

CABINET

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2010

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 11 February 2010. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. 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. CAPITAL & REVENUE ESTIMATES, COUNCIL TAX, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND REVIEW OF MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2010/11 INCLUDING SAVINGS PROPOSAL UPDATE

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**:

- (a) that the capital programme (Appendix A) and the associated funding (paragraph 15) up to the year ending 31 March 2015 be approved as submitted;
- (b) that the revised revenue estimates for the year 2009/10 and the revenue estimates for 2010/11 be approved as submitted in the General Fund summary (Appendix B);
- (c) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (Appendix D) be approved based on the assumptions set out in the report to Cabinet;
- (d) that the District Council demand for general expenses for 2010/11 be £6,827,780;
- (e) that the Council sets the amount of Council Tax for each of the relevant categories of dwelling in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 on the basis of a District Council Tax for general expenses on a Band D property of £115.46 plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire Police and Fire Authorities, details of those precepts and their effect to be circulated with the formal resolution required at the Council meeting; and
- (f) that the prudential indicators in Appendix F be approved.

Cabinet **NOTED** the update on the savings proposals (revised Appendix C) and **APPROVED** the list of precautionary items (Appendix E) to be used under delegated powers already given to the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder and the Chief Financial Officer.

2. HOUSING RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2010/11

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that:

- (a) from the first rent week in April 2010, rents for existing tenants be increased by an average of 2.7% based on a deflationary adjustment of -0.9%, with a maximum variation of £2.75 towards the phasing in of rent restructuring;
- (b) subject to written confirmation from the Department of Communities and Local Government that there will be no adverse impact on the negative housing subsidy, from the first rent week in April 2010, properties be let to new tenants at the target rent level;
- (c) new lifeline alarm users be charged £18 from 1 April 2010 for the installation of lifeline alarms;

- (d) tenants living in flats with communal areas and with door entry systems be charged £2 a week from 1 April 2010 towards the cost of these communal areas;
- (e) tenants living in flats with communal areas where there is no door entry system be charged £1 a week from 1 April 2010 towards the cost of the communal areas;
- (f) charges for other services and facilities be increased as follows from 1 April 2010:

Service or Facility	Current Charge per week	Proposed Charge per week	Increase / Decrease	
	£	£	%	£
Charges for Flats with Communal Areas				
Blocks with a Door Entry System	-	2.00	N/A	N/A
Other Blocks	-	1.00	N/A	N/A
Sheltered Housing Charges				
Tenants				
- support element	14.99	15.14	1.0	0.15
- communal facilities	6.93	7.14	3.1	0.21
Equity Shareholders				
Maximum Charge (exclusive of capital works)				
- schemes with communal facilities	27.77	30.32	9.1	2.55
- schemes without communal facilities	19.54	20.53	5.1	0.99
Alarm System Service Charges**				
Individual Alarms				
- Those not in receipt of benefit				
- where the Council supplies the alarm	3.83	3.98	2.6	0.10
- where the user supplies the alarm	3.09	3.22	2.5	0.08
- Those in receipt of benefit				
- where the Council supplies the alarm	3.49	3.98	12.4	0.44
- where the user supplies the alarm	2.75	3.22	15.0	0.42
Group Alarms	3.48	3.51	0.9	0.03
** plus VAT where appropriate				
Garage Rents				
Garages rented to a Council tenant or leaseholder	7.00	7.22	3.1	0.22
N.B. In excess of two				

garages will be subject to VAT				
Other Garages (subject to VAT)	9.67	9.97	3.1	0.30

- (g) the grounds maintenance budget be funded by an additional £20,000, with an equivalent amount to be met from the General Fund;
- (h) a £300,000 revenue contribution be funded to capital outlay to provide increased support to the disabled adaptation budget; and
- (i) the HRA budget as summarised in the revised Appendix A be approved.

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (j) not to proceed with the changes to the Sheltered Housing service; and
- (k) that the scheme-based sheltered housing service continue, subject to the Supporting People funding regime being maintained.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY 3-YEAR ROLLING PLAN 2008-2011: REFRESH

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** adoption of the refreshed Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Rolling Plan 2008-11.

DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET

4. SHARED SERVICE FOR DELIVERY OF THE REVENUES AND BENEFITS SERVICE

Cabinet **AGREED** that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) be requested to guarantee that the first £350,000 of any savings secured through the shared service proposal be earmarked for South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) in line with the exemplification that the corollary of such an arrangement would provide UDC with the subsequent £175,000 savings with any balance being apportioned in line with the partnership agreement on 2/3, 1/3 split in favour of SCDC.

Cabinet **AGREED** that, subject to the above guarantee being given by Uttlesford District Council, **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that South Cambridgeshire District Council:

- (a) enter into partnership with Uttlesford District Council to develop a Revenues and Benefits shared service for the two Councils;
- (b) approve the procurement of a contractor for the change management aspects of the project; and
- (c) approve the procurement of a supplier for a common software platform.

Reason For Decision: The outline business case highlights that there are clear financial and operational advantages to the Council in progressing with a shared service model for the delivery of the Council's Revenues and Benefits Services. There is potential for further savings by widening the partnership either between the two Councils or by admitting other partners to the proposed arrangement.

Taking an internally-focussed approach, however, would provide £200,000 of cost reductions at considerably lower upheaval to services and at a lower risk to service delivery albeit a lower level than previously assumed.

5. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the final draft of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Strategy, as amended and endorsed by the Housing Portfolio Holder on 20 January 2010.

Other Options Considered: None considered.

Reason For Decision: The Gypsy and Traveller Community Strategy meets the commitment set out in the Comprehensive Equalities Policy 2009-2012 to eliminate

discrimination and prejudice and to develop a culture which values difference, both in employment and service delivery.

6. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2010-2012**

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the Community Transport Strategy 2010-2012.

Other Options Considered: Option: To adopt the Community Transport Strategy with amendments as the basis for future work undertaken to achieve South Cambridgeshire District Council's aims.

Option: To reject the Community Transport Strategy and make recommendations for improvement.

Both rejected because: the strategy has been written following wide-ranging public consultation and endorsed by the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership as something they would like to support and collaborate on. A number of the individual members of the board have also contributed the views of organisations they represent which have, where appropriate, been incorporated into the final version.

Reason For Decision: The implementation of this strategy in collaboration with partners is fundamental to the delivery of South Cambridgeshire District Council's aims and objectives for 2010-11 and to a comprehensive approach to transport planning for the district.

7. **JOINT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH CAMBS AND CAMBRIDGE CITY**

Cabinet **AGREED** to merge the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Local Strategic Partnerships and to support the following principles of a joint Local Strategic Partnership:

- (a) The size of a combined LSP Board will need to be manageable and membership and voting arrangements made clear;
- (b) Agendas should be balanced between issues that are relevant for each local authority area;
- (c) A common performance management system for assessing progress towards the LAA targets and the monitoring of Reward Grant projects should be put in place;
- (d) The LSPs should keep their separate Sustainable Community Strategies for now but look to develop a joint strategy when these come to an end (March 2011);
- (e) Local thematic groups that are relevant to the strategies and their action plans should be retained for the life of the strategies;
- (f) Local partnerships should have clear reporting arrangements to the new Board; and
- (g) The new Board will be subject to scrutiny by each local authority's overview and scrutiny arrangement.

Other Options Considered: Rejected options: to merge the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge LSPs but amend the principles set out in the report; to reject the case for a merger allowing more time for consideration of the issues; or to reject the case for a merger at this present time.

Rejected because: The proposed merger and principles set out in the report already have the support of the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Strategic Partnerships, and the South Cambridgeshire District Council Scrutiny and Overview Committee, whilst expressing concerns regarding the governance arrangements, generally supported the proposed merger.

Reason For Decision: Much joint work already occurs between the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge LSPs, with occasional joint workshops, a number of

joint theme groups and a few joint projects funded through the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) Reward Grant. Less duplication of meetings would result in more time for members and officers to progress delivery.

8. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2008/09**
Cabinet **RECEIVED** the revised Annual Audit Letter 2008/09.