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## **Cabinet**

### **Report of the meeting held on 23rd July 2009**

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#### **Matters for Information**

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#### **23. FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET**

The Cabinet has noted the expected revenue budget variations already identified in the current year. Whilst welcoming a VAT refund amounting to £780k, the Cabinet has expressed some concern over the increasing cost to the Council of concessionary fares and recycling gate fees which are forecast to increase by £255,000 and £196,000 respectively.

#### **24. MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Cabinet has been acquainted with variations in the capital programme in the current year.

#### **25. FORMER FIRE STATION AND WASTE RECYCLING SITE, HUNTINGDON STREET, ST. NEOTS**

The Cabinet has agreed to the preparation of a development brief and a subsequent marketing exercise for the disposal of the leasehold of an area of land at the former fire station site and waste recycling centre, Huntingdon Street, St. Neots. The Cabinet has been apprised of the background to the proposal and has been advised that the domestic waste recycling centre will be relocated by Cambridgeshire County Council at the end of the year.

In order to ensure that the site is marketed fully and in recognition of the need to provide a scheme that will benefit the community, a detailed development brief will be prepared and a comprehensive marketing exercise undertaken. Executive Members were assured that applicants will be invited to submit details of their proposals including drawings showing the layout, size and external appearance and that the applications will then be assessed to ensure compliance with the development brief.

#### **26. GREAT FEN COLLABORATION AGREEMENT**

Further to Item 56 of their Report to the Council held on 3rd December 2008, the Cabinet has approved in principle arrangements to enter into a Collaboration Agreement in respect of the Great Fen Project for a renewable five-year fixed term. In so doing, Executive Councillors were advised that the Agreement will strengthen the

existing arrangements by defining the relationship between the partners, setting out the project's aims and objectives and summarising certain managerial/financial matters. The Cabinet considered issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-being) regarding certain aspects of the Agreement (Item No 7 of their Report refers) and in particular whether the agreement covered explicitly all potential staffing costs such as severance and personal injury claims. The Panel also raised a concern that the confidentiality clause might impede scrutiny and transparency. The Cabinet has requested therefore that the Agreement be redrafted to reflect these sentiments. With this proviso, the Cabinet has authorised the Director of Environmental and Community Services, after consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor, to sign the resulting revised Collaboration Agreement.

**27. EUROBIN MANUAL HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS**

In receiving and noting a report of the Safety Advisory Group held on 10th June 2009, the Cabinet's attention has been drawn to the findings of a report by Her Majesty's Ergonomic Specialist Inspector into the eurobin manual handling arrangements. Executive Councillors were advised that the Inspector's report had concluded that the task of emptying 1100 and 1280 litre glass recycling eurobins should be undertaken by two employees rather than the current one person arrangement. Having requested further information on the health and safety aspects of the Inspector's findings, the Cabinet has agreed to defer consideration of the item to a future meeting.

**28. NEW HEADQUARTERS DELIVERY AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

*(The following item was considered as a confidential item under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)*

Further to Item No. 77 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 18th February 2009, the Cabinet has been apprised with progress made to date on the delivery of the new accommodation for the Council's headquarters. In considering issues associated with the future use of Castle Hill House, the Cabinet has agreed that the accommodation of all Headquarters based staff in future years be contained in Buildings B C D and E. At the same time, the Cabinet has endorsed suspension of the marketing of the Council owned land fronting St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, which had been earmarked for "Building A", to enable the Chief Executive to investigate options available for the disposal of Castle Hill House. In so doing, the Cabinet has agreed the reservation of sums to meet contractual claims and to fund any variations. It will be necessary to revise the Medium Term Plan provision for the project accordingly at its next review.

I C Bates  
Chairman