

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 11 December 2003 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor RF Bryant – Chairman  
Councillor Mrs MP Course – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: SJ Agnew, Dr DR Bard, CC Barker, RE Barrett, JD Batchelor, EW Bullman, NN Cathcart, JP Chatfield, RF Collinson, NS Davies, G Elsbury, TJ Flanagan, CJ Gravatt, R Hall, Dr SA Harangozo, Mrs SA Hatton, Mrs JM Healey, Dr JA Heap, Mrs EM Heazell, Mrs J Hughes, SGM Kindersley, RM Matthews, EL Monks, Mrs CAED Murfitt, JA Nicholas, CR Nightingale, Dr JPR Orme, DL Porter, JA Quinlan, Mrs DP Roberts, WH Saberton, NJ Scarr, J Shepperson, Mrs GJ Smith, JH Stewart, PL Stroude, RT Summerfield, Mrs LM Sutherland, Mrs VM Trueman, RJ Turner, Mrs BE Waters, DALG Wherrell, LJ Wilson and AW Wyatt MBE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor MP Howell, Mrs JE Lockwood, LCA Manning JP, Mrs JA Muncey, DJ Regan, RGR Smith and Mrs DSK Spink MBE.

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman made the following presentations:

Long service awards to

Daphne Foggin, Celia Macehiter, Andrew Dearlove and Peter Duncan

National Sheltered Housing Certificates to:

Eileen Price, Scheme Manager The Limes Bassingbourn,

Linda Hayden-Fish, Scheme Manager, Vicarage Close Melbourn,

Joy Hyde, Asst Scheme Manager Area 2

Sandra Peck Asst Scheme Manager Area 2,

Stella Mills, Asst Scheme Manager Area 3,

Barbara Harben, Scheme Manager Coolidge Gardens Cottenham,

Helen Harlow Asst Scheme Manager Area 1

NVQ Level 2 in customer services to

Jane Poole, Sandra Greenham and Lesley Thurley

HNC in Managing supported and sheltered housing to

Ann Pears, Area Manager, Area 2

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 22nd and 25th September 2003 were confirmed as correct records.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests in items before Council were declared:

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor JA Quinlan     | as a Chartered Town Planner in practice, in relation to agenda item 5.4, when he would leave the meeting as the Chairman of the Cambridge Cottage Housing Association |
| Councillor RT Summerfield | as the owner of a second home, in relation to agenda item 5.3                                                                                                         |
| Councillor CC Barker      | as the owner of a second home, in relation to agenda item 5.3                                                                                                         |

Councillor PL Stroude had no interest in planning application S/1762/03/RM, Longstanton (Development and Conservation Control Committee 5th November 2003) but, for the avoidance of later accusations, would leave the meeting at that point (which he did, although there was no debate)

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A message from Councillor Mrs Spink was read
- Councillor Mrs Muncey's cake had raised £100 for Children in Need
- Members were invited for seasonal refreshments at the end of the meeting

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Council were considered:

#### 5 (a) Northern Fringe - Delivery of Affordable Housing - Proposed Partnership Projects Manager - Joint Post (Minute 3, Cabinet 2nd October 2003)

##### RESOLVED

- (a) to approve the establishment of a jointly (with Cambridge City Council) funded post of Partnerships Project Manager with effect from 1st January 2004 to deliver affordable housing in partnership with registered Social Landlords and developers on the large strategic sites around the edge of Cambridge City including the Cambridge Northern Fringe (West);
- (b) that £4,000 be provided from the Cabinet contingency for 2003/04 and that £16,000 be included in the draft estimates for 2004/05 for this post.

#### 5 (b) Best Value Strategy for Service Procurement (Minute 3, Cabinet 16th October 2003)

**RESOLVED** that the Best Value Strategy for Service Procurement be adopted as amended in the Cabinet minutes.

#### 5 (c) Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions (Minute 3, Cabinet 27th November 2003)

Councillor NJ Scarr stated that, although he owned a property in Norfolk, it was not a second home. He then argued that a reduction in the Council Tax discount on second homes had no justification, would not produce much income and would not provide homes.

The Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder reported that the discount on second homes could not be reduced beyond 10% and that the reason for the recommendation on empty properties was that the Council would not gain financially, but would lose Council Tax from the HRA.

##### RESOLVED

- (a) that the discount on second homes be reduced to 10% of the full council tax charge effective from 1st April 2004;
- (b) that the current discount of 50% of the full council tax charge on long term empty

- properties remain;
- (c) that no new classes of discount be introduced, but that delegated powers be given to the Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder to determine the individual cases referred to him, for consideration, by officers.

**5 (d) Local Plan No. 2: Consideration of Representations to Further Proposed Modifications and Adoption (Minute 4, Cabinet 27th November 2003)**

Councillor Quinlan left the meeting and Council

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the proposed response to representations to the Further Proposed Modifications be agreed;
- (b) the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan No. 2, incorporating the Proposed Modifications (October 2002) and the Further Proposed Modifications (September 2003), be adopted;
- (c) a notice of the Council's intention to adopt Local Plan No. 2 be published;
- (d) subject to the Local Plan not being called-in by the Secretary of State, a notice of adoption of the Local Plan be published and consultees and representors be notified;
- (e) delegated authority be granted to the Development Services Director to make necessary technical changes to the Plan to ensure that the Plan is consistent and up to date;
- (f) a final version of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan be published; and
- (g) the "Affordable Housing for Local People" Supplementary Planning Guidance (June 1993) be rescinded.

**5 (e) Community Strategy for South Cambridgeshire (Minute 5, Cabinet on 27th October 2003)**

Noting that the Local Strategic Partnership Board had approved it, subject to comments on detail, Council

**RESOLVED** to endorse the Community Strategy for South Cambridgeshire, subject to the amendments approved by the Strategic Partnership Board on 2nd December 2003.

**5 (f) Members' Allowances (Minute 6, Cabinet 27th November 2003)**

Cabinet's recommendations arising from the report of the independent Members' remuneration panel were considered and the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder highlighted those items which were changes from the present scheme.

Councillor SGM Kindersley expressed his discomfort at the panel charged with recommending councillors' allowances being offered an allowance (other than travelling expenses) since this might be seen as an inducement. The counter argument was that this was a modest recognition of the work the panel did for the Council – equivalent to the smallest co-optees' allowance. Councillor Kindersley's amendment, seconded by Councillor PL Stroude, was put to a vote and **LOST**.

In connection with travel allowances, Councillor NN Cathcart asked that encouragement of more sustainable forms of transport should be kept under review.

Council **RESOLVED** that

- (a) the present level of basic allowance, and the levels of Special Responsibility Allowances be held until 31st March 2004 and increased by 3% from 1st April 2004, other than those listed below;
- (b) the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Licensing Committee Chairman be raised to £1,000 per annum from 1st April 2004 and to £2,000 per annum from January 2005, subject to discussions with the Chairman in the autumn of 2004 on the level of responsibilities;
- (c) the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Standards Committee Chairman be raised to £400 per annum from 1st April 2004;
- (d) a Special Responsibility Allowance of £400 per annum be paid to the Employment Committee Chairman from 1st April 2004;
- (e) the Carer's Allowance be increased to a reimbursement of actual cost up to a maximum hourly rate of £13.75 from 1st April 2004;
- (f) the co-optees' allowance for independent members of the Standards Committee be £250 per annum from 1st April 2004;
- (g) the co-optees' allowance for parish members of the Standards Committee be £200 per annum from 1st April 2004;
- (h) the current level of travelling and subsistence rates be maintained until 31st March 2004, after which they be made equivalent to the prevailing National Joint Council local government employee rates;
- (i) from 1st April 2004, actual expenses for bed and breakfast be payable, up to a maximum of £130, £150 for London, with an out-of-pocket allowance of £4 per night, with subsistence for meals to be claimed in addition;
- (j) the list of approved duties, as circulated, for which members could receive payment of travelling and subsistence be adopted; [copy attached to the Minutes]
- (k) the allowances scheme should specifically permit members to nominate a charity to which their allowances may be paid;
- (l) there be no backdating of any of the above revised allowances;
- (m) annual adjustments be indexed for up to four years, subject to an annual review so that any changes in responsibilities could be reflected and anomalies minimised;
- (n) from 1st April 2004, all councillors should be eligible for pensions and that it be up to the individual to decide whether they wish to join the pension scheme;
- (o) both the basic and any Special Responsibility Allowance be counted for pension purposes;
- (p) the time limit for making allowance claims be by one month of the end of the relevant financial year to which the claim applies;
- (q) the terms and conditions of the panel be approved as recommended by the panel;
- (r) each member of the Independent Remuneration Panel be offered an allowance of £200 per annum; and
- (s) the existing Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked from 30th December 2003 and that new schemes be made under the 2003 Regulations to operate from 31st December 2003 and 1st April 2004 respectively.

**5 (g) Development and Conservation Control Committee (Procedure and Protocol) Working Party (Minute 3, Development and Conservation Control Committee 5th November 2003)**

With the amendment of recommendation (j) to clarify that it applied only to the Development and Conservation Control Committee, Council

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) membership of a single Development and Conservation Control Committee be open to any Member giving notice to the proper officer prior to the annual meeting of Council each year of that Member's wish to serve on it, subject to the recognition

- of the rights and responsibilities associated with such status;
- (b) Council may appoint such members accordingly at the annual meeting of Council and may appoint additional or substituted members at any time thereafter whether to fill a vacancy or otherwise;
  - (c) the reference in the Constitution to specific numbers of Members on the Committee be deleted;
  - (d) a new Member of Council, having previously signified his or her wish to the proper officer and until the Council has formally considered confirming the membership of the committee or otherwise, may automatically replace a former committee member for the same ward who has ceased to be a member of the Council;
  - (e) paragraph 37 of the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing be amended so as to be less prescriptive, and instead to embrace the idea that training should be sufficient and appropriate with, in particular, the final sentence being deleted;
  - (f) the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing be amended so as to include a provision that Members of the Development and Conservation Control Committee should consider, before deciding whether or not to vote on an application that had been the subject of a site visit, whether or not they were sufficiently informed about all relevant issues, if they had not attended that site visit;
  - (g) the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing be amended to reflect the protocol that, unless allowed by the Chairman, Members who are neither members of the Committee nor the local Member should not contribute to the debate on applications in other Wards unless they have information to impart that will assist the Committee in making a decision;
  - (h) the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing be amended to reflect the protocol that any local member attending is identified and may be asked to speak before any other member makes a contribution to the debate.
  - (i) the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing be amended so as to make it the responsibility of Members:
    - (i) clearly to announce to those present in the Chamber that a personal or prejudicial interest is being declared, and why; and
    - (ii) where a Member leaves the meeting, or intends to do so some time before an interest would otherwise be declarable at a later stage of that meeting, to announce or otherwise to inform the Democratic Services Officer, before he or she leaves the meeting, the existence and nature of that interest, which should then be recorded in the Minutes.
  - (j) the following text be inserted into the Procedural Guidance for Members and Officers in Development and Conservation Control and Licensing, namely "*Where Development and Conservation Control Committee is minded to make a decision contrary to technical advice, its final decision should not be made until it has received, and taken into account, credible second opinion which will be obtained for their consideration by the Director of Development Services*".

## 6. COUNCIL TAX BASE AND PARISH PRECEPTS

On considering the report of the Finance and Resources Director, Council

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the Constitution be amended to allow the approval of the Council Tax base calculation to be delegated to the Finance and Resources Director, in accordance

with section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act, as amended by section 84 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003;

- (b) subject to no major objections by parishes following consultation, parish precepts for 2004/05 be paid: the first instalment (of the greater of £1,000 or 50% of the precept) or full precept where this is £1,000 or less, by 16th April 2004 and any balance by 20th September 2004.

## 7. VIREMENT RULES

Council considered the proposed amendments to the virement rules to make them less restrictive, endorsed by Cabinet on 13th November 2003, and

**RESOLVED** that amended virement rules be adopted as attached to these Minutes and the Constitution amended accordingly.

## 8. ICT REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBOURNE AND CAMBRIDGE OFFICE

In view of the decision at Minute 7 above, the recommendations from the New Offices Working Group meeting held on 11th November 2003 on the funding of the replacement of the current ICT infrastructure were no longer required.

## 9. DOCUMENT IMAGE PROCESSING

The Chairman agreed to take this report as an urgent late item as there would otherwise be no opportunity to agree the proposed DIP backscanning in time for the move of the Council offices to Cambourne.

The report of Management Team requesting approval of expenditure from reserves of approximately £300,000 in 2003/04 to complete backscanning of files before the move to Cambourne was considered. The Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder apologised for the lateness of the report and advised that it had his endorsement with the reservation that no expenditure should be committed until he and the Finance and Resources Director were satisfied that it represented best value, since he had not yet seen a business case.

Councillor SGM Kindersley commented that the views attributed to the Scrutiny Committee were not quite correct. The Committee had been considering rejections of a number of CIP bids when the Finance and Resources Director had said that more information was needed. In view of the timing, it was felt that the decision should be made by Cabinet.

The existence of a document retention policy was confirmed.

Members speaking criticised the lack of information, which would not be acceptable in, for example, an application for grant of the same size, and queried whether a full assessment had been carried out of the amount of paper that actually required scanning. It was also suggested that the new building ought to be able to accommodate the filing cabinets in the short term.

The recommendation, with Councillor Batchelor's proviso, was put to the vote and **LOST**.

It was then **AGREED** that the request be referred to Cabinet with all relevant information and then to Scrutiny Committee.

## 10. DATE OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2004

**RESOLVED** that the annual meeting of the Council in 2004 be held on Thursday, 24th June.

**11. URGENT DECISIONS**

Council **RECEIVED** information on decisions taken under the urgency provisions on the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 and the Members' Allowances Panel membership.

**12. THIRD SIX MONTHLY SCRUTINY REPORT TO COUNCIL**

The third six monthly report from the Scrutiny Committee was **ACCEPTED** without comment.

**13. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor NJ Scarr asked the following questions, notice of which had been given in the agenda, of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health:

- 1) What powers this Council has under existing legislation to limit the sales of fireworks as to:
  - (a) the period of time in each year when fireworks may be sold to the public;
  - (b) the type of establishment at which fireworks may be sold;
  - (c) the classes of person to whom fireworks may be sold and upon what conditions;
  - (d) the type of fireworks which may be sold.
- 2) What powers it is proposed to grant to English District Councils over the sale of fireworks under proposed licensing or any other legislation at present being confirmed by Parliament.

Councillor Barker had provided Councillor Scarr with a written answer, which Councillor Scarr accepted.

At the request of other Members, Councillor Barker agreed to circulate the answer to all councillors and the press and generally make it as widely available as possible.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

To consider the following Notices of Motion:

**14 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor NJ Scarr**

Councillor Scarr outlined his concern that the Deputy Prime Minister had completely overridden the Council's decision on the 307 Huntingdon Road planning application and the Planning Inspector's support of that decision in a way that questioned the Government's attitude to the planning process. He also felt that the decision put the policing of other villages at risk.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs DP Roberts, who asked that in any future applications of this significance and contention, the Council allow both applicants and objectors to make a presentation.

Further support was given for the motion, including comments by the Chairman of the Development and Conservation Control Committee. She reported, however, that the

District's Members of Parliament had already been asked, at the recent meeting, to raise the Council's concerns and that she had been in touch with the local MP throughout. Advice had been sought on possible grounds for challenging the decision. The Planning Director stated that the Head of Legal Services was considering how best to present counsel's advice.

Councillor Dr DR Bard suggested that a motion might be sent to the LGA as this issue affected the whole of planning law, but that he would make the suggestion again in the context of the next motion.

Councillor Scarr was happy to include an addition requested by Councillor SGM Kindersley, that the Deputy Prime Minister be asked to define the "national interest" generally and in the context of Huntingdon Road.

Council, with no votes in opposition,

**RESOLVED:**

that South Cambridgeshire District Council notes the decision of the Deputy Prime Minister to uphold the appeal of the University of Cambridge against the decision of this Council to refuse planning permission for a primate research centre at 307 Huntingdon Road.

Council also notes that the planning inspector who heard the appeal upheld the position taken by the District. He also stated that he found the medical/scientific evidence inconclusive and did not find objective evidence that this development would be in the "national interest".

This being so. Council is extremely disturbed at the granting of approval by the DPM, as it undermines local accountability in the planning process. Council is also seriously concerned that a significant proportion of the costs of additional policing will be borne by the taxpayers of Cambridgeshire, to the detriment of effective local policing.

Council therefore:

- Calls upon our local MPs to raise these concerns with the government
- Resolves to examine what legal recourse we have to obtain a review of this decision in the light of the DPM's use of the argument that alternative sites could not come forward in a reasonable time frame/timescale, whilst the University is widely reported as saying that funding is not yet in place to implement any permission granted, which argues against great urgency
- calls on the Deputy Prime Minister to define his interpretation of the "national interest" generally and in the context of Huntingdon Road
- send copies of the Council's letter to the Deputy Prime Minister to the local and national press.

**14 (b) Standing in the names of Councillors RF Collinson and JA Nicholas**

Councillors Collinson and Nicholas outlined the problems experienced recently at Cottenham and explained that their aim was to try to give the villagers confidence that the Council was taking the issue seriously and would continue to take all the action it could. Attention was also drawn to relevant contradictory appeal decisions by Planning Inspectors, which raised questions about the planning framework.

Councillor Dr DR Bard drew attention to the conflict between the Human Rights Act 1998 and some aspects of domestic law, and called on the Government to clarify how the



Human Rights Act and the planning system interacted and not leave the matter to be settled by precedent. He suggested that the Council should seek support in this from the Local Government Association through a motion to the General Assembly, and should employ Human Rights lawyers in cases of potential conflict.

Members were supportive of the motion, with additional comments about the anti-social behaviour, but there was a feeling that any motion to the LGA should be dealt with separately at another time. Requests were made that Members should be kept up to date with what was happening.

With amendments requested by the Chairman of Development and Conservation Control Committee and Councillor DALG Wherrell and an addition from Councillor Collinson to take account of Councillor Dr Bard's initial point,

Council with no votes in opposition,

**RESOLVED** that

as the local planning authority this Council re-affirms its commitment to effective development control throughout the District.

As part of that duty it will make every effort to deal effectively with breaches of planning control in the area of land between Setchell Drove and Water Lane, Cottenham and its environs. It will also co-operate with and calls on other appropriate agencies to address associated problems of anti-social behaviour so that local residents can once again enjoy an orderly and peaceful life.;

This Council also urges the Government to review planning legislation and the relationship of the Human Rights Act to it so that planning inspectors can operate within a coherent framework.

**14 (c) Standing in the names of Councillors Mrs EM Heazell and SGM Kindersley**

Councillor Mrs Heazell proposed the following motion:

“Recent bids to provide social housing in our traditional villages, to house local people, have failed to attract funding from Transitional LASHG. In view of this, and in view of the Cabinet decision not to reserve £960,000 negative housing subsidy for housing provision, Council resolves to use three annual sums of £1 million, starting in 2004/05, to pump prime housing association schemes in order to provide affordable housing for local people. These sums to be used from reserves, as an investment in local people, and in the fulfilment of our corporate objective to provide affordable homes.”

She explained that the motion was prompted by the urgent need for 2,500 permanent homes and the lack of funding for projects in the villages, other than Cambourne and the Cambridge Northern Fringe. She urged Council to be prepared to fund some schemes, in case no other funding was forthcoming by March, and advised that that, for example, £1m would pay for the projects at Steeple Morden and Fowlmere. If the projects were for mixed tenure, £3m would provide around 75 units.

Councillor Mrs Heazell argued that the provision of homes for sons and daughters of village families was a good use of the Council's reserves, reminded Members that housing was a major corporate objective and advised that recent housing conferences suggested that authorities helping themselves fared better than those who just complained.

Councillor Kindersley seconded the motion and drew attention to the informal Council meeting of 22nd September, when all Members present selected affordable housing as their top priority. He also commented on the effect on communities of a lack of younger people.

Councillor CC Barker, seconded by Councillor Mrs DP Roberts, proposed the following amendment, arguing that, although the motion had much merit, policy should not be made in this way without full information:

“this scheme should not be enacted until

- 1) the newly appointed Housing and Environmental Services Director has had an opportunity to advise on the proposed scheme.
- 2) The Management Team has had an opportunity to scrutinise and advise on the proposed scheme, with particular reference to future council tax levels, and medium to long term financial implications
- 3) Clarification is obtained re: the planning inspector's decision about affordable homes in “infill only” villages (the Rampton decision)
- 4) The outcome of the Stock Options appraisal is known
- 5) The public have been consulted about all the relevant issues concerning the implementation of this motion.”

Debate centred around

- The proper use of tax payers' money
- The extent of reserves and the level of underspending still applying
- Public consultations which had already been carried out and showed a large degree of support for affordable housing
- The need for an officer report with details of the various possible schemes, costings and what the funding would achieve
- The Stock Options appraisal and its application only to the Council's own housing
- Parish council support for the projects
- Support of senior officers

The amendment was put to a vote and **LOST**.

Before the original motion was put before Members, the Finance and Resources Director was asked to advise which reserves should be used if the motion were approved. His view was that a decision today would be on incomplete information and that the effect of the CIPs bids on the estimates should be seen first. If, however, a decision were made, the funding should be taken from capital receipts for maximum flexibility, although there would be problems later.

In the light of these comments, Councillor Mrs Hezell suggested that the vote should be in principle, with the financing investigated later.

The motion was put to a vote and **LOST**.

## 15. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

The Minutes of the following meetings were **RECEIVED**, subject to the comments recorded in Minutes 16 to 19 below:

Cabinet  
Cabinet

19th September 2003  
2nd October 2003

|                                                                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cabinet                                                                           | 16th October 2003   |
| Cabinet                                                                           | 30th October 2003   |
| Cabinet                                                                           | 13th November 2003  |
| Cabinet                                                                           | 27th November 2003  |
| New Offices Working Group                                                         | 23rd September 2003 |
| New Offices Working Group                                                         | 11th November 2003  |
| Development and Conservation Control Committee                                    | 3rd September 2003  |
| Development and Conservation Control Committee                                    | 1st October 2003    |
| Development and Conservation Control Committee                                    | 5th November 2003   |
| Development and Conservation Control Committee and Planning Policy Advisory Group | 30th September 2003 |
| Development and Conservation Control Committee and Planning Policy Advisory Group | 14th October 2003   |
| Standards Committee                                                               | 18th November 2003  |
| Scrutiny Committee                                                                | 17th September 2003 |
| Scrutiny Committee                                                                | 23rd October 2003   |
| Scrutiny Committee                                                                | 20th November 2003  |
| Crime and Disorder Partnership Group                                              | 27th October 2003   |

**16. CABINET 2ND OCTOBER 2003**

**Supporting People Update (Minute 8)**

In response to Councillor NN Cathcart's concerns, the Housing Portfolio Holder stated that the Council would continue to fund sheltered housing "as well as we can".

**17. CABINET 27TH NOVEMBER 2003**

**Local Government Finance Settlement 2004/05 (Minute 10)**

The Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced the previous day £340m extra funding in 2004/05 for English local authorities. On this revised provisional settlement, the Council would receive £78,000 more than the figure reported to Cabinet, a total increase over 2003/04 on a like for like basis of £215,000, or 3.7%.

**18. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23RD OCTOBER 2003**

**Call-In Cabinet Decision on Feasibility Study for a Swimming Pool at Linton (Minute 7)**

Councillor Mrs GJ Smith queried the comment recorded in the 5th bullet point, that a small award towards a feasibility study would be appropriate, but it was noted that these were comments made by members of the Committee, not necessarily the view of the whole Committee.

**19. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20TH NOVEMBER 2003**

The Chairman of the Committee stated that he had now checked the Minutes, but had nothing he wished to draw to the Council's attention.

**20. QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS**

No questions were asked.

**21. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Chairman's engagements since the last meeting were **NOTED**. The Chairman reported that the Vice-Chairman had also attended former councillor Donald Allen's funeral, as had many Members in acknowledgement of the considerable service he had given to this Council.

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**The Meeting ended at 5.40 p.m.**

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