

CABINET : MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 20 November 2001

Time: 10.00 – 10.50

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J K Walters (Chairman)

Councillors S F Johnstone, V Lucas, L Oliver, D R Pegram, J A Powley,
J E Reynolds and R Wilkinson

Also in attendance:

Councillors S V Brinton and A C Kent

Apologies: Councillors A K Melton and S B Normington

67. CABINET MINUTES – 30 OCTOBER 2001

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 October 2001 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of the following sentence at the end of the resolution to Minute 56: Single Status – Final Stage Implementation:

Care would be taken to ensure that rewards matched to performance would not be divisive.

68. CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL LIBRARY – REFURBISHMENT PROPOSALS

The Cabinet decided:

To defer consideration of this report until its next meeting on 11 December 2001.

69. HISTORICAL RESOURCE AND CULTURAL CENTRE – PFI PROJECT

The Lead Member for Education, Libraries and Heritage, Councillor R Wilkinson, introduced a report summarising the objectives and progress of the Heritage PFI project. The scheme would modernise current service provision and improve public access to the county's archive, archaeological, arts and museums collections by establishing a flagship community learning resource for Cambridgeshire and a centre of excellence within the East of England region.

The Cabinet noted that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had earmarked £9million PFI credits for the scheme, subject to the submission of an Outline Business Case by the end of 2001 and to final approval by the Government, which was expected by May 2002. The Council had already identified £250,000 funding to support the development of the project. The Cabinet made clear that it was considering support in principle to prepare an Outline Business Case for the scheme. A decision about possible future funding would require further consideration by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) To confirm its support in principle for the Heritage PFI scheme.
- (b) To authorise the Director of Education, Libraries and Heritage and the Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Heritage to sign off the Outline Business Case to be sent to Government by 31 December 2001.
- (c) To authorise the Director of Education, Libraries and Heritage to proceed with the scheme through to the second stage approval by the Treasury, and that the project should then be reviewed by the Cabinet.

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

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor S F Johnstone, introduced a report reviewing progress on medium sized schemes programmed for 2001/02; considering the treatment of Market Town Strategy schemes within the prioritisation process; considering expanding an approved scheme for Sawston, and to determine the relative priority of schemes for the 2002/03 programme. Councillors R Wilkinson, J Tuck, M Ballard and J E Reynolds had expressed views in relation to individual proposals to the Cabinet Lead Member.

In discussion by the Cabinet the following points were made:

- that major rural roundabouts were not in the programme, but considered as individual schemes. The A505 scheme would start in 2002 and there should be scope for other roundabouts in future years.
- the level of resources available over the five year period of the Local Transport Plan were expected to provide sufficient funds to enable the schemes to proceed.
- the report recommended approval to preliminary work on the first seven schemes in the priority list, although it was hoped that sufficient funds would be available within the budget to enable some additional schemes to proceed.
- the overall approach was to maximise the resources available, taking into account any schemes which could be funded from Section 106 agreements.
- the detailed schemes, when eventually developed, should take into account the noise impact of particular proposals, such as speed cushions.
- schemes included in the report had been discussed and endorsed at Area Joint Committees.

The Cabinet decided to approve:

- (a) The arrangements for prioritising Market Town Strategy schemes.
- (b) The inclusion of a right turn facility at the Sawston Bypass north junction in the current year's programme.

- (c) The priority order of medium sized schemes set out in Appendix A of the report.
- (d) The preliminary design and consultation on schemes 1 – 7 in Appendix A of the report.

71. MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PRIORITIES (MTSP) – CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Cabinet considered a report summarising the resource position on capital expenditure and setting out a proposed allocation of funding to specific schemes. In discussing the report it was noted:

- that highway maintenance had been fully funded in accordance with the Cabinet's intentions but that expenditure on bridge maintenance might require some adjustment during the year since this expenditure was volatile and dependent on inspection.
- that only 73% of Education capital proposals would be able to be funded and some proposals had been removed.
- although 90% of Social Services proposals had been funded, it might not be possible to respond to Family Centre Best Value Review issues or to link with NHS net as quickly as originally envisaged.
- Cambridgeshire Direct and a range of other modernisation projects had been funded.

The Cabinet decided:

- To approve the proposed allocation of general capital resources as set out in the annex to the report.

72. COMMUNITY SAFETY BEST VALUE REVIEW INSPECTION

The Cabinet noted a report setting out the findings of the Best Value Inspectorate following the inspection of Cambridgeshire's approach to Community Safety. The Inspectors' recommendations and the planned response and proposed action were also noted.

The Key Partnerships SDG in January would give initial consideration to draft Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies and these would be considered further by the Cabinet in March when appropriate recommendations would be made to the Council.

The county strategy would take account of complementary district strategies but place emphasis on the County Council's views and priorities, and how far the Council's efforts should be focused geographically or on particular aspects (eg youth crime). It would also be necessary to determine whether County Council targets should relate to crime levels and targets or on service issues (eg lowering the reading age).

The Cabinet decided:

To note the proposed response to the Inspectors' recommendations set out in the report.

73. PROCESS FOR STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW

The Lead Member for Strategic Planning, Councillor J E Reynolds, introduced a report updating the Cabinet on progress with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Deposit Draft Structure Plan. He reminded members that an additional meeting of the County Council would take place on 22 January 2002 to consider the detailed wording of the policies contained in the Plan so providing the opportunity for the district councils to comment on the detailed wording. A tour of the proposed sites would be held shortly and a meeting of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning Panel was due to take place later in the month.

The Cabinet agreed:

To note progress with the Structure Plan Review process.

74. CABINET – 11 DECEMBER 2001: OUTLINE AGENDA

The Cabinet:

Noted the outline agenda and the following proposed amendments:

- Cambridge Central Library – refurbishment proposals: to be added
- Cambridgeshire Community Network – award of contract: to be deferred to the meeting on 5 March 2002
- Learning Disability Partnership – progress: item withdrawn and to be considered instead by the Vulnerable Adults SDG
- Delegations to Schools from 01/04/02: to be deferred to the meeting on 29 January 2002

Chairman