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## **Cabinet**

### **Report of the meeting held on 18th November 2010**

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#### **Matters for Decision**

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#### **41. DRAFT BUDGET 2011/12 AND MTP 2011/16**

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and by way of a report by the Chief Officer's Management Team (the Report is reproduced as Item No 6 on the Council Agenda) the Cabinet has reviewed the draft 2011/12 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period up to 2015/16 and the longer term financial plan forecast for 2024/25. Final approval of the proposals will be dealt with by Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2011.

In considering the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being), Members concurred with the Panel that investigation should take place into alternative delivery methods for the services provided at customer services centres. Initial discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council are currently underway with a view to working alongside the library service and further talks will be held with town and parish councils.

With regard to proposals to reduce the grants paid to voluntary organisations, Executive Councillors concurred with the Panel that these Groups are likely to form an important part of the "localism" agenda and the public's demand on services that they provide may increase as a result of changes to the welfare system. The Cabinet concluded that these groups should be encouraged to explore a variety of alternative means of funding and revenue generation.

In discussing the Panel's views on the proposals for the CCTV service, the Cabinet's attention has been drawn to a number of options being investigated including the potential to enter into a joint arrangement with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and/or town and parish councils.

With regard to the proposal to increase car parking charges from 2014, Members have emphasised the need to consider this carefully given the lack of adequate public transport, public opinion, ability of residents to pay and the implications of introducing civil parking enforcement.

In considering the options for the determination of levels of council tax for 2011/2012, the Cabinet has considered the current economic climate, the impact on local residents and the Government proposed

grant for councils that decide to freeze their council tax for the coming financial year. The reward grant is 2.5% of the Council tax base for the next four years and this is expected to amount to £183,000 p.a.

At the same time, Executive Councillors have discussed budget proposals put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group. In that respect, the Cabinet has noted that a review of pay, pay scales and allowances are currently underway along with the development of shared services initiatives and proposals to sub-let spare office capacity. Members noted those areas requiring further discussion - included job sharing, members' allowances, the retention of the customer service centres and a reduction in the number of councillors. In that respect, the Cabinet felt that any reduction in Members was unlikely to result in significant savings during the budget plan period.

Having authorised the Chief Officers Management Team, after consultation with the appropriate Executive Councillors, to prepare and implement plans for changes and reductions in services to achieve targeted savings plans for 2011/12 and future years, the Cabinet -

#### **RECOMMEND**

- (a) that the draft Budget and Medium Term Plan, appended to the report of the Chief Officer's Management Team, be approved as the basis for the development of the budget for 2011/2012 and the revised Medium Term Plan 2012/2016; and**
- (b) that no increase be made in Council Tax for 2011/12.**

#### **42. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (reproduced as an Appendix) the Cabinet has reviewed the contents of a revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The statement has been updated to take into account the latest regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. These include a mandatory Code of Practice for alcohol retailers, allowing elected members of Licensing Authorities to become interested parties for the purpose of making representations and applying for reviews, re-classification of lap dancing clubs so that they require a sex establishment licence and new mandatory conditions in relation to the supply of alcohol. Having been informed that the public consultation exercise on the policy had elicited little response, the Cabinet

#### **RECOMMEND**

- that the revised statement of licensing policy be approved.**

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## **Matters for Information**

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### **43. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE**

The Cabinet has noted the performance of the District Council's Fund Managers for the period 1st July to 30th September 2010.

### **44. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN**

Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) (Item No. 32 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has approved the content of the Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan. The plan has been prepared by the Homes and Communities Agency and Cambridgeshire Horizons in conjunction with Cambridgeshire local authorities. The document aims to assist the delivery of investment in a range of housing, infrastructure, regeneration and community activities, taking into account locally determined priorities and a number of existing strategies and plans including the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy, Housing Strategy and Local Investment Framework. It will primarily be used as evidence to support bids to draw in external funding to the area.

In considering the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being), Members concurred with the Panel that the importance of upgrading the A14 should not be under-stated as it plays a significant part in the road network infrastructure on local, national and European levels.

### **45. HOMELINESS STRATEGY: CONSULTATION DRAFT**

The Cabinet has approved for consultation purposes the content of the draft Homelessness Strategy. The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all Councils to carry out a review of homelessness within their area at least every five years and to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review. The document is the Council's third homelessness strategy and aims to minimise the effects of homelessness, particularly the use of temporary accommodation.

In discussing the Strategy, the Cabinet has noted the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) over the continuation of government funding for homelessness beyond 2010/2011 along with the need to identify funding and resources for a number of actions identified within the strategy (Item No 31 of their Report refers)

### **46. ST. NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK**

Having considered responses received to consultation on the proposed St. Neots Eastern Expansion Urban Design Framework and having been acquainted with the subsequent amendments which

have been made to the document, the Cabinet has approved the adoption of the urban design framework (as amended) as Planning Policy. In so doing, the Head of Planning Services has been authorised, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy and Transport, to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations as necessary.

**47. LAND AT MILL ROAD, EATON SOCON**

The Cabinet has considered a proposal for the transfer of Council owned land at Mill Road, Eaton Socon to an adjoining landowner for the development of a residential scheme. Having noted that the transaction will include the developer providing replacement facilities for an existing scout headquarters that currently occupies the land, the Cabinet has approved the sale in principle and has authorised the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Leisure and Law, Property and Governance to approve terms for the sale.

**48. EMPLOYEE SELECTION PANEL -  
APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY RELEASE**

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

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Cabinet has confirmed that there are no material objections to the recommendations of the Employee Selection Panel regarding applications for voluntary release from senior managers under stage 1 of the voluntary release scheme. A full report of the Employee Selection Panel appears elsewhere on the agenda.

I C Bates  
Chairman