

CABINET : MINUTES

Date: Thursday 21st June 2001

Time: 10.00 – 11.30

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 S V Brinton, J A P Eddy and M L Leeke

1. CABINET PROCEDURE RULES

The Cabinet noted the Procedure Rules agreed within the Council's Constitution. During the coming year it was expected that all key decisions would be taken by the Cabinet and not by individual Members or officers.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) That the implications of the procedure rules for the conduct of Cabinet business be noted
- (2) That a protocol be produced to set out a process for including items on the Cabinet agenda which have been requested by more than one Cabinet member.

2. INFORMATION AGE GOVERNMENT VISION

The Cabinet discussed and welcomed the Information Age Government Vision prepared in response to the Modernising Government initiative. A complementary Implementing Electronic Government Statement would be produced as required by DTLR and this would be considered by the Resources SDG at its next meeting.

A key part of the Council's strategy was "Cambridgeshire Direct" the joint contact centre and community portal which was the subject of an unsuccessful Pathfinder bid submitted to DETR in March. The approach linked directly to other key Council strategies including Prospects 2001/2005 and the Listening and Consulting Strategy.

The multi-agency partnership approach being pursued was supported and discussions were underway to ensure maximum systems compatibility. One aim was to achieve seamless transfer of calls between the County Council and NHS Direct.

The Cabinet emphasised the importance of consultation with hard to reach groups to ensure satisfactory customer access. This was being actively pursued both for County services and jointly in conjunction with the District Councils. Particular attention would need to be paid to the situation in and around the County boundary in relation to the approach of other authorities.

Progress on implementing the strategy would be reported annually to the Cabinet and to relevant Service Development Groups as appropriate.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) To approve the Information Age Government Vision document and that the Leader of the Council be authorised to agree the Implementing Electronic Government Statement in consultation with the Resources SDG on 9th July 2001
- (2) That a section be included in the vision and strategy relating to the approach to be taken to exclusion and hard to reach groups.

3. CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF GRANT AID TO (SOCIAL SERVICES) VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR 2002/2003

The Cabinet considered a proposal to continue the existing criteria for the allocation of Grants to Voluntary Organisations in the Social Services area for 2002/2003.

The Council's Annual Grants booklet issued to prospective applicants for grants contained details of the criteria applicable across each of the service areas where grants were allocated. In February the Cabinet would be asked to consider the detailed allocation of grant aid for each of the main service areas.

It was suggested that the Children in Need SDG might consider at some stage the provision of grant aid to voluntary organisations in the cross-cutting areas between Social Services and Education.

The Cabinet decided:

To reaffirm the criteria for the allocation for grant aid to (Social Services) voluntary organisations.

4. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Cabinet:

- (1) Authorised the Leader of the Council to determine those outside bodies to which appointments are to be made by Cabinet and that appointments be made to these bodies by the Leader of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 10.12 of Article 10A of the Constitution.
- (2) Agreed that the full schedule of appointments to be made be sent to all members of Cabinet.

5. PROSPECTS 2001/2002 – THE AGENDA FOR 2001/2002 AND THEREAFTER

The Cabinet considered the key issues on the Council's agenda for the coming year and beyond drawn from the Council's policy framework and Directorate Service Plans.

The range of issues would form the basis of the next Corporate Plan (Prospects 2002/2006) and be an integral part of the MTSP process.

The Cabinet decided:

To adopt the report as a statement of the key developmental issues for the Council this year and as a basis for the next Corporate Plan.

6. CABINET AGENDA PLAN FOR 2001/2002

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) To note the agenda plan to April 2002 which would be updated on a monthly basis
- (2) That each future Cabinet agenda should include an outline of the agenda for the subsequent Cabinet meeting.

7. COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN FOR 2001/2002

The Cabinet considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 2001/2002. This covered a twelve month period rather than the four month statutory requirement. The definition of what constituted a Key Decision was discussed. There was a possibility that new regulations might be issued which would require a change to the current approach.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be published on the basis of twelve months rather than the statutory minimum of four months
- (2) To note that the Forward Plan will be updated on a monthly basis.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Cabinet decided:

That under Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. WASTE DISPOSAL CONTRACT

The Cabinet considered in private session a report containing exempt information as defined by Paragraph 9 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The implications of a thorough and extensive Best Value review of the Council's waste disposal contracts, were noted and a possible way forward was proposed.

The Cabinet decided:

- (1) Primarily for cost grounds, to exercise the break clause in the "eastern areas" disposal contracts current let to East Waste Ltd, a subsidiary of Waste Recycling Group (WRG)
- (2) To re-tender the "eastern areas" contracts based on the terms described in the report and to advise the decision to WRG by the contractual deadline of the end of June
- (3) To extend the waste contract for Buckden landfill to at least 2004, and to determine the future re-tendering of this contract in conjunction with Peterborough City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council.

Chairman