Cabinet Member reports or for the Forward Plan, please contact Paul Amis on 01243 777913 or ✉ paul.amis.

The next edition of the Members' Information Service will be issued on 3RD January, 2006



PROPOSED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBERS

CALL-IN DEADLINE 5 p.m. 4TH JANUARY 2006

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
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The following proposed decisions have been endorsed by Cabinet Members and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated. If you have a query relating to an item or wish to request that a proposed decision is called in please contact the relevant officer.

ADULTS' SERVICES

<i>All</i>	AS12(05/06)	Shaw Older Peoples' Homes Transfer – Changes in Building Regulations for Fire Sprinklers and Thermal Insulation and Phase 2 Sites
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Queries: Jim Mearns (01243 777248) ✉
Call-in: Hilary Bryans (01243 777290) ✉

The contract for the transfer of 16 residential homes for older people to Shaw Healthcare (West Sussex) Ltd and for their redevelopment and operation for a period of 30 years commenced on 1st March, 2005. The contract requires Shaw to construct 12 new homes on behalf of the County Council. At the time of contract close, six of the sites for the new homes were finalised, with sites for the further six homes still to be settled in further phases. Arrangements for the new Pulborough, Bognor Regis and Horsham sites, which are three of the six remaining sites and form a Phase 2 of the project, are now progressing to the point where the contract with Shaw can be amended by a change order for their inclusion. Site and planning requirements for the Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites, together with inflation from slippage in the programme, will result in an increase in the construction costs for the project. Since the signing of the main contract, there has also been national consultation on two new sets of building regulations for the installation of sprinklers and thermal and sound insulation, which will have an unavoidable financial impact on the new homes. The

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
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Cabinet Members for Adults' Services and for Finance and Resources have therefore endorsed recommendations to agree proposals for new homes at Pulborough, Horsham and Bognor Regis, amend the specifications for the 12 homes to include fire sprinkler systems at an estimated cost of £2.0m, amend the capital programme provision for the Older People's Homes Transfer project to increase the provision, net of capital receipts, by £10.65m from £52.15m to £62.80m, including provisional sums and contingencies, opt to tax the Horsham site for VAT purposes and authorise the Heads of Resources (Social and Caring Services), Legal Services and Financial Services to negotiate and enter into the final form of the Change Order to the original contract, and other ancillary documents, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Adults' Services and for Finance and Resources.

The proposals will be discussed at the Adults' Services Select Committee on 20th December 2005.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

All in Adur CS26(05/06) [Planning Adur Schools for the Future](#)

Queries: **Phil Whiffing** (01243 777121) ☒
Call-in: **Jo Hattersley** (01243 777233) ☒

Children in Adur, except those attending Catholic voluntary aided schools, currently transfer to secondary schools at the age of 12. Most children in West Sussex and across the country transfer to secondary school at age 11, which is consistent with the organisation of the national curriculum. Following comments in its Ofsted inspection in 2001, the County Council began a programme to review the pattern of schooling in those parts of the county where the age of transfer was not consistent with the national curriculum. The educational and financial benefits that a reorganisation would bring enabled the County Council to bid for and receive a £12m capital grant from the Government to support a change to the pattern of schools. An extensive public consultation was recently undertaken which considered the age of transfer, preferred organisation of primary schools and other services for children. Following this consultation the Cabinet Member for Children's Services has asked the Director for Children's Services to bring forward options for the organisation of schools in Adur consistent with the principles established during public consultation in October and November 2005.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

All HT15(05/06) [Parish Night Lighting Review](#)

Queries: **Richard Bird** (01243 756135) ☒
Call-in: **Anita Davies** (01243 777692) ☒

A review of funding opportunities and recent government announcements have highlighted the possibility of major investment in street lighting infrastructure through Private Finance Initiatives (PFI). Development of a bid for PFI requires the County Council to review the policy on all-night or part-night lighting. A consultation exercise with the County Council's local authority partners - town, parish and district councils - has established that there is support for revision to the policy for night lighting, which would result in mainly all-night lighting in urban areas and part-night in

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
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rural. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport has consequently endorsed a revised policy in line with the results of the consultation exercise, which will facilitate the progression of a PFI bid to replace deteriorating street lighting stock. This approach would deliver the desired road safety and crime reduction benefits in the areas where incident levels are at their highest. Such a change could only be introduced in the short term if significant increases in funding (e.g. through PFI) were secured. If PFI funding is not available, the County Council would seek to adopt a longer term, incremental approach to implementation which would only be affordable with appropriate increases in base budget levels. With PFI funding this change to all-night or part-night would be implemented within five years, and, if unsuccessful, far longer (circa 20 years). Current estimates indicate that an increase in budget of £158,000 (£88,000 for additional electricity, and £70,000 lamp maintenance) would be required to maintain the lights as a result of this policy if fully implemented.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

<i>All in Adur District</i>	SP18(05/06)	<u>Adur District Local Development Framework - Consultation on Core Strategy Issues and Options Document and Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report</u>
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Queries: **Malcolm Spiers** (01243 753596) ☒
Call-in: **Anita Davies** (01243 777692) ☒

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning has endorsed the County Council's response to Adur District Council's consultation on two documents which begin to set out the planning strategy for Adur District for the next 10 years and beyond. The Core Strategy Issues and Options Document sets out Adur District Council's strategic direction and priorities of future development within the district. The approaches adopted and the questions raised have been judged against the West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, the West Sussex Waste Local Plan Revised Deposit Draft and the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan 2003. In addition to comments of a general or minor nature, the following key issues were identified for comment:

- the approach to landscape character and the need for a core character policy;
- the need for baseline studies and a strategic habitat survey to support a core biodiversity policy; and
- the need to consider the importance of Shoreham Harbour in providing wharves for the import of minerals.

The needs of the County Council as a service provider have also been considered and no issues have been identified at this stage. The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report tests the options set out in the Core Strategy Issues and Options paper against a sustainability appraisal framework. Officer-only comments will be made on this document. There are no financial implications for the County Council in responding on these two documents.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
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All in Mid Sussex SP19(05/06) [Consultation on draft Mid Sussex District Council Supplementary Planning Document: Development and Infrastructure](#)

Queries: Lyndsey Beveridge (01243 753597) ☒
Call-in: Anita Davies (01243 777692) ☒

In the light of new planning guidance and policy, including the adoption of the West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, Mid Sussex District Council is reviewing its Supplementary Planning Guidance 'The Provision of Infrastructure Related to New Development: A Guide to Planning Obligations, Part 2'. The revised document will have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and will form part of the Local Development Framework. The draft document is accompanied by a draft Sustainability Appraisal and Statement of Consultation. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning has considered the proposed guidance against Policy DEV3 on Infrastructure Requirements in the adopted West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016, the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance 'The Provision of Service Infrastructure Related to New Development in West Sussex – Part 1', and the needs of the County Council as a service provider and endorsed a response on behalf of the County Council. In general, the draft document seeks to address the requirements of Policy DEV3. Amendments suggested to the District Council include updated costing figures and terms of reference to reflect recent changes in the County Council organisational structures. It is also suggested that the District Council alters the method of calculating the discounts applied to new affordable housing in relation to concealed households. When approved by the District Council's Cabinet, and alongside Part 1, the SPD will provide an important framework for seeking infrastructure contributions at the local level for some key County Council services including Education, Library Services, Household Waste Recycling Services, Fire and Rescue and Highways and Transport.

URGENT ACTION

Members are asked to note the following urgent action taken by the County Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the relevant Cabinet Member and Select Committee Chairman or the Chairman of a non-Executive or County Local Committee.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

All HT16(05/06) [Procurement of Strategy for Highways and Transport Works Services](#)

Contact: Anita Davies (01243 777692) ☒

The County Secretary in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Chairman of the Strategic Environmental Services Select Committee has authorised that the awarding of the contract for the highways and transport maintenance and improvement schemes be delegated to the Strategic Director, and that approval of any

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
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subsequent extensions be delegated to the Director for Environment and Development in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Highways and Transport and Finance and Resources. The principles of a new procurement strategy for highways and transport works services to come into effect on 1st July 2006 was approved in December 2004. The new term contract will be for an initial five-year period and is expected to deliver between £20 million and £23 million per year in the construction of schemes for highway maintenance and improvement based on current levels of expenditure. Although it is difficult to estimate potential savings from the new arrangement until the end of the procurement process, the best estimate at this time is around £1.8 million pa by 2010/11 and £3.0 million pa by 2015/16. Initial investment is needed in order to realise these benefits over the longer term.

DECISIONS CONFIRMED

The following proposed decisions have not been called in and are therefore confirmed.

CABINET/ CABINET MEMBER	No.	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
Children's Services	CS22(05/06)	The Appointment of LEA Governors at 11 Maintained Schools	Jo Hattersley 01243 777233
Highways and Transport	HT13(05/06) HT14(05/06)	Approval to give formal consent to Mid Sussex District Council to amend the Off-Street Parking Places Order Local Authority Parking Enforcement - Consolidation and amendment of On-Street Traffic Regulation Orders and consolidation of Off-Street Parking Places Orders and approval to enter into Agency Agreements with Horsham and Mid Sussex District Councils	Anita Davies 01243 777692
Strategic Planning	SP15(05/06)	Waste Development Planning for West Sussex - Consideration of Options	Anita Davies 01243 777692
Worthing County Local Committee	01/12/05 - 5	Proposed conversion of Signal Controlled Pelican Crossing to Signal Controlled Toucan Crossing on the A2032 Littlehampton Road in Worthing adjoining Cycling Facilities in Yeoman Road	Linda Corn 01243 777732

WEEKLY NEWS

ELECTORAL DIVISION	No.	SUBJECT	OFFICER CONTACT
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LEADER

<i>All</i>	1	Comprehensive Performance Assessment	<div style="text-align: right;">  Richard Perry (01243 777035) </div>
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The Audit Commission has published the results of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) of the County Council under the much tougher inspection regime known as 'The Harder Test'. A star rating has replaced the previous marking framework and the County Council has been awarded three out of a possible four stars. The assessment is made up from a number of inspections on different aspects of the County Council's work and includes a judgement about its 'direction of travel' which the Commission states is 'improving adequately'. The Commission states that the Council has a clear vision of what it wants to achieve and a track record of delivering plans to improve services. A number of services are praised, including community safety, waste management and children's, and the way the Council works with partners. The Commission has also identified areas for improvement but notes that the County Council is already working on these. The Leader remains sceptical about the value of the inspection regime and the cost, in the order of £500,000.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

<i>All</i>	2	Planning-Gain Supplement Consultation	<div style="text-align: right;">  Rebekah Ryder (01243 777143) </div>
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HM Treasury has announced the publication of its consultation document on planning-gain supplement. This document forms part of the Government's response to Kate Barker's review of housing supply and launches a consultation on the Government's proposal for a planning-gain supplement. The focus of the consultation is how increases in land value created by planning decisions can be released more effectively to help finance the infrastructure needed to stimulate and service growth and ensure that local communities better share in the benefits that growth brings. The consultation paper is being distributed to all local authorities in England. The consultation period runs from 5th December, 2005 until 27th February, 2006 and a summary of responses will be published after this date on the Treasury website. A copy of the consultation document is available at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F59/D3/pbr05_planninggain_449.pdf

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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

<i>All</i>	3	<p style="text-align: right;">✉</p> Highways and Transport advice on Planning Applications available on the Web	Duncan Barratt (01243 777559)
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The Highways and Transport Development Control Group give advice to borough and district councils on all highways and transport issues relating to planning applications. Proposals for new development are often contentious and cause concern to local residents who often raise issues with their local member. For some time the Development Control Group has been keen to ensure that members are armed with as much information as possible in order to allow them to respond to such concerns. When the issue was considered at the Strategic Environmental and Public Safety Services Select Committee it was proposed that the aim should be to make the information available on the County Council's website. That this aim has now been achieved and the information is available to all via the following link -

<http://eplanning.westsussex.gov.uk/ePlanningOHSagr/>

For any queries relating to the operation of the website please contact Elaine Munns on extension 77178. For queries relating to the County Council's consultation response on a particular application please contact the lead officer as identified on the website. For general Development Control queries please contact Duncan Barratt.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

<i>Roffey</i>	4	<p style="text-align: right;">✉</p> New Headteacher at Northholmes Junior School, Horsham	Jo Hattersley (01243 777290)
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Miss Sandra Ashby, previously Acting Headteacher at the school has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Northholmes Junior School, Horsham with effect from 1st December, 2005.

OTHER MATTERS

<i>All</i>	5	<p style="text-align: right;">✉</p> Forward Plan - January to April 2006	Paul Amis (01243 777913)
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The Forward Plan contains details of all key decisions to be taken by the County Council, the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and officers in the following four months. Key decisions are those which involve expenditure or savings of £500,000 or more or which will have a significant effect on communities in two or more electoral divisions. The latest version of the Plan covering the period January to April 2006 is now available and has been sent to all members.

COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

County Council Press releases up to December 16

- PR451/2005 County Council plays parking Santa to help charities and shoppers
- PR452/2005 Get clever with credit this Christmas
- PR453/2005 The paper chase that will lead to major savings
- PR454/2005 West Sussex County Council told it is giving its residents 'good value for money'
- PR455/2005 A sparkling event for the Gatwick Diamond
- PR456/2005 FireBreak success for local youngsters
- PR457/2005 Trading Standards gives tips for Christmas purchases and the New Year
- PR458/2005 A New Year - A New You - A Better West Sussex
- PR459/2005 West Sussex County Council watchdog examines mental health services in West Sussex

Audio Releases

Appeal for dedicated Air Ambulance gathers momentum

No White Christmas in sight? Settle for a green one instead...

Know your rights when you go Christmas shopping In West Sussex

New Strategy aims to protect our greatest asset

Radio/TV Interviews

BBC TV South Today and Meridian Tonight featured the case of Leanne Forsyth, the Worthing pupil who died from meningitis. Interviews with school head teacher and those who knew her

Lionel Barnard on BBC Southern Counties Radio re community safety

Mike Lee on Splash FM re Adur age of transfer consultation

Louise Goldsmith on Southern FM and Bright FM re 10% Challenge

For further information on or copies of the press releases listed please contact Anne Aldridge in the Communications Unit on 01243 777408 or ✉ anne.aldridge

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND VALIDATED IN THE WEEK ENDING 16/12/05
COUNTY MATTER MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Applications submitted under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and the
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Application No Applicant Grid Ref	Proposal/Location	Date Received	Committee/ Delegated	Local Member
WB/ /05 Bull Recycling (Eurogreen) GR:510177 104263	Variation on condition 2 of planning permission WB/03/00211 to permit wood to be composted or stored at this site in addition to horticultural plant waste. The Tythe Barn, North Barn Farm, Titmore Lane, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6NZ	12/12/05	Delegated	Mr Mercer Mr Waight

COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSALS (REGULATION 3, 4 and 13)
Applications submitted under the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992

Application No Applicant Grid Ref	Proposal/Location	Date Received	Committee/ Delegated	Local Member
DC/ /05 (CW) Director for Children's Services GR:502420 116610	Proposed extension to provide a new group room, cloakroom and disabled toilet together with internal alterations and extension of hard play area. St James Primary School, Church Lane, Coldwaltham, West Sussex, RH20 1LW	05/12/05	Delegated	Mrs Arculus
BH/ /05 Director for Children's Services GR:530280 119390	Single storey extension to provide sensory therapy and ppa rooms plus first aid room/disabled WC and improved staffroom/offices. The Gattons Infant School, Royal George Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9SL	08/12/05	Delegated	Dr Wilsdon

Comments on any of the above planning applications should be made by 30/12/05 to Jeremy Farrelly,
 Planning Services on (01243) 777622

FORMAL STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS

**Applications received from District Councils under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990
Schedule 1 Para 7(2)**

Application No Applicant	Proposal/Location	Date Received	Committee/ Delegated	Local Member
SW/82/05 HR Property Investment & Development GR: 525110 105110	Conversion of offices to 22 flats (8 x 1 bed, 14 x 2 bed) with 25 parking spaces at QS, 121/123 Gardner Road, Southwick	7/12/05	Delegated	Mr Eade
WB/1307/05 Wesford Homes 514310 104570	Outline application for the development of the site with 19 flats and 19 car parking spaces (re-submission of previously refused application WB/05/0860/OUT) at 1 Grove Road and 112 Broadwater Street, West Worthing	8/12/05	Delegated	Mr Green Mr Lissenburg
AL/128/05 Thurleigh Homes GR: 493900 104920	Proposed development of 4 new houses & 8 new flats at The Homestead, Westergate Street, Westergate	8/12/05	Delegated	Mr Whittington
WB/1286/05 HD Steele & Son Ltd GR: 515610 103080	Outline application for redevelopment of the site with a three storey block of 12 units (8x 2 bedroom flats, 4x 1 bedroom flats at 24 Lyndhurst Road, Worthing	9/12/05	Delegated	Mrs Richards
DC/2902/05 (HU) McCarthy & Stone (Devs) Ltd GR: 518530 131540	Demolition of existing dwellings and erection of building comprising 55 sheltered apartments and house manager's accommodation with communal facilities, car parking and landscaping at land at Daneby and Clovelly and Coniscliffe and Everslea and Lyndale, Kings Road, Horsham	9/12/05	Delegated	Mr Hellowell
DC/2951/05 (SR) Brookworth Developments GR: 509300 114710	Demolition of Silver Birches and the erection of 2x 2 storey buildings comprised 8x 2 bed apartments and 6x 2 bed maisonettes at Sliver Birches, Thakeham Road, Storrington, Pulborough	14/12/05	Delegated	Mr Wilkinson

**Comments on any of the above planning applications should be made by 13/01/06 to
Malcolm Spiers, Planning Services on (01243) 753596**

Please note: there were no applications under the Environment Act 1995 (determination of conditions to which a mineral site is to be subject), received in the week ending 16/12/05

FOR INFORMATION

RESPONSES TO FORMAL STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS

Members are requested to note that the Head of Planning Services, pursuant to his delegated powers, has responded to consultations received from the District Councils as follows:-

HORSHAM

DC/2763/04
(PL) Proposed residential development comprising 150 dwellings, highway works and open space at Downview and the Riverside Concrete Works, Stane Street, Pulborough for Rydon Homes Ltd.

Provided that Horsham District Council is satisfied that the rights of persons or bodies wishing to contribute to the formal plan making process would not be prejudiced by the grant of planning permission, ahead of that process, then West Sussex County Council would raise no strategic planning objection to the proposal which complies, in principle, with the objectives of the adopted West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016 subject to compliance with the following specific policies. NE2: which requires that new dwellings should be of sizes, types and tenures suited to the varied needs of local households; NE3: which requires that developments should include a proportion of dwelling sizes and types to meet the proven needs of people not able to compete in the general housing market; DEV1: which seeks high quality development that respects local context; DEV3: which requires that the infrastructure needs of new development are met and that this is secured by legal agreement, and DEV4: which seeks to achieve safe and convenient access by a choice of means of travel and reduce the number and impact of motorised journeys.

Contact: Malcolm Spiers (01243) 753596

INFORMATION DIGEST

CABINET MEMBER**OFFICER
CONTACT****LEADER****Paul Amis**
(01243 777913)

Thursday 15th December - The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas) announced the publication of a **Discussion Paper about standards of conduct in English local government**. It sets out the Government's vision for a future comprehensive conduct regime for local authority members and employees. This is published as part of the ongoing local vision debate begun by the Government last year. The Paper incorporates the Government's response to the recommendations on conduct in local government in Chapter three of the 10th report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Graham Committee). It also incorporates the Government's response to the report of the ODPM Select Committee on the role and effectiveness of the Standards Board for England, as well as a response to the recommendations of the Board itself following its review of the code of conduct for members.

The Paper also indicates the approach the Government is minded to follow on the conduct of employees, in particular on the political restrictions which apply to local government employees, the pay of political assistants and a code of conduct for employees. The Government now intends to work with the Standards Board and other stakeholders to carry forward the changes identified in the Paper, recognising that certain changes will require primary legislation. Papers can be found at: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162582>

FINANCE AND RESOURCES**Tim Stretton/Alison Crabb**
(01243 777868/777200)

Thursday 15th December – **The Lyons enquiry into Local Government** has published a Consultation Paper and Interim Report. The consultation document sets out how the enquiry will approach its extended remit to consider the role and functions of local government, highlights some of the key issues that have emerged from the work of the enquiry to date in relation to its original remit on local government funding and seeks further views on these issues in advance of the final report to ministers in late 2006.

A copy of Sir Michael Lyons interim report can be found at: -

<http://www.lyonsinquiry.org.uk/Lyons%20Inquiry%20web.pdf>

CABINET MEMBER

OFFICER
CONTACT**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**Anita Davies
(01243 777692)

Improvements to the A27 – Local MP's Nick Herbert (Arundel and South Downs), Peter Bottomley (Worthing, West), Tim Loughton (East Worthing and Shoreham) and Mr. Andrew Tyrie (Chichester) debated this issue in the House of Commons on Monday 12th December. A transcript of the discussion can be found in the attached document.

[A27 Extract from Hansard 12.12.05.doc](#)

Thursday 15th December - The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Alistair Darling) announced the publication of an independent research report regarding the effectiveness of the **national safety camera programme** over the four years from April 2000 to March 2004. He also announced changes, which will end the current ring-fencing of funding for safety cameras. The four-year research report examined over 4,000 camera sites in 38 safety camera partnership areas in the UK. The main findings of the report are:

- Safety cameras continue to be highly effective in reducing speeding, accidents and casualties at camera sites.
- The number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit fell by 70 per cent at fixed camera sites.
- After allowing for the general trend of improving road safety, there was a 22 per cent. reduction in personal injury collisions and there was a 42 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSIs).
- Safety cameras are achieving substantial and valuable reductions in collisions and casualties.

The Secretary of State also announced changes to the national safety camera programme in England and Wales. These include:

- Greater flexibility to local authorities, the police and the other agencies who work with them to improve road safety, so that they can pursue whichever locally agreed mix of road safety measures will make the greatest contribution to reducing road casualties in their area.
- 2006–07 will be the last year of the netting-off funding arrangements for safety cameras in England and Wales.
- 2007–08 and beyond, the Department for Transport will enhance the overall level of funding for road safety provided to local highway authorities in England through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) process. For the first time a proportion of this funding will be revenue based.
- Funding will be allocated to authorities in accordance with their road safety needs (using the existing LTP road safety formula), the quality of their second round LTP submissions and delivery record.

The Department for Transport is writing to all highway authorities in England to provide details of these changes, and inviting them to reflect the changes in their LTP submissions due in March 2006. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=181915&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=Finance>

CABINET MEMBER**OFFICER
CONTACT****PUBLIC PROTECTION****Hilary Bryans**
(01243 777290)

Wednesday 14th December - The Department of Health (DoH) has published a consultation document concerning the **Configuration of NHS Ambulance Trusts** in England. Ambulance Services are now playing a broader role in the NHS providing a rapid response to 999 calls and becoming a mobile healthcare service for the NHS including taking healthcare to patients who need an emergency response, providing urgent advice or treatment to patients who are less ill, and care to those whose condition or location prevents them from travelling easily to access healthcare services. The consultation details DoH proposals aimed at helping ambulance trusts deliver a better, more responsive and more efficient service. The consultation period ends on 22 March 2006. Papers can be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4124395&chk=Puc3fa

Wednesday 14th December - The Department of Health (DoH) has published local consultation documents "**Commissioning a Patient-led NHS**" detailing proposals for the reconfiguration of Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Ambulance Trusts in England. The document looks at the way the local NHS in Surrey and Sussex is structured and managed now and makes proposals for new roles and geographical boundaries for the ambulance services, the SHA and the 15 PCTs that currently commission NHS services for the 2.5 million residents in the area. The consultation period ends on 22 March 2006. Papers can be found at: <http://www.surreysussexsha.nhs.uk/index.asp>

For further information about the Members' Information Service please contact Chris Duggan on 01243 777096 or chris.duggan