



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN ISSUE DATE 26TH NOVEMBER 2003

CONTENTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Forthcoming Committee Meetings
2. Information on Appointment of Non-executive for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority
3. Information on Wheeled Bin Scheme
4. Call-in Arrangements

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS

1. Sale of Land:
 - Rear of 22 High Street, **Great Eversden**
 - At 36 Eversden Road, **Harlton**
 - Adjacent to 20 Palmers Way, **Melbourn**
2. Application for 25 year lease of land off Town Green Road, **Orwell** (Chapel Orchard)
3. To endorse the recommendations in the Health Check action plan (Housing Strategy Health check)
4. To award a grant of £500 to the Pathways project, Papworth Trust, **Papworth Everard**

OFFICER DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

1. Arts Capital Grant Aid Award to:
 - **Sawston** Youth Group £1360
2. Sports Development Grants/Arts Project funding to:
 - Green Hedges School, **Stapleford** £420 (£210 from Sports and £210 from Arts)

WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES FROM 24TH NOVEMBER 2003 REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

1. The Waste Management Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:**
 - (a) approve the Council's involvement as a partner in the submission of the outline business case to DEFRA for PFI credits;
 - (b) authorise the Chief Environmental Health Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, to agree the information included in the outline business case in respect of the Council;
 - (c) defer a decision on the Council's involvement in any future joint procurement for waste management infrastructure and services until it has received further information and reports on the evaluation, governance and financial appraisal of the proposed joint procurement process;
 - (d) and agree to the funding of objective expert advice on Value for Money issues up to a maximum of £20,000 from the Cabinet contingency budget.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS



FROM 1ST TO 5TH DECEMBER 2003



MONDAY 1ST
DECEMBER 2003

TUESDAY 2 ND DECEMBER 2003	10 AM	Constitutional Party	Review Working	Committee room 1
	4 PM	LSP Board		Committee room 1

WEDNESDAY 3 RD DECEMBER 2003	10 AM	Development and Control	and Conservation	Council Chamber
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THURSDAY 4 TH DECEMBER 2003	2 PM	Health Scrutiny Panel		Council Chamber
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FRIDAY 5 TH DECEMBER 2003	1 PM	Public Art Policy Working Group		Council Chamber
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Information on the Appointment of Non-executive for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority

Bill Samuels, the outgoing boss of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) has been appointed a non-executive director of the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) at the last meeting of the NHS Appointments Commission. Mr Samuel's appointment begins on the 1st of November 2003 and ends on the 31st of October 2007

For more information, please contact Peter Davies (Head of Communications) on 01223 597552.

Information on the Wheeled Bin Scheme

Councillor Wherrell is aware that some members have comments about the introduction and implementation of the new integrated recycling and refuse collection service. A full review of the service is scheduled for July 2004. In the meantime, it is important that we address any **operational problems** along the way.

Would members, therefore, please e-mail Councillor Wherrell with comments on any **operational problems**. Any urgent items should be sent to Dale Robinson and copied to Councillor Wherrell. These will be collated and presented to the next WMAG meeting on 12th December. The service is still very new, so please be realistic with respect to "teething troubles".

Please note, however, that this is not a replacement for the scheduled full review, nor is it a forum for changes to the service and it would not be appropriate to include such items on the 12th.

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 Democratic Services Manager must be notified of any call in by **Wednesday 3rd December 2003 at 5pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 4th December 2003**.

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 Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS

Subject	Action Taken
Sale of Land Rear of 22 High Street, Great Eversden	To retain the land in Council ownership and continue current license agreement. Reason: Development Potential
Sale of Land At 36 Eversden Road, Harlton	Subject to valuation, offer land to owner of 40 Eversden Road as garden land and to enable reconstruction of garage. Reason: Provision of off-street parking, revenue for the Council, and potential for development of land to the rear
Sale of Land Adjacent to 20 Palmers Way, Melbourn	Subject to valuation, offer land to owner of 20 Palmers Way, for garden land and a garage, with a Condition relating to the type and height of fencing to be used. Reason: Revenue for the Council and provision of off-street parking
Application for 25 year lease of land off Town Green Road, Orwell (Chapel Orchard)	Offer 25 year lease of Area A in report to Orwell Parish Council, on Condition it be managed as a natural village amenity, but retain access through Area A to Area B in report until agreement is reached regarding exchange of Area B with land off Fishers Lane and an application for affordable housing on the latter has been approved. Reason: To protect the Council's aspirations for affordable housing in Orwell, either on Area B (if change in planning policy) or at Fishers Lane.
Housing Strategy Health check	To endorse the recommendations in the Health Check action plan subject to regular review and update as progress is made. Contact Kari Greaves, Head of Shire Homes if you require more information on 01223 443050
Pathways Project in the Cambridge Sub region, Papworth Trust, Papworth Everard	To award a grant of £500 to support the Pathways project survey

DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS

Subject	Action Taken
Arts Capital Grant Aid Award to Sawston Youth Group	Award a grant of £1360 for the purchase of new instruments for the Sawston Youth Group Marching Band. For further information, please contact Andy O'Hanlon, Arts Development Officer
Subject	Action Taken
Sports Development Grants/Arts Project funding to Green Hedges School, Stapleford	Award a grant of £420 (£210 from Sports and £210 from Arts) to provide dance and drama sessions for pupils in key stage 4 during curriculum time leading up to a joint Christmas performance with pupils at Wind Mill School in December. For further information, please contact Helen Johnston (Sports) or Stephanie Hogger (Arts)

WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of a meeting held on
24th November 2003 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor DALG Wherrell Chairman
 Councillor NJ Scarr Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Dr SA Harangozo WH Saberton
 Mrs CAED Murfitt Mrs GJ Smith
 DJ Regan Mrs LM Sutherland

and

 Councillor CC Barker, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor JP Chatfield.

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2003 as a correct record.

New Integrated Waste Management Service – Properties to Remain on Sacks (Minute 6)

In the new year the Advisory Group would review the policy on collection from village halls and similar establishments. The Environmental Services Officer asked members to inform him of any halls which were expecting to receive sacks but were not.

Integrated Recycling and Refuse Collection Service: Verbal Update (Minute 8)

The Chief Environmental Health Officer confirmed that the delivery company had recorded the bin serial numbers against addresses, although it could not be guaranteed that residents would not unintentionally take a different bin back to their properties from a collection point.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. BID THROUGH THE PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) FOR CREDIT FUNDING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The Chief Environmental Health Officer gave a presentation on the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) process and the benefits of joining the Cambridgeshire Waste PFI bidding consortium to secure funding for waste management infrastructure and services. He highlighted the successes of the Cambridgeshire Councils' Association Waste Forum (CCAWF), a partnership which delivered the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS), secured DEFRA funding and produced contracts for wheeled bins, glass recycling and compost collection. The small window of opportunity on the PFI process meant that the deadline for submission of the outline business case to DEFRA was tight and the Advisory Group's comments and recommendations were sought for presentation to Cabinet on 27th November.

New government directives to increase recycling and decrease landfill were driving the need to investigate PFI as a means of gaining government support for the capital investment. The CCAWF acknowledged that significant investment in new infrastructure was required to bring about a shift away from landfill dependency and that a successful PFI

bid would cover some of the cost in this investment. It would be most economical to spread the capital costs over the course of a 25-year contract.

After conducting an options appraisal, the CCAWF had selected investment in High Recycling and Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) as the reference project for the PFI bid as the lowest risk option which met JMWS objectives and the EU targets. The reference project was hypothetical and the Council was not committed to this approach if funding were secured. The cost of doing nothing over and above commitments already made, or just meeting legislative targets, resulted in a predicted cost substantially greater than the cost of the reference project.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer emphasised that:

- Joining as a partner in the bidding consortium had low inherent risks to the Council;
- There was no commitment to including collection in the final specification;
- The private sector was open-minded about working with Direct Service Organisations (DSOs);
- There was no fixed government formula for joint private-public sector working; and
- The report assumed a best-case scenario of waste growth in the County.

Members were reminded that a decision on joining the bidding consortium was needed before the end of 2003. If the council were to join, details of governance issues and decisions on joining a procurement consortium, funding of the procurement process and services to be included / excluded would follow in the new year. Obtaining planning permission could be the biggest delay to the contract start deadline of July 2007. If this were missed it could be necessary for the Cambridgeshire County Council to extend its landfill contract

It was essential to make a PFI bid during the current financial year as the CCAWF was a mature partnership with a proven track record and a strong likelihood of securing funding. Furthermore, several large partnerships were preparing to make bids next year and the number of potential bidders was likely to increase with each subsequent year. If the bid were unsuccessful, the CCAWF would still have to procure contracts but without the benefit of PFI credits to help cover costs.

Councillor NJ Scarr queried the flexibility of the PFI contract to adapt to new and emerging technologies. The Chief Environmental Health Officer noted that most EU targets were for 2020, so it was unlikely there would be any major revisions to directives during the life of the PFI contract. The biggest risk could be from a social change away from landfill dependency and superfluous packaging. The PFI contract would need to include a 7-year assessment and review cycle to allow discussions about incorporating new technologies or adapting to change.

Councillor Mrs GJ Smith advised that the Council must not hesitate to fund sufficient management resources for the project, whether on its own or in partnership with other authorities. The Chief Environmental Health Officer confirmed that the initial start-up costs included project management. The CCAWF was preparing to hire a communications expert to ensure that its work was properly presented. There was insufficient capacity in the current staff to accommodate the considerable workload but it was expected that the £20,000 requested from the Cabinet contingency budget should be sufficient to provide the necessary capacity and expertise. The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder agreed to consider the establishment of a monitoring panel of members to oversee the project development.

Councillor Dr SA Harangozo noted that recommendation (c) did not mention evaluation of energy costs and environmental impact during the proposed joint procurement process. The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that the recommendation was concerned with the Council's involvement with joint procurement; the evaluation of processes, plants

and running costs could be considered during the evaluation model stage in the spring/summer of 2005. The Council would advise on the criteria for scoring potential contractors, including sustainability and environmental considerations, at that time.

The Waste Management Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:**

- a) approve the Council's involvement as a partner in the submission of the outline business case to DEFRA for PFI credits;
- b) authorise the Chief Environmental Health Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, to agree the information included in the outline business case in respect of the Council;
- c) defer a decision on the Council's involvement in any future joint procurement for waste management infrastructure and services until it has received further information and reports on the evaluation, governance and financial appraisal of the proposed joint procurement process; and
- d) agree to the funding of objective expert advice on Value for Money issues up to a maximum of £20,000 from the Cabinet contingency budget.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Waste Management Advisory Group would next meet on Friday 12th December 2003 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber. The Chairman would contact all members via the Weekly Bulletin, asking for their comments on the introduction of the new integrated recycling and refuse collection service so far, and would bring the responses to the next meeting. He asked that any urgent items be identified as such and e-mailed directly to the Chief Environmental Health Officer with a copy to the Chairman. The Chief Environmental Health Officer reminded members that this report was not intended to replace the full review and evaluation of the service, to be conducted in July 2004.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm
