

## **CABINET : MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 11 December 2001

Time: 10.00 – 12.17

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J E Reynolds (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance:

Councillors I C Bates, S V Brinton, M W Chapple, J E Coston, M Farrar,  
G J Heathcock, A C Kent, S J Kime, M L Leeke, L W McGuire and C E Shaw

Apologies: Councillor J K Walters

### **75. CABINET MINUTES – 20 NOVEMBER 2001**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 November 2001 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **76. STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW**

The Chairman accepted as urgent reports from the Director of Environment and Transport and the Lead Member for Strategic Planning which had been circulated within three clear days of the meeting, and a letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Strategic Rail Authority and a paper setting out suggested revised wording for Draft Policies P9/3 Green Belt and P9/4 New Settlement, both of which were tabled at the meeting.

The Director of Environment and Transport and the Lead Member for Strategic Planning introduced their reports. The Cabinet recorded its gratitude to all the Members and officers involved in the preparation of the Structure Plan including those from the District Councils, and welcomed the substantial measure of agreement reached on many aspects of the draft Plan.

The Cabinet acknowledged that the Plan must be innovative and able to respond to the challenges set in Regional Planning Guidance. The aim had, therefore, been to produce a solid framework for the future development of Cambridge and Peterborough and the basis for implementation through Local Plans and transport strategies although there were also important links to other strategies. A particular challenge had been to establish a vision for Cambridge City to guide development well beyond the Structure Plan period and which could well set the pattern for the next 30 years. Another key element of the strategy was the need to promote regeneration in the north and east of the County including Wisbech, March and Chatteris.

The revised wording for Draft Policies P9/3 and P9/4 was accepted by the Cabinet.

In relation to the location of the new settlement the Cabinet discussed the two potential locations which had emerged following a thorough analysis of seven possible sites. A range of factors including flooding and transport and access had been noted and, in relation to the Waterbeach site, the Cabinet noted that the Strategic Rail Authority had indicated that it was sceptical about the development of a business case for the rail based shuttle service proposed and would be unable itself to fund the project through public subsidy. While access to heavy rail services would be an advantage, it would not in itself be sufficient to provide high quality transport links into Cambridge. At Longstanton/Oakington the infrastructure required to support high quality bus rapid transport services had been approved by the Regional Planning Body and it was likely that there would be support from the Government for early implementation.

In relation to the report of the Director of Environment and Transport, the Cabinet **RECOMMENDED** the Council:

- (a) To note that the preparation of the Draft Structure Plan had taken place in accordance with the programme agreed by Cabinet on 3 September 2001.
- (b) To agree the approach to key issues for the development strategy (as summarised in Section 7 of the report.
- (c) To endorse the Draft Structure Plan as set out in Annexe 1 to the report, subject to further detailed revisions of policies and text.
- (d) To endorse the process for consultation as set out in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of the report.

In relation to the report of the Lead Member for Strategic Planning, the Cabinet **RECOMMENDED** the Council:

- (a) To endorse the recommendations of the Director of Environment and Transport
- (b) To endorse the approach to Green Belt review set out in the report
- (c) To endorse Oakington/Longstanton as the location for a new settlement
- (d) To endorse the incorporation of revised wording for Draft Policies P9/3 Green Belt and P9/4 New Settlement as tabled at the meeting.

*[Note: The two sets of recommendations were consolidated in the Cabinet report to Council as follows:*

*The Cabinet **RECOMMENDS:***

*That the Council:*

- (a) *Notes that the preparation of the Draft Structure Plan has taken place in accordance with the programme agreed by Cabinet on 3 September 2001.*

- (b) *Agrees the approach to key issues for the development strategy (as summarised in Section 7 of the report of the Director of Environment and Transport to Cabinet) and:*
  - (i) *endorses the approach to the Green Belt Review set out in the report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning*
  - (ii) *endorses Longstanton/Oakington as the location for a new settlement*
- (c) *Endorses the draft Structure Plan as set out in Annexe 1 to the report of the Director of Environment and Transport, subject to further detailed revisions of policies and text, and endorses the incorporation of revised wording for Draft Policies P9/3 Green Belt and P9/4 New Settlement*
- (d) *Endorses the process for consultation as set out above.]*

## **77. CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL LIBRARY – REFURBISHMENT PROPOSALS**

The Lead Member for Lifelong Learning introduced a report about the implications of proposed development in Cambridge City centre and their implications for the Central Library. The service and financial implications of the various possible options for refurbishing the library were discussed and the views expressed by the Lifelong Learning Service Development Group were noted.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) To authorise officers to pursue negotiations with the developers on the basis of options 3 and 4 in the report and to enter into formal agreements consistent with those options.
- (b) To instruct officers to develop proposals for the capital programme 2005/06 for the development of the Central Library in line with option 4.
- (c) To endorse the scheme on the understanding that option 4 would generate increased activity and income levels of the order of 20% but the revised lay-out should enable revenue costs to be contained within current budget levels.
- (d) To note that the capital programme provision for the scheme would not include the cost of relocation and this would be a budgetary pressure to be managed by the Library Service.

## **78. BUDGET 2002/03**

### **(A) Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement 2002/03**

The Chairman accepted the report as urgent given the delayed announcement of the RSG Settlement. The Cabinet considered the main elements of the provisional settlement and expressed disappointment about the settlement for education and that, in general terms, Cambridgeshire continued to have the lowest SSA per head of all Shire Counties.

The Cabinet decided:

That representations be made to the Secretary of State, covering the following points:

- Disappointment that Area Cost issue has still not been addressed.
- The errors in the ACA data this year give even more credence to the view that the formula is not robust and must be changed as part of the formula review for the next year.
- Welcome the additional money provided to ensure that authorities above the 'floor' do not have their grant scaled back to pay for those below.
- Restate the earlier representation that the LSC quantum has been overstated and, unless amended, will have the unintended consequence of transferring funds from 11-15 to post-16 education.
- Call for the abolition of CTBSL, to take effect from 2002-03.
- Any amendments to the level of RSG paid to District Councils should be funded from additional monies and not be financed by redistribution from County Councils.
- Regret the further increase in specific grants and call for this trend to be reversed in the current formula review.

(B) MTSP and Cash Limits for 2002/05

The Chairman accepted as urgent a report about the MTSP strategy approved by Cabinet on 25 September 2001. This took into account the latest information on budgets, the provisional RSG Settlement and the latest position on consultation on the MTSP.

Cabinet Members for each of the major services explained the pressures currently facing their services and the likely impact of the Settlement. The Cabinet decided to adhere to a strategy providing for an increase of 9.3% in the level of Council Tax and discussed how the additional resources available because of the lower than anticipated level of Education SSA should be allocated.

The outcome to date of the consultation process undertaken during the Autumn, based on the Prospects document, was discussed and it was apparent that public support for a substantial increase in the level of Council Tax could not be taken for granted. Options for consultation on the strategy during the early part of the New Year were discussed.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) That the 2002/03 budget be prepared on the cash limits and planning guidelines for the following two financial years as set out in Appendix I of the report and that the budget strategy providing for an increase of 9.3% in the level of Council Tax be adhered to thus enabling £2.4m to be put back into the budget as follows:
- reinstate £1.1m of funding for schools in excess of the Government's passporting level
  - add £0.5m to Social Services cash limits towards shortfalls arising from the transfer of functions
  - add £0.4 to Education other than schools

- allocate £0.1m for costs of Structure Plan Examination in Public
  - defer a decision on allocation of the remaining £0.3m
- (b) That budget consultation be undertaken on the basis of the public meetings and drop in surgeries already arranged together with up to four independently organised focus groups to gauge the public reaction to the proposals.

## **79. INTEGRATION OF ADULT SERVICES WITH HEALTH**

The Cabinet discussed a report which set out fully the current position in relation to the integration of services with Health and suggested the framework in which localities could develop an integrated Older People's and Occupational Therapy service. It was noted that the issues had been fully discussed and welcomed by the Vulnerable Adults SDG.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) To note progress with the integration of adult services.
- (b) To agree the structure of older people's services proposed.
- (c) To agree the integration of OT services within a Primary Care Trust.

## **80. BEST VALUE INSPECTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Cabinet welcomed the excellent report on the Council's waste management service and discussed various issues arising from the improvement plan. The Best Value Inspection had concluded that the County Council was providing a good service and one which was definitely going to improve.

The Cabinet noted a number of issues which would have significant implications for waste management including the anticipated increase in Landfill Tax and potential costs to the Council arising from the disposal of refrigerators. Alternative approaches to landfill were continuing to be explored with partners.

The Cabinet decided:

- (a) To note the encouraging outcome of the Best Value Inspection and to congratulate the officers involved.
- (b) To endorse consultation with the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire Strategic Forum on matters concerning the future provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## **81. ANNUAL ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE REPORT – 2000/01**

As required by the Adoption Agency Regulations the Cabinet considered a report of the Agency's activities during 2000/01. Details of approaches and problems experienced locally and nationally were reported and it was noted that legislation, guidance and standards were changing significantly in this area of practice.

The Cabinet **decided**:

- (a) To formally approve the report as a record of the Social Services Department acting in its capacity as an Adoption Agency and requested that it be sent to the Department of Health.
- (b) To place on record its thanks to the Members of the Adoption Panel for the very important work they do and for the public support for the work on adoption.

## **82. DISTRICT AUDIT MANAGEMENT LETTER – 2000/01**

The Cabinet considered the Annual Audit Letter from District Audit and a suggested response from the Resources SDG to issues raised for consideration by the Council.

The Annual Audit Letter was welcomed and confirmed the soundness of management across the authority. It raised few issues for consideration by the Council. Recommendations contained in it had been accepted and appropriate action was in hand.

The Cabinet decided:

To endorse the Council's response to the District Audit Management Letter for 2000/01, as endorsed by the Resources SDG.

## **83. THE EDUCATION BILL**

The Cabinet discussed a report summarising the implication of the new Bill which was intended primarily to implement those aspects of the Government proposals set out in its White Paper: "Schools Achieving Success". The Bill reflected three principal themes: innovation, centralisation and consolidation. It would not be possible to assess the full impact of the legislation, however, until the detail of regulations yet to be made had been published and the application by the Secretary of State of new powers had been assessed.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the likely implications of the Education Bill.

## **84. PERFORMANCE MONITORING [SECOND QUARTER]**

### **(A) Monitoring of the Cambridgeshire PSA**

The Cabinet discussed a summary of the Council's performance against the Cambridgeshire Public Service Agreement targets. Members were reminded of the basis on which additional resources became available following achievement of PSA targets and noted that efforts were being made to commit the additional £1million available in the current year.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the current performance against the Cambridgeshire Public Service Agreement.

(B) Performance against key headline indicators

The Cabinet discussed a summary of the Council's performance against key performance indicators.

The Cabinet decided:

To note current performance against headline indicators.

**85. SOCIAL SERVICES: SSI AUTUMN POSITION STATEMENT**

The Cabinet noted the SSI's assessment of the Autumn Position Statement for Cambridgeshire. This would inform the SSI's Annual Review of the Department's performance following the Annual Review meeting in March 2002.

The Cabinet decided:

To note the SSI Assessment covering management and resources as well as Children's and other Adult's services.

**86. CABINET – 8 JANUARY 2002: OUTLINE AGENDA**

The Cabinet:

Noted the outline agenda for its meeting on 8 January 2002.

Chairman