

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Leader's Portfolio Meeting held on
Thursday, 11 March 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Portfolio Holder: Ray Manning

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitor and John Batchelor
Opposition spokesman

Officers:

Holly Adams	Democratic Services Officer
Peter Harris	Principal Accountant (General Fund and Costing)
Richard May	Policy and Performance Manager
Paul Howes	Corporate Manager, Community and Customer Services

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Leader signed the minutes of 19 February 2010 as a correct record.

Matter Arising

Paul Howes agreed to check with the Partnerships Manager about the Connections Bus Project Funding (minute 20, Grant Funding to Voluntary Organisations).

25. SERVICE PLAN 2010/2011

The Corporate Manager (Community and Customer Services) explained that there had been no significant changes to the draft service plan received earlier in the year, and that the improvement plan was ambitious and comprehensive.

The following amendments were made:

- Page 16 – Service Objectives – replace “empower” with “support”;
- References to the number of villages should state “more than 100”; and
- Page 32 – SX048 % of customers seen within 10 minutes of their appointment at Cambourne Reception – reduced target to “within 5 minutes”

The Corporate Manager confirmed that sufficient resources were available for monitoring the targets throughout the year, and that the Performance Information Officer was entering the details into CorVu so all service areas could input their data regularly.

Subject to the amendments made at the meeting, the Leader **APPROVED** the Partnerships element of the 2010/11 Service and Improvement Plans for Community and Customer Services.

26. REVIEW OF LGA MEMBERSHIP

The Leader considered whether the Council's continued membership of the Local Government Association (LGA) brought sufficient benefit to the authority for the annual subscription of £12,850. It was a legal requirement to give one year's notice of intention to leave the LGA, therefore, if the Council chose to renew its subscription for 2010/11, the

earliest it could leave would be April 2012.

Mr Daniel Mason of the LGA had contacted the Council asking for a meeting with the Leader to demonstrate the value of membership, and the Leader asked that an additional portfolio meeting be scheduled, with all members and Mr Mason invited, at which on-going membership would be considered. Although it was noted that withdrawing from the LGA could give rise to the perception that the Council was isolated and not part of the local government 'family', notice of intention to cease membership from April 2011 would be given to the LGA, with the Council retaining the right to rescind this notice at any time during the next civic year if the Leader were persuaded that the LGA provided good value for money for the authority.

The Leader **AGREED** to pay for Local Government Association (LGA) membership for the 2010/11 civic year, but to give the required one year's notice of the Council's intention to leave the LGA by April 2011 whilst maintaining the Council's right to rescind this notice if circumstances change at any time during the 2010/11 civic year.

27. **PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET REPORT**

The Principal Accountant (General Fund and Costing) introduced the financial monitoring reports which demonstrated that 93% of the budget had been spent, and that it was likely all the relevant areas were on target to spend their budgets by year-end. No overspends were anticipated.

Paul Howes agreed to investigate progress with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) grant made towards A1307 improvements.

The Leader **NOTED** the financial monitoring report.

28. **FORWARD PLAN**

A new meeting, on a date yet to be determined, was added to the Forward Plan to enable consideration of the LGA membership review with an LGA representative present to answer questions.

Subject to this addition, the Forward Plan was **APPROVED**.

29. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

An additional meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible to enable the Leader and other members to meet with a Local Government Association (LGA) representative to review the decision to terminate the Council's LGA membership as of April 2011.

The Meeting ended at 10.53 a.m.
