

CABINET

THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2005

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 8 December 2005. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Holly Adams.

1. COUNCIL PRIORITIES IN 2006/07 AND 2007/08 ONWARDS

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** to continue the Council's current three priorities (customer service, Northstowe and affordable housing) into 2006/07.

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) To request Management Team to report back on a limited number of realistic outcomes and milestones to be achieved in the three priority areas in 2006/07 within existing planned resources; and
- (b) To support the proposals in the report for a substantial review of the Council's corporate objectives and priorities from 2007/08, combining the process with the review of the Community Strategy.

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) To work in partnership with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to establish a pilot Community Panel from around January 2006 in the Histon area; and
- (b) That, following an evaluation of the pilot above after the first two Panel meetings, terms of reference be drawn up for Community Panels and they be established across the District during 2006.

3. ESTIMATES FOR DEPARTMENTAL AND CENTRAL OVERHEADS BUDGET FOR 2006/07

Cabinet **AGREED** to

- (a) confirm the inflation figure of 2 ½% for both general expenditure and pay awards, on which all the estimates were being prepared;
- (b) approve the revenue estimates and recharges as presented and shown at **Appendices A and B**; and
- (c) approve the capital programme shown at **Appendix C**.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY FINANCE SETTLEMENT

Cabinet **SUPPORTED** an indicative figure of a 4.9% Council Tax rise on which to prepare the estimates.

5. RESPONSIVE REPAIRS PROCUREMENT

Cabinet **AGREED** to:

- (a) note the content of the echelon consultancy ltd report attached at Appendix A to the agenda, its appraisal of the procurement options and its recommendations;
- (b) retain its in-house direct labour organisation and implement the 22-point action plan as recommended in the report at Appendix A to the agenda; and

- (c) request that the Housing and Environmental Services Director establish an implementation group, based upon the membership of the Responsive Repairs Core Group, to oversee delivery of the action plan and to report back to Cabinet within six months.

6. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF FOR CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

Cabinet **AGREED** that

- (a) the criteria described in Appendix A to the report "Policy for the Award of 'Top-up' Discretionary Rate Relief to Charitable Organisations" as amended at the meeting be adopted formally as a policy for the award of 'top-up' rate relief with effect from 1st April 2006;
- (b) in order to minimise the administrative burden on both the Council and applicants, this policy only take effect where the award of relief to the organisation would cost the Council in excess of £1,000 per annum;
- (c) authority to make decisions on awards within the criteria set out in the policy be delegated to the Finance and Resources Director;
- (d) authority to make decision on appeals against the decision of the Finance and Resources Director be delegated to the Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder; and
- (e) a further report making recommendations for a policy to cover all other forms of discretionary relief be submitted to Cabinet during the 2006/07 financial year.

7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES: THE CONTRIBUTION OF DISTRICT COUNCILS

Cabinet **AGREED** that:

- (a) The Community Development Portfolio Holder be appointed as the lead member for children and young people; and
- (b) Any comments on the draft Children Plan be incorporated into a response to the consultation, including asking Parish Councils to consult with children and young people when drawing up Parish Plans.

8. IEG STATEMENT

Cabinet

- (a) **NOTED** the progress of the IEG Statement 2005; and
- (b) **APPROVED** the delegation and approval of subsequent changes to the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and the Finance and Resources Director prior to submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 19th December 2005 with the final copy being distributed to all Members when available.

9. TRAVELLERS' HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Cabinet **NOTED** the provisional findings of the Travellers' Housing Needs Survey as they related to South Cambridgeshire, as set out in paragraph 21 of the report and the appendix; and **AGREED**

- (a) to instruct officers to make the survey findings available to the Regional Housing Board and, at the same time, make the case as to why not all of the need currently found in the district should be met long-term within the South Cambridgeshire district, as set out in paragraphs 25-26 of the report;
- (b) to instruct officers to adopt the same approach as in (a) above in respect to the Examination in Public of the East of England Plan;
- (c) to use the results of the survey to support any future bids for capital or revenue funding for site provision;
- (d) to refer this report and the Travellers' Housing Needs Survey to the Development and Conservation Control Committee for its information; and
- (e) that the survey output inform the work of the Local Development Framework (LDF) including work on finding suitable locations for sites.

10. RE-ORGANISATION OF HOUSING SERVICES

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) The next stage of the Housing Service re-organisation as set out in the report; and
- (b) That detailed process, assimilation and redundancy issues, including the deletion and creation of posts, arising from the review of Housing Services be delegated to the Housing and Environmental Services Director with Human Resources advice, in consultation with the Housing and Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holders.

11. APPOINTMENT OF WINDMILL ESTATE STEERING GROUP

Cabinet **AGREED**:

Terms of Reference

That the Windmill Estate Project Steering Group:

- (a) Provide key stakeholders with periodic reports on project progress and issues;
- (b) Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to raise issues of strategic significance for discussion;
- (c) Allow key stakeholders the opportunity to advise the Project sponsor (Housing Portfolio Holder) on how the project can be delivered most efficiently and effectively at a strategic level; and
- (d) Work together to put forward a redevelopment scheme proposal for consideration by Cabinet / Full Council.

Membership

That the formally constituted Steering Group comprise:

- (a) Housing Portfolio Holder
- (b) Leader of Council
- (c) SCDC Fulbourn Members (x 2)
- (d) Fulbourn Parish Council representative
- (e) Local County Councillor
- (f) Tenant representative
- (g) Owner-Occupier representative

Attended by Nene Housing Society:

- (a) Director of Development
- (b) Housing Operations Manager
- (c) Regeneration Manager
- (d) Resident Involvement Officer

Supported by the following Council officers:

- (a) Housing and Environmental Services Director
- (b) Head of Housing Strategic Services
- (c) Housing Services Manager
- (d) Housing Services Officer
- (e) Community Development Manager
- (f) Principal Housing Accountant
- (g) Special Projects Officer