

CABINET

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2006

DECISIONS

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

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. WORKFORCE PLAN 2006/07 TO 2008/09

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the Workforce Plan 2006/07 to 2008/09 be approved.

DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET

2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Cabinet **AGREED** to delegate to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder agreement of the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

3. SUB-REGIONAL CHOICE-BASED LETTINGS SCHEME: DRAFT ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Cabinet **AGREED** that the draft policy be approved for a twelve-week consultation starting in January 2007.

Cabinet **NOTED** the contents of the draft lettings policy.

4. AMENDMENTS TO LETTINGS POLICY

Cabinet **AGREED** that the Council's lettings policy be amended by the addition of the following paragraphs:

- (a) The additional points for residing in temporary accommodation are given:
 - (i) To hostel residents either when they move into hostel accommodation or when a rehousing obligation is accepted by the Council, whichever is later;
 - (ii) To other occupants of temporary accommodation if they are adequately housed in their current accommodation and this can be provided permanently;
 - (iii) Prior to six months in other exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Housing Advice and Options Manager in line with the delegated authorities;
- (b) Add an additional category of 'A need for move on accommodation' under the reasons for awarding welfare points; and
- (c) Formalise the practice of giving reduced priority to applicants with current or former tenant arrears to ensure that this is covered by the policy, unless there are exceptional circumstances, through adding the following into the lettings policy: "Applicants with current or former tenant arrears or other outstanding debt to the Council will receive less priority for an offer of accommodation unless there are exceptional circumstances. In these circumstances consideration will be given to the date and amount of the debt outstanding and any arrangements made to clear the arrears and adherence to these arrangements."

5. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the revised Whistleblowing Policy.

6. CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH MINERALS & WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Cabinet **AGREED** the responses to the Minerals and Waste Development Plan consultation as contained in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report, with the inclusion of comments made by members at the meeting.

7. CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU (CRB) CHECKS FOR COUNCILLORS

Cabinet **AGREED** not to proceed with the proposal to require that all members be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check but, in the event of a councillor commencing in a role which does meet the CRB eligibility criteria, that the Leader or Democratic Services Manager advise the Council's CRB lead counter-signatory and that a CRB check be undertaken and the reasons for the councillor being CRB checked clearly be documented against the eligibility criteria.

Cabinet **NOTED** the guidance provided by the CRB Assurance Manager.

8. SAWSTON: 57/59 HIGH STREET, DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL PROPERTY TO KELSEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

Cabinet **AGREED** that planning consent be sought for the change of use of 57 High Street, Sawston to residential, and that both 57 and 59 High Street, Sawston be placed for sale on the open market, valued for retail use (no. 59) with potential for residential use above (no. 57).

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) Not to apply for unitary status at this time, nor to become a partner pathfinder authority pioneering an enhanced two-tier local government model at this time; and
- (b) To wait until the enabling legislation, regulations and guidance were published before requesting appropriate bodies and / or lead officers to consider the principles the authority wishes to adopt and the practical implications of implementing the legislative, etc., requirements.

10. SHEPRETH: 74-76 FROG END: OUTCOME OF OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Cabinet **AGREED** that retention and refurbishment of the existing units for shared ownership be the preferred option for the pair of semi-detached properties at 74-76 Frog End, Shepreth.

11. MILTON COUNTRY PARK - IMPROVING FACILITIES / FUTURE MANAGEMENT

Cabinet **AGREED** to establish the medium / long-term future of Milton Country Park through:

- (a) Undertaking an Asset Management Review with the assistance of Cambridgeshire County Council, subject to the outcome of the 15 December 2006 meeting between the Head of Community Services and the Cambridgeshire County Council Head of Property Asset Management, and
- (b) Seeking an appropriate external organisation to take on by 31 August 2007 the management and possible ownership of the park, whether through a Trust or by another suitable agency, but if no suitable partnership could be arranged or appeared likely by that date, that officers be instructed to take the necessary steps to close the park.

Cabinet **NOTED** the proposals for reducing the current and future net cost of the park

through increasing income through car parking charges, re-tendering the catering operation, lettings of the visitor centre and obtaining sponsorship for the park, and reductions in expenditure on services.

12. CAPITAL AND REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR STAFFING AND CENTRAL OVERHEAD ACCOUNTS

Cabinet **AGREED** to:

- (a) Confirm the inflation figure of 2.5% both for 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 to the report; and
- (c) Approve the capital programme as shown at Appendix C.

13. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE TENDER EXERCISE

Cabinet **AGREED** the intention of awarding the internal audit service contract to Bentley Jennison for an initial four-year period from 1 April 2007, subject to conditions and to the mandatory standstill period required under EU procurement rules.

14. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS STRETCH TARGETS

Cabinet

- (a) **NOTED** the progress on current Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets and requested portfolio holders and service heads to continue to maximise performance on LAA targets in general and in particular on those which would earn reward grant;
- (b) **SUPPORTED** the direction being taken by the LAA refresh; and
- (c) **REQUESTED** portfolio holders and service managers to give realistic consideration as to how they could contribute towards LAA targets through the 2007/08 service plan process (in January, February and March 2007) while still giving priority to the three Council priorities.

15. LOCAL AUTHORITY FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2007/08

Cabinet **AGREED** that the letter attached at Appendix B to the report be issued in response to the consultation on the Local Authority Finance Settlement 2007/08, subject to an amendment in paragraph (iii) to state that £102.26 was the maximum Council Tax the Council was allowed to set, and with authority delegated to the Chief Executive to finalise the wording of paragraph (v).

16. BANKING SERVICES

Cabinet **AGREED** that a five-year contract be negotiated with the Council's current bankers to comply with Contract Standing Order 4.5.

17. TRADE WASTE BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet **DEFERRED** this item pending further investigation of financial and resource implications.