

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 8th October 2013

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.25 a.m.

Present: Chairman: Councillor M Curtis

Councillors I Bates, D Brown, S Count, D Harty, L W McGuire, T Orgee,
M Shuter and F Yeulett

Apologies: None

Also present: Councillors Cearns, Hickford, Hipkin, Jenkins, Leeke, Reeve, J Reynolds,
van de Ven, Walsh and Wilson

71. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10th September 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared non-statutory disclosable interests in line with paragraph 10.1 of the Members' Code of Conduct:

- Councillor Wilson, presenter of the report from the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Guided Busway Review Terms of Reference, as recorded under Minute 74 below, as an employee of the Environment Agency involved in tendering for flood risk management, with potential suppliers including BAM Nuttall and Atkins
- Councillor Orgee in relation to the discussion recorded under Minute 77, Community Infrastructure Levy Consultations, as a member of South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Councillor Jenkins, a speaker on Community Infrastructure Levy Consultations, as a member of Histon and Impington Parish Council
- Councillor van de Ven, a speaker on Community Infrastructure Levy Consultations, as a member of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

73. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

74. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Guided Busway Review: Terms of Reference

The Chairman of the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Wilson, presented a report and recommendations relating to the terms of reference for the proposed review of contractual arrangements for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

He explained that the report was the outcome of discussion at the Committee's meeting held on 12th September 2013. It was the Committee's majority view that the proposed review by an external expert should be commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, not by Cabinet, to make clear the review's complete independence. The Committee had also agreed to carry out a member-led review considering wider aspects of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway project, which it expected to start once the review of contractual arrangements was complete.

Responding to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report, Cabinet members emphasised that the sole purpose of the proposed review would be to learn lessons that would be of benefit to both local and central government. They did not accept that the review would be better commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; however, the Committee would be able to consider its findings. Cabinet members recognised that the Committee might wish to carry out its own, wider review in due course.

It was resolved:

- a) To consider and comment upon the findings and recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report
- b) To consider and agree the responses to the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the Cabinet response.

Cambridge Park and Ride – Parking Charges: Call-In

The meeting of Cabinet held on 10th September 2013 had agreed to proceed with the implementation of a £1 parking charge at the five Cambridge Park and Ride sites, subject to no new issues arising from stakeholders. This decision had subsequently been called in by three members of the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The call-in had been considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 12th September 2013. The Committee had agreed to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration, asking Cabinet to undertake consultation with the District and City Councils and users; to carry out an assessment of possible risks associated with a parking charge and of other options; and to consider whether the decision made on 10th September 2013 should have been a key decision.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Wilson, presented the report on the call-in.

The Chairman of Cabinet, Councillor Curtis, agreed to exercise his discretion under Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow the Cabinet response to be considered, even though it had not been dispatched to members five working days before the meeting, for the following reasons:

- Reason for lateness: The need to consult with stakeholders to inform the report had meant that it could not be ready for the first dispatch deadline
- Reason for urgency: Given the County Council's financial position, it was vital for the decision to introduce charging to be considered as soon as possible so that design work and implementation of the scheme could commence. This would ensure that the scheme could be introduced before the start of the next financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure, Councillor McGuire, presented the Cabinet's response. He proposed that the recommendation on consultation was partially accepted and the recommendations relating to risk assessment and consideration of other options and to key decision status were fully accepted.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Infrastructure also drew attention to a radio interview that morning in which the Managing Director of Stagecoach Cambridge had suggested that Stagecoach could run the Park and Ride service at no cost to the Council. The Cabinet Member therefore proposed revised recommendations from those published in the Cabinet response, to enable this suggestion to be explored.

Other Cabinet members discussed the following points arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report, Cabinet response and Cabinet Member's update:

- Noted the need for appropriately focussed consultation on the proposed charge. District and City Councils and other key stakeholders had been consulted. However, Park and Ride users came from all over the country and all Cambridgeshire residents were currently funding the cost of Park and Ride.
- Expressed some reservations about the suggestion made by the Managing Director of Stagecoach Cambridge. Previous discussions with Stagecoach had not indicated that such an arrangement was possible. It might also not be desirable for one bus operator to have sole control of the Park and Ride sites. Members emphasised that any new arrangement would have to represent a good deal for all involved.

It was resolved:

- a) To consider the proposed responses to the recommendations made by the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- b) To consider the additional information and analysis of the potential impact of parking charges at the Cambridge Park and Ride sites
- c) To consider the issues raised by key stakeholders during the recent consultation

- d) To agree that, following recent publicly-made statements from Stagecoach that they could run the Park and Ride service at no cost to the Council, the Portfolio Holder undertake urgent discussions with bus operators to investigate further as to whether this represents a good deal overall, and to report back to Cabinet in November
- e) Subject to the outcome of discussions at d), to review the earlier decision and agree to the implementation of parking charges at the five Cambridge Park and Ride sites.

75. INTEGRATED RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31st AUGUST 2013

Cabinet received the Integrated Resources and Performance Report for the period ending 31st August 2013. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Count, noted that the forecast year-end overspend was £0.7 million, a decrease of £1.6 million from the previous month's forecast. However, an overspend of £7.1 million was forecast for older people's services, offset by underspending elsewhere.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance also highlighted performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Of the 17 indicators, 8 were showing green, 5 amber and 4 red. The Cabinet Member outlined the reasons for the red indicators and the actions being taken to address performance.

Cabinet members' attention was drawn to an £31.8 million underspend on the capital programme, due primarily to slippage or rephasing of work. Members commended a final underspend of £200,000 on the construction of Awdry House in Wisbech.

Cabinet members discussed the following points arising from the report:

- Expressed concern at the severe financial pressures faced by Adult Social Care. The demand for older people's services had increased by approximately 2% in the first four months of 2013/14. The overspend on older people's services was being closely reviewed, especially in view of the recent return to the Council of many services from Cambridgeshire Community Services. However, it appeared that £6.5 million of the overspend was due to genuine increase in demand, which the Council would have to meet, whilst also making significant financial savings.
- Commended an additional saving of £700,000 by Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) of which 50%, £350,000, would be returned to Cambridgeshire County Council.

It was resolved:

- a) To note the resources and performance information and the remedial action currently being taken

- b) To approve the transfer of £1m from corporate reserves to revenue to offset the increase in cost in respect of the 2013/14 pay award (section 3.2.7).

76. RECOMMISSIONING CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Chairman of Cabinet, Councillor Curtis, agreed to exercise his discretion under Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow this report to be considered, even though it had not been dispatched to members five working days before the meeting, for the following reasons:

- Reason for lateness: The Service Director: Enhanced and Preventative Services and other officers met children's centre managers on 2nd October 2013 to provide a briefing on the detail of the intended savings. The Cabinet paper was delayed to avoid information emerging through this route before staff had been briefed.
- Reason for urgency: Due to the time-critical nature of the consultation and to enable savings to be delivered during 2014/15, the paper needed to come to this Cabinet meeting.

Members considered a proposal to undertake a consultation on a reduction to the budget for children's centres of £1.5 million, equating to 22%, and a reconfiguration of the children's centres delivery model.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Walsh questioned why the budget for children's centres had specifically been targeted for savings, given the centres' importance and success. He noted that 58% of families in the County with children under 5 were registered with a children's centre. He also commented that children's centres were key to delivering early intervention and that reductions to their budgets would affect the poorest the most. He also questioned how the outcome of the consultation would be assessed and how the impact on services would be minimised in the face of such significant cuts.

Responding to the speaker, Cabinet members emphasised that the scale of savings required meant that all services had to be reviewed. They also drew attention to the explicit recognition in the report that the impact of budget reductions on this scale should not be underestimated and would have an impact on front-line delivery. It was noted that all members would have the opportunity to respond to the consultation and that the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee would also be able to respond.

Members noted that children and families did not observe geographical boundaries in their use of services and asked for the consultation to take this into account.

It was resolved:

- a) To give permission to proceed with a consultation to reduce the children's centres budget by £1.5m and reconfigure the service delivery model accordingly during 2014-15
- b) To approve an extension to two children's centre contracts with external providers in order to allow the wider redesign work to take place
- c) To agree to receive a future report on the outcome of the consultation and for a decision on future arrangements.

77. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CONSULTATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor Bates, presented the Council's proposed response to South Cambridgeshire District Council's consultation on its Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.

Two non-Cabinet members spoke on this item:

- Councillor Jenkins, the Liberal Democrat Planning, Environment and Enterprise Spokesman, suggested that CIL should be considered within the wider budget context as a means of raising money. He expressed concern that the charges proposed by South Cambridgeshire District Council were suspiciously rounded and questioned how much additional income might be generated from slight increases to these figures. He expressed concern that there was little differentiation of varying property values across the District and suggested that as well as Teversham Drift, other developments close to Cambridge might also merit higher charges. He also agreed that a nil charge for 'all other uses' was not necessarily appropriate.
- Speaking as the local member for Melbourn, Councillor van de Ven expressed concern at the increasing pressure on Parish Councils' ability to raise revenue. A proportion of the CIL arising from a development would be passed to the local Parish or Town Council, 15% for those without a Neighbourhood Plan and 25% for those with a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor van de Ven noted that there were 105 parishes in South Cambridgeshire, none of which had a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor van de Ven also commented on the need for clear links between the work on CIL and proposals contained in the Draft Transport Strategy.

Cabinet members:

- Expressed concern that Section 106 contributions and CIL together would not fund all of the infrastructure required. There was a significant risk that the shortfall would in future become unmanageable.
- Noted that District Councils had received funding to help Town and Parish Councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood Plans were in place in some parts of the County and under development in others; it was likely that the take-up rate would accelerate because of the significant financial benefits that could accrue.

- Endorsed the proposed comment that the County Council did not support the proposed nil rate for commercial and business premises, unless there was strong viability evidence to support this.

It was resolved:

- a) To approve the response to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule consultation
- b) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning to make changes to the consultation response prior to submission to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

78. DRAFT CABINET AGENDA PLAN

Members noted the draft agenda for the meeting to be held on 29th October 2013, including the following addition:

- Disclosure and Barring Service Policy for Councillors (Council decision).

Chairman
29th October 2013