

CABINET

THURSDAY, 12 APRIL 2007

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 12 April 2007. 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. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INSPECTION (CGI): IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the Improvement Plan be approved; and **AGREED** that the three new posts of Equalities Co-ordinator, Strategic Partnerships Officer and Scrutiny Support Officer be established, these posts to be funded from the £300,000 allocation approved by Council in its response to the Corporate Governance Inspection report.

Cabinet **NOTED** the secondment of Cecilia Tredget as Improvement Manager and thanked East Cambridgeshire District Council for releasing her.

2. POLICY FOR THE AWARD OF DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the policy for award of discretionary housing payments be adopted in order to facilitate future awards from the financial year 2007/08 onwards.

3. HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS APPRAISAL PROCESS

Cabinet **AGREED** that:

- (a) a new stock options appraisal be carried out to evaluate the options to deliver a sustainable future for the Council's housing stock in full consultation with / involvement of tenants, staff, members and other key stakeholders;
- (b) the stock options appraisal process commence as soon as possible, taking into account receipt of stock condition survey and financial modelling information, with a view to presenting the outcome to the Cabinet and Council later this year;
- (c) a member / tenant working group be established to oversee the project, supported by a corporate officer project team, to be comprised of five members, appointed in accordance with the political proportionality rules, and five tenants; and
- (d) the initial project management and staffing proposals be implemented and that the other costs associated with the stock options appraisal, e.g., consultancy fees, be from within the Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2007/08, in order that the project be well managed and adequately resourced.

4. CAMBRIDGE CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU GRANT

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) to approve a grant of £53,360 to Cambridge Citizens' Advice Bureau for 2007/08;
- (b) as part of its commitment to the Cambridgeshire Compact, to increase its funding agreements with Citizens' Advice Bureaux from one year to three years, these agreements being statements of intent rather than legally binding commitments, and
- (c) that this three-year agreement be extended to other voluntary organisations that the Council funds for over £3,000 and with whom the Council has Service Level Agreements.

Cabinet **NOTED** the grants awarded by the Community Development Portfolio Holder to the other Citizens' Advice Bureaux and Advice for Life for their work in South Cambridgeshire.

5. USE OF BALANCES AND RESERVES UNUSED FOR OVER TWO YEARS

Cabinet **AGREED** that

- (a) the following uncommitted reserve balances that are over two years old be carried forward into the 2007/08 financial year:

Dual Use Capital Grants (£770,977 in total)	£458,477
Heritage Initiatives Grants	£9,511
Historic Buildings Preservation Fund (estimated)	£54,968

- (b) the balance of £16,320 in the Millennium Working Party Grants be transferred to Heritage Initiatives Grants and be carried forward with the above balance.

6. QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT INCLUDING BUDGETARY CONTROL AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS: FOURTH QUARTER 2006/07

Cabinet **AGREED** to the monitoring of additional expenditure and efficiency savings originating from the (former) Transformation Project becoming part of the Improvement Plan update reports, supplemented as appropriate with more detailed reports on the results of individual Business Process Re-engineering exercises.

Cabinet **NOTED** the projected expenditure position and the monitoring of prudential indicators and referred the report to the next meeting of the Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder for more detailed consideration.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. 3-YEARLY CONSULTATION RESULTS: PLANNING SERVICE

Cabinet **NOTED** the disappointing findings from the survey and required the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder to ensure that the implementation of the actions in the improvement plan be monitored regularly at Portfolio Holder meetings.

8. GERSHON FORWARD LOOK 2007/2008

Cabinet **NOTED** the progress and delegated authority to the Chief Executive, with the Leader and Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder for finalising the Council's Forward Look 2007/08 Annual Efficiency Statement.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

9. MILTON COUNTRY PARK - PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that it approve in principle the disposal of the SCDC land in the park, and the land on a 999-year lease from the Stokes, on the basis of a 99-year lease on a peppercorn basis to the organisation who are selected to take on the management.

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) for a negotiated expression of interest procedure to take place;
- (b) the establishment of a review / interview panel in order to select the best option for the Council; and
- (c) that the County Council be requested to confirm its willingness to dispose of its land in the park on a similar basis to South Cambs to enable the public benefit of the park to be secured.