

CABINET : MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 17th July 2001

Time: 10.00 – 12.10

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 , J E Reynolds and R Wilkinson

Also in attendance:

Councillors J A P Eddy and M L Leeke

10. CABINET MINUTES – 21 JUNE 2001

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 June 2001 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. SINGLE CAPITAL POT SUBMISSION – CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Cabinet discussed issues relating to the national and local context of the Single Capital Pot live run 2001 and the content of the formal documents. The draft assessment criteria issued by DETR (now DTLR) and the next steps required to make the Council's submission by the end of July were considered.

The effect on Cambridgeshire of decisions about the allocations of the discretionary element would be known in December for 2002/03. Targets quoted in the documents would be verified prior to submission. Emphasis would be made, if possible, given the prescriptive nature of the submission, to the need for renewable energy technology to inform all design and to be funded through the Asset Management Plan. The Cabinet noted that early guidance about indicative allocations had been sought and a response was awaited.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the Capital Strategy and Corporate Asset Management Plan for submission to the DTLR in the specified format and within the specified timescale.

12. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The proposed framework of the Local Transport Plan Annual Performance Report was considered together with a mechanism for approving the final report.

The Council had secured a settlement of £15.1m for road and bridge maintenance and integrated transport schemes for 2001/02. The likely level of funding for the remainder of the 5-year Local Transport Plan period was a further £55m, which excluded separate contributions to major schemes such as the Fordham by-pass.

The following points emerged from discussion by the Cabinet:

- although there had been a reduction in the volume of traffic in Cambridge, the level in Market Towns had not yet decreased
- improvements to the railway bridge at Ely were part of the overall strategy for a southern by-pass
- although there was still local opposition to the line of the Fordham by-pass the timetable shown in the report would be achieved
- the increase in the number of road traffic casualties was disappointing
- although the level of spending on highways maintenance had risen to 96% of SSA, this increased spending would not enable all the maintenance backlog to be addressed.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the framework of the LTP APR Part 1 and 2 and to delegate approval of the final APR document, prior to submission to Government, to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.

13. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH WASTE PLAN - RESULTS OF NEGOTIATION WITH OBJECTORS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS REVISED DEPOSIT PLAN

The Cabinet considered a report containing proposals for the Second Deposit stage of the Waste Local Plan. Following approval by the County Council in June 2000 to the Deposit Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan the document was issued for public consultation. The County Council had resolved as many issues raised in representations made on the Plan as possible with objectors before submitting the Revised Deposit Plan for a further round of consultation prior to the Public Local Inquiry into the Plan.

The overview report summarised the principle changes proposed to the Plan. Issues of detail raised by members of the Cabinet would be pursued outside the meeting.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) To approve amendments to the Plan and that a Revised Draft Waste Local Plan be published for further consultation.
- (2) To note the anticipated timetable set out in the report.

- (3) To delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport to make any minor revisions in response to issues which might be raised by the Scrutiny Committee.

14. COST RECOVERY FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY CAMERAS

The Cabinet considered a proposal to submit an operational case to the Government for the use of revenue generated from speeding fines to fund additional safety cameras in Cambridgeshire.

It was emphasised that the proposal was intended to contribute to accident reduction which was key PSA target. It was not a measure aimed at generating additional resources.

A range of issues to be addressed and a proposed timetable were noted. If the proposal proceeded a business case would be brought to the Cabinet later in the year and would deal fully with the issue of cost covering. The Cabinet noted that safety cameras would only be used at sites where there was a known accident record. It would be important to develop the initiative together with the police and other partners.

The Cabinet decided:

To support the submission of an operational case to the Government to use revenue generated from speeding fines to fund additional safety cameras in Cambridgeshire.

15. SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE REPORTS

The Cabinet considered the reports of the Social Services Inspectorate of the Department of Health on the inspection of Social Care Services for Older People provided by Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services Department undertaken in November 2000, and their report on the Social Services Best Value Review of Assessment and Care Management undertaken during the wider inspection. A proposed action plan prepared in response to the recommendations of the inspection was also considered.

M Little, B Riddle and M Ayres attended the meeting on behalf of the Social Services Inspectorate and drew attention to the key findings and main recommendations in each of the reports.

In discussing various issues with the SSI representatives, a number of points were raised:

- the SSI representatives were thanked for attending Cabinet and for fair and constructive reports. A request was made by the Cabinet that future reports should contain benchmarking information.
- it was suggested by the SSI that a further reduction in the level of delayed discharge to the second to top quartile of Councils would be a good aspiration

- the extent to which resources had already been redirected from childcare to services for older people was emphasised, but despite this spending was around 25% below SSA. The Cabinet expressed the view that the existing SSA system was discredited
- the action plan sought to address all the issues identified by the SSI and would be delivered. It contained many ambitious targets some of which had already been achieved ahead of time
- the Director of Social Services and Cabinet Lead Member were congratulated on the progress made.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) To receive the reports of the Social Services Inspectorate on Care Services for Older People in Cambridgeshire and on the Best Value Review of Assessment and Care Management
- (2) To endorse the action plan prepared in response to the recommendations of the inspection for implementation.

16. MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PRIORITIES – 2002/2006

The Cabinet gave initial consideration to some of the emerging issues arising from the Medium Term Service Priorities (MTSP) for the next 3-year period. Relevant Cabinet Members and Service Development Groups would be considering the broad issues for each Service during June and July and in September the Cabinet would discuss the financing consequences of various options and the basis on which budget consultation should be undertaken.

The Cabinet decided:

To note emerging issues arising from MTSP proposals and priorities for budget consultation.

17. FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR 2000/2001

The Cabinet considered a report summarising the draft financial results for revenue, capital and trading units during 2000/2001. The report also set out the position on balances, carry forwards, reserves and treasury management and reviewed the position on debt management and efficiency savings.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) To note the revenue expenditure of Committees in 2000/2001
- (2) To approve the carry forwards and reserves as set out
- (3) To note the report on Treasury Management activities
- (4) To note the report on Trading Units' performance
- (5) To note the report on Capital Spending and Financing in 2000/2001

- (6) To note the report on Debt Management
- (7) To note the report on Efficiency Savings and to congratulate managers on achieving savings of 2.7% against a target of 2.0%
- (8) To authorise the Director of Resources formally to close the accounts in the best interests of the County Council.

18. NEW ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered proposals for developing a new Environment Strategy and an outline content of what the strategy might contain.

The Cabinet decided:

To approve the preparation of a new Environment Strategy for the Council following the outline and timetables contained in the report.

19. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION UNIT ANNUAL REPORT 2000/2001

The Cabinet noted the submission of the final annual statutory report of activities undertaken by the Social Services Department Registration and Inspection Unit. Regulatory activities relating to social care provision would transfer from the local authority to the National Care Standards Commission in 2002. Attention was drawn to the section of the report dealing with regulatory action.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the publication of the final annual report and to authorise the Cabinet Member for Social Services to consider whether any further action is required and, if so, to report to the Cabinet subsequently.

20. APPEALS AND GUARDIANSHIP RENEWAL

The Cabinet decided:

To appoint an Appeals and Guardianship Sub-Committee comprising Councillors S B Normington, J A Powley and J E Reynolds to determine future appeals and renewals.

21. ELECTORAL REVIEWS

The Cabinet approved the inclusion on the agenda of an urgent additional (oral) item. The Chief Executive explained that a submission had recently been received relating to the District Electoral Review and the County Council's comments were required before the next meeting of the Cabinet. It was proposed that all members of the Council would be advised at the appropriate time when district councils' submissions were available for inspection.

The Cabinet decided:

To authorise the Leader of the Council to respond on behalf of the Council (and in consultation with the other Group Leaders) to the District Council Electoral Review submissions.

22. BUDGET MONITORING 2001/2002

The Chairman accepted the report as urgent since it had not been possible to issue it within 3 clear working days of the meeting given the timescales for data collection.

The Cabinet discussed the report which summarised the financial results for revenue, capital and trading units for the first quarter of 2001/2002 including forecast outturn results for the current year.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the trends in spending to date in 2001/2002.

23. STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW – PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet considered a report setting out progress on the preparation of the Deposit Draft Structure Plan since the public consultation on issues and options, and outlining the next steps and longer term timetable.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the outcome of public consultation and the arrangements in hand for preparing the draft Structure Plan for consideration by the Council in December.

24. THE QUEEN'S SPEECH – 20 JUNE 2001

The Cabinet decided:

To note the main proposals for legislation affecting Local Government contained in the Queen's Speech.

25. CABINET OUTLINE AGENDA – 3 SEPTEMBER 2001

The Cabinet decided:

To note the outline agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman