
Cabinet

Report of the meeting held on 19th November 2009

Matters for Decision

42. BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and by way of a report by the Head of Financial Services (reproduced as an Appendix) the Cabinet has reviewed the draft 2010/2011 budget, the medium term financial plan for the period up to 2014/2015 and the longer term financial plan forecast for 2023/2024. Final approval of the proposals will be dealt with by Council at its meeting on 17th February 2010.

In considering the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being), Members concurred with the Panel that the level of spending proposed for Huntingdon bus station appears to be excessive and that investigations should take place into the possible refurbishment options. In that respect the Executive Councillors for Environment and Information Technology and for Planning Strategy and Transport agreed to re-visit this proposal. In the meantime, the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

that the draft Budget and Medium Term Plan, appended to the report now submitted, be approved to assist in the production of the Budget for 2010/2011, revised Medium Term Plan 2014/2015 and the Financial Strategy 2023/2024.

43. HUNTINGDON WEST AREA ACTION PLAN PROPOSED SUBMISSION

The Cabinet has considered the content of the proposed submission document for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan along with the responses received on the proposals set out in the statement of consultation (both documents have been circulated to Members under separate cover, Members are requested to bring their copy to the meeting).

The area Action Plan seeks to set a framework for the area west of Huntingdon town centre to help deliver planned growth and regeneration.

Having noted the timetable for the submission of the Action Plan to the Secretary of State, the Cabinet has authorised the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, to make any minor amendments to the submission document and to approve the Statement of Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment prior to their publication. The Cabinet has also authorised the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy and Transport, to complete the final submission.

The Cabinet therefore

RECOMMEND

that the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Proposed Submission document be approved and adopted by the Council, subject to the authorisations to the Head of Planning Services referred to above.

Matters for Information

44. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

Further to Item No. 74 of their Report submitted to the meeting of the Council held on 6th December 2006, the Cabinet has reviewed the contents of a revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005. The Statement has been updated to take into account the latest Regulations and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. A separate report on the subject appears elsewhere on the Agenda for the Council to consider.

45. CAR PARKING REVIEW 2009

Further to Item No. 75 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 16th April 2008, the Cabinet has been advised of the findings of the Members' Car Parking Working Group into the impact of the revised charging arrangements and other operational changes that came into effect on 1st October 2008 following the review of the Council's car parking policy.

In so doing, the Cabinet has approved the Group's recommendations for further change as part of a revised off-street parking places order for implementation from 1st June 2010. In considering the Group's conclusions, specifically the need to review the season ticket scheme given the eligibility anomalies relating to town boundaries, Executive Councillors have expressed disappointment that the Group, had not considered in greater depth the opportunity to address environmental issues and changes to travel patterns through the car parking strategy. However, Members acknowledged that the Group's work constituted an interim review and therefore has invited them to

consider issues such as encouraging the use of low emission vehicles, public transport, cycling and walking as part of the next scheduled review of the car parking action plan in 2010.

With regard to the Group's recommendations to introduce charging at Cambridge Street and the Riverside Park, St Neots with some free parking for a two hour period at the Riverside to support its recreational use, Executive Councillors have expressed concern over the lack of detail for the management of such arrangements.

In discussing the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) Panel's response to the Group's proposals, the Cabinet has reiterated the need for representations to be made to Cambridgeshire County Council over the potentially adverse effects on the District Council's parking income and policies should they proceed with their decision to permit parking at the new Cambridgeshire Guided Bus Scheme "Park and Ride" site free of charge.

46. DRAFT CAMBRIDGESHIRE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Cabinet has noted the work of Cambridgeshire Horizons and Cambridgeshire local authorities in producing an integrated development programme.

The programme brings together the various planning documents available to identify infrastructure needs of the area on a sub-regional basis. The exercises are a valuable tool in determining strategic and local infrastructure along with levels of tariff and their viability that can guide future development.

47. TRAVELLERS TRANSIT SITE PROVISION

Further to Item No. 18 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 24th June 2009, the Cabinet has considered the contents of the East of England Plan Policy on Gypsy and Travellers. Particular reference was made to the requirement for Councils to make provision for transit sites. Given the likelihood that some kind of provision will be required in the District and in recognising the advantages of maintaining a formal, well managed site, the Cabinet has supported the principle of searching for a transit site in the District. With this in mind, Executive Councillors have instructed Officers to consider further the logistics of providing a site and to prepare a bid for a Government grant at the appropriate time.

**48. THE REGIONAL SPATIAL REVIEW –
THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN 2031 –
RESPONSE TO THE EERA OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

Further to Item No. 4 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 20th June 2008, the Cabinet has endorsed the Council's response to proposals put forward by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) on four possible growth scenarios for the region for the period up to 2031, as part of the ongoing review of the Regional

Spatial Strategy. Having regard to the relevant economic, environmental and other considerations, the Cabinet has concluded that the only viable option and scale of potential future growth that can be supported, even though it will be extremely challenging to deliver, is scenario 1. This scenario “rolls forward” the housing growth rates established by the current Regional Plan for another 10 years and will be the highest level of growth that most Councils within the region considered can accommodate. For Huntingdonshire this scenario will require the delivery of approximately 550 homes a year in order to meet a 20 year target of 11,080 and is in line with the spatial vision set out in the adopted Core Strategy.

At the same time, the Cabinet has requested that Officers continue to work with all of the Cambridgeshire Authorities to produce a co-ordinated joint response on behalf of the County. The Executive Councillor for Planning Services and Transport has been authorised to agree alterations to the Council's position, submit any amended response to EERA and to liaise with the other Cambridgeshire Authorities.

49. 10:10 CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

The Cabinet has authorised the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to formally register the Council's support for the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign. The campaign is a community wide project which targets individuals, companies and institutions to pledge a reduction in their carbon footprint by 10% during 2010. In backing the campaign, the Cabinet supports its promotion throughout the District.

50. ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

In conjunction with the Licensing and Protection Panel (Item No. 12 of their Report refers) the Cabinet has been acquainted with the implications of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008.

The Act is an important element in delivering the Government's commitment to the implementation of the Hampton agenda on regulatory reform and the reduction of the burden on businesses. It delivers a number of distinct but related policy areas relating to the advancement of Hampton's vision of a national and local regulatory system that is risk based, proportionate and effective.

The Act has established a Local Better Regulation Office to promote better regulation and co-ordination between local authorities and central government and minimise the burdens of regulation on compliant businesses. It seeks to establish a primary authority scheme to improve consistency of advice and enforcement which will prove resource intensive for those Councils nominated by businesses to be their primary authority.

51. LAND ADJACENT TO THE GRAND CINEMA, RAMSEY

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

Further to Item No. 22 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2007, the Cabinet has approved terms for the disposal of land adjacent to the former Grand Cinema site in Ramsey and has authorised the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Finance and for Resources and Policy to approve terms for the shared use of the proposed new County Council premises.

I C Bates
Chairman