
Cabinet

Report of the meeting held on 11th February 2010

Matters for Decision

67. FINANCIAL STRATEGY, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND BUDGET

The Cabinet has considered the content of the 2010/2011 draft budget, Medium Term Plan for the period 2011 - 2015 and the level of Council Tax for 2010/2011. A copy of the report by the Head of Financial Services is reproduced at Agenda Item No 4 on the Council Agenda.

Having noted the conclusions reached by the Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being) Panel on this matter and the comments arising from the consultation with the business community on expenditure proposals, the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

- (a) that the proposed budget, Medium Term Plan and Financial Strategy appended to the Head of Financial Services' report at agenda item 4 be approved;
- (b) that a council tax increase of £3.02 (2.5%) representing a level of £124.17 for a Band D property be approved for 2010/11; and
- (c) that the Director of Commerce and Technology, after consultation with the Leader, Executive Councillor for Finance and relevant Chief Officers, be authorised to manage the special reserve fund, as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the report.

68. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2010

Reproduced at Agenda Item No 4 of is the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/2011. The Strategy, which complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice, has clear objectives for the management of the Council's borrowing and investments. Having been satisfied that the strategy meets the requirements of the Code of Practice and Government guidance, the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

- (a) that the 2010/11 Treasury Management Strategy appended at Appendix A be approved;**
- (b) that the Treasury Management Indicators and Prudential Indicators 2010/11 be approved; and**
- (c) that the scrutiny of Treasury Management be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being) Panel.**

69. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (DPD) SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

The Cabinet has considered the content of the proposed submission document for the Development Management (DPD) along with the responses received on the proposals set out in the statement of consultation. (Both documents have been circulated under separate cover and Members are requested to bring their copy to the meeting).

The document forms part of the Local Development Framework, will support the Core Strategy and East of England Plan and will set out the Council's policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire including the assessment and determination of planning applications.

RECOMMEND

- (a) that the Development Management DPD Proposed Submission document be approved;**
- (b) that the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport be authorised to make any minor textual amendments to the documents and to approve the Statement of Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment prior to publication; and**
- (c) that the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport be authorised to complete the final submission for Development Management DPD and associated documents including a summary of the main issues raised in final representations and submission to the Secretary of State.**

Matters for Information

70. CAR PARKING REVIEW

Further to Item No. 45 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 2nd December 2009, the Cabinet now has decided to make 38 spaces available with 2 hours free parking at Riverside Park, St Neots as part of a revised Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 which is intended to be implemented on 1st June 2010.

When the Car Parking Working Party first reported with their proposals for car parking in Huntingdonshire as part of their review, the Cabinet asked them to look again at the wider environmental impact of charging for car parking and at the proposals to introduce charges for Riverside and Cambridge Street car parks in St Neots with some free parking for two hours at the former.

In considering the matter further, the working party came to the conclusion that a two hour period of free parking throughout the Riverside car park would be difficult and costly to enforce. In recognition that the car park is used by people visiting the Riverside Park, the working party recommended that 38 spaces be made available only for free parking for two hours, approximately 15% of the total.

The Cabinet has also had the benefit of the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) which are summarised in item 46 of their Report elsewhere on the agenda.

The Cabinet is conscious that provision has been made in the budget for increased income to commence from charging at several car parks with effect from the beginning of June and that any further delay in proceeding with the order will jeopardise the level of income that has been anticipated. The Cabinet has therefore authorised the Director of Operational Services to proceed to make and advertise the order which will enable the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's comments to be considered with any other responses received during the statutory consultation period. These will then be considered again by the Car Parking Working Party and Cabinet before the order is confirmed.

71. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVISION

The Cabinet has approved amendments to the Local Development Scheme for Huntingdonshire prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. The changes have arisen as a result of new Regulations on development plan document production and from the need to amend the anticipated timetable for the production of various elements of the Local Development Framework since the adoption of the Core Strategy. The Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, has been

authorised to make any minor changes to the scheme, as he considers necessary following formal consultation with Go-East.

**72. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES –
DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 (AS AMENDED)**

The Cabinet has re-examined and modified the Council's policy for assessing entitlement to discretionary rate relief for charities and kindred organisations which was last reviewed in October 2005. In so doing, the Cabinet has -

- ◆ agreed that the rateable value referred to in the policy be reviewed on the occasion of a new rating list (every five years);
- ◆ authorised the Head of Revenue Services and the Local Taxation Manager to grant relief under the new policy;
- ◆ agreed that "Part Occupation" relief be optimised in appropriate cases for a maximum of twelve months, subject to prevailing legislation on unoccupied rating;
- ◆ agreed that "Rural Rate Relief" continue to be granted in appropriate cases (subject to the Rural Settlement List) and with a provision of 100% relief for post offices;
- ◆ approved the determination of "Hardship Relief" by the Head of Customer Services, after consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, on the merits of individual cases; and
- ◆ authorised the Director of Commerce and Technology to deal with appeals from applicants dissatisfied with the determination made by the Head of Revenue Services and the Local Taxation Manager.

73. MINI-RECYCLING SITES - WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Cabinet has noted revised working arrangements which have been put in place by the Head of Operations to ensure that 1,100 litre wheeled bins at bring sites are moved safely by employees. Collections have been re-scheduled so that two employees attend all known heavily used locations together. Instructions have been given that if an employee finds that a bin is too heavy to move when working alone, he should not attempt to move it. These changes will meet the requirements for safe working practices outlined by the HSE Inspectorate.

74. ST. NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION

The Cabinet has been acquainted with governance arrangements required to support the master planning process for the St. Neots Eastern Expansion. Having been advised that member involvement will take the form of a Members' Steering Group, with representatives from the County, District and Town Councils, the Cabinet has authorised the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Deputy Leader to appointment four Members to this Group. The Group will receive input from the various stakeholder groups including the St Neots Town Centre Initiative and will report directly to a Delivery

Board on which the Director of Environmental and Community Services will represent this authority.

I C Bates
Chairman