

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 8th January 2002

Time: 10.00 – 10.52

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J K Walters (Chairman)

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

Also in Attendance

Councillors M Ballard, A Kent, M L Leeke, R Mair and R Martlew.

Apologies: Councillor R Wilkinson

89. MINUTES – 11TH DECEMBER 2001

The Cabinet agreed:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2001 as a correct record and that they be duly signed by the Chairman.

90. DISTRICT PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEWS

The Cabinet considered a report that set out proposed changes to local electoral arrangements for District Councils in Cambridgeshire. The proposals were set out in a consultation document issued by the Local Government Commission for England on which comments had been invited by 28th January 2002.

The Cabinet agreed to RECOMMEND that the Council:

- (a) Submit a response to the Local Government Commission highlighting:
 - Where there is consensus between District and Town/Parish Councils on what should be the outcome of the review this should be respected by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 6 of its own report, which states "Local people are normally in the best position to judge what the council size and ward configurations are most likely to secure effective and convenient local government in their areas, whilst also reflecting the identities and interests of local communities;"
 - The Council's concern about the timing of the reviews; and

- The importance attached to co-terminosity between District Wards and County Electoral Divisions.
- (b) Agree that Councillors be encouraged to submit comments and concerns about their own Division direct to the Commission.

91. A1198 PAPWORTH EVERARD BYPASS ORDERS

The Cabinet considered proposals for the construction of the A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass. The former Transport Services Committee originally approved the proposed development in October 1996.

Papworth Everard was designated as a Rural Growth Settlement and the scheme aimed to:

- Relieve the village of through traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles;
- Enhance the environment of the village and improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians; and
- Enable development to take place.

On order for the scheme to proceed it was necessary to secure the necessary Side Roads Orders under the Highways Act 1980. Every effort would be made to acquire the land for the bypass by agreement, but in order to ensure that entry would be available when works commenced, it was also necessary to secure a Compulsory Purchase Order was also considered necessary. Work was due to commence in late 2003 with completion in 2004.

The Cabinet agreed:

To approve the making of the necessary Side Roads Order under sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 and the Compulsory Purchase Order under the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 for the A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass.

92. HEALTH SERVICE SCRUTINY

The Cabinet considered proposals to give Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Committees the power to report on matters relating to the health service in their area and in particular specific plans to introduce these arrangements in Cambridgeshire.

The aim of local scrutiny working in partnership with NHS bodies was to improve the quality of care, through identification of local people's needs and wishes for health services, ensuring that services provides are accessible and giving consideration to outcomes for all sections of the community. The power to scrutinise would also be extended to include the power currently held by Community Health Councils to refer contested NHS re-organisations and service changes. A policy document was due to be issued for consultation towards the end of January, followed by draft regulations and guidance, with a view to the new overview and scrutiny powers being introduced at the beginning of 2003.

The Scrutiny Management Committee would need to review the role and membership of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee in the light of these proposals. Early discussions had focused on the establishment of four Panels, one for each Primary Care Trust, with acute Trusts reporting to the most appropriate local Panel. The proposed membership of the Panels was four County Councillors and three District Councillors with the scope for appropriate co-options. The Panels would report directly to the Scrutiny Committee, which would have an agenda setting and co-ordination role, but would act more as a receiver of reports from each Panel. The Scrutiny Committee would undertake cross cutting reviews, deal with major reconfigurations and scrutinise the Mental Health Trust. Further consideration would need to be given to cross boundary issues and arrangements for the scrutiny of Papworth, the Ambulance Trust and the Shadow Health Authority.

The Cabinet agreed:

- (a) To note proposals to give Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Committees the power to report on matters relating to the health service in their area and in particular specific plans to introduce these arrangements in Cambridgeshire.
- (b) To inform the Scrutiny Management Committee that it endorses the proposed arrangements for the scrutiny of Health Services in Cambridgeshire, subject to account being taken of:
 - The need for a flexible approach able to adapt to the rapidly changing Health environment.
 - An acceptance that scrutiny will to cover the whole range of Health services including issues relating to health inequalities.
 - The need to ensure that scrutiny did not stray into the realms of service and policy development, which remained the responsibility of the Service Development Groups and Partnership bodies.

93. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

The Cabinet considered a report that set out details of the Local Government White Paper, "Strong Local Leadership, Quality Public Services" which summarised the key elements of the proposals and highlighted matters of special interest to the County Council.

The main theses in Section One of the White Paper were:

- Leading and Empowering Communities.
- Quality Public Services.
- Freedom to Deliver.
- Support to Councils
- Investing for Improvement.
- Working Together for Better Outcomes.

Section Two developed the proposals contained in the Local Government Finance Green Paper, which the Government consulted on in September 2000.

Particular attention was given to proposals to replace the current Standard Spending Assessment and concern was expressed about any delay in implementing the promised changes. Proposals to cut back on Plans and Strategies were also noted and any attempt streamline these requirements were to be welcomed.

The Cabinet agreed:

To note matters in the Local Government White Paper that were of special interest to the County Council and ask the Leader of the Council in conjunction with the Resources Service Development Group to look in detail at the implications as and when the Government publishes firm proposals.

94. CABINET OUTLINE AGENDA – 29TH JANUARY 2002

The Cabinet noted:

The outline agenda for its meeting on 29th January 2002.

95. DELEGATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS

The Cabinet noted:

Details of those matters on which delegations to individual Cabinet had been made or were in the process of currently being discharged, as set out in Appendix One to the signed copy of the minutes.

Chairman