



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 30TH APRIL 2003

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MINUTES OF CABINET 24TH APRIL 2003

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DECISION MADE BY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. To Support Proposal For Pedestrian and Cycle Infrastructure in King Hedges Road

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Public Footpath Hearing at Over Community Centre on Tuesday 3rd June 2003 at 10.00am
2. Call-in Arrangements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

| <u>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u> | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
| FROM 6th – 9th MAY 2003 | | | |
|  | | |  |
| WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2003 | AT 10 AM | DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION CONTROL COMMITTEE (Contact Officer Ian Senior) | COUNCIL CHAMBER |
| THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2003 | AT 10 AM | CABINET (Contact Officer Susan May) | COUNCIL CHAMBER |
| | AT 2 PM | WASTE MANAGEMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW (Contact Officer Holly McKenzie) | COMMITTEE ROOM 2 |
| FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2003 | AT 10 AM | WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (Contact Officer Holly McKenzie) | COMMITTEE ROOM 2 |
| | AT 2PM | COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER | ROOM 317 |

Training Courses

| Name of Course | Description | Date and Venue |
|---|---|---|
| Role of Opposition in New Political Management Arrangements | The Seminar will be convened by Dr Colin Corpus and will examine the following key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political strategy and tactics for minority groups • Defining your territory and choosing your approach: Constructive or theatrical • Creating a political climate and working relationships • The minority groups and the executive • Working with overview and scrutiny and full council • Looking beyond the council chamber | 14 th July 2003 at Birmingham |
| Partnerships – Making a Real Difference | Conference will provide an opportunity for people to thinking about their effectiveness in partnership working and the aim is to consider principles of effective partnership governance and performance management and how to put these principles into practice. Speakers from partnerships in the region will share their experiences in setting up and running partnership. The conference will also introduce the Audit Commission's Wheel Model for Partnership working. | 15 th May 2003 at Bedford Lodge Hotel, Newmarket |

If you are interested in any of the above courses please contact Patrick Adams on (01223) 443408 or patrick.adams@scams.gov.uk

9th May - Access to Services Consultation Day

Car parking for will be very limited on the 9th May due to the number of people who have been invited to attend a meeting in the Council Chamber. The whole of the car parking space on the top floor has been booked. The attendees will be on site from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Best Value Review team, which is considering " Access to Services" has invited about 50 stakeholders to help us develop proposals which will:-

1. Remove difficulties people may experience in trying to contact the Council.
2. Make contacting the Council easier, more convenient and the experience more satisfactory.
3. Provide people with a contact method that suits the individual e.g. telephone, face-to-face, letter or e-mail.
4. Facilitate, where appropriate, web site or other technological advances.
5. Improve how we work with other organisations to bring services closer to people.
6. Improve access to services for the more remote South Cambridgeshire communities.

The event will comprise a mixture of presentations, discussions, workshops and a short video. All activity will take place on the second floor.

Participants, who have received personal invitations, are from organisations involved with tenant/residents, young people, older people, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, Housing Associations, C.A.B., District and Parish Councillors, Head teachers, Countryside Watch and other local authority officers.

Please bear with us on that day. If you would like to know more about this review then please contact me at any time.

Ian Salter
Performance Improvement Officer (01223) 443018

CABINET MEETING

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on
24th April 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| PRESENT: | Mrs DSK Spink | Leader and Conservation Portfolio Holder |
| | RT Summerfield | Deputy Leader and Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder |
| Councillors: | Dr DR Bard | Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder |
| | CC Barker | Environmental Health Portfolio Holder |
| | Mrs EM Heazell | Housing Portfolio Holder |
| | SJ Kime | Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder |
| | Mrs DP Roberts | Community Development Portfolio Holder |

Councillors RF Bryant, R Hall and Mrs J Hughes were also in attendance, by invitation.

Joseph Whelan, Transport Assessment Manager and Jeremy Smith, Senior Transport Officer from Cambridgeshire County Council were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from JD Batchelor Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder.

Procedural Items

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Leader was authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2003 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Decisions to be made by Council

3. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2003/04 – 2007/08

The Chief Executive presented this item, which recommended that the Council adopt the Corporate Strategy. He stressed that priorities for future years would be amended as circumstances changed.

The Leader read out an e-mail from Councillor JD Batchelor, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, which listed concerns that he had over the Corporate Strategy. These issues were then discussed.

It was agreed that the words "Best Value" should be incorporated in the sustainability annual priority, which was number 7 on in the 2003/04 list. It was also agreed that this priority be added to the list of annual priorities for 2004/05. It was noted that the budget had been set for this financial year and so no extra funding could be awarded for Sustainability until 2004/05. However, it was noted that some major service

investment was in pursuit of Sustainability, such as the recycling service. It was noted that the priorities for 2004/05 and later years were draft proposals that could still be amended.

The Chief Executive explained that it was an objective of the Council, in comparison with other Councils, to continue to allocate a low proportion of expenditure to the Corporate and Democratic Core compared to that allocated to services. It was noted that sustainability and its aims should be embedded in the delivery of all services of the Council and so it was difficult to ascertain what effect a preference for funding service delivery instead of the Corporate and Democratic Core would have on sustainability in this Council.

The Chief Executive explained that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment would expect the Council to identify non-priority areas as well as areas of priority. It was agreed that the word "taper" should be replaced with "review" in paragraph 3 e) on page 23 of the report, because although it was necessary to review the grants currently awarded, this did not necessarily mean that all grants would be reduced. It was noted that the grants to voluntary organisations scheme was currently under review.

Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

The draft Corporate Strategy as laid out in appendix 1 of the report, with the additional specific recommendations:

- a) That the contents of the Corporate Strategy be communicated to all staff;
- b) That the Strategy be accepted as the basis for the Best value Performance Plan;
- c) That the implementation of the Corporate Strategy be adopted as the focus of work for the Cabinet and Management Team;
- d) That the Corporate Strategy be reviewed in early 2004 in the light of the published Community Strategy;
- e) That the areas for service improvement identified by Members at the meeting on 26th February and given in paragraphs 7(a) - (e) be worked up in greater detail by officers for adoption as Annual Priorities for 2004/05 and as priorities for additional funding in that year;
- f) That following the publication of the Community Strategy, the Council undertake a review of the future level and type of grant funding to be made available by the Council which is sustainable in the long term within the council's financial position and taking into account the use of reserves.

4. CIRCULAR 03/2003: BEST VALUE AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (BVPP)

The Policy and Review Manager presented this item which sought to summarise the Government Circular 03/2003 and to seek the approval of Cabinet and Council for arrangements for approving the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for 2003/04. The Policy and Review Manager highlighted the timetable for the preparation, approval and publication of the BVPP in the next 2 months.

Cabinet **NOTED** the contents of circular 03/2003.

Cabinet

AGREED

- a) to refer to Scrutiny Committee the aspects of the report relating to Best Value reviews;
- b) that criteria and processes be devised for the procurement of services which reflect the Circular and the principles already agreed by the Council;

Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- a) to approve the following arrangements for the preparation and approval of the BVPP for 2003/04:
 - i) Council on 15th May to delegate the approval of the BVPP to the Cabinet, subject to it being consistent with Council decisions on the Annual Priorities for 2003/04; approved Continuous Improvement Plans; and the budget.
 - ii) Scrutiny Committee to consider the BVPP on 29th May 2003.
 - iii) Portfolio holders to agree their priorities for the next year for 2003/04 for inclusion in the BVPP.
 - iv) Cabinet to approve the BVPP on 5th June 2003.

Decisions made by Cabinet and reported for information

5. NORTH AND WESTERN CORRIDOR AREA TRANSPORT PLANS

Councillor SJ Kime, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, presented this item that recommended the adoption of the Northern and Western Corridor Area Transport Plans. He explained that as these plans encroached on the District the recommendation was that they be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. He added that these plans had already been adopted by the City Council.

It was noted that Development and Conservation Control Committee would be able to decide whether exceptions could be made to planning applications for low cost housing, to be exempt from the obligations required by the Area Transport Plans, taking into account all material planning considerations.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs EM Heazell regarding the need to improve cycle links beyond the study areas, the Principal Development Plan Officer (Transport) explained that it was necessary to establish definite links between development and the burden it placed on the existing infrastructure and the need for improvements within the context of Circular 1/97. He considered that the cycle routes to be secured by the Western Corridor Area Transport Plan struck the right balance.

Several Members suggested that a cycle bridge on the Histon roundabout over the A14 should be included. Joseph Whelan, Transport Assessment Manager from Cambridgeshire County Council, stated that the ratio between the extra number of cyclists predicted from development, particularly the Arbury Camps development,

and the cost of a cycle bridge, meant that it would be difficult to justify the inclusion of a cycle bridge.

Cabinet **NOTED** the results of the public consultation.

Cabinet

AGREED

- a) To approve the changes set out in Appendix 4 of the report;
- b) To adopt the Northern Corridor Area Transport Plan and Western Corridor Area Transport Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance and that their provisions be applied to the determination of planning applications with immediate effect.

6. WATTS WOOD, COMBERTON

The Leader introduced this item, which recommended that ownership of Watts Wood be transferred to Comberton Parish Council for a nominal sum. It was noted that the name of the wood be unaffected by the transfer.

Subject to conditions to secure its effective long-term management and public accessibility. Cabinet

AGREED to Support the disposal of Watts Woods, Comberton to Comberton Parish Council for a nominal sum, at no cost to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

7. PLANNED MAINTENANCE

The Director of Housing and Community Services presented this item that sought approval for delegated authority for the Portfolio Holder for Housing to authorise the acceptance of contracts over Level 2 in 2003/04. It was decided that the words of the recommendation be altered to redress the failure to seek formal authorisation from the executive for contracts over Level 2 during the financial year 2002/03.

Cabinet **AGREED** that the Portfolio Holder for Housing should be given delegated and retrospective authority to accept the winning tender for contracts over Level 2.

8. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Policy and Review Manager introduced this item, which updated Cabinet on the requirements of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and sought approval for proceeding as soon as possible with self-assessment and peer review for the Council. He informed Cabinet that the inspection of the Council would be carried out in the week beginning 29th March 2004.

It was asserted that service delivery should not be compromised as a consequence of CPA and concern was expressed at the level of bureaucracy which seemed to accompany this and other Government initiatives. It was suggested that the two local MPs be contacted to lobby the Government about this.

The Chief Executive explained that the feedback on the experience and benefits of self-assessment from the pilot authorities had been favourable. Cabinet welcomed the opportunity to conduct a self-assessment.

Councillor Summerfield, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Staffing, reported that West Midlands LGA had been selected as the organisation to carry out the peer challenge.

Cabinet **NOTED** the report.

Cabinet **AGREED** that the Council should proceed as quickly as possible with its self-assessment and peer challenge.

Information Item

9. MOTIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Cabinet unanimously **AGREED** to submit a motion to the LGA Conference expressing concern about the increasing bureaucratic burden that Government is imposing on Local Government.

Standing Items

10. MATTERS REFERRED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

11. RELOCATION OF OFFICES TO CAMBOURNE

The Chief Executive reported that steady progress was being made.

12. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL BY CONSULTANTS

The Chief Executive reported that he expected the second part of the Price Waterhouse Coopers report to be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 22nd May 2003.

The Leader expressed good wishes for the future to Councillor Kime and paid tribute to the work he carried out during his two years as portfolio holder for planning and economic development. Councillor Kime thanked the Leader and wished his successor well.

The meeting ended at 12.15

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Planning and Economic Development

| Subject | Decision | Reason |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Cycle Lane, Dual Use Footway and 24 hour waiting restrictions in Kings Hedges Road and toucan crossing in Barton Road | To support the Proposal | The proposals will improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists |

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

Public Footpath Hearing at Over Community Centre on Tuesday 3rd June 2003 at 10.00am

This hearing will consider the diversion of footpaths 18, 19 and 20 and creation of footpaths 27 and 28 in Over, Cambridgeshire. At the inspector's discretion, interested parties may, take part in the discussion. Anyone wishing to do so should contact Miss Amy Rushton, Senior Countryside Records Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council (Tel: 01223 717721). Copies of the Notice and Order plans can be inspected at South Cambs' Hall. Copies of pre-hearing statements can be inspected, preferably by prior appointment, at Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Cambridge during normal working hours from 13th May 2003 onwards.

Call-In Arrangements

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Committee Manager must be notified of any call in by **5pm Thursday 8th May 2003** (this is a day later due to the Bank Holiday). All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Friday 9th May 2003**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Committee 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 Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.