
Cabinet

Report of the meeting held on 19th January 2012

Matters for Information

46. FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12

The Cabinet has noted the expected revenue budget variations already identified in the current year, together with the payments written-off in the year for Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates.

Members were advised that the expected revenue expenditure outturn is now £21.4m which represents a reduction in the budget deficit of £1.2m. The reduction is mainly due to one-off items and service managers implementing service plans.

47. MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Cabinet has been acquainted with variations to the approved programme in the current year and the consequential estimated revenue impact.

48. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REVIEW

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panels (Economic Well-Being) and (Social Well-Being) (Item Nos 39 and 50 respectively of their Reports refers) the Cabinet has considered a proposal to establish an indicative voluntary sector budget for 2013/14 and to introduce a mixed grant system for the allocation of future funds.

In discussing the delivery methods available for providing financial support, Executive Councillors were conscious that one solution may not fit all circumstances and different levels of assessment should be applied. In that respect, the Cabinet has supported the adoption of a mix of methods for the allocation of financial support to the voluntary sector to involve a level of bureaucracy proportionate to the level of funding required. Having recognised the importance of supporting local organisations who require a small injection of revenue up to £5,000, the Cabinet has approved the establishment of a modest “community chest”. In discussing the governance arrangements for the latter, Members agreed that any application form should be straightforward and that the funding be made available to applicants throughout the year.

With regard to the overall budget allocation, the Cabinet has approved an indicative voluntary sector budget of £273,000 for 2013/14, considerably less severe than previously anticipated in the 2013/14 budget. In recognising that this will result in the voluntary sector receiving a 28% reduction in funding, the Cabinet stressed that all organisations had to respond to the changing economic climate and that the Council still remained committed to supporting the voluntary sector.

49. ADVANCED WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Further to Item No.37 of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) the Cabinet has approved the content of a Partnership Charter for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership which aims to enhance current partnership working.

Executive Councillors were reminded of the success of RECAP in delivering benefits to individual authorities, including the District Council, by working in partnership on various waste reduction projects. In discussing plans for advanced partnership working, including a joint trade waste and a bulky waste service, Members requested that individual business cases for any advanced waste project be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) prior to any decision being made to proceed.

50. CAMBRIDGESHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Having been acquainted with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) (Item No. 36 of their Report refers) on the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Cabinet has agreed to adopt the document as supporting evidence for planning purposes.

The first Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region was developed in 2006. The new strategy has been produced by Cambridgeshire Horizons to provide a robust evidence base for funding of green infrastructure through a community infrastructure levy and other sources of funding.

**51. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY –
DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE – SUBMISSION DOCUMENT**

Further to Item No. 38 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 14th December 2011 and having been acquainted with the responses received from the final round of consultations on the Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy - Charging Schedule, the Cabinet has approved the Schedule's content and that of a Statement of Modifications for submission for Examination. Executive Councillors were advised that the modification has arisen as a result of comments made on the 'healthy levy rate' which has now been reduced from £140 to £65 per square metre.

In discussing the timetable for submission, the Cabinet has authorised the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing, to make any minor amendments to the final document.

52. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM WORKING GROUP

The Cabinet has been acquainted with details of a new web based site called “Shape My Place” which has been established by Cambridgeshire County Council. The initiative seeks to promote community engagement by enabling local public bodies to establish dialogue with local residents.

Executive Councillors were advised that the initiative has been successfully run as a pilot in Fenland and is supported by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. Having considered the scheme’s potential benefits and noting its likely costs, the Cabinet has agreed to adopt the “Shape My Place” Initiative in Huntingdonshire.

53. EU PROJECT – MOBILISING LOCAL ENERGY INVESTMENTS

The Cabinet has approved, in principle, the Council’s participation in Cambridgeshire’s Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Project which has been awarded funding totalling €1.2m for the delivery of energy efficiency and energy generation schemes across Cambridgeshire. The application was made jointly by five Cambridgeshire Local Authorities and Cambridge University to the European Commission’s Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation.

Having been advised that the project provides an opportunity for the District Council to receive €157,000 towards the cost of developing two significant business drive energy infrastructure projects in the District, the Cabinet has authorised Officers to proceed with the documentation required. However, given the current economic climate and any unknown factors, it has been recommended that a decision to draw down the European funding will only be taken when the Council is certain that the two projects will deliver.

54. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMPANY ARTICLES AND MEMORANDUM

The Cabinet has approved proposed amendments to the Articles of Memorandum of Cambridgeshire Horizons. The Company is currently winding down its operations and the changes are necessary to deal with the payment of monies previously advanced by them. At the same time, the Cabinet has authorised the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which will outline the basis on which returning monies are apportioned and the priority in which they are paid.

55. ONE LEISURE FINANCE

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

Having been acquainted with the outcome of the deliberations of the Working Group which had been established to review the financial performance of One Leisure and to make recommendations on the services' future direction, the Cabinet has:

- ◆ approved performance targets for income, controllable costs and net controllable costs;
- ◆ requested the General Manager, One Leisure to draft a business plan for the start of 2012/13 through which performance targets are to be achieved and to produce separate accounts for account reporting purposes and for managing the controllable budget; This business plan is to be presented to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) for review by June 2012;
- ◆ agreed that performance targets be reported to the Panel on a quarterly basis;
- ◆ agreed not to introduce a differential pricing scheme for non-residents of the District;
- ◆ approved the retention of the One Leisure Working Group in its current form to investigate which business model One Leisure should employ; and
- ◆ requested the One Leisure Working Group to assist the Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities with the development of a methodology for the quantification of "social value".

J D Ablewhite
Chairman