

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN  
27 JULY 2005**

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Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM:  
1 August to 5 August 2005**

|                  |       |   |                 | <b>Contact</b> |
|------------------|-------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Mon 1 Aug</b> | 10 am | Site Visits                                       |                 | Janice Fisher  |
| <b>Tue 2 Aug</b> | 2 pm  | Housing Portfolio Holder                          |                 | Ian Senior     |
| <b>Wed 3 Aug</b> | 10 am | Development and Conservation<br>Control Committee | Council Chamber | Ian Senior     |
| <b>Thu 4 Aug</b> |       |   |                 |                |
| <b>Fri 5 Aug</b> |       |   |                 |                |

**CABINET MEETING 11 AUGUST 2005**

With the agreement of the Leader and Chief Executive, the next meeting of Cabinet due to be held on 11 August 2005 has been cancelled due to insufficient business.

Please note, however, that there will still be a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on Thursday 18 August 2005.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE UK DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS 2006-10**

The procedure to appoint the UK delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is underway. The CoR represents local, regional and devolved government, from the 25 European member states, in the EU decision-taking process. Members are appointed to collectively represent local, regional and devolved government in the UK.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is responsible for appointing the 32 members in England (16 full and 16 alternates). The appointments procedure in England is managed by the LGA/LGIB on behalf of the ODPM. Any directly elected member in England who is a councillor, elected mayor or GLS member may be nominated. In England there are two routes for a member to be nominated:

1. via the English Regions. Each region has its own procedure, therefore any member interested should contact the Chief Executives of the Assemblies. For contact details, please speak to Democratic Services for further information.
2. via the Local Government Association.

The deadline for regional nominations is 10 August 2005.

For a copy of the LGA Alert newsletter with all the details about the CoR and nomination process, please contact Katrina Perry in Democratic Services on 01954 713030 or [katrina.perry@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:katrina.perry@scambs.gov.uk)

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER**

The first Community Strategy Newsletter is attached to this Bulletin for your information (the electronic version, a PDF file, is actually a separate document in the Bulletin folder for July 2005 on the website).

**TREE AND HEDGE PACK SCHEME**

On the instruction of the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, officers will compile a draft of the Tree and Hedge Pack Scheme and carry out an appropriate consultation exercise, reporting the results back to the Conservation Advisory Group for consideration prior to presentation to Cabinet for initial adoption as Council Policy.

## CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Democratic Services Manager must be notified of any call in by **Wednesday 3 August 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 4 August 2005**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Democratic Services Section to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

## DECISIONS MADE BY THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

| Subject  | Decision and Reasons   |
|--|--|
| Replacement Communal Room at Sheltered Housing Scheme, Elin Way, <b>Meldreth</b> | To accept the offer from Meldreth Parish Council to pay a capital contribution towards its new office located within the new communal room, and to contribute towards utility costs on a pro-rata basis; and to authorise officers to negotiate the lowest possible price with the contractors   |
| Sale of Land adjacent to 66 Knutsford Road, <b>Bassingbourn</b>                  | Agreed to offer the land for sale, subject to valuation, to the owners of 66 Knutsford Road for garden use only.   |
| Sale of land to the rear of High Street, <b>Barton</b>                           | Recommended that Cabinet withdraw the offer of the whole of the area (currently under licence to 11 – 17 High Street as garden land) to Barton Parish Council on the current conditions and, instead:<br>(1) Re-offers the 'half' garden plots to each of the residents of nos. 11 to 17 High Street, at the price of £3,000 each, subject to all plots being sold;<br>(2) extends the offer of plots to neighbours if any licence-holder does not wish to buy his plot; and<br>(3) In the event of the plots not being sold, either:<br>a) obtains a rental valuation of the plots as garden land in order to charge rent for their continued use and offers the remaining rear area to the Parish Council at the price of £2,700 (based on the valuation of this area for amenity purposes) as public amenity land only, subject to planning permission for change of use, or:<br>b) offers the whole area (currently under licence) to the Parish Council at the price of £5,000 as public amenity land only, subject to planning permission for change of use. |
| Sale or lease of land adjacent to 3 Church Street, <b>Great Eversden</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To retain the whole site in Council ownership. With notice given to the existing leaseholder</li><li>• To offer the unused part of the site for lease at a rental determined by valuation, to the applicants for grazing use only</li><li>• To consider whether negotiation between the two applicants would be appropriate, in order to obtain "best value", or offer to split the area for lease between the two applicants</li></ul>  |
| Right of Way at 43 Cambridge Road, <b>Fulbourn</b>                               | To grant vehicular access over the Council's track for 43 Cambridge Road, subject to valuation and to the submission of evidence that vehicles can enter and leave the track from Cambridge Road without needing to reverse.   |
| Miss D (Reference E/05/027)  | Agreed to allow Miss D to remain permanently at the property to which she has been decanted while refurbishment works are carried out to her current home.   |

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Housing for Older People Advisory Group held on  
Thursday, 2 June 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor NN Cathcart – Chairman

**Councillors:** RE Barrett                      RF Bryant  
Mrs A Elsby                              Mrs SA Hatton  
Mrs HF Kember                         Mrs JA Muncey  
J Shepperson                             Dr JR Williamson

**External:** L Byrne                              Age Concern (South Cambs Area)

**Officers:** Tracey Cassidy                      Tenant Participation Officer  
Celia Chappell                         Sheltered Housing Manager  
Kari Greaves                             Head of Shire Homes  
Steve Hampson                         Housing and Environmental Services Director  
Mike Knight                              Housing Strategy Manager

Councillors RB Martlew and Mrs VM Trueman were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs EM Heazell and Sheila Bremner (South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust) and Gloria Culyer (Age Concern (South Cambs Area)).

### **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2005 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

#### **Milestones Plan (Item 9)**

“Some of the events in the milestone plan would be for staff only, as participants could feel inhibited in the presence of Members.”

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interest was declared:

Councillor Mrs HF Kember as a resident of a sheltered scheme.

### **3. LONG TERM VIABILITY OF SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES**

The Housing Strategy Manager explained and elaborated on the data presented in the graphs shown in the appendices to the report. He agreed to provide members with the basic number of applicants for sheltered housing, in order to compare that with the information in the graphs.

It was noted that applicants on the housing register often wanted to live in a specific village or particular type of property so would decline an offer for accommodation not meeting their requirements. This thereby added to the number of enquiries staff would have to make to find tenants for properties and leave properties empty for longer periods.

The Head of Shire Homes confirmed that sheltered housing was primarily allocated to applicants over the age of 60. Residents close to that age with a disability have been allocated housing in the past, but very rarely so at much younger ages as the accommodation was not considered appropriate. However, the Housing and

Environmental Services Director indicated that an upcoming Allocation Review would include consideration of provision of accommodation to disabled residents in the future. Those Members interested in sitting on an advisory group about this subject were asked to indicate their interest to the Housing and Environmental Services Director.

The Advisory Group **NOTED** the report.

#### **4. SHELTERED HOUSING BEST PRACTICE**

The Head of Shire Homes explained that the aim of this report was to start to provide members with information that would allow the Group to guide officers to develop a staffing structure and aims and objectives for the project.

Whilst there was a great deal of information available about best practice at local and national levels, there was less detail about how to organise scheme structures, staffing proposals and working arrangements. The next step would be to use the available information and knowledge about how the council already delivers its sheltered housing service, to help develop a specific future direction for the service; whether it would emphasise mobile or resident scheme managers, for example. It would be necessary to take into account all factors including costs involved and present and future requirements of residents.

It was confirmed to the Group that Kevin Reynolds would be the new Strategic Leader for Community Living, a two-year, three-way funded post, whose purpose it was to look at services for older people and to help integrate services that are provided by the County Council, PCT and SCDC. Mr Reynolds starts work in July 2005 and would be based across the PCT and SCDC to work closely on collaborative working.

The Advisory Group **NOTED** the report.

#### **5. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF VILLAGE WARDEN SCHEMES**

The Sheltered Housing Manager brought the topic of Village Warden Schemes forward as an option for South Cambridgeshire District Council.

It was agreed that more people would benefit from this service should it be extended and Lynne Byrne (Age Concern) noted to the group that these schemes seemed to meet people's perceived needs, with participants remaining within them until they passed away or had to be admitted into a care home.

The Housing and Environmental Services Director confirmed that the possibility of mobile wardens being used across non-sheltered housing in the same villages was being investigated. However, based on the level of demand, costs were possibly too high to extend the service in this way.

The Group was supportive of Village Warden Schemes and indicated that the council should look for opportunities to extend them.

The Advisory Group **NOTED** the report.

#### **6. SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW - PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT**

The Tenant Participation Officer told the Group that due to the Housing Options process, workshops with tenants had not occurred in May as planned, but that focus groups in August 2005 would follow the analysis of a tenant survey that was to be completed by 27 June 2005.

A copy of the survey was tabled and it was advised that an additional question be included about security of sheltered housing schemes, and to add an explanation that the ethnicity options were drawn from the Census in order to aid comparability with other surveys and information already held by the council.

The Tenant Participation Officer confirmed that all tenants had already been informed that this survey would be distributed, and to emphasise its importance the Scheme Managers would hand each one out personally to tenants.

Results and analysis of the survey and the focus groups would be shared with the Group at the next meeting in September.

The Advisory Group **NOTED** the report.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 19 September 2005, at 2.00pm in the Swansley Room at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne.

In the meantime, members were invited to attend a meeting at Cambridge City Council on 20 June 2005 to receive a presentation about that Council's recent review of their Sheltered Housing service.

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**The Meeting ended at 4.20  
p.m.**

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## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Arts Development Advisory Group held on  
Tuesday, 12 July 2005

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: Dr SA Harangozo  
Mrs GJ Smith

Mrs JA Muncey  
Mrs DSK Spink MBE

Officers: Nick Grimshaw  
Andy O'Hanlon  
Amy Wormald

Conservation Manager  
Arts Development Officer  
Arts Project Officer

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

On the nomination of Councillor Mrs DP Roberts, seconded by Councillor Mrs GJ Smith, it was

**AGREED** that Councillor Dr SA Harangozo be elected Chairman of the Arts Development Advisory Group for the coming year.

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Advisory Group **AGREED** not to appoint a Vice-Chairman.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Simon McIntosh (Head of Community Services), Jane Thompson (Cultural Services Manager) and Nigel Cutting (Head of Arts and Entertainment, Cambridge City Council) and Claire Ford (South Cambridgeshire Mental Health Promotion Group).

### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

### **5. ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITIES**

The Arts Development Officer provided the Group with a summary of key amendments made to the Enhancing Our Communities strategy document since the last meeting. The strategy reiterated earlier strategy documents, highlighting SCDC as an enabler, encouraging the arts through its partnership working. SCDC had provided and would continue to provide a framework for partnership.

The whole strategy document was not to be for public consumption, and with this in mind the Arts Development Officer indicated that he would be developing a briefer version to make the public aware of the SCDC Arts Strategy. The Group discussed the possibility of including graphs in this document to give a clearer representation of some of the data.

The Group acknowledged that the ability to deliver the strategy would be affected by the outcome of the Council's appeal against the Council Tax capping. Therefore, it was agreed that the document would still be circulated to our partners for comment, with the caveat that depending on the result of the appeal and the level of capping the Council would have to accommodate, the strategy would have to be reviewed.

The Group agreed that a further meeting would be required should a review of the strategy be needed. This was set for Tuesday 6 September 2005. The strategy would then be presented to Cabinet at its October 2005 meeting.

Councillor Mrs Roberts proposed, and Councillor Mrs Muncey seconded, that a formal presentation be made to the Management Team by the Arts Development Officer of how effective the Arts team had been in attracting funding to the district over the last few years and its small level of expenditure relative to that of the Council as a whole. It was to be emphasised how important a role the Arts had and that the efforts of the team and this Advisory Group should not be ignored by the Arts team suffering cuts as a result of capping.

The Advisory Group **AGREED** the content of the draft consultative strategy, subject to the inclusion of some graphs, and that it should now be circulated to stakeholders for comment with a caveat attached as described above. The final draft would be submitted to Cabinet in October.

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**The Meeting ended at 2.55 p.m.**

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## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Group held on  
Wednesday, 13 July 2005

PRESENT: Councillor NJ Scarr – Vice-Chairman  
Councillors: RE Barrett RF Bryant  
EW Bullman Mrs SJO Doggett  
Dr SA Harangozo Mrs CAED Murfitt  
J Shepperson Mrs HM Smith  
Mrs BE Waters Dr JR Williamson  
and Councillor Mrs DSK Spink MBE (Environmental Health).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors DALG Wherrell and JP Chatfield.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor N Scarr declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of UNISON.

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2005 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Best Value Review of Waste Management, Recycling and Street Cleaning** (minute 4)

The Advisory Group agreed that it continued to support the creation of a sub-group to discuss ways to minimise waste within the Council offices. This would become more important in light of Council Tax capping and the need to reduce expenses. The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder indicated that the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder had already started to address the need to reduce the quantity of paper used. It was noted that the Advisory Group did not have the power to agree for this group to sit or its membership, but that Cabinet may comment on this at their 14 July meeting where this minute would be read.

The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder agreed to monitor the issue of providing copies of reports and information available in the Members' Lounge rather than sending out copies to every member. It was confirmed that where two members live in one household, duplicate copies of documents such as the LDF papers would continue to be sent for legal reasons. The possibility of other papers not being duplicated in such a case required agreement by the parties concerned.

### **4. PROCUREMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CONTRACT FOR THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer highlighted that a decision was required as soon as possible regarding the kerbside collection contract, with Cabinet to take the decision on 14 July 2005. Members were asked for their comments and a recommendation to be taken with the report to Cabinet.

Members were concerned about the short timescale for making a decision and the fact that it precluded a formal tendering process. The Chief Environmental Health Officer indicated that should Members insist upon the contract being put open to tender, that could be done but with a cost of £25,000 for the process itself, plus potential disruptions to the kerbside collections. Unfortunately, the presentation of this report to the Advisory Group and Cabinet was delayed due to the need to consider the content of the PFI contract before decisions could be made about the best way forward for the recycling service.

Partnered with the delay, it had been highlighted that the scale of the contract may not be conducive to competition, as demonstrated in the past. Most waste management organisations preferred to focus on disposal. Potentially, this could have made a tendering process very risky as there would be no guarantee that the Council would receive any bids and/or those received could be higher than that currently on offer. A 'shadow bid' had been put together by Robson Rhodes to help assess the competitiveness of the Cleanaway proposal. Members agreed that this helped to put Cleanaway's proposal into context. They also agreed that the information about the market for collection of recyclables made a tendering process too risky at this time and agreed not to press for tendering.

Further issues raised in the discussion by members included:

- a. Cost of cancelling kerbside collections – a need to return to weekly collections from black wheeled bins and the associated need for more rounds, lorries and staff would incur more cost than retaining the Cleanaway contract for kerbside recycling. SCDC cannot afford to compromise its recycling service due to penalties that would be handed out by Government and the County Council.
- b. Why SCDC did not do kerbside recycling itself – the high level of risk associated with having to sell collected materials on the open market, which had been experienced in the past, made this unattractive. The fact that the Depot was not large enough to accommodate extra vehicles along with other infrastructure issues also made it unfeasible at this time.
- c. Ceasing of textiles collection as part of a new contract with Cleanaway – this was to be done for health and safety reasons and the fact that a significant proportion of textiles collected is water-damaged. Members asked that residents were informed of this part of the service coming to an end through the South Cambs magazine, with information about where textiles could be taken to be recycled. The Chief Environmental Health Officer said that he was keen to work together with charitable organisations to promote their doorstep collections in the best way to benefit them and SCDC.

Members indicated that they were happy with the current service provided by Cleanaway. They were reassured that alternative options to a contract extension with Cleanaway had been considered, and that to varying degrees they would have resulted in additional cost or disruptions of the recycling service to residents.

The Waste Management Advisory Group **AGREED** to advise the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder to take and support the recommendations in the report to Cabinet.

## 5. **PFI PARTNERING AGREEMENT**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer introduced the report and emphasised that the Council was not asked to sign an agreement yet. The County Council had requested that Members look at the draft agreement now so that they were familiar with it prior to March 2007 when the agreement would be finalised and signed. Members noted that parts of the annex referring to SCDC in the agreement were not completely correct, but it was confirmed that those sections that are now, and would become, inapplicable by the time of signing would be made correct.

The Waste Management Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder to approve in principle the draft Partnering Agreement.

The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder agreed with the recommendation of the Advisory Group. \_\_\_\_\_

**The Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on  
Thursday, 21 July 2005

PRESENT: Councillor SGM Kindersley (Leader of Council)  
Councillor RT Summerfield (Deputy Leader of Council and Resources & Staffing  
Portfolio Holder)

|              |                   |   |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| Councillors: | JD Batchelor      | Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder                      |
|              | Mrs JM Healey     | Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning<br>Portfolio Holder |
|              | Mrs EM Heazell    | Housing Portfolio Holder  |
|              | Mrs DP Roberts    | Community Development Portfolio Holder                                |
|              | Mrs DSK Spink MBE | Environmental Health Portfolio Holder                                 |

Councillors SJ Agnew, RF Bryant, NN Cathcart, SM Edwards, Mrs A Elsby, R Hall,  
Mrs SA Hatton, MP Howell, Mrs CAED Murfitt, EJ Pateman, NJ Scarr, J Shepperson,  
Mrs GJ Smith and JF Williams were in attendance, by invitation.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dr DR Bard.

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### Procedural Items

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#### Council Tax Capping

The Leader paid tribute to the work of the Finance and Resources Director and the Chief Executive in making the Council's case against capping and reminded Members that this was the first meeting of a difficult future.

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

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### Recommendations to Council

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#### 2. CAPITAL RECEIPTS POOLING AND THE LATEST PROJECTION OF RIGHT TO BUY RECEIPTS

Cabinet **NOTED** the possibility of "pooling" of capital receipts being applicable to receipts from equity share sales and the consequent effect on the level of usable capital receipts; and, noting the slowing of sales of ordinary Council houses,

**AGREED** that tenants be reminded at an early date, by *Key Issues* or by letter, of their right to buy their Council house and the discounts available.

#### 3. HOUSING OPTIONS APPRAISAL

In presenting the report, the Chief Executive commented that Management Team had taken the pragmatic view in believing that, subject to substantial Member support, transfer of the Council's housing to a housing association offered the greatest long-term benefits to the Council and its tenants; and that it was for Members to take the political

view. The decision should not be related to capping. A supplementary report from Tribal HCH, outlining the impact of the potential pooling of equity share receipts and the reduction in Right to Buy sales, was circulated at the meeting.

The Housing Portfolio Holder reported indications that tenants and Members would not support transfer and expressed her personal preference for a further stock condition survey to be undertaken, after clarification on equity share sale receipts, before any further action.

Support for Management Team's conclusions was expressed on the grounds that:

- a. The Council would not be able to maintain the current standard of the houses – this had not been made clear to tenants
- b. The stage had been reached when councils could not manage housing effectively as there were so many restrictions
- c. Housing associations were specialist housing organisations without other conflicting priorities
- d. Housing provided by councils was a drag on the public purse and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would want to dispose of it
- e. Once tenants were fully informed they were more inclined to support transfer

Opposition was expressed because:

- a. The Government had done its best to make transfer the favourite option, yet tenants were distrustful
- b. There was a low tenant support base, whereas the process was supposed to start with a reasonable measure of support
- c. To proceed now would be to throw away the pre-ballot expenditure of £750,000
- d. The days of the local housing association were numbered: if transfer took place it was likely to be to an existing large housing association
- e. Housing associations were good at managing blocks of similar properties, but this Council's houses were dispersed
- f. There was a large gap between the amount a housing association would have to borrow (and service) to buy the stock, and the receipt the Council would enjoy
- g. Housing association trustees were often not known to tenants

Councillor MP Howell declared an interest as an employee of the Papworth Trust Housing Association.

The Housing and Environmental Services Director advised that the Council would be required to carry out a new stock condition survey before any offer was made to tenants. since the existing survey was several years old and had been carried out on a different basis to that required for the transfer exercise. Part of the projected £750,000 expense was for the survey. The Tribal HCH representative, in response to questions, explained that the split of the £750,000 between the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund was a grey area, but the stock survey could be charged to the HRA as it would be required with or without transfer; but the cost of the ballot would be charged to the General Fund. Urgent clarification was requested.

It was further explained that most of the security enjoyed by Council tenants would be preserved if they became housing association tenants and that eventually the tenure would be the same. In addition, by 2011 social rents were expected to be the same for a similar property whoever the owner.

The Leader suggested that the final debate should be left to Council in fairness to tenants, and that the Management Team's conclusions should simply be presented to Council. On the proposal of Councillor Mrs DSK Spink, seconded by Councillor Mrs DP

Roberts, Cabinet, by 4 votes to 2

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the Management Team's conclusions as set out in the report to Cabinet, paragraphs 33 to 38.

#### 4. **REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder reported that the Council had had a very fair and sympathetic hearing of its application for judicial review, but that the judgement had gone against it on a legal point. He recommended no appeal against the decision. The House of Commons had passed the draft statutory instrument imposing capping, despite support for the Council from the local MPs. Costs of £9,300 had been awarded against the Council, bringing the total costs of the application to about £30,000. Although the cost of a transcript from the Court of the judgement could not be justified, a copy of the Council's solicitor's notes could be sent to Members and placed on the Intranet.

Thanks were expressed to all those concerned in making the Council's case.

Cabinet and Management Team had been looking at possible options in the event of capping, and Councillor Summerfield recommended option 4, which aimed to achieve the required cuts as soon as possible while recognising that they could not all be achieved in 2005/06, and to avoid further cuts in real terms after 2006/07

Cabinet and Management Team had been looking at possible options in the event of capping, and Councillor Summerfield recommended option 4. This aimed to achieve the cuts required in order to satisfy the capping requirement as soon as possible, while recognising that they could not all be achieved in 2005/06; and to avoid further capping related cuts in real terms after 2006/07.

The Leader indicated that Members now had the responsibility of making decisions, but that keeping the staff fully informed and given the opportunity to ask questions was a priority, as was informing the public of the options. Public acknowledgement should be given to those who had supported the Council and the Council should continue to make its case, working with the supporting organisations as much as possible. Thanks were offered to Councillor NN Cathcart for his discussions with the Minister and Labour MPs in the region.

In response to questions, the Finance and Resources Director advised that the figures presented reflected only what had already been approved by Council, not additional expenditure to be considered. In counter-balance, there was likely to be a controlled underspend in the current year. The Chief Executive emphasised that Members must now urgently decide what work they were prepared to forego in order to make savings; at the same time work would continue on any means of mitigating cuts.

The Finance and Resources Director reported that Andrew Lansley MP had asked him to raise the possibility of setting up a ring fenced fund for services the Council could no longer afford, into which people could pay the refunded element of the Council Tax. Mr Lansley would be willing to promote a campaign. Members were supportive of this idea in principle, although the practical application would need careful consideration.

Cabinet unanimously

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that option 4 for meeting the required reduction of £2,592,650 in the budget for 2005/06 - reducing expenditure by as much as possible as soon as possible with expenditure reduced by the full amount by 2006/07, and equal reductions in 2007/08 to 2009/10 - be adopted and that a Council Tax resolution be

made based on this option.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That there should be no appeal against the Judge's decision not to allow an application for judicial review;
- (b) That the criterion for future financial projections should be a 5.5% increase in the Council Tax;
- (c) That the Finance and Resources Director be instructed to remind all cost centre managers in unequivocal terms of their responsibilities;
- (d) That the concept of a ring fenced fund for voluntary donations of the refunded part of the Council Tax in order to support specific services be explored.

The question of a Council meeting in August was raised, and the Chairman of Council stated that an announcement would be made at the Council meeting on 28 July.

### **5. TRAVELLERS PROTOCOL FOR UNAUTHORISED ROADSIDE CAMPING**

The Community Development Portfolio Holder presented the Protocol as an attempt to ensure that all involved authorities worked in the same way. Councillor SM Edwards raised queries

- a. On paragraphs 3 and 4 as being liable to create debate on who was to take action
- b. On paragraph 1.3, Annex 1, requesting common language meaning – but was advised that the wording would be a legal requirement
- c. On paragraph 2.3, Annex 3, the meaning of “reasonable force” – this would be raised

Councillor Batchelor reported on a different flow chart in circulation at the County Council; this would be pursued.

Cabinet

**ENDORSED** the Travellers Protocol in broad terms, with the amendments recommended by officers in the report and with a request for an explanation of “reasonable force”; and

**AGREED** that a reminder to Cambridgeshire Constabulary of their responsibilities in the event of illegal encampments be raised by a public letter to the Chief Constable

### **6. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANING**

Cabinet further

**DEFERRED** a decision on funding a full options appraisal of the various externalisation models, including in house bids pending consideration of the detailed implications of capping.

**7. PROCUREMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CONTRACT FOR THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES**

The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder stated that the kerbside recycling collection contract could not continue without new vehicles, however they were provided. The Finance and Resources Director confirmed that he would advise outright purchase through the capital programme, although this did add to the Council's costs.

Cabinet, in the knowledge that money would consequently be unavailable for other purposes,

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** supplementary budget approval, in order to extend the collection contract, of £64,750 in 2005/06 plus notional capital charges, and amendment of the Capital Programme to allow for the purchase of collection vehicles at an estimated total price in 2005/06 of £431,200.

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**The Meeting ended at 12.15  
p.m.**

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