

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 7th May 2002

Time: 10.00 – 11.00

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor J K Walters (Chairman)

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors L Oliver and R Wilkinson

Also in Attendance: Councillors I Bates, S Brinton and R Martlew.

151. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th April 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

152. REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals to report.

153. SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE 2001/02

The Cabinet received details of feedback from the Social Services Inspectorate's (SSI's) review of the performance of the Social Services Directorate in 2001/02.

It was noted that part of the role of the SSI was to assess performance of all social services authorities. Each year an annual performance review meeting took place involving key social services and representatives from partner agencies such as Education and Health. This led to publication of an assessment of performance, detailing the outcome of the review, which detailed the SSI's conclusions taking account of performance data and the content of statutory and other local plans. This highlighted strengths and improvements achieved during the year, areas for development and prospects for improvement in the coming year.

Key strengths and improvements during 2001/02 highlighted by the SSI included:

- Removal of Cambridgeshire from the list of Councils subject to special measures.

- Effective and focussed work to reduce the number of delayed discharges by increasing capacity across the whole system and developing services to prevent admissions promote independence.
- Continued development of performance management systems within the organisation.
- Commitment across all areas of service to improving care planning systems.

Later in the year each Council would be given a new performance rating – zero to three stars – based on an assessment of their overall performance using all the available evidence. The outcome of the annual review meeting would form part of this evidence.

The Cabinet welcomed the findings of the review and expressed its congratulations to the Director of Social Services and her staff on receiving such an excellent report.

It was resolved:

To note the outcome of the SSI's Annual Review of Performance.

154. BUDGET MONITORING 2001/02

The Cabinet received details of the forecast outturn results for revenue and capital spending for the 2001/02 financial year.

The overall position showed a total predicted revenue underspend at outturn on £287,000, compared to an earlier forecast of a £606,000 underspend. It was however noted that the figures would vary as the accounts were closed and final payments, creditors and debtors were taken into account. Overall the forecasts for capital spending and financing needs were slightly lower than reported previously. The final outturn position would be presented to Cabinet in July.

It was resolved:

To note the forecast outturn position.

155. JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered the draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

It was noted that Cambridgeshire Councils agreed over three years ago that they could only tackle the challenges of growing waste volumes and a heavy dependence on landfill, by acting together. This has included collaboration on a number of practical awareness raising and policy issues over the last three years, encouraged by Government statements on joint working.

The Joint Strategy for Cambridgeshire had been prepared in accordance with Government guidelines and set out the overall direction for waste

management over the next 20 years. It reflected the results of an extensive public consultation exercise from which the following three messages emerged:

- The importance of raising public awareness of waste issues, to increase participation in recycling and encourage informed decisions.
- A strong public demand for kerbside recycling.
- Public support for integrates waste systems, which included thermal/biological treatment of what cannot be recycled *provided that* public health and the environment can be protected.

The Strategy was based on high rates of recycling and composting as the primary means of achieving sustainable waste management. Targets for recycling had been set, rising from 33% in 2003/04 to 55/60% by 2020. The 2003/04 targets would only be achievable if the County Council reached 65% recycling at its Household Waste Recycling Centres (currently 55%), Districts achieved 25% recycling (currently 10%) and Peterborough 33% (currently 20%). It detailed the mechanisms by which these targets would be achieved which would depend on an expansion of waste handling facilities and composting sites and a framework for locating these was contained in the County's Waste Local Plan. In addition the Strategy reflected each Council's recycling plans as well as showing how landfilling of biodegradable material would be reduced to meet EU targets. Agreement remained to be achieved on a number of issues including the extent of joint service provision, the location of new waste management facilities and waste charging.

As a result of the strategy the Councils had called on central Government to provide mechanisms and resources to enable local partnerships to deliver their strategies. The additional cost of meeting the 2003/04 targets was estimated at £1,831,000 (39%) above 2001/02 spending levels, most of this falling on District Councils. External sources of funding would need to be fully exploited.

It was resolved:

To approve the draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and recommend that the Council formally adopts it at its next meeting.

156. THONGSLEY INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS, HUNTINGDON

The Cabinet considered proposals for the possible amalgamation of Thongsley Infant and Junior Schools in Huntingdon.

It was noted that a public notice seeking closure of the schools and the opening of a 280-place primary school with nursery had been published on 7th March 2002. No objections had been received and it was therefore proposed to proceed with the proposal.

It was resolved:

To determine that, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 6 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the proposal to amalgamate the Thongsley Infant School and the Thongsley Junior School to form a 280 place Community Primary School with nursery, with effect from 1st September 2002, be implemented.

157. MILTON ROAD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS, CAMBRIDGE

The Cabinet considered proposals for the amalgamation of Milton Road Infant and Junior Schools in Cambridge and to provide a new community primary school on an alternative site. The proposal had the support of the two Governing Bodies, who recognised the clear educational and environmental advantages to be gained by moving to a larger site with its own playing fields. The proposals had also been the subject of a formal consultation exercise, including a series of formal meetings at the schools.

It was resolved:

To approve the publication of a public notices seeking to

- (a) Discontinue the Milton Road Infant and Milton Road Junior Schools in Cambridge with effect from 31st August 2004, subject to satisfactory and timely planning permission being granted for the disposal of the site; and
- (b) Establish a new 420 place Community Primary School on the County Council's site adjacent to Ascham Road in Cambridge to open on 1st September 2004, subject to satisfactory and timely planning permission being granted for the proposed site by 31st March 2003.

158. MARKET TOWN TRANSPORT STRATEGIES

The Cabinet considered proposed Market Town Transport Strategies for March, Ely and St Neots.

The 2002-06 Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Cambridgeshire contained a commitment to produce strategies for the County's Market Towns. Detailed strategies had now been prepared for March, Ely and St Neots which set out integrated transport plans for the towns and surrounding area. They identified transport improvements that met broader environmental, social and economic objectives, consistent of the overall aims of the LTP to make travel safer, promote integrated and sustainable transport and to manage effective transport networks.

The Cabinet was invited to consider each of the Strategies, which were developed in partnership with key stakeholders and had been the subject of extensive public consultation. They set out a programme of transport

priorities between now and 2006, phased to reflect the deliverability, priority and resources required for each project. It was stressed that the pace at which each Strategy could be implemented would depend on the availability of funding. Some of this would come from LTP monies, but in order to realise the full objectives, other sources, such as developer contributions would need to be secured.

It was resolved:

To approve the proposed Market Town Transport Strategies for Ely, March and S Neots.

159. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Cabinet received details of proposals for Member involvement in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) process.

It was noted that the Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new duty on local authorities to prepare a community strategy to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well being of their area. This initiative included a requirement to establish LSPs as vehicles by which the strategy could be prepared. The size and make-up of LSP Boards had been left for local authorities to decide in consultation with other key partners. However it was necessary to ensure that Board Members were able to speak for and act on behalf of their organisation and that LSPs should be reflective of all of the agencies involved with no one group dominating.

Member involvement in LSPs would be on a number of levels, including:

- As a nominated Board Member.
- As a representative of the local community participating in In Your Patch meetings, Management Boards and other local fora and other theme based groups supporting the development of the Community Planning Process.
- Developing related policies through Service Development Groups.
- As a member of a Scrutiny Committee scrutinising the work of the LSP.

It was resolved:

- (a) To approve the appointment of the following Members to the proposed LSP Boards:

Cambridge City - Councillors S Johnstone and A Kent
East Cambridgeshire – Councillor J Powley
Fenland – Councillor A Melton
Huntingdonshire – Councillor V Lucas
South Cambridgeshire – Councillor J Reynolds

- (b) To endorse proposals for wider Member involvement in the community planning process by developing Member participation in the theme based partnerships through for

example reference and task groups; establishing, with partner organisations, joint scrutiny arrangements, initially concentrating on Health; and linking the community planning process and themes with policy issues in Service Development Groups.

- (c) To agree that the Member representatives on each of the LSP Boards submits regular reports to the relevant In Your Patch meeting.

160. CCN AWARD OF CONTRACT

The Cabinet considered arrangements for finalising the contract for the delivery of the Cambridge Community Network (CCN) project.

In late 2000, Public Finance Initiative (PFI) credits of around £12m were awarded to the CCN project. This combined with other sources of funding presented an opportunity to invest in information technology infrastructure and to underpin developments in e-government and the changing demands of the Council's services and customers.

The overall aim of the CCN project is to secure key features such as a broadband network and to encourage bidders to be innovative – to offer proposals designed to deal with changes in technology and offer additional added value services as required by Best Value. Following a major procurement exercise, NTL Business had been appointed as 'preferred bidder' and negotiations were taking place with them to secure a satisfactory contract for the provision of CCN. However before the process could be finalised it would be necessary for District Audit to approve the PFI transaction and for the Government to approve the final business case. It was also necessary to seek further assurances in respect of NTL Business' financial position. To avoid delays in the programme it was proposed that authority to approve the final contract be delegated to the Leader of the Council.

It was resolved:

To authorise the Leader of the Council to approve the contract between the Council and NTL to deliver the CCN project, subject to the Leader being advised by the Director of Resources that NTL's financial position is satisfactory.

161. PREVENTION FUND

The Cabinet considered a proposed process for the allocation of the Prevention Fund, which aimed to use some one off resources to invest in preventative services for the young and the elderly in a way that might further reduce further calls on services.

Following the establishment of the fund. Service directorates had been invited to submit bids for funding. In total sixteen bids had been received, requiring total finding of £593,000 – in excess of the £400,000 available. It was proposed that authority to approve the allocation of the fund be delegated to

the Leader of the Council following consultation with other Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Spokesmen.

It was resolved:

To defer allocation of the Prevention Fund to allow further consideration by the relevant Cabinet members.

162. BEACON COUNCIL SCHEME

The Cabinet considered potential applications under the Government's Beacon Council Award Scheme. The themes and process for the fourth round of Beacon Awards had recently been published with Council's being invited to submit applications by October 2002.

Consideration had been given to potential applications and the following areas identified:

- Street and Highways Works.
- Social Inclusion Through ICT.
- Rethinking Construction.
- Transforming Secondary Education.

It was resolved:

To endorse work to further investigate the scope for making Beacon Council applications in the forthcoming round.

163. STRUCTURE PLAN PROGRAMME

The Cabinet considered details of the proposed programme for future work on the development of the Deposit Draft Structure Plan in preparation for the Examination in Public (EIP). Key dates in the process were:

11 th June –	Service Development Group to consider an analysis of the consultation responses and to agree proposed changes to the Deposit Draft Plan to be put forward to be considered at the EIP.
22 nd July	Service Development Group to consider final list of issues to be discussed at the EIP and the participants.
23 rd July	Cabinet to endorse proposed list of issues to be discussed at the EIP and the participants.
10 th September –	Service Development Group to consider proposed changes to the Deposit Draft Plan for consideration at the EIP
17 th September -	Special meeting of the County Council to consider and approve the proposed policy changes.
29 th October -	EIP to commence.

It was resolved:

To endorse the proposed programme for the preparation of the
Structure Plan.

164. CABINET OUTLINE AGENDA

The Cabinet noted the outline agenda for the meeting scheduled to take place
on 18th June 2002.

Chairman