

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 7th December 2004

Time: 10.00 am – 11 20 am

Present: Councillor J K Walters (Chairman)

Councillors: S F Johnstone, V H Lucas, A K Melton, L J Oliver, D R Pegram, J A Powley, J E Reynolds F H Yeulett and R Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Councillors J Gluza, S King, R Mair and J Tuck

Apologies for Absence: None

569. MINUTES

It was resolved:

To agree that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2004 be confirmed as a correct record and should be signed by the Chairman.

570. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lucas declared a personal interest in Item 9 “Cambridgeshire Community Foundation named Trust – Appointment of Member Panel and Terms of Reference” as an appointed trustee of the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Councillor Johnstone declared a personal interest in Item 11 “Responses to consultations on preferred options for South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework and Cambridge City Local Plan Re-deposit” as a Non Executive Director of Addenbrooke’s Hospital

571. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – REFERENCE FROM HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The scrutiny committee and the four former Area Mental Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panels had over the past year considered mental health services in detail and had identified a number of issues considered significant regarding:

- The need to develop services particularly to move the emphasis from acute to community based and preventative services.
- Equity of service provision across the County.
- Levels and distribution and funding for mental health services.

At the invitation of the Chairman of Cabinet, the Scrutiny Chairman Councillor Tuck introduced the report.

The Scrutiny Chairman reported that the Government's National Service Framework (NSF) for Mental Health required the development of a range of specialist community services to assist a shift in emphasis from acute to community based and preventative services. The two key challenges that had been identified for the development of these services in Cambridgeshire were the need to maintain existing levels of acute provision at a time of great budgetary pressure until community services were developed and also the need to develop services that both complied with the requirements of the NSF and which reflected local needs and diversity. There was also a key challenge in ensuring equitable access to services across the County despite the very different needs and configurations of population.

The scrutiny committee had been discussing the most effective ways of lobbying Government nationally and at Strategic Health Authority level to give priority to mental health in its guidance to Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) on the allocation of funding as well as for more National Health Service (NHS) funding to be provided to Cambridgeshire.

Attention was drawn to the fact that although mental health investment had increased in the County in recent years, the spend was still below the national average. An update to the report indicated that Cambridgeshire was now the fifth lowest rather than the third lowest out of sixteen Councils in its group on service expenditure on adults with mental health problems.

The Scrutiny Chairman reported that the indicator for emergency psychiatric mental health readmissions within 28 days of discharge showed a very high rate of 14% (1 in 7) in the Social Services Performance Assessment Framework for 2003/4. This implied a need for greater development of community based mental health services to help reduce such a figure.

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Social Services thanked the Scrutiny Chairman for the excellent report and orally provided a response to all the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Committee report.

In relation to the recommendation to increase funding to the Shire average, this was not a target that the County Council would be aiming to achieve, as it did not necessarily reflect whether services were being provided on a cost effective basis.

It was resolved

To agree the following responses to the report (Cabinet response in italics):

- a) That in respect of the Scrutiny Committee recommendation to review the County Council's contribution to mental health funding in Cambridgeshire as part of the MTSP process

- To ensure that statutory pressures that have arisen in 2004/05 due to increases in activity and cost levels are provided for in 2005/06

Cabinet intended to ensure that the Mental Health Service was funded to meet statutory responsibilities and the Council's existing eligibility criteria for care for 2005/06.

- To make provision for gaps in service coverage, in particular to develop community based-services and services to carers

Ensuring equity of service across the County and moving to a community based preventative focussed approach was a key objective of the Council for developing mental health services. However this would require additional funding in early years although it might well deliver savings longer term, therefore the pace at which change could be made would be partly resources dependent. More importantly such an approach would require the active participation of partners, particularly to ensure equity of service across the County and to ensure that savings, for example from reducing hospital stays were invested into community based provision by all partners. It was pleasing to note the work currently underway within the PCTs and the Mental Health Trust to develop a countywide commissioning strategy for mental health services, which was a key first step to making the changes that the Council accepted needed to be made to existing provision.

- In so doing, move the County Council's funding of mental health services at least to the Shire average.

The Council's policy was to prioritise resources to meet highest needs and caution was therefore required when using funding targets in this way. Cabinet fully accepted the need to secure change to mental health services but caution was required in committing to a certain level of funding as a target. If services could be secured at lower than average funding levels, then the County Council should ensure that this was achieved, allowing resources to be invested in other priority areas.

- b) To take into account the findings of its reviews in considering the funding of voluntary sector organisations. The voluntary sector is an important provider of mental health services, including:
 - Support for carers, who are given increasing responsibility with the increasing emphasis on community-based services
 - Respite care, which is essential to sustain carers
 - Preventative services.

The importance of the voluntary sector to the provision of mental health services was fully acknowledged. The voluntary sector should not and was not treated any differently to other service providers, proper contracts required to be in place with clear expectations of performance. The need for securing and sustaining voluntary sector provision was also recognised. One of the aspects to be considered during the development of the commissioning strategy was how to ensure that access to high quality voluntary sector services was maintained and developed.

- c) To respond to this report for the meeting of the Committee to be held on 22nd February 2005, when members will also be discussing progress against their recommendations with representatives of the NHS.

It was intended that a formal response would be provided to the meeting from officers.

572. ACCIDENT REMEDIES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – MEDIUM SIZED SCHEMES

Cabinet received for consideration the priorities for the medium sized traffic management and safety schemes costing between £50,000 and £500,000. The report reviewed progress on medium sized traffic schemes and safety schemes programmes for 2004/05 and proposed a priority order of schemes for the 2005/06 programme as set out in Appendix A to the officers' report.

The report explained the criteria used to rank the schemes in terms of effectiveness, as there were always more schemes proposed by the area joint committees than budget resources to implement them. As some schemes required considerable preparation, the report asked Cabinet to move forward on planning the first nine ranked schemes. It had been anticipated that the allocation for safety schemes might be in the region of £1.2 million and after taking into account commitments of £60,000, some £1,140,000 was available to fund new schemes. All the schemes listed had been designed to improve road safety and reduce accidents.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport confirmed orally that following the recent Local Transport Plan announcement, it was expected that there should be sufficient funding to finance the commencement of the design and consultation on schemes 1 to 9.

There was a discussion which clarified that a scheme in a previous A 14 traffic calming programme involving lane safety improvements to the roundabout at Stukeley, had been carried out in line with the original specification scheme presented to the Parish Council.

The following comments were submitted by Councillor Orgee and were tabled for consideration at the meeting.

“ I am very pleased to see significant action being taken to improve safety on the A1307. I wish to support fully scheme 2: interactive warning signs along the whole stretch of the road, scheme 7 in the area of Dalehead Foods and scheme 10: safety measures including lighting at the Babraham crossroads.

The whole length of the A1307 from south of Addenbrookes to the Suffolk border has a very poor safety record with accidents having occurred at a large number of different places along the road. The interactive signs along the whole stretch of road will act as forcible reminders of the dangerous nature of the road as a whole. I particularly support action at the Babraham crossroads. Not only is there the issue of traffic safety, but a small and growing number of people, including sixth form students, now use the bus to and from Cambridge and growing numbers are travelling by bus to work at the Babraham Institute site. This means more people crossing the dual carriageway at the Babraham crossroads.

Making crossing the dual carriageway at the Babraham crossroads safer will encourage more people to use the bus (on one of Cambridgeshire's key routes) and hence contribute in a small but significant way towards more sustainable lifestyles. I am not sure whether the criteria used to assess the various schemes has taken account of the contribution a scheme can make towards sustainable communities and a more sustainable future.

Babraham Parish Council joins with me in asking you to give your support to scheme 10: safety measures at the Babraham crossroads.

I would also commend scheme 18: safety in New Road , Sawston to you particularly in the improvements it safety that would bring to the entrance to Sawston Village College.”

Following consideration of the proposals set out in the officers’ report and the comments submitted by Councillor Orgee:

It was resolved to:

- i) note progress on programme delivery
- ii) approve the priority order of medium sized schemes as set out in Appendix to the officers report; and
- iii) approve the commencement of design and consultation on schemes 1 to 9 in Appendix A as follows:
 - a) St Neots High Street Accident remedial scheme
 - b) A 1307 Interactive warning signs (route treatment) accident remedial scheme
 - c) B1040 Great Whyte to Owls End Ramsey accident remedial measures
 - d) Linton High Street one way system and traffic calming scheme
 - e) A141 Clewes Corner Chatteris bend improvement accident remedial scheme

- f) A10 Denny End Junction Waterbeach street lighting and removal of slip lane accident remedial scheme
- g) Dalehead Foods reducing eastbound lane to a single carriageway and improve access arrangements
- h) B1042 Tadlow right turn facility scheme
- i) Gilbert Road Cambridge Cambridge streetlighting –and cycleway improvements.

573. PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN CAMBOURNE

At its meeting on 28th September Cabinet had given careful consideration to the proposals from the Ely Diocesan Board of Education and Training and the Methodist Church to establish a joint ecumenical church aided school in Cambourne in response to the continued growth of the community and the identified need for a second primary school. At that meeting Cabinet had noted the promoters had submitted a bid to the Department of Education and Skills Aided School Building Programme to fund the balance between the £1.7m contribution from the Section 106 developers contributions and the cost of building the school.

At that previous meeting details had been provided of the intention of the Promoters to publish their proposals. The proposals included provision for increasing the school in three phases. Initially the development would provide 120 places, with a second phase of 210 places scheduled for completion in the summer of 2006 and eventually, depending on the population growth of 4-11 years olds, expanding to a development of 420 places. The six week consultation period had expired on 22nd November with no objections having been lodged.

This report advised Cabinet that approval had now been received to the bid by the Promoters to provide the necessary capital credit funding necessary for the identified shortfall. This safety valve funding could be used to support the capital costs of an aided school, subject to the relevant County Council approval. It was noted that the Education Libraries and Heritage Capital Programme for 2005/06 currently included provision for the second Cambourne primary school.

It was further noted that as the proposal was to establish a voluntary aided school, the final decision over whether or not the proposals should be determined, would be the remit of the School Organisation Committee for Cambridgeshire, irrespective of the fact that no objections had been received.

It was resolved to:

- i) Note that the public notice had expired on 22 November 2004 with no objections having been lodged in response to the Promoters' proposals to establish the second primary school as a joint ecumenical school to open in September 2005;

- ii) Note the up-to-date position with regard to the bid for capital funding from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) which had now been approved to enable the planned second primary school to serve Cambourne to be established as a joint ecumenical church aided school; and
- iii) Confirm that, in the light of the latest information with regard to capital funding, the Authority should commit £1.7m from the s106 resources and £1.5m from the DfES 'safety valve' credit approval in order to allow the Promoters' proposals to proceed to the School Organisation Committee for Cambridgeshire for determination.

574. EFFECTS OF CLIMATE ON COUNTY COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

A) MEMBER LED REVIEW OUTCOME

At the invitation of the Chairman of Cabinet, Councillor King, the Chairman of the member led review presented the report.

Councillor King reported that there was overwhelming evidence that climate change was happening and as it was a global phenomenon, the review had restricted its remit to what the County Council could contribute in setting an example as a major employer. The review had brought forward recommendations to disseminate good practice and to make recommendations that were both practicable and capable of implementation.

The purpose of the Member Led Review had been to investigate:

- The Council's responsibility with regard to its own buildings and capital infrastructure, in terms of climate proofing and ensuring low emissions,
- The likely effect of climate change on settlement and development plans in the long-term future, and
- The impact of extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and high winds.

Particular attention was drawn to the importance of recommendations R5 (The Council should review the funding of the construction and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure to take a "whole life" cost approach as this would ensure that running cost benefits were considered alongside capital costs, particularly with regard to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, and also resilience to the physical impacts of climate change) and R16 (Links should be strengthened with the relevant agencies such as Water Companies, the Environment Agency and the Emergency Services to ensure that there was an adequate level of understanding of the potential impact of climate change on emergency services).

In respect of recommendations R5 and R7 (the specifications used for highways infrastructure e.g. bridges, bridge approaches and highway drainage should be reviewed to take into account of the changes in weather patterns) there were concerns from the members review on the resourcing

implications and it was suggested that their financing should be through reallocating resources rather than obtaining new resources for the areas identified.

Questions from Members of Cabinet included:

- Obtaining clarification on what was required to be reviewed within the Good Housekeeping Fund to ensure it could effectively fund measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In response, it was indicated that there had been a degree of uncertainty on whether this Fund could be used and clarification was sought on allowing the Fund to be able to consider projects which might require longer periods of time to provide cost benefits.
- One Member expressed concern that the report did not address issues of sustainable travel and ensuring buildings were designed and located in order to allow less travel or be served by more sustainable travel options. In response, it was reported that the review had looked at the Green Travel Plans and thought that they were good and therefore the review had not looked further in this area.
- Clarification was sought on the point being made in paragraph 9.3. This stated that in the event of extreme weather there were no plans in place to ensure clients of the County Council received a minimum level of services and referred to this particularly affecting older and vulnerable people in receipt of social services care. It was explained that this alluded to the experience of hot weather fatalities that had previously been widely publicised in France. The review had not been able to identify any plans to address weather extremes.

B) PROPOSED RESPONSE TO REVIEW

In response, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment thanked Councillor King and all those involved for an excellent and very thorough review.

It was noted that it was important to recognise that the County Council had a good track record of awareness of climate change, including being a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, and in developing policies and programmes that took account of the need for environmental sustainability. Several recommendations (**R4**, **R11**, and **R13-R17**) had already been implemented or set in motion. On travel, a huge amount of work had been undertaken in the Green Travel Plans but she recognised the points being made regarding the need to carefully consider future positioning of new buildings.

In referring to recommendation 9 that the Carbon Trust should carry out an audit of the Shire Hall Site, the Portfolio Holder for Environment suggested a need to bring in house energy expertise/management to look at possible energy savings that could be made and referred to the success that Dorset County Council had achieved through the appointment of an officer. Another view expressed was that consultants could provide such expertise.

With reference to recommendation 5, Members supported the “Whole Life” cost approach and considered that it was important that the County Council should be seen to be committed to the design of buildings with energy

technology built into them, to help reduce running costs. Support was also expressed for the proposal to establish a single energy management service for all County Council properties.

It was resolved to:

- i) Thank the Scrutiny Committee and officers for undertaking the review, and to accept the recommendations.
- ii) Approve the response to the 17 recommendations of the Member-Led Review appended to the bound copy of the minutes and to note the work already completed.
- iii) Note the resource implications and recognise that the speed of progress in some areas would be influenced by the availability of resources.
- iv) To ask the relevant officers to additionally consider options for providing the Council with energy expertise/energy management advice.

575. THE BICHARD INQUIRY

The Bichard Inquiry had been set up following the conviction of Ian Huntley for the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells. The Inquiry had looked at Child Protection measures, record keeping, vetting and information sharing in Humberside Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary. In addition to the Bichard Inquiry, there had been a number of other separate investigation reports, including the County Council who had undertaken an audit into recruitment practice of non-teaching staff and volunteers, in order to review the level of compliance with recognised best practice.

Key areas of concern of the Inquiry were developing consistent inter-agency approach to allegations of underage sex, as one of Bichard's concerns was that underage sex had not been dealt with sufficiently seriously in the past, and there was a need to establish a general culture that reinforced formal procedures designed to safeguard children, vulnerable adults and families.

It was noted that while Sir Michael Bichard would be writing to all those parties responsible for implementing the recommendations of his report and asking for a progress update, this did not include the County Council. Out of a total of 31 recommendations for action, only five had implications for the County Council. The report therefore reviewed the Council's current practice against each of the recommendations.

As final government guidance had not yet been received on some of the recommendations involving staff recruitment in schools and with the protocol still to be developed on recording accusations of underage sex, there was a need for a further update report to Cabinet. It was considered that the appropriate meeting would be following the County Council elections in the New Year.

Issues were raised about whether voluntary organisations working with children and young people (Scouts Leaders were mentioned) who received County Council grant aid were asked to provide evidence that staff had been cleared to work with these at risk groups. It was agreed that this should be looked at as part of the grants application process, possibly as a simple box on the application form.

The local member for Soham issued a plea that the community, having lived through the intense media glare for a number of years following the tragic events in this case, should now be allowed to move on. The media were asked to respect these wishes.

It was resolved:

- i) To note progress made against the Bichard recommendations outlined in the table at paragraph 3.3. of the officers' report.
- ii) To receive a report back for the new Council in May/June with progress on the five specific recommendations including adopting a protocol for handling allegations of sexual offences to young people under 16 and dealing with the recruitment issues on appointing staff to schools set out as recommendations 16 and 17 in the officers' report.
- iii) That the officers be asked to amend grant application procedures to ensure that organisations working with young people had appropriate child protection arrangements in place, including police clearance for staff.

576. IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Local authorities were required to submit a statement to Central Government outlining progress with the implementation of the modernising agenda and 2005 e-government targets. Acceptance of a satisfactory statement would result in the authority being allocated the final £150,000 of the last £500,000 tranche of support for further development of this agenda.

The submission comprised sections on the Local Context, Priority Outcomes, Change Management, Best Value Performance Indicator 157, Access Channel Take Up, Expenditure and E-government programme gains.

With reference to the document and the fact that under G15 (Mobile office service using technology to offer processing of Council Tax and Housing benefit claims and renewals) it was reported that this service would not be available, the question was raised on whether the County Council would be penalised. In reply, it was indicated that this would not be the case as this was a District Council function but what would be necessary was to ensure appropriate links between the County Council and District websites.

It was resolved:

To agree to the electronic submission to Central Government of the document titled "Implementing Electronic Government Return 2004" (IEG4).

577. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NAMED FUND – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER PANEL AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Under the policy framework agreed for involving the community and voluntary sectors in service development and delivery, it had been agreed to develop a partnership with Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) to take over the administration and advice for applications for small grants of under £3,000.

The report to Cabinet sought approval to establish a member panel to advise the Community and Economic Development Service Development Group (SDG) and Cabinet on the eligibility criteria for grant applications to the named fund and to advice on those applications received having received reports from the CCF. The terms of reference of the Panel required Cabinet approval.

It was urged that the criteria developed should ensure a sensible approach to the size of organisations reserves when deciding on the merits of individual applications, as well as considering timing issues of when they received grants. This would ensure that only those organisations with the greatest need received financial support.

It was resolved:

- i) To agree the terms of reference for the Member Panel.
- ii) To note that Group Leaders would appoint the members on the Panel.
- iii) That the eligibility criteria should take into account the level of reserves held by those organisations applying for grant aid, to ensure that only those with the greatest need received funding.

578. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 had placed a new duty on County Councils to establish a Countryside Access forum for the purposes of monitoring and advising the Council on their management of the local rights of way networks. The previous recruitment and appointment process had proved highly intensive including requiring final approval of the member nominations by Cabinet. As it was an annual exercise, it was considered inappropriate to take nominations to Cabinet each time and the report therefore set out revised arrangements.

Following further discussions at the Environment Service Development Group SDG and subsequent discussion between the officers and the Cabinet

Portfolio Holder for Environment, additional amendments were presented to Cabinet. These required that there should be greater involvement of Spokesmen in the final selection of new appointments to the Forum and that candidates should only be appointed for two, rather than three years, the latter being suggested in the original recommendations.

It was resolved:

To approve the procedure for external appointments to the Local Access Forum as set out below incorporating amendments agreed at the meeting:

- New Members to be selected through an external recruitment exercise.
- All expressions of interest to be brought to the attention of Spokemen who would play a greater role in the final selection.
- Nominated candidates and the Reserve List to be approved by Director of Environment and Transport (or his successor) and Cabinet Member for the Environment (or successor with that portfolio) and opposition Spokes.
- Officers would notify candidates of formal appointment to the Forum normally for a period of 2 years
- Where members left prior to the end of their term of office and prior to the Annual recruitment round, Officers would appoint suitable candidates from the approved Reserve List for a limited period (not less than 6 months and not more than 11 months), until the next recruitment round as Provisional Members.
- As part of the next round of recruitment, Provisional Members and those Full Members whose term of Office was drawing to an end would be invited to continue for a further term of office. Their names would be put forward for approval along with new recruits as appropriate.

579. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATIONS ON PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND CAMBRIDGE CITY LOCAL PLAN RE-DEPOSIT

This report provided details of the draft response from the Department of Environment and Transport to the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Preferred Options Consultation and the Re-deposit of the Cambridge City Local Plan. It also highlighted those areas where the Resources Directorate had taken a view in relation to the impact on County Council owned assets.

The key issues where a suggested response had been prepared were in relation to the following:

- Northstowe new town - the size of the Northstowe Site boundary for which three options had been provided in the consultation
- The extent of the Monsanto development in the Southern Fringe
- Issues around the Southern Fringe Access Road
- The preferred Site Boundary for Cambridge East

- Options for the Green Belt Boundary Review at Cambridge East
- Options for the A14 Access Road
- Issues around the proposals for major development proposed for North West Cambridge
- Implications for the review of secondary school provision
- Areas of major change general guidance in the Cambridge Redeposit Draft
- Planning obligations
- Sustainable Urban Drainage.

In addition, the Resources Directorate had made representations in respect of key proposed policies on Protection of Open Space, Community facilities and Affordable Housing which all had implications for the Council's assets. Additional recommendations were tabled at the Cabinet meeting to provide clarity on the corporate position of the Council. These were supported.

Serious concerns were again expressed regarding the further delays on the consultations for improvements to the A14 which were now not expected until the New Year. The necessary infrastructure improvements, including the access road, were vital to the future success of the settlement at Northstowe. There was a call for research to be undertaken into the number of delays that had now occurred. The Leader and the Portfolio holder for Strategic Planning undertook to lobby and obtain all necessary support to apply pressure to Central Government on the need for urgent action to facilitate the A14 improvements.

The Portfolio holder for Transport and Waste reminded the meeting of the need for a full study into access from Cambridge to Fenland, looking into the north of Cambridge transport routing structures, given the additional traffic impact expected from Northstowe onto the B1050 and bearing in mind that this road was already excessively used as a route from Fenland to the A14. Better links were also required into Fenland to help generate economic development. Currently the road links from Fenland to the south of the County were considered appalling. Cabinet Members supported calls for a Willingham bypass, as traffic congestion on the B1050 had continued to increase and would only be getting worse.

The issue was also raised of the need to alleviate problems around the Earith Bridge Area, which regularly suffered from flooding.

It was resolved:

To endorse the proposed responses to the development plan consultations and to support the effective use of the County Council's land as set out in the appendices to the officers' report subject to the following clarification:

A) Redevelopment of School Playing Fields – Cambridge City Local Plan

That Cambridge City Council should be informed that clarification of the lower case text to ensure that the

interpretation of "longer term" in Policy 5/11 was limited to the duration of this Local Plan.

B) Affordable Housing – Cambridge City Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire LDF

That Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council be informed that the County Council's support for affordable homes of approximately 50% was dependent on this requirement not undermining the viability of development and putting the delivery of both affordable and market homes at risk. Furthermore, the County's support was dependent upon more discretion for key worker provision.

C) Northstowe Site Boundary - South Cambridgeshire LDF

That South Cambridgeshire District Council should be informed that Option C was unacceptable to the County Council notwithstanding the County's property interests within this particular site boundary. Either Option A or Option B would be acceptable in planning terms but the District Council was asked to note that Option B would generate capital receipts for the County Council which would assist in the delivery of public services.

580. BUDGET MONITORING 2004/05

Cabinet received a report setting out the second quarterly monitoring information on the financial position and forecasts for revenue, capital and trading units to the end of September 2004, and forecast outturn results for the current year. The report detailed the improvements in Budgetary Control Reporting as a result of the Improving Financial Management (IFM) project.

The figures showed that an estimated total forecast outturn overspend of £899,000 was expected at year-end. Forecast overspends were projected for Transport (£65,000), Policy (£12,000) and Social Services (£952,000).

The Learning Disability Partnership was forecasting a break-even position at the end of the year but was currently showing an overspend against the budget profile of £522,000 for the end of September. Emerging pressures on health special needs and social care budgets were being investigated for any required management action.

In respect of Social Services overspending, the most significant pressure remained in Children's Services, due to the new packages of care provided since the beginning of the year. A number of trading units were predicting a projected deficit at outturn and it was noted that three were predicting a substantial deficit.

The latest position on Capital spending was reported. It was noted that in terms of Capital Financing, properties had so far been sold with a value of £1.4m with the latest forecasts being for receipts of £7.7m. A question was raised on whether the latter figure was realistic. In response the Director of

Resources confirmed that many capital receipts were received at the end of the year. In previous years where the Capital Programme had slipped, other projects were brought forward. As there was now little room for manoeuvre, management action would be required if the level of receipts was lower than predicted.

It was currently estimated that there would be sufficient overall resources to finance the Capital Programme.

It was resolved:

To note the forecast outturn for the end of the year 2004-05.

581. DELEGATIONS FROM CABINET TO CABINET MEMBERS/OFFICERS

Cabinet received a progress report on matters delegated to individual Cabinet members or to officers on behalf of the Cabinet.

It was resolved:

To note the delegations from Cabinet to individual Cabinet Members or to officers to make decisions/take actions on behalf of the Cabinet, which had been, or were still to be discharged.

582. CABINET AGENDA PLAN

It was resolved:

To note the agenda plans for 14th December 7th and 25th January.

Chairman
14th December