

**CABINET  
THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2009  
DECISIONS**

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 8 October 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 Patrick Adams.

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**1. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (a) approval of the twelve actions as proposed at the September 2009 meeting of Cabinet;
- (b) that £50,000 be provided in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to meet the cost of the twelve actions;
- (c) approval of MTFS and the underlying assumptions as the basis for the planning of the budget for 2010/11 onwards; and
- (d) approval of the next steps as outlined in the report to Cabinet.

**Other Options Considered:** Alternative actions; to recommend a MTFS based on alternative assumptions.

**Reason For Decision:** To enable the Council to set the financial parameters for its service and budget preparation processes.

**POLICY ITEMS**

**2. AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the joint Air Quality Action Plan as prepared by South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridge City Council for submission to DEFRA by January 2010.

**Other Options Considered:** To reject or amend the Plan.

**Reason For Decision:** The Council is statutorily required to submit and implement an AQAP to DEFRA within 18 months of declaration of the Air Quality Management Areas.

**3. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the 2009-2012 Performance Improvement Strategy.

**Other Options Considered:** To reject or amend the Strategy.

**Reason For Decision:** To promote an inclusive and positive approach to performance improvement based on the Council Values, where staff and Members can maximise their contribution to improving services.

**OPERATIONAL ITEMS**

**4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) SUBSIDY REVIEW: RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) the responses to the Department for Communities and Local Government Housing Revenue Account finance consultation questions as set out in the appendix to the report; and
- (b) to give delegated authority to the Housing Portfolio Holder to amend the Council's response should the need arise.

**Other Options Considered:** Different responses to the consultation.

**Reason For Decision:** To provide the Government with a summary of the Council's concerns, within the deadline set.

**5. ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN - QUARTERLY REPORT**

Cabinet **AGREED**

- (a) that the use of Hardship Rate Relief be reviewed by 31 October 2009;
- (b) that up to £5,000 be made available from the contingency fund to local volunteer services assisting in people being up-skilled and returning to work (Reference Action xii); and
- (c) to approve in principle the following proposals for the contingency fund:
  - (i) consideration of further measures to support businesses, such as working with the Chamber and Business Link, to stimulate innovation and business start-up (Reference Action xiii – cost estimate £15,000); and
  - (ii) consideration of the roll-out of the electronic system to pay invoices more promptly (Reference Action viii – cost to be confirmed. Balance of contingency fund available).

**Other Options Considered:** None considered.

**Reason For Decision:** To ensure the contingency fund continues to mitigate the impact of the recession in line with Cabinet's wishes.

**6. NI179 (FORMERLY ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT) 2009/10 FORECAST**

Cabinet **AGREED** that the Leader and the Executive Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Finance & Staffing and Sustainability, Procurement & Efficiency Portfolio Holders, submit to the Department for Communities and Local Government against NI 179 the forecast of £1,564,000 for the total cumulative ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains expected to be achieved since 1 April 2008 by the end of the 2009/10 financial year.

**Other Options Considered:** None considered

**Reason For Decision:** External drivers and inspection processes, as well as internal financial pressures, mean that the Council needs to continue to deliver efficiency savings. Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government is that the Leader and either the Chief Executive or the Chief Financial Officer should see, certify and approve the final value of NI 179 that is submitted.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF REVENUES / BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY / AUTHORITIES**

Cabinet **AGREED** that a shared service model be explored in more detail for the delivery of revenues and benefits services from October 2010 in partnership with Uttlesford District Council.

**Other Options Considered:** As set out in the outline business case produced by Anglia Revenues Partnership set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** To investigate a project that has the potential to secure significant financial savings and also deliver key service improvements and strengthen service resilience.