

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

OPTIONS FOR TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ASSOCIATED WITH STREET DRINKING

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/31

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: Whether to recommend to Council that consultation should take place on introducing a Designated Public Places Order or a byelaw to deal with anti-social behaviour associated with street drinking.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): The Council has received a number of complaints from residents about the problems associated with street drinking in the City. Residents in the Mill Road areas have called specifically for the Council to consider a “street drinking ban” and a petition calling for the Council to consider adopting a Designated Public Places Order had been received. The options were detailed in the report to the Scrutiny Committee (17 November 2003)

The Leader’s decision(s):

To propose the option of a byelaw at the extra-ordinary Council meeting on 19 November 2003.
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Reasons for the decision: Based on Counsel’s opinion and noting the letter from the Chief Superintendent Needle of Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the Leader was minded to recommend the option of a byelaw as it could be implemented City-wide, and would focus on anti-social street drinking.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee commended the byelaw option to the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda item 5 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003. Briefing note from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (including Counsel’s opinion) (10 November 2003). Letter from Chief Superintendent Needle (13 November 2003).

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

SERVICE PLANS AND GENERAL FUND REVENUE & CAPITAL REVISED
BUDGETS 2003/04

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/32

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: The Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider whether service priorities and resources would need to be refocused to enable objectives and targets for 2003/04 to be met.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): The performance of services requires monitoring and Service Plans are the way Scrutiny Committees and the Executive can perform their function as part of the Council's revised Corporate Performance Management process. Part one of the process looks at in year performance.

The Leader's decision(s):

Note performance against the objectives and targets of the services (shown in Service Plans, Part 2 and Appendix A) that report to the Scrutiny Committee for 2002/03 and the first six months of 2003/04.

Agree, with any amendments, the revised revenue budgets for 2003/04, as shown in Appendix A for submission to Council, which will reduce the need for use of reserves by £68,530.

Reasons for the decision: These are covered in the reports.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations for the Leader. These were supported by 6 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda item 6 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
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SINGLE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS: USE OF THE COUNCIL'S RESERVES

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/33

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: Whether or not to endorse the proposal to draw funds from the Council's Reserves for the early years implementation of the single status agreement with repayment over a ten year period.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): The employers negotiating team believed that the best option was to consider use of reserves with pay back over 10 years to help fund the considerable up front costs in the first years of implementation. Significant costs are associated with protection payments for decreases in pay (over 3, 4 and 5 years) and changes to the travel scheme (over 3 ½ years). These were necessary to achieve agreement with the Trades Union and to soften the impact for the 120 staff affected by pay changes and 250 staff affected by travel changes.

The Leader's decision(s):

To endorse the proposals to draw funds from Council's reserves for the early years of implementation with repayment over a 10 year period.
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Reasons for the decision: The Collective Agreement has been negotiated within an overall cash envelope to ensure that jobs and services are protected. The proposed drawn down of reserves will mean that transition costs can be funded.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendation for the Leader and supported it by 5 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda item 7 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
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SERVICE PLAN AND GENERAL FUND REVENUE & CAPITAL REVISED BUDGETS 2003/04 - OVERVIEW

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/34

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: Whether revenue and capital resources need to be reviewed following the consideration of service plans in the November Scrutiny Committee cycle.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

Revisions to the 2003/04 budget are in response to circumstances that have arisen since the Medium Term Strategy was considered and approved by Council in July 2003.

The Leader's decision(s):

<u>To recommend to Council on 4 December 2003</u>

Revenue:

Note the variances and approve the overall revised revenue budget for 2003/04, as shown in Appendix A, which requires an additional use of reserves of £980,170.
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Capital:

Approve the capital schemes, new bids in the November cycle, paragraph 4.12 refers, for inclusion in the Capital Plan (no additional funding required).

Consider capital bids in the November cycle, paragraph 4.13 refers, for inclusion in the Capital Plan, including the additional use of reserves: Queen Anne Terrace and Office Accommodation
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Note the variances and approve the overall revised capital budget for 2003/04, as shown in Appendix B and note the impact on available capital resources, shown in Appendix C.
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Reserves:

Note the impact of revenue, capital and other approvals and approve the net use of reserves in 2003/04, as shown in Appendix D.

Reasons for the decision: These are stated on the report.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations for the Leader. These were supported by 5 votes to 0.

Report: : Agenda item 8 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

SAFER CITY GRANTS – RAWLYN COURT

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/35

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: Whether to agree a capital grant of £5,000 for Secured by Design Improvements for Rawlyn Court.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): An application for funding has been received and requires determination. The options would be to fund less than requested or not at all.

The Leader's decision(s):

To award £5,000 capital grant towards Secured by Design improvements for the Rawlyn Court refurbishment.
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Reasons for the decision: Achieving Secured by Design status for Rawlyn Court would provide a case study for other building projects within the city to learn from. Using Secured by Design principles is one way in which some services can build community safety thinking into their mainstream services – a duty for the council under S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. Rawlyn Court is a good place to start as it is in a high crime area and will have elderly residents who feel more vulnerable and so have a higher fear of crime.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendation for the Leader. This was supported by 5 votes to 0.

Report: : Agenda item 9 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

CREATION OF NEW POST OF PROCUREMENT MANAGER

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/36

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matter for Decision: Whether to approve the creation of a new post.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): Other options for securing additional procurement expertise are to train up an existing postholder to perform this role, or to buy in expertise from outside the Council as and when needed.

It is not thought realistic to expect an existing employee to take on this role in addition to their current duties. Officers had not been able to identify any post which has the capacity to do this. Buying in expertise from outside would be expensive and we would probably not gain the advantage of having someone in the organisation that could help to move us towards a "procurement culture".

The option of seeking a fixed-term appointment was considered. However, officers do not realistically see the need for this role to diminish after, say, 3 years; more likely the reverse, in fact. Also, a fixed-term contract might make it more difficult to attract a high calibre candidate in what is a very competitive market, with many public bodies chasing a limited pool of suitably qualified professionals.

The Leader's decision(s):

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| 1) To approve the creation and filling of a new post of Procurement Manager
2) To include provision of up to £50,000 pa , to cover the salary and on-costs, in the revenue budget for 2004/5 onwards |
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Reasons for the decision: The creation of this post will fill an identified gap in the Council's capacity to respond to increasingly important national and local procurement issues.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations for the Leader. These were supported by 6 votes to 0.

Report: : Agenda item 10 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP: ESTABLISHING A DELIVERY VEHICLE

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/37

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 20 November 2003)

Decision Type: Key

Matter for Decision: It seeks approval to the City Council becoming a member of the formal Infrastructure Partnership and to the nomination of the Leader to be the Council's representative.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

The reports the County Council (which were appended to the Scrutiny report) set out the background to this proposal. They describe the planning context through Regional Planning Guidance (RPG6) and the Structure Plan and the establishment of an informal sub-regional partnership.

The Deputy Prime Minister published the Communities Plan in February 2003. This includes the Cambridge Sub-Region as part of the London–Stansted–Cambridge corridor. The Plan identified the need for a formal delivery vehicle to ensure progress. Government has followed this up by requesting a formal proposal for the type of vehicle and by allocating funds (£2.1 million) to support the setting-up and running of the organisation.

The proposal is that a body be set up along the lines of an Urban Regeneration Company as a formal delivery vehicle for the Cambridge Sub-Region Strategy (Structure Plan). The favoured form is a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).

The purpose of the Partnership and its benefits are described in section 4 of Appendix II to the Strategy Scrutiny Committee report.

<p>The Leader's decision(s):</p>

<p>To agree that the City Council becomes a member of the formal Infrastructure Partnership Delivery Vehicle</p>
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<p>The Deputy Leader agreed that the Leader should be the nominated representative.</p>

Reasons for the decision: As stated in the report.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendation for the Leader and supported it by 6 votes to 0. See under comments.

Report: : Agenda item 11 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: - Councillor Durrant was also nominated to represent the Council but the Leader's nomination was carried by 6 votes to 3. The Leader undertook to promote open government by requesting that the Board meetings were open to the public with agendas and minutes publicly available.

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
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RECEPTION FACILITIES - MANDELA HOUSE/HOBSON HOUSE AND THE
GUILDHALL

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/38

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 19 November 2003)

Decision Type: Key

Matter for Decision: Whether or not to recommend to Council budgetary provision to enable refurbishment of the receptions at Mandela/Hobson House and the Guildhall to proceed.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): The reports to the Scrutiny Committee provide detail on why the decisions had to be made and the options. Alternative options were (i) retaining the status quo (ii) permutations of each scheme (iii) phasing either or both schemes.

The Leader's decision(s):

Mandela/Hobson House Scheme

1) To agree that officers negotiate terms with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to accommodate a reception team for SCDC in Mandela/Hobson House. This element of the 'Option 2' scheme (as detailed in the report) is to be undertaken in advance because of the urgency of SCDC's timetable.

2) The remainder of the Mandela/Hobson House scheme is to be considered for inclusion in the capital plan subject to further work on costs because of the decision taken in 1) above and capital provision being made available during the 2004/05 budget process.

Guildhall Scheme

3) That, subject to Council, £40,000 capital provision be made available in 2003/04 to enable the Tourist Information Centre back office refurbishment to take place (para 5.2.12 refers although amended to £40,000 by the Director of Environment and Planning on 17/11/03).

4) That the Customer Service Centre (option A) be deferred and the scheme reviewed in autumn 2004.



Reasons for the decision: The Leader recommended the decisions recorded above to the Scrutiny Committee during the discussion.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations for the Leader. These were agreed by 6 votes to 0.

Report: : Agenda item 12 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003. Notes of the Office Accommodation Working Party 3 November 2003. Update from the Head of Revenues on the Mandela Reception (containing exempt information para 7/9 pg 182 of the Constitution).

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

THE MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE

Decision of: Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 03/STR/39

Date of decision: 17 November 2003 (recorded on 19 November 2003)

Decision Type: Not key

Matters for Decision:

1. Whether to instigate a review of the allowance payable to the Mayor.
2. Whether to review the allowance paid to the Deputy Mayor at the same time.
3. If a review is instigated, who should carry it out.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

A review had been recommended by the Council's Internal Auditors and had been identified earlier in a Democratic Services continuous improvement plan, following a Best Value review.

One option would have been to decline to commission a review of the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's allowances on the basis of the level of work involved and the priority accorded to a review.

If a review was to be carried out, the options were for it to be undertaken by the Strategy Scrutiny Committee, by the Independent members Allowances Panel or by another body.

<p>The Leader's decision:</p> <p>To ask the Civic Affairs Committee to review the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and to make recommendations to the Strategy Scrutiny Committee and to the Leader on the following bases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• past and current Mayors/Deputy Mayors should be consulted;• members of the Council who have not held mayoral or deputy mayoral office should be invited to express views;• the review should take account of tax and benefits issues and should seek to minimise any adverse implications for those in receipt of benefits;• the review should produce a clear breakdown of what the

allowances are to be used for and a statement of what other financial support is given by the Council;

- the allowances should be based on the principles that they should not be remunerative, that the postholders should not be out of pocket and that the scheme should be simple to administer.

Reasons for the decision:

A review was appropriate as it was good practice, periodically, to review all allowances.

The Civic Affairs Committee was the appropriate body to carry out the review, as it would be better placed than the Allowances Panel to take account of the nature of Cambridge's mayoralty, which was a necessary consideration when looking at the level of allowances. (The level of allowance will influence the role which the Mayor can play. Lying behind the question of the level of the allowance is the question of what sort of mayoralty the Council wishes to see in Cambridge.)

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee had commended the Leader's decision by 7 votes to 0.

Report: : Agenda item 13 of Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 17 November 2003.

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Leader.

Comments: -