

## **CABINET : MINUTES**

Date: Monday 3 September 2001

Time: 10.00 – 11.00

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J K Walters (Chairman)

Councillors S F Johnstone, V Lucas, A K Melton, S B Normington,  
L Oliver, R Pegram, J A Powley and J E Reynolds

Also in attendance:

Councillors S V Brinton and M L Leeke

Apologies: Councillor R Wilkinson

### **26. CABINET MINUTES – 17 JULY 2001**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2001 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman announced that the meeting would be recorded as part as a trial 'webcast'. It was intended that the meeting of the Cabinet on 25 September would be webcast live.

### **27. THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE BUS STRATEGY**

The Transport Act 2000 requires local authorities to prepare a Bus Strategy to demonstrate how the public transport needs of the community are to be met. The Cabinet considered a proposed Bus Strategy for Cambridgeshire which reflected views expressed during recent public consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport emphasised that the Strategy was intended to increase bus usage. In welcoming the Strategy, Cabinet Members emphasised the need to ensure that appropriate provision was made to address the needs of the rural parts of the County. The Strategy would assess the most appropriate transport options for rural areas.

It was agreed that as part of the proposed action plan to implement the Strategy, an additional key indicator should be considered to reflect the number of passenger miles. Members emphasised the need to achieve effective integration of bus and rail services wherever possible and identified several parts of the County where they felt provision should be made or improved.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the Cambridgeshire Bus Strategy as submitted and specifically to endorse the outline action plan set out in Section 7 of the Strategy.

## **28. GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP**

The Cabinet considered a report about recent developments concerning the Greater Cambridge Partnership which had been established in 1998 as an alliance of public and private interests in the Cambridge Sub-Region. The partners had agreed that new steering arrangements should be developed to ensure the implementation of the agreed strategic goals and priorities.

The Cabinet decided:

To appoint the Leader of the Council to represent the County Council on the Greater Cambridge Partnership and that other Members of the Council be kept informed through reports to the Cabinet, to the Community and Economic Development SDG and the appropriate “In Your Patch” sessions with local Members.

## **29. PROCESS FOR STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW**

The Cabinet considered a report about the process required for preparing the draft Structure Plan. Given that this Structure Plan was likely to be controversial and particularly complex and challenging, it was essential that the review process should be both clear and widely understood.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) To approve the recommended process set out in the paper as the basis for preparing the deposit draft Structure Plan, including:
  - publication of all papers of the Strategic Planning Service Development Group
  - holding key meetings of the Strategic Planning Service Development Group in public (14 and 27 November 2001)
  - establishing a Cambridge Sub-Region joint member meeting and publishing notes of the meetings
  - providing an opportunity for all proponents of new settlements and other major developments to set out their proposals to members of the County Council and the Cambridge sub-region joint member meeting
  - endorsement of a clear set of criteria for decision making
- (b) To refer the report to the Environment and Transport Scrutiny Committee to enable it to comment on the proposed process.

### **30. CONNEXIONS SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Cabinet noted a report on progress in introducing the Connexions Service for young people between 13 – 19 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

An Independent Chairman had been appointed to the Connexions Partnership and a Chief Executive now needed to be appointed. The Cabinet noted that the Connexions Company, of which the County Council would be a major shareholder, might not be formed by the time the Chief Executive took up post and that interim employment arrangements might be required. If requested by other partners, it would be logical for the County Council to act as an interim employer.

The Connexions Service would build on the work undertaken by the Careers Service. During the coming term there would be a series of events in Community Education aimed at enhancing detailed awareness among Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges about the service.

The Cabinet decided:

To authorise the Chief Executive to take the necessary steps regarding the appointment of a Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Connexions Partnership so as to facilitate the introduction of the service.

### **31. THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Cabinet discussed a report about the Council's response to climate change and the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. It was proposed that in common with Hampshire, Kent and Shropshire County Councils, the County Council should become a signatory. This would not entail any commitment to additional expenditure but the implications would be reflected in the new Environment Strategy currently under preparation.

Cabinet Members supported the initiative and proposed that the Council should use the opportunity to prepare advisory documents to brief business on the benefits of achieving the outcomes envisaged in the Declaration. This might also be achieved through consultation on the relevant chapter in the Environment Strategy. The Cabinet agreed that the new Environment Strategy being developed should contain specific plans and actions in relation to improving the environment.

The Cabinet decided:

To agree to the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

**32. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

The Cabinet noted that the District Auditor's Audit Report of the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2001/2002, and the Council's draft response and action plan, had been considered by the Resources SDG and the Policy and Scrutiny Audit Committee.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the publication of the Audit Report and Action Plan.

**33. "SIGNING OFF" – BEST VALUE REVIEWS**

The Cabinet noted that the Best Value Inspectorate encouraged Councils to have in place a formal system for signing off Best Value reviews by Members. A proposed arrangement to achieve this was considered for implementation during the remainder of 2001/02 and in subsequent years.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the proposed means of signing off Best Value reviews.

**34. CABINET OUTLINE AGENDA – 25 SEPTEMBER 2001**

The Cabinet decided:

To note the outline agenda and potential amendments which might be forthcoming.

**35. DELEGATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS**

The Cabinet decided:

To note a schedule of matters (Appendix 1 to the signed copy of the minutes) on which delegations had been made to individual Cabinet Members and which had been discharged or where action was currently in hand.

Chairman