

CABINET

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 14 September 2006. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 - SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

Cabinet **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

- (a) that Part 2, Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in respect of the licensing of Sex Establishments be adopted;
- (b) that, subject to the following amendments, the standard conditions of licensing as stated in Appendix A of the covering report to the Licensing Committee be approved:
 - (i) the opening hours for premises should be Monday to Saturday 9am to 7pm (paragraph 11 of the licence conditions relate); and
 - (ii) paragraph 12 of the licence conditions be amended to read: The premises shall not, without the written consent of the Council, be opened and used for the purposes for which the licence is granted on Sundays, Good Friday or Christmas Day;
- (c) that the agreement of the policy for the setting of the fee for the application, renewal or transfer of a licence for a sex establishment be set at £3,500;
- (d) that the applications for sex establishment licences be put before a 5-Member Sub-Committee to be named 'Licensing Sub-Committee (Sex Establishments)'; and
- (e) that there be no restrictions on the numbers considered relevant for the district at this time.

2. TREATMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM REPAID CAPITAL GRANTS

Cabinet **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

- (a) the existing treatment of repaid historic building grants, whereby income from this source is returned to the historic building grant reserve for reuse, be ratified;
- (b) income from the repayment of disabled facilities loans and from renovation grants and loans be made available to fund these grants and loans if, and only if, additional funds, over and above those in the budget, were needed in the year the repayment was received; and
- (c) income from repaid discretionary disabled facilities loans and from renovation grants and loans not required in the year, rather than being earmarked for any particular purpose, be returned to balances and thereby made available to support service expenditure in general in future years.

3. CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU (CRB) CHECKS FOR COUNCILLORS

Cabinet **DEFERRED** further consideration of developing a policy on Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for councillors until the CRB Inspector's report had been received.

4. BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Cabinet **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the SCDC Biodiversity Strategy be adopted

as Council Policy.

DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET

5. 'STATE OF THE NATION' - NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) to support the principles of:
 - (i) "One Council";
 - (ii) A Clear Vision;
 - (iii) An Inclusive Council;
 - (iv) New "Member Contract";
 - (v) Empowerment of Staff;
 - (vi) Service First; and
 - (vii) Balanced Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (b) that a "Member Contract" be prepared by the Leader and Chairman of the Council with input from the group leaders for circulation to all Members and consideration by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, prior to reference back to Cabinet for a recommendation to Council;
- (c) to approve in principle the staffing proposals in the Appendix to the report, with final approval being given in October in light of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (d) to request the Growth Areas Project Team to investigate the possibility of developer contributions to posts required for the planning of the growth areas, reporting back to the Planning and Economic Development and Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holders;
- (e) after consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in October 2006, to recommend to Council that the current Council priorities (improving customer service, achieving sustainable communities at Northstowe and other growth areas, and increasing the supply of affordable housing) be retained for 2007/08 with clear targets being set for each priority in 2007/08; and
- (f) the programme for financial and policy planning for 2007/08 onwards as follows:
 - **October Cabinet**: Consideration of a draft Medium Term Financial Strategy, taking into account projections of spending pressures in the period 2007/08 to 2011/12 and with indication of the level and phasing of savings required;
 - **November Cabinet**: Final agreement to revised Medium Term Financial Strategy, including detailed savings required. Consideration of Workforce Plan and targets for our priorities for 2007/08;
 - **December Cabinet**: Consideration of detailed departmental budgets for 2007/08.

Cabinet **NOTED** the report and the major issues facing the Council.

6. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the revised Whistleblowing Policy to Cabinet, noting that it had been approved by the Standards Committee and would be useful in light of the focus on new working arrangements. No further comments had been received from Standards Committee members before the Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the revised Whistleblowing Policy, subject to:

- (a) the Internal Audit Manager's views being sought about becoming the first point of contact, rather than the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) the Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive to determine the final wording of paragraph 3.1, with any substantial changes to be referred back to the Standards Committee.

Cabinet **AGREED** to subscribe to the Public Concern at Work “starter package”.

The Finance Project Officer and members of the working group were thanked for their review of the policy.

7. SUB-REGIONAL CHOICE-BASED LETTINGS SCHEME: PRE-CONSULTATION DRAFT LETTINGS POLICY

Cabinet **AGREED** to establish a Choice-Based Lettings Advisory Group of nine members to assess how the proposed sub-regional choice-based lettings scheme and associated lettings policy would:

- make best use of both the existing and new affordable housing in terms of meeting the housing needs of the district / sub-region;
 - offer appropriate housing choices to those in housing need including vulnerable groups;
 - ensure equality of access to housing; and
 - contribute to maintaining sustainable communities within existing villages and the creation of balanced communities in the major new developments;
- and to make recommendations in respect of the local implementation of the scheme.

Cabinet **NOTED** the proposals for consultation.

8. THE ABINGTONS BY-ELECTION

Cabinet **AGREED** that money be vired from the Cabinet Contingency to fund The Abingtons Ward by-election.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - FIRST QUARTER 2006/07

Cabinet **NOTED** the progress on performance indicators and milestones in the first quarter of 2006/07 and **SUPPORTED** the steps being taken to strengthen performance management.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Cabinet **NOTED** the performance of the treasury management function.

STANDING ITEMS

11. CALL-IN TO SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Cabinet, having considered the implications of the access to information procedure rules, scheduled a meeting directly after Council on 28 September.

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act).

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

13. MILTON COUNTRY PARK - MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Cabinet unanimously **AGREED** to:

- (a) authorise officers to re-negotiate as soon as practicable this Council's agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council concerning their land in the centre of the park;
- (b) introduce a £1 per car compulsory parking charge as soon as possible, to be reviewed by Cabinet after six months;
- (c) establish a three-month trial partnership with the College of West Anglia for their

- students working in the park, reporting back to Cabinet in December 2006;
- (d) develop procurement options for the catering franchise in the visitor centre;
 - (e) explore the development of a Trust to take on the responsibilities for the park in the medium- to long-term; and
 - (f) review the appropriate future levels of staffing from April 2007.