

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Leader's Portfolio Meeting held on  
Friday, 16 March 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Ray Manning

### **Councillors in attendance:**

Opposition spokesmen: John Batchelor

### **Officers:**

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
John Garnham	Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects)
Richard Hales	Team Leader (Communities)
Kathryn Hawkes	Partnerships Officer

The Leader apologised for the inconvenience caused by the rescheduling of this meeting, which was to allow him to meet with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

## **26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor John Batchelor declared a general personal but not prejudicial interest as Chairman of Linton Action for Youth, an organisation that had received grants from the Council in the past.

Councillor John Batchelor declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in agenda item 3 as a Governor of Linton Village College, an organisation which had applied for a grant from the Council.

## **27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2012 were accepted as a correct record.

## **28. NEW COMMUNITIES CAPITAL GRANTS**

The Team Leader (Sustainable Communities) presented this report, which asked the Leader to consider all applications for community capital grants that had been received since the last round of approvals that were made at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 17 November 2011.

### **Maximum for individual capital facilities grants**

It was noted that construction costs had increased since the maximum of £40,000 had been set for capital facilities building grants.

### **Play equipment**

The Team Leader (Sustainable Communities) explained that play equipment needed to be robust and inevitably this had cost implications.

### **Rolling over funds**

The Leader supported the principle of rolling over unspent grant funds to the following year.

### **Arts capital grant to Comberton Village College**

It was noted that the nominal charge that Comberton Village College would make for the use of its music specific PA system would contribute to its long term upkeep as part of the

district-wide Arts Equipment Bank.

### **Arts capital grant to Swavesey Village College**

The Leader stated that he was not convinced that a grant for a baby grand piano for Swavesey Village College could be justified in the current economic climate and he explained that the parish of Swavesey had received nearly £50 per head in grants from the Council over the last three years. It was noted that the College were not expecting to purchase the piano until the summer of 2013. In light of this the Leader postponed making a decision on the awarding of £5,800 to Swavesey Village College towards the purchasing of a baby grand piano.

The Leader

### **AGREED**

- a) To the setting of a new maximum for capital facilities building grants of £50,000 to reflect the rise in construction costs since the previous £40,000 ceiling was set.
- b) The following Community Facilities Grants:
  - £8,800 for Installation of double-glazing and roof insulation to Arrington Assembly Rooms (Village Hall)
  - £2,200 for purchase and installation of a digital media projector to Abington Village Institute (Village Hall)
  - £13,500 for additional equipment on a play area to Toft Parish Council
  - £25,000 for improvements to a play area to Duxford Parish Council
- c) The vireing of £35,307 to the Community Facility Budget from the Village Sport Facilities Grants.
- d) The following Arts Capital Grants:
  - £1,480 for purchase of music specific PA system to Comberton Village College
  - £3,614 for purchase of oral history recording equipment and creation of a website to Voices from the Village of Hope (Papworth Everard)
  - £2,500 for purchase of portable staging to Linton Village College
- e) The rolling over of any unspent funds from the three grants schemes to the following year.

## **29. COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS - UPDATE**

The Partnerships Officer presented this report which detailed the grants made since the previous portfolio holder meeting on 23 January 2012.

The Leader stated that he was pleased with the grants that had been awarded which had supported community initiatives by awarding relatively small amounts of funding.

The Partnerships Officer gave a demonstration of the grants portal which allowed community groups to apply online and provided statistical details of previous applications. The demonstration was well-received.

The Leader **NOTED** the report.

**30. SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2011/12 - Q3**

The Principal Accountant (General Funds and Projects) introduced this report which compared the actual and committed revenue expenditure for the Leader's Portfolio with the working budget for 2011/12 up to the end of the third quarter.

**Community Strategy**

It was noted that the overspend on the Community Strategy was due to payments of a Community Engagement and Empowerment Grant to Cambridgeshire ACRE and would be covered by underspends elsewhere.

**Parish Plans**

The Leader expressed concern that it was unfair to have a performance indicator on the number of returned parish plans as it was outside the Council's control. It was noted that the Council had now achieved its end of year target.

It was noted that a target was now unachievable as it related to Community Development Grants, which were no longer offered.

The Leader **NOTED** the report.

**31. LEARNING FROM CUSTOMER FEEDBACK (CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND SHARING BEST PRACTICE)**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**32. FORWARD PLAN**

The Leader **NOTED** the Forward Plan.

**33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 May at 10am.

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**The Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.**

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