

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 29 January 2009. 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 Richard May, telephone (01954) 713016 e-mail richard.may@scambs.gov.uk.

HOUSING FUTURES: FORMAL OFFER DOCUMENT

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (i) That the headline net capital receipt and General Fund impacts set out in appendix 2 to the report be noted.
- (ii) That the additional enhancements within the offer to tenants of £5m in the first five years, including at least £2m for SCVH to enable the provision of new affordable homes in the district, over and above an investment programme of £323m over 30 years reflected in the indicative gross valuation, as reflected in appendix 2 to the report, be supported.
- (iii) That the draft formal consultation document attached as Appendix 3 to the report be agreed as being the best possible transfer offer to tenants having regard to the financial impact on the Council, subject to the incorporation of the amendments requested by the South Cambridgeshire Village Homes, Tenant Services Authority and Homes and Communities Agency, circulated prior to, and tabled at, the meeting.
- (iv) To proceed to formal consultation with its tenants on its transfer proposal, and to consider responses to that consultation at a future meeting.
- (v) That, while recognising that it can only proceed with its transfer proposal if the majority of secure tenants support its transfer offer in a secret ballot, an advisory ballot of leaseholders be undertaken.
- (vi) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to approve minor typographical amendments to the final print version of the offer document to be distributed to tenants.

A VISION FOR THE COUNCIL

Council **RESOLVED** that the following Vision for the Council be adopted:

“We will make South Cambridgeshire a safe and healthy place where residents are proud to live and where there will be opportunities for employment, enterprise and world-leading innovation. We will be a listening Council, providing a voice for rural life and first-class services accessible to all.”

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007

Council **RESOLVED** to “opt in” to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 by:

- A)** Publicising the process locally, including a deadline for proposals to be submitted the Council for consideration by the Panel (see below);
- B)** Asking the membership of the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board to form a Panel to consider proposals and try to reach agreement as to the merits of a proposal and priorities between different proposals;
- C)** Consulting with those parties affected if the proposal involves the transfer of a responsibility from one public body to another;
- D)** Having regard to a list of matters set out in a Schedule to the Act;
- E)** Finally making a formal decision on whether to forward the proposal/s onwards to the Selector; and
- F)** Assessing the effectiveness of these arrangements at the end of the 2009/10 civic year.

PROCEDURE FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS

Council **RESOLVED** that the Procedure for the Initial Assessment of Complaints, set out at Part 5 M(2) of the Constitution be amended to read (***amendments and additions marked in bold italics***):

Acknowledging receipt of a complaint

On receiving a complaint and after determining that it is a Code complaint:

- (a) The Monitoring Officer shall send written acknowledgement to the complainant,
- (b) ***The Monitoring Officer has the discretion, subject to (c) below, to inform the subject member of that complaint, (having due regard to the Data Protection Act 1998 and Section 63 of the Local Government Act 2000 as modified by Regulation 12 of the regulations) including:***
 - (i.) The name of the complainant (unless the complainant has requested confidentiality and the standards committee has not yet considered whether or not to grant it)
 - (ii.) The relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct that are alleged to have been breached.
 - (iii.) A statement explaining that a written summary of the allegation will only be provided to the subject member once the assessment sub-committee has met to consider the complaint, and
 - (iv.) The date of the meeting of the Assessment Panel, if known.

(c) To assist the Monitoring Officer in the application of the discretion referred to in (b) above, all Councillors shall be invited to notify him/her in writing should they wish to be notified upon receipt of Code of Conduct

complaints against them.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2009-2010

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be noted and that the Panel be thanked for its work in preparing the report;
- (2) That the following recommendations of the IRP be approved:
 - (i) Having taken into account the reduction in the number of meetings held in the municipal year, the SRA for the Chairman of the Licensing Committee be gradually phased out; therefore, for 2009/10, the allowance to be reduced by 50% of the 2008/09 allowance.
 - (ii) That the Dependants' Carer's allowance to be increased by 3%.
- (3) That the recommendations of the IRP set out in recommendations (a)-(c), (e)-(g) and (i) in the agenda, be not supported and set aside for a period of 12 months pending further consideration which may be informed by the next review by the IRP.
- (4) That, subject to 2(i) above, levels of basic, special responsibility, and travel and subsistence allowances for the period 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010 be maintained at current levels.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL VALUES

Council **RESOLVED** to affirm its support for the following values:

- Customer Service
- Commitment to improving services
- Mutual respect
- Trust

and to request that work to embed these values in the work of the Council be undertaken as expeditiously as possible.

APPOINTMENT TO THE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE VILLAGE HOMES SHADOW BOARD

Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor Dr SA Harangozo be appointed to the South Cambridgeshire Village Homes Shadow Board in place of Councillor Mrs SA Hatton.

SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE CHANGE TO MISSION STATEMENT

Council **RESOLVED** that the Scrutiny and Overview Mission Statement be amended as follows:

(amendments marked in ***bold italics***):

“To support the work of the Council in achieving its corporate objectives and annual priorities through constructive challenge and the promotion of best practice, innovation and democratic accountability.

The Committee will add value to the work of the Council by -

- ***Challenging policies, performance and decisions in a constructive way***

- ***Making recommendations for improvement, based on best practice***
- ***Looking for new ways of doing things***
- ***Making sure that the Council remains responsible to local people.”***

MOTION STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SGM KINDERSLEY

Council **RESOLVED:**

(1) To note the Government’s plans to introduce ID cards. This scheme will impact all South Cambridgeshire residents’ lives.

(2) That, in its view:

- (i) The disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of South Cambridgeshire.
- (ii) The scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.
- (iii) The national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights.
- (iv) The ID card and database proposals are likely to alter fundamentally the relationship between the state and the individual.

(3) To note that, according to Government estimates, the cost of such a scheme could reach £7.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting substantially higher costs. As the current plan stands South Cambridgeshire residents will be required to pay £93 for a passport and ID card together.

(4) To take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards

(5) To make it a policy of the council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law

(6) Only to co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful.

MOTION STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MJ MASON

The Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor MJ Mason and set out at Agenda Item 13(b) on being put was declared lost.

