

CABINET

THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2008

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 11 September 2008. 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 Maggie Jennings, telephone 01954 713029 e-mail Maggie.Jennings@scambs.gov.uk.

1. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Cabinet **RESOLVED** that the draft Homelessness Strategy, attached to the report, be approved.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: A new homeless strategy is required for 2008-2013. The strategy and action plan is designed to ensure that the Council can continue to address the needs of residents in the district who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

2. TRAVEL FOR WORK PLAN 2008-2011

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Travel for Work plan and the associated package of measures to reduce the environmental impact of staff and others who travel to the council offices and on council business be **APPROVED**.
2. That the Planning Services Portfolio Holder be designated as the political champion for taking forward the Travel for Work plan.
3. That any staffing resources required to ensure effective implementation of the new Travel for Work plan in future years be considered as part of the service planning process for 2009/10.
4. That the additional permanent on site parking spaces and associated improvements to the outside amenity area for staff be implemented, subject to the necessary planning consents.

Other Options Considered: Not to adopt the plan, or to adopt the plan with modifications.

Reason For Decision: The imbalance between supply of and demand for car parking spaces at South Cambridgeshire Hall has been a constant issue since the offices were first occupied in May 2004.

It was agreed by the Executive in September 2007 that there should be an investigation of both short and long term parking solutions and associated resource issues.

3. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES AND CHARGES

Cabinet **APPROVED**

- (a) the new tariff structure and fees for advertising, as attached to the agenda,

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (b) to future fee increases being in line with that of Cambridge City Council, ie follow the Public Carriage Office (London Cabs) formulation,
- (c) that if, after advertising the proposed tariffs, no objections are received, then the Corporate Manager for Health and Environmental Services be delegated to set an implementation date as soon as possible with the trade and meter manufacturers, and
- (d) to consider delegating authority to the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder to change tariffs relating to Hackney Carriage Drivers, if and when required.

Other Options Considered: Not to increase tariffs, or to agree different levels.

Reason For Decision: The current tariffs were last reviewed in 2002. Since this time costs have significantly increased and it is the view of the trade, supported by officers, that a further review is now required.

The trade would largely welcome any increase in tariffs, however there would be cost advantages to the trade and travelling public (except for single travellers over short distances) by adopting an ongoing tariff structure in line with that of Cambridge City Council.

4. RESTRUCTURE OF THE FORMER POLICY, PERFORMANCE & PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE AND PROPOSED REVISED SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Cabinet **RESOLVED**

1. That the proposal to create a new Partnerships team be approved with the following amendments to the establishment list with effect from 1 November 2008:
2. delete post of Community Development Manager following the early retirement of the current post holder in October 2008 and establishment of a new Partnerships Manager post and,
3. delete post of Strategic Partnerships Officer and create a new Community Partnerships Officer post.
4. That the creation of a Community Liaison Officer joint funded post on a two year fixed term contract from 1 April 2009 be supported in principle subject to the necessary funding being secured through the service planning and budget setting cycle for 2009/10.
5. That the Corporate Project Support Officer (formerly Inspire Project Officer) post

be made permanent with effect from 1 April 2009 subject to the necessary funding being secured through the service planning and budget setting cycle for 2009/10.

6. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to consider options for the configuration of the Policy & Performance team in the event that any members of that team confirm proposed retirements.
7. That the post of Executive Director – Corporate Services be established with effect from 1 January 2009 and a recruitment process be designed and agreed to enable an appointment as soon as possible from that date and, that the post of Corporate Manager – Finance & Support Services be made redundant with effect from 31 March 2009.
8. That the financial implications of the appointment of an Executive Director – Corporate Services be addressed within the Revised Estimates for 2008/09 as part of the annual budget cycle and, in the meantime, the Chief Executive be authorised to incur the necessary expenditure to enable an appointment to that post.
9. That the revised senior management structure set out as option one in Appendix 3 to the report be agreed in principle in the event that a housing transfer does not proceed and that the Chief Executive has delegated authority to implement this proposal.
10. That the revised senior management structure set out as option two in Appendix 4 of the report be agreed in principle should a housing transfer go ahead and that the Chief Executive has delegated authority to implement this proposal.
11. That the post of Head of Housing Strategic Services be made redundant with an effective date of 30 June 2009.
12. That the post of Corporate Manager – Community and Customer Services (or Housing & Community Services) be established, conditional upon the deletion of the post of Head of Housing Strategic Services, with a permanent appointment to be made with effect from 1 July 2009.
13. That a contingency sum of £30k be included within the 2009/10 Estimates to accommodate any additional senior management capacity required with the change management process.
14. That Senior Management Team be requested to resolve the detail of the proposals in discussion with senior managers and staff.

Other Options Considered: Not to proceed with restructuring proposals at this stage.

Options have been included within the body of the decision to allow for the housing transfer not proceeding.

Reason For Decision: The proposal to create a new corporate service area led by a senior manager will increase capacity to help shape and influence key strategic partnerships.

The creation of the new Partnerships team and the proposals to increase capacity within the senior management structure and, realignment of service areas in the event that tenants support a housing transfer, will directly contribute to ensuring the best value for money options for service delivery, prioritisation of resources, achieving improved customer satisfaction with our services and commitment to improvement and good quality services as demonstrated by performance against national, local and Direction of Travel indicators.

The new Partnerships team and the establishment of a new corporate service area focussed on community and customer services or, the realignment of service areas in the event of a housing transfer, will enhance capacity and resources to deliver a number of service priorities.

The proposal to establish a new corporate service area(s) that has a strong community and customer service focus recognises the importance of engagement with parish councils, partner organisations and the voluntary sector to enhance quality of life and services within our rural communities.

5. REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT

Cabinet **RESOLVED** that responsibility for risk management remain with the Corporate Governance Committee, to include annual review of the risk management strategy and process and quarterly review and approval of the strategic risk register and associated action plans.

Other Options Considered: For Cabinet to take the view that responsibility for risk management should be transferred to another Member body, such as Cabinet itself, a portfolio holder, Scrutiny and Overview Committee, or Council. However, as Corporate Governance Committee has functional responsibility for risk management within its Terms of Reference, such a decision would have required a change to the Constitution and therefore a recommendation to Council.

Reason For Decision: The Corporate Governance Committee has exercised its responsibility for risk management effectively; responsibility for risk management should therefore remain with the Committee.

6. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND CAMBRIDGE CITY IMPROVING HEALTH PLAN

Cabinet **ENDORSED** the Improving Health Plan.

Cabinet further **RESOLVED** to focus the Council's attention on those actions listed in the Improving Health Plan where the Council can add value, and to continue to influence partners and partnerships on tackling the improving health agenda.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: To maintain and improve the Council's record of performance in this area.

7. AWARDED WATERCOURSES SERVICE - CONTRACT TENDERING

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

(1) To undergo a competitive tendering process and obtain tenders for the works from

external contractors and the in-house service.

(2) That the tenders so obtained are for all the separate aspects of the works such that the maximum flexibility may be used in the evaluation of the tenders. The contract length to be five years extendable by mutual agreement for a further two. It may then prove beneficial to use a combination of external contractors and a portion of the in-house service.

Other Options Considered: Go through a competitive tendering process and obtain tenders for the works from external contractors only.

Reason For Decision:

To enable full consideration of the most appropriate use of private contractors and in-house suppliers in order to prevent flooding within the District and obtain best value for money.

8. EAST HATLEY, ST DENIS CHURCH

Cabinet **APPROVED** an additional £5,500 of district council money from the Historic Buildings Preservation Fund, in order to secure £16,500 of grant aid from English Heritage to complete the repairs of the stonework tracery in the east window and to install a floor within the nave of St Denis Church, East Hatley.

Other Options Considered: Not to award further grant aid.

Reason For Decision: The installation of a floor in the nave may enable the building to be put to practical use.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2007/08 PERFORMANCE

Cabinet **NOTED** the performance of the treasury management function and **APPROVED** the addition of the organisations listed in paragraph 11 of the report to the category of other banks and financial institutions with a maximum limit of £2.5 million, subject to consultation with the Section 151 Officer.

Other Options Considered: To maintain the current list of approved counterparties.

Reason For Decision: To enable investment in a greater variety of organisations who are able to offer competitive rates.

10 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS PROJECT - UPDATE

Cabinet **ENDORSED** the recommendation that the amount to be forecast for NI179 be 3% for 2008/09 and 2% for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Other Options Considered: Cabinet could have decided either to have:

- Maintained the forecast at 3% throughout the period of three years covered

- by CSR07 (this was not considered to be realistic in view of the difficulty of continuing to achieve this level of cumulative efficiency savings); or
- Forecast different percentage efficiency savings in any of the years (rejected as any forecast higher than 2% would be difficult to achieve; any forecast lower than 2% difficult to justify).

Reason For Decision: The previous mandatory target for efficiency gains has now been removed, however other external drivers and inspection processes, as well as the need to achieve a balanced budget, still require the Council to identify and deliver efficiency savings.

11 INTEGRATED BUSINESS MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2008

Cabinet **NOTED** the projected expenditure position and referred the report to the next meeting of the Finance Portfolio Holder for more detailed consideration.

Cabinet further **AGREED** that the first call on the additional £545,870 revenue element of the Housing & Planning Delivery Grant would be to address the potential planning overspends indicated in the report.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: To ensure that the overspends in this area are addressed at the earliest opportunity.

12 UPDATED FINANCIAL POSITION TO 31 AUGUST 2008

Cabinet **NOTED** the report.

Other Options Considered: Not applicable.

Reason For Decision: Not applicable.

