

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Leader's Portfolio Holder meeting held on  
Thursday, 13 November 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor RMA Manning

Councillors: JD Batchelor Opposition Spokesman and Scrutiny Committee monitor

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:  
Denise Lewis (Interim Corporate Manager - Community and Customer Services)

### **12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September were agreed as a correct record.

### **13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **14. SERVICE PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICY AND PERFORMANCE TEAMS**

The Interim Corporate Manager, Communications & Customer Services introduced this Service Plan for Partnerships and Policy and Performance Teams, which was covered by four portfolio holders. She explained that the Service Objectives in the Plan had been developed to take into account the Council's new aims, approaches and actions for 2009/10. The plan was still work in progress and will be revisited once the outcome of the bids for additional resources were known.

#### **Economic downturn**

There were concerns that the recession would inevitably mean a drop in the authority's collection rate of Council tax, which was currently one of the highest in the country.

#### **Partnership working**

It was unclear how the £1.6 million allocated to the Local Public Service Agreement reward grant would be scrutinised and general concerns about the working of the Local Strategic Partnership were raised. It was acknowledged that the LSP Board was a statutory body.

#### **Neighbourhood Panels**

Concern was expressed about the responsibilities of Neighbourhood Panels and how they should work alongside parish councils. Councillor Batchelor suggested that the local members would be the most appropriate Councillor to attend the Neighbourhood Panels and so he questioned the proposed Council Action of Cabinet nominating a Member Champion for each Panel. The effectiveness of CCTV was questioned and it was suggested that mobile units should be considered as often problems were just moved around.

#### **Bids for Resources**

It was noted that only the unavoidable bids were likely to receive funding.

#### **Scrutiny**

The successful adoption of the recommendations made by the Arbury Park Task and Finish Groups were welcomed. However, it was suggested that SX52, which measured

the percentage of Scrutiny recommendations accepted by Cabinet, was not a useful performance indicator, because there was value in Scrutiny raising challenging issues with Cabinet, that were ultimately not accepted.

The Leader **noted** the report.

#### **15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

It was noted that the next meetings of the portfolio holder will be held on:

- 15 January 2009 at 10am in the Monkfield Room
- 12 March 2009 at 10am in the Mezzanine
- 14 May 2009 at 10am in the Mezzanine

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**The Meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.**

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