

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 13th February 2001

Time: 10.30 – 15.45

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor: J A P Eddy (Chairman)

Councillors: D M Adey, J L Barker, Dr T J Bear, B S Bhalla, S Bicker, P R Bishop, A J Bowen, S J Bradshaw, S V Brinton, F J W Brown, S M Campbell, J E Coston, R Driver, M Farrar, H J L Fitch, S E Friend-Smith, J L Gluza, B Hardy, R J Harris, G J Heathcock, W G M Hensley, S F Johnstone, J D Jones, D C Kelleway, A C Kent, I C Kidman, M L Leeke, L W McGuire, J McKay, A K Melton, E Meyland-Smith, S B Normington, T O'Dell, M K Ogden, L J Oliver, A G Orgee, D R Pegram, J Percy, M R Pope, J A Powley, P A E Read, J E Reynolds, D C Sharp, C E Shaw, P W Silby, R C Speechley, A B Stenner, P L Stroude, J M Tuck, J K Walters, A M White, R Wilkinson and F Yeulett

Apologies: Councillors J Broadway, R B Martlew, M Scott

163. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council held on 28th November 2000 and 22nd December 2000 were approved as a correct and signed by the Chairman.

164. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor F J Yeulett

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Yeulett to his first Council meeting since his election to the Council in January.

Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

The Chairman welcomed Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, James Crowden, to the meeting.

Assistant Director posts

The Chairman informed the Council that Adrian Loades, formerly of the District Audit Service, and Nick Bell, formerly the Group Accountant in Social Services, had been appointed as Assistant Directors (Resources) in the Education, Libraries and Heritage and Social Services Departments respectively.

Awards for Council's Services

The Chairman expressed congratulations to:

- the Information Technology Service within the Education, Libraries and Heritage Department on winning the Cable and Wireless Childnet International Award for their work in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police in running Superhighway alert events for primary schools
- the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Promoting Schools initiative on receiving the National Healthy Schools Standard
- the Chief Executive's Department on receiving the Investors in People Accreditation

Cambridge City Octocentenary

The Chairman asked the County Council to record its congratulations on the 800th anniversary of the grant of its Charter by King John in 1201.

Councillor Margaret Scott

In addition the Council's thoughts and prayers were with Councillor Margaret Scott, who had been taken ill and had been admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

165. REPORT OF THE COUNTY RETURNING OFFICER

The Council noted the resignation of Councillor R L Trueman with effect from 7th December 2000 and that the election to the resulting vacancy in the Melbourn electoral division would take place on 3rd May 2001. The Council also noted the election of Councillor F Yeulett to represent the March East electoral division following a by-election held on 4th January 2001.

166. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

An oral question was submitted under Standing Order 26E. The transcript of the question and the response made by the Leader of the Council would be circulated to all members of the County Council.

167. POLICY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor P A E Read that the report of the meetings of the Policy Committee held on 12th December 2000 and 30th January 2001 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

(a) County Council Budget 2001/02

Education, Libraries and Heritage Committee

It was moved by Councillor R Wilkinson and resolved that the report of the meetings of the Education, Libraries and Heritage Committee held on 21st December 2000 and 23rd January 2001 be received.

Environment and Transport Committee

It was moved by Councillor S F Johnstone and resolved that the report of the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 25th January 2001 be received.

Social Services Committee

It was moved by Councillor J A Powley and resolved that the report of the meeting of the Social Services Committee held on 24th January 2001 be received.

Service Committee Information reports

The Council received information reports on:

- Education, Libraries and Heritage estimates 2001/02
- Environment and Transport Budget 2000/01
- Social Services Budget 2000/01

In moving the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Councillor J K Walters made two amendments to the Policy Committee recommendation to correct typographical errors.

Councillor M L Leeke moved the following amendment which was duly seconded by Councillor A C Kent:

“(a) Insert (1) and (2) below as a preamble to the detailed Budget recommendations on page 3(A)

1. That the Council notes with considerable regret that its Revenue Support Grant settlement for 2001/2002 leaves Cambridgeshire once again with the lowest Standard Spending Assessment of any County Council in England.
2. That the Council also regrets that the national settlement is lower than expected because of the Government’s changes to the allocation system, including area cost adjustments, resulting in the residents of the worst funded County Council being asked yet again to subsidise other Councils.

3. That in view of the difference between the Government's inflation guideline of 2.5% and the recent teachers pay settlement of 4.2%, the Local Government Association be requested to urge the Government to fund the additional cost to local authorities.

(b) Amend recommendation (A)(i) by adding the following:

That the cash limits set out in the Base Budget be increased by:

	£ 000
ELH – Social Inclusion out of School pupils	425
Libraries	125
Schools	350
Environment & Transport – Public Transport monitoring	50
Policy Committee: Crime reduction	50
	<u>£1,000</u>

with a consequent adjustment to the remaining figures.”

Following discussion and on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost with 14 votes in favour and 35 votes against with 1 abstention.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrat Group in favour, Conservative and Labour Groups against].

Following discussion and on being put to the vote, the recommendation of the Policy Committee was declared carried with 39 votes in favour and 12 votes against

[Voting pattern: Conservative and Labour Groups in favour and Liberal Democrat Group against]

It was resolved:

(A) Revenue Budget	£m
(i) that approval be given to the base budget (blue table 1 columns 3 and 4)	371.776

- (ii) that approval be given to the committed spending pressures for 2001/02 (blue table 1 column 5 and blue table 2) 4.004
- (iii) that approval be given to service developments for 2001/02 (blue table 1, column 6 and blue table 3) 3.115
- (iv) that approval be given to the transfer, for one year only, of £0.5m Policy Committee Structural Maintenance Budget to Education, Libraries and Heritage Committee for schools' budgets (blue table 1 column 7)
- (v) that approval be given to a one-off allocation of £0.3m to create provision for PFI fees
- (vi) that approval be given to the use of £3.1m from the Capital Financing Fund to reduce the budget requirement
- (vii) that approval be given to a County budget requirement in respect of general expenses applicable to the whole County area £376,265,693
- (viii) that approval be given to a recommended County precept (budget requirement less rate and grant income) £129,384,983

(to be received in 10 equal instalments, payable from 20th April 2001 in accordance with the "fallback" provisions of the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 1995)

- (ix) that approval be given to a Council Tax for each band of property based on the number of "Band D" equivalent properties notified to the County Council by the District Councils (193,670)

Band	Council Tax	Band	Council Tax
A	£445.38	E	£816.53
B	£519.61	F	£964.99
C	£593.84	G	£1,113.45
D	£668.07	H	£1,336.14

- (x) that approval be given to the Council's share (£14.516m) of the estimates submitted by the Fire Authority

- (xi) that approval be given to the Planning Guidelines for 2002/03 and 2003/04 (blue table 1, columns 10 and 11 and blue tables 2, 3 and 4) subject to review in the 2001 Medium Term Service Priorities process
- (xii) that approval be given to the retention and deployment of reserves for specific purposes as set out in Section 4 of the report and in blue table 8
- (xiii) that approval be given to the Council's borrowing limit, Treasury Management Policy and approved list of borrowers (Appendix 2)

(B) CAPITAL

- (i) that approval be given to the financing of the Capital Programme as set out in blue table 10
- (ii) that approval be given to Capital payments in 2001/02 arising from earlier commitments and the consequences of the new starts (detailed in blue table 11) subject to the receipt of the appropriate Grants and Supplementary Credit Approvals, or when the Director of Resources is satisfied that sufficient funds have been secured.

Declarations of Interest:

The following members declared a pecuniary interest in that part of the Budget discussion relating to charges for home to school transport and/or school meals but remained in the Chamber and voted pursuant to a general dispensation granted by the Secretary of State for the Environment to members who were the parents of children in full time education:

Councillors T J Bear, S V Brinton, S M Campbell, W G Hensley, S F Johnstone, M L Leeke, A K Melton, A G Orgee and D C Sharp.

The following members, who were associated with schools with Community Education responsibilities, declared an interest under the National Code of Local Government Conduct in relation to the Budget discussions but remained in the Chamber and voted in accordance with the provisions of the Code:

B Bhalla, S Bicker, P R Bishop, S V Brinton, F J Brown, S M Campbell, S E Friend-Smith, J L Gluza, R J Harris, W G Hensley, S F Johnstone, A C Kent, L W McGuire, A K Melton, J Percy, J A Powley, C E Shaw P W Silby, A B Stenner, J K Walters, R Wilkinson and F Yeulett.

(b) Political Management – New Executive Arrangements

It was resolved unanimously:

- (a) that after consideration of the consultations with the public and interest groups in Cambridgeshire, the Council resolves to introduce new executive arrangements with effect from May 2001 and that those arrangements shall be the Leader and Cabinet Executive as described in Section 11(3) of the Local Government Act 2000.
- (b) that the Council also resolves to inform the Secretary of State of its intentions.

(c) Local Agenda 21 Statement

It was resolved unanimously:

That the statement be endorsed by the Council.

(d) Information reports

The Council noted information reports on:

- Corporate Plan
- Best Value Performance Plan
- Public Service Agreement and Associated PFI Scheme
- Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2000/2001
- Employee Recruitment, Retention and Performance
- Environment Agency: “Working Better Together2
- The Queen’s Speech
- Refocusing Children’s’ Services – progress

168. EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Council noted that the receipt of the report of the meetings of the Education, Libraries and Heritage Committee held on 21st December 2000 and 23rd January 2001 had already been moved as part of the Budget debate.

Information reports

The Council noted information reports on:

- Delegation of Funding to Schools
- OfSTED Inspection of Local Education Authority - Action Plan
- Cambridgeshire LEA School Performance Measures 2000
- Developing an LEA Policy on Inclusive Education
- Commons Registration Act 1965 – Application for Registration
- Primary Education Provision in Yaxley
- Primary Education Provision in Huntingdon
- Sedley Infant and Romsey Junior Schools, Cambridge – proposed amalgamation
- Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership Plan 2001/02

169 ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Council noted that the receipt of the report of the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 25th January 2001 had already been moved as part of the Budget debate.

Information reports

The Council noted information reports on:

- Local Transport Plan
- A14 Cambridgeshire to Huntingdon Multi-Modal Study
- The draft Cambridgeshire Bus Strategy
- A Cycling/Walking Strategy for Cambridgeshire
- Cambridge Northern Fringe Development Strategy
- Best Value Reviews

170. SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Council noted that the receipt of the report of the meeting of the Social Services Committee held on 24th January 2001 had already been moved as part of the Budget debate.

Information reports

The Council noted information reports on:

- Quality Protects Management Action Plan 2001/02
- Learning Disability Partnership – Lead Commissioning.

171. CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY MINUTES 19th DECEMBER 2000 – QUESTIONS

Oral questions were put to the Chairman of the Police Authority on matters connected with the Police Authority functions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996. The transcript of questions would be circulated separately to all members of the County Council.

172. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.26 (B)

Members of the Council noted the response to one question which had been submitted under Standing Order No.26.

Chairman