

CABINET

THURSDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2008

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 9 October 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 Patrick Adams.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. COUNCIL AIMS, APPROACHES AND ACTIONS

Cabinet

RECOMMENDED to Council

- A)** That the Aims, Approaches and Actions, set out in the Appendix attached to the report, be adopted with effect from 1 April 2009;
- B)** That the Corporate Plan, existing service plans and strategies based on the current Corporate Objectives remain in force until they would normally be revised;
- C)** That, for the remainder of the current financial year, new and revised policies and strategies should be tested for compatibility with the Aims, Approaches and Actions agreed in (A) above, and also with the existing Corporate Objectives.

Other Options Considered:

To retain the existing corporate objectives and service priorities.

Reason For Decision:

To develop the previous Objectives, giving more emphasis on:

- Engagement with customers and the community
- Support for more vulnerable or hard to reach sections of the community
- A cleaner district
- Economic development
- Recognition of the opportunities for the district arising from the Olympics

2. RECAP WASTE STRATEGY

Cabinet

AGREED to adopt the RECAP Revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as Council policy

Cabinet delegated authority to the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder to set a more challenging target in the recycling of waste for this Council than that agreed with local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Other Options Considered:

Reason For Decision:

The strategy underpins the sustainable management of municipal solid waste and

clearly identifies the links between sustainable waste management and climate change.

3. GRANT POLICY FOR PHASE II OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY

(1) Cabinet **AGREED**

A) The introduction of a Category 1 Hazard Loan, termed Major Renovation Loan, to vulnerable owner occupiers of properties identified as having Category 1 hazards under the Housing Health & Safety Rating System and the eligibility criteria for the Major Renovation Loan as set out below

- i) **Tenure:** The resident must be a homeowner (the term 'resident' includes the applicant's spouse, or partner, if they are living with the applicant). The loan will not be available to properties in part ownership such as equity share or to a co-owner who lives elsewhere, nor will the loan be available to private tenants as this would become the landlords responsibility.
- ii) **Length of residency:** The resident must have lived in the property for at least 2 years (although if the reason for moving was to care for someone or to be cared for this requirement can be waived).
- iii) **Age of the Property:** The property must be at least 10 years old.
- iv) **Maximum amount of the loan:** The grant is 100% of the cost of the necessary work up to a maximum of £20,000. The loan will be registered as a land charge with the land registry indefinitely following the certified completion of the works. Any costs associated with registering the land charge condition will be an allowable fee within the maximum value of the loan as will the Home Improvement Agency fee of 12%.
- v) **Number of Loans allowed:** Each application for the loan will be considered on its own merits and normally no more than one application per property will be allowed.
- vi) **Means Tested Benefit:** The resident must be in receipt of a MTB as per current Home Improvement Agency eligibility criteria.

B) The introduction of a Replacement Boiler Grant and the eligibility criteria for the replacement boiler grant set out below:

- i) **Tenure:** The resident (the term 'resident' includes the applicant's spouse, or partner, if they are living with the applicant) must be either a homeowner, (this includes part ownership such as equity share or co-owner who lives elsewhere), or a private tenant, (subject to maintenance responsibilities laid down in any tenancy agreement).
- ii) **Length of residency:** The resident must have lived in the property for at least 2 years (although if the reason for moving was to care for someone or to be cared for this requirement can be waived).
- iii) **In receipt of Means Tested Benefit (MTB):** The resident must be in receipt of a MTB as per current Home Improvement Agency eligibility criteria.
- iv) **Maximum amount of Grant:** The maximum award of the grant is £5000. This includes a HIA fee of 12% as per existing grants offered by the Council and administered by the HIA.
- v) **Energy efficiency measures already installed where appropriate:** The applicants home should be as energy efficient as possible before the replacement boiler grant can be considered. The property must have had loft insulation to the recommended depth of 270mm/10.5

inches and cavity wall insulation fitted, where appropriate. There will be no financial burden on the applicant as those in receipt of a Means Tested Benefit automatically qualify for free insulation work under current government grants.

- vi) **Boiler age:** The boiler to be replaced must be 10 years or older. Younger boilers may be replaced at the discretion of the Corporate Manager Health and Environmental Services.
- vii) **Replacement boiler type:** Replacement boilers must comply with Part L of the current Building Regulations.

- C) That the Home Improvement Agency administer the Boiler Replacement Grant and Major Renovation Loan.
- D) That delegated authority be given to the Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services), in consultation with the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder, to approve loan assistance in exceptional cases falling outside the policy framework agreed in (A) and (B) above.
- E) That authority to determine whether interest would be charged on the loan defined in paragraph A(iv) above be delegated to the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

(2) Cabinet:

AGREED:

- A) The introduction of Renewable Energy Grants for solar hot water heating and solar P.V. and the eligibility criteria for the renewable technology grant set out below:
 - i) **Tenure:** The resident (the term 'resident' includes the applicant's spouse, or partner, if they are living with the applicant) must be either a homeowner, (this includes part ownership such as equity share or co-owner who lives elsewhere), or a private tenant, (subject to maintenance responsibilities laid down in any tenancy agreement).
 - ii) **Length of residency:** The resident must have lived in the property for at least 2 years (although if the reason for moving was to care for someone or to be cared for this requirement can be waived).
 - iii) **Maximum amount of grant:** The maximum award for each grant is:
 - i. £1500 for solar hot water heating
 - ii. £2000 for solar PV
 - iv) **Energy efficiency measures already installed where appropriate:** The applicant's home should be as energy efficient as possible before the grant can be considered. The property must have had loft insulation to the recommended depth of 270mm/10.5 inches and cavity wall insulation fitted, where appropriate.
 - v) **Suitability for solar:** The property must be suitable for solar hot water heating and/or solar PV to be fitted, i.e. the building must be south facing, and planning permission where appropriate must have been granted prior to the award of the grant.
 - vi) **Solar hot water heating type:** The grant will be given for either evacuated tube or flat plate solar hot water heating systems.

- B) That Environmental Services administer the Renewable Energy Grants.
- C) That authority be delegated to the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder to ensure a suitable length of residency following the award of grant aid.

Other Options Considered:

Reason For Decision:

Failure to offer the grants for replacement boilers, loans for properties with category 1 hazards and grants for certain renewable energy measures, would mean the council would fail to implement the wider housing strategy as the private sector housing renewal strategy forms a subsection within the main housing strategy.

4. MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN - RESPONSE TO COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Cabinet

AGREED the responses to the Minerals and Waste Development Plan consultation contained within the report and in Appendices 1 and 2, subject to the following amendments, approval of the final wording being delegated to the New Communities Portfolio Holder.

By-passing villages

A Haul road was required to ensure that Northstowe's construction traffic by-passes Willingham. The route of Northstowe construction traffic to the A10 should by-pass the villages of Cottenham and Landbeach.

Hazardous waste

Amend response on page 65 regarding the selection of the Cottenham Business Centre as the location of a hazardous waste facility, to "no recommendation", as the advice from the Environmental Health and Conservation services states that the available information is insufficient to support or reject the proposal.

Other Options Considered:

To agree an alternative response.

Reason For Decision:

To provide a response to the County Council's consultation document on Preferred Options 2 of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.

5. WORKFORCE PLAN

Cabinet

AGREED to approve the revised Workforce Plan and to request the Action Plan to be built into service plans and implemented by the officers concerned, with a particular focus on a review of the workforce and succession planning to ensure a corporate approach to this issue.

Other Options Considered:

Reason For Decision:

To take into account the developments since the last Workforce Plan was agreed in February 2007.

STANDING ITEMS

6. ARBURY PARK: SCRUTINY REPORT

Cabinet received the report of the Arbury Park Task and Finish Group and

AGREED

A) to provide a response and action plan to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

B) to aim to provide this response at its meeting on November 13 2008, to be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 4 December 2008.

Other Options Considered:

Reason For Decision:

To ensure a timely response to the report of the Task and Finish Group.