
Cabinet

Report of the meetings held on 20th & 27th April,
18th May and 8th June 2006

Matter for Decision

1. **IMPLEMENTING OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT (IEG)
STATEMENT 2006**

Subject to the inclusion of a further explanation of the reasons for 'red' status priority outcomes the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

that the contents of the draft 2006 Implementing Electronic Government statement be approved for submission to the Secretary of State.

Matters for Information

2. **APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS**

Executive responsibilities for the municipal year 2006/07 have been allocated by the Leader as follows –

Environment & Transport	– Councillor N J Guyatt
Finance	– Councillor T V Rogers
Headquarters & Information Technology	– Councillor L M Simpson
Housing & Public Health	– Councillor Mrs D C Reynolds
Leisure	– Councillor Mrs J Chandler
Operations	– Councillor Mrs P J Longford
Planning Strategy	– Councillor P L E Bucknell
Resources & Policy	– Councillor A Hansard

Those Members appointed to hold executive responsibility for Resources and Policy, Planning Strategy and the Leader have been appointed ex-officio Members of the Licensing Committee/Licensing and Protection, Development Control and Employment Panels respectively.

**3. OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE:
APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES**

In accordance with paragraph 4 (e) of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Cabinet has informed the Chief Executive that there were no material or well founded objections to a proposal of the Appointments Panel with regard to the offer of an appointment to fill the post of Head of Planning Services.

**4. URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK AND MASTERPLAN:
ST MARY'S URBAN VILLAGE, ST NEOTS**

The Cabinet has approved a draft Urban Design Framework for land to the west of St Mary's Church, St Neots. The Framework is designed to establish clear guiding principles for the redevelopment of this site to ensure that the area is significantly improved. This may involve the creation of a new mixed use development for this part of St Neots, together with improved car parking and pedestrian linkages.

5. DEVELOPMENT BRIEF: OLD FIRE STATION, ST NEOTS

The Cabinet has agreed to adopt a development brief for land in and around the Old Fire Station in St Neots as Interim Planning Guidance. The brief is an important step towards achieving the most appropriate form of redevelopment on the site and has been the subject of a public consultation exercise. The Cabinet has also authorised the Planning Policy Manager, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations as necessary.

6. QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

The Cabinet has been advised of those debts which have been written off as irrecoverable during the period January – March 2006.

A summary of the list is available on request from the Democratic Services Section.

**7. GROWING SUCCESS –
A CORPORATE PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panels, the Cabinet has endorsed a draft timetable for reviewing and updating the Council's Corporate Plan – "Growing Success", including local performance indicators and targets, an improvement plan and objectives supporting the achievement of the Council's priorities. The review is intended to link the Council's objectives with significant activities or projects, along with the underlying day to day activities set out in service plans. At the same time, the Cabinet has noted performance data for 2005/06 and revised targets for 2006/7. The updated Corporate Plan will be submitted to Council for adoption at their meeting on 27th September 2006.

8. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

In conjunction with the Employment Panel, the Cabinet has endorsed the content of the Council's Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy. The policy outlines good practice aimed at promoting the safety of young people and vulnerable adults using the Council's services and protecting employees and councillors from false allegations.

**9. MEDIUM TERM PLAN:
REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Cabinet has agreed to release appropriate funding from the Medium Term Plan for the establishment of a choice based letting scheme across the Cambridge sub-region.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Cabinet has reviewed the respective levels of performance in the year ending 31st March 2006 of three external fund managers in the matter of investment of the Council's capital receipts.

**11. A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENT –
HUNTINGDON VIADUCT TECHNICAL STUDY**

Following on from Item No.1 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 29th June 2005, the Cabinet has been acquainted with the outcome of a jointly commissioned technical study on the implications of the retention or removal of the existing A14 viaduct at Huntingdon as part of the Highway Agency's upgrade of the road from Ellington to Fen Ditton. The study, carried out by W S Atkins, was jointly funded by the District and County Councils, the Highways Agency, the Eastern Region Government Office, East of England Development Agency and Cambridgeshire Horizons.

The study has concluded that the original CHUMMS option is viable and that the highway network in Huntingdon could be modified to accommodate the removal of the A14 viaduct and the construction of new highway links and junctions designed to improve the local road network. Having recognised the benefits that these developments would have in terms of separating local and through traffic, improving traffic movements between and around Huntingdon, Godmanchester and Hinchbrook and the opportunities for regeneration and development in the area, the Cabinet have decided to –

- ◆ endorse the consultant's study for submission to the Secretary of State for consideration as part of the options for the development of the A14 improvements scheme;
- ◆ support the principles of the CHUMMS Options Strategy presented at the Highways Agency's public consultation in 2005; and

- ◆ request the Director of Operational Services to write to the Secretary of State urging the further development of the new highway links and junctions in Huntingdon as part of the A14 scheme in consultation with the County and District Councils and to promote necessary statutory orders for such links along with those that will be required for the wider A14 scheme and its associated local access roads.

12. REPRESENTATION ON ORGANISATIONS

The Cabinet has made appointments/nominations of representatives to serve on a variety of organisations and authorised the Deputy Leader of the Council to make any changes that may be required throughout the year.

13. WARBOYS AND BROUGHTON CONSERVATION AREAS: CHARACTER STATEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The Cabinet has approved for public consultation draft Character Statements and Management Plans for Warboys and Broughton which outline a series of proposals aimed at conserving and enhancing the villages' conservation areas.

14. BROOKSIDE, HUNTINGDON – URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Further to Item No. 103 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 22nd February 2006 and having considered responses received to consultation on the proposed design for an area of land at Brookside in Huntingdon and resultant amendments made to the document, the Cabinet has approved the adoption of the framework (as amended) as Interim Planning Guidance. In so doing, the Planning Policy Manager has been authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations as necessary.

15. MONITORING OF THE REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration has been given by the Cabinet to reports monitoring the revenue budget and capital programme expenditure in 2005/06. Particular attention has been given to variations to the approved programme and the estimated capital and revenue implications.

16. CAR PARKING ORDER – OAK DRIVE, HUNTINGDON

Having been informed that no objections had been received following the publication of proposals to introduce a new Car Parking Order in respect of Oak Drive, Huntingdon, the Cabinet has confirmed the Order as advertised.

17. HOUSING ACT 2004 – IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Cabinet has been acquainted with progress on the implementation of a range of measures arising from the Housing Act 2004. The Cabinet also has adopted a new private sector housing enforcement policy and measures relating to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) which include –

- ◆ establishing HMO licensing committees;
- ◆ adopting HMO standards;
- ◆ introducing an HMO licensing fee of £300, which will be waived for licences for HMOs under the control of registered charities; and
- ◆ revoking the automatic designation of Huntingdonshire as an area subject to additional houses in multiple occupational licensing.

The Cabinet has also authorised the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services, after consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor, to amend the Private Sector housing enforcement policy, the HMO licensing conditions, the HMO standards and the HMO licensing fee.

18. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

The Cabinet has received and noted the report of the meeting of the Safety Advisory Group held on 1st March 2006.

I C Bates
Chairman