

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGETS 2002/03 (REVISED), 2003/04 AND
CAPITAL PLAN, DRAFT BUDGETS 2003/04 AND FORECAST 2004/05

Decision of: The Executive

Reference: 03/EXEC/01 (Forward Plan 02/58)

Date of decision: 30 January 2003 (recorded on 3 February 2003)

Decision Type: Key

Matter for Decision: An overall set of budget proposals for Council to consider on 13 February.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options) : To consider a budget for 2003/04, the Executive is required to recommend its proposals to Council.

The Executive's decision(s):

To recommend the following to Council in relation to the budget:

Part A - Revenue Budget 2002/03:

- a) Agree the request from the Executive Councillor for Housing and Health, to:-use savings in the current year (from one-off salary vacancy and fees overachievement) to part fund £27k of CPO revenue costs, and
- approve, in principle, his request to carry forward any of the sum not spent in the current year into 2003/04 for this purpose.
- b) Approve the overall revised budget for 2002/03, as shown in Appendix A for General Fund Services.
- c) Approve the level of reserves to be used to support the 2002/03 budget, as shown in Appendix C.
- d) Approve the carry forward of £148,010 from the 2002/03 budget into the 2003/04 budget (included in the Cash Limit adjustments), relating to Grand Arcade re CPO delay £69,140; Markets one-off consultancy budget £10,000; delay start of two year allotment post

£10,470; delay in Land Property Gazetteer £14,000; Committee Management £20,000 (TIF funded); Democratic Innovations £24,400.

Part B - Revenue Budget 2003/04:

- e) Approve the Revenue Bids and Savings shown in Appendix E which are built into the General Fund Summary. These include changes from the Executive Councillor for Community and Development, who has revised the savings since the Committee met for an increase to the assumed saving from swimming service re-tendering S10 (£3,000) and reduced savings to S04 Children's trips (£1,500) and S25 Children's Festival (£1,500).
- f) Agree with the recommendation from Civic Affairs Committee, not to approve the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation on Members' Allowances for phasing-in to be accelerated so that payments at the full recommended level are reached by 2004/05 (the impact of approval would have been to increase the expenditure on the Members' Allowances budget head, within Commercial and Human Resources Scrutiny Committee, by £16k in 2003/04 and £23k in 2004/05).
- g) Agree the action with regard to the bids made above Cash Limit, namely to approve additional ongoing savings of £20,500 identified from the existing budgets in Strategy & Partnerships for Leisure Policy. Approve the bid above cash limit by the Executive Councillor for Housing & Health for a two year post for an Anti-Social Behaviour project officer, funded primarily from the above additional saving, together with money from the existing Community Safety budget (£3,000) in 2003/04 and 2004/05. Towards the end of this period the post will be reviewed. The funding of £20,500 resulting from 2005/06 onward, as a result of the above, is to be made available to the Community Safety budget.
- h) Approve that the revenue contribution to Capital be reduced by £150,000 per year from 2003/04 (currently £1.55m p.a.)
- i) Approve the overall base budget for 2003/04, as shown in Appendix A.
- j) Approve the level of reserves to be used to support the 2003/04 budget, as shown in Appendix C.
- k) That the Council Tax Base and level of Council Tax for 2003/04, based on a 98% collection rate, be set as shown in Appendix G. The increase in the City Council level of Council Tax at Band D for 2003/04 to be from £116.62 to £126.59 (8.5%), as opposed to the 2.5% originally envisaged in the Medium Term Strategy.
- l) That the appropriate borrowing limits for 2003/04 should be:-
Overall borrowing limit: £48,000,000- Short-term borrowing limit: £35,000,000- Limit on the proportion of interest payable at variable rates: 75%
- m) Agree changes in the Council's approved lending list, as detailed in

Appendix H.

- n) Delegate to the Director of Finance authority to finalise changes relating to the reallocation of support service and central costs in accordance with the CIPFA Best Value Accounting Code of Practice.

Part C - Capital Plan:

- a) Agree the request considered by the Executive Councillor for Environment that the £50,000 in the Capital Plan in 2002/03 for SC138 Cycling and Walking Strategy be transferred to the Cycleways programme PR007 in the Capital Plan in order to secure matching funding from the County Council for cycleways in the current year.
- b) Amend the following schemes on the existing Capital Plan, as follows :-
Programme (PR009) Joint-Use Sports Facilities to be reduced by £50,000 in light of the alternative funding achieved for the Milton Climbing Centre- Cellarers Chequers Roof Repair (SC145) - £28,000 to be moved to the Hold List, reflecting works above the minimum required repairs -Scheme (SC081) Home Zones - £109,000 to be moved to the Hold List
- c) Agree that the capital bids, shown in Appendix F, for inclusion on the Capital Plan are to be approved, with the following added to the Hold List:- Executive Councillor for Commercial & Human Resources bid - Additional improvements to shop front forecourts (£22,000)- Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure bid - Lammas Land pavilion refurbishment / conversion (£25,000)- And that the Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure bid relating to the construction of a Parks Service contractor's building (facilitating the increase in use of Cherry Hinton Hall by EFS) at £50,000 be added to the Capital Plan, as opposed to the Hold List, subject to a satisfactory project appraisal.
- d) Agree the re-phased Capital Plan as outlined in Appendix D, which incorporates the above decisions.

Part D - Other matters for Consideration: Agree the action required regarding the issues identified under comments below.

Reasons for the decision: The decisions are required as part of the Council's budget process for 2003/04.

Report: : Agenda Item 5 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 28 January 2003. A summary position written and tabled by the Director of Finance which updated the Executive following the meeting of Strategy Scrutiny Committee on 28 January.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Executive.

Comments: - See also recommendation to Council 13 February 2003 and minutes for information. The Executive also considered the following which is copied here.

“Part D - Other matters for Consideration: To agree the action required regarding the issues identified below.

1) An update to the Government Revenue/Capital Funding will be made on 3rd February 2003.

2) South Cambridgeshire may be transferring some or all of their BCA to the City Council with the intention of this being used for Social Housing Grant at Cambourne. A decision is likely at their Council meeting at the end of February and a report will be presented to the March Housing and Health Scrutiny Committee when the position will be clearer. This will not impact on the Council's funds.

3) A report (exempt from public information) was considered by the Executive regarding the possible purchase for use in providing medical services for the homeless and ancillary accommodation for the Contact and Assessment Team (CAT). This will not impact on the Council's Funds as the capital costs will be met by the Homeless Directorate of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the running costs will be met from rental income. The Chairs and Spokes of Strategy, Commercial & Human Resources and Housing & Health had been advised at the same time.