

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**18 November 2004
2.30pm – 5.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Smith (Chair), Bradnack, Ellis-Miller, Hughes, Hymans (alternate for Councillor Stebbings), Kightley and Slatter (Vice Chair).

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR PRESENT: Cllr J Rosenstiel (Community Development & Leisure)

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**04/CDL/46 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2004 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

04/CDL/47 APOLOGIES

Councillors Boyce, Callaghan and Stebbings.

04/CDL/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared personal interests as indicated below. They remained in the room and took part in discussions.

Name	Interest
Cllr Bradnack	Member of the Advisory Board Foundation Scheme
Cllr Hymans	Member of COPE
Cllr Kightley	Member of Cambridge Athletics Club
Cllr Rosenstiel	Member of the Advisory Board Foundation Scheme

04/CDL/49 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

04/CDL/50 SERVICE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS and General Fund Revised Revenue and Capital budgets 2004-05 *(see also Record of Decision 041118/CDL/29)*

The Accountant introduced the report and following some initial comments made the following recommendations:

- a) Note performance against the objectives and targets of the services (shown in Service Performance Reviews, Part 2 and Appendix A) that report to this committee for 2003/04 and the first six months of 2004/05.
- b) Approve, with any amendments, the revised revenue budgets for 2004/05, as shown in Appendix A for submission to Council, including a request for use of reserves of £80,110.

- c) Seek approval from Council to carry forward resources to fund rephased capital spending of £678,000 from 2004/05 into 2005/06, as detailed in Appendix C, subject to the final outturn position.

The Service Plans were introduced and set out the performance over 2003-04 and for the first six months of 2004-05. The Committee considered whether service priorities and resources should be re-focussed to enable objectives and targets for the current year to be met. The following points were made on certain Service Plans:

Arts and Entertainment

Cllr Slatter commented that with the reduction in car parking (as a result of the Grand Arcade Project) this may cause problems for the Corn Exchange in accommodating performers and customers. She suggested that a message be sent to all councillors and the public about what other alternatives for parking were available. Executive Cllr Rosenstiel advised that notices were already being handed out at the Corn Exchange and she would instruct the City Centre Manager to circulate a leaflet to all councillors. Cllr Rosenstiel added that there will be a Grand Arcade briefing on 5 January 2005 that will cover this issue.

Community Development

Cllr Bradnack commented that while his party was committed to having policies on Community Development he had a problem with how the service plan was being presented. He said that too many project completion dates were March 2005 and that in his opinion this reflected the ongoing nature of many community development activities. Cllr Bradnack suggested a re-think on how the service measures and presents information on performance. The Head of Community Development said that he was happy to consider other ways of presenting information on services to assist scrutiny and would be happy to provide ideas for improvement.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/CDL/51 OPTIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION SERVICE (see also *Record of Decision 041118/CDL/30*)

The Head of Economic Development and Tourism introduced the report and after providing an overview recommended the following:

- A That officers be directed to develop and finalise details for Option 4 and Option 5 ahead of reporting to the January committee.
- B That officers be authorised to consult staff regarding the options for the future of the Employment Foundation Scheme.

Cllr Slatter asked who would fill the void if the Council withdrew from the scheme and what would happen to existing staff and would they benefit if the scheme was extended. The Employment Foundation Scheme Manager (EFSM) advised that a private training contractor would replace the Council and thus provide the training. In regard to staff the EFSM advised that the majority of people were basic skills tutors

and, due to a national skills shortage in this area, they would have little difficulty in finding work and thus would not require a scheme extension.

Cllr Bradnack commented that option 4 would also need to be considered by the Strategy Scrutiny Committee as it involved budgetary issues for Cherry Hinton Hall.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/CDL/52 FOLK FESTIVAL: PRODUCTION TENDERS 2005-2007 *(see also Record of Decision 041118/CDL/31)*

The Assistant Head of Arts and Entertainment introduced the report and following some initial comments made the following recommendations:

- A Agree to go and allow Officers to tender, and award contracts for a maximum three year period (two years for Power & Lighting), in order to achieve continuity and value for money and to save officer time.
- B Agree to allow Officers to award contracts, for one year initially, to the most favourable tenders in accordance with pre-determined selection criteria and based on Officers' specialist knowledge.
- C Agree to delegate authority for the approval of extensions, in years two and three as appropriate, to the Director of Central Services and Director of Finance. Extensions will be based on satisfactory service delivery assessed on pre-determined criteria.

The Committee resolved that in future the value of individual contracts should not be published in committee reports and the report and website be amended accordingly.

The Committee agreed the recommendations and amendment (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as amended.

04/CDL/53 PROJECT APPRAISALS – PARKS AND RECREATION *(see also Record of Decision 041118/CDL/32)*

The Head of Parks and Recreation introduced the Project Appraisal Form(s) and recommend the refurbishment of the following areas:

- a) Church End Cherry Hinton – refurbish play area
- b) Ramsden Square – refurbish play area
- c) Coleridge Recreation Ground – refurbish play area
- d) Ditton Fields Recreation Ground – refurbish and fence
- e) Queen Edith's Recreation Ground – refurbish play area
- f) St Albans Recreation Ground – install multi sport area
- g) Abbey Sports Centre – refurbish sports centre
- h) Trumpington Recreation Ground – reinstate tennis court

i) Sheeps Green/Lammas Land – repile Snobs Brook

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/CDL/54 PROJECT APPRAISALS REPORT – Community Services (see also *Record of Decision 041118/CDL/33*)

The Head of Community Services introduced the report and made the following recommendations:

- A. To approve a partnership approach to improvements at Buchan St Neighbourhood Centre with Cambridge Sure Start, and to develop a programme of improvements to the Centre which can be implemented in phases to match the availability of resources.
- B. To approve an S106 contribution of £70,000 for improvements to East Barnwell Community Centre, subject to agreement with the County Council over access.
- C. To approve an S106 grant of £100,000 for improvements to Arbury Community Centre as part of a wider partnership with the County Council and Cambridge Sure Start or independently, if the larger project cannot proceed.
- D. To note the contribution of £145,800 from the S106 Strategy for improvements to Brown's Field Recreation Ground and to approve a further allocation of £30,000 from S106 funds for the decoration and equipping of the Centre to be carried out in conjunction with local people.

Cllr Slatter moved that the Head of Community Services (and his officers) be given delegated authority to negotiate legal agreements in consultation with the Chair, Spokes and Executive Councillor. The Committee agreed (by five votes to zero) to support Cllr Slatter's motion.

The Committee agreed the recommendations as amended (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as amended.

04/CDL/55 COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO GRANTS (see also *Record of Decision 041118/CDL/34*)

The Head of Community Development introduced the report and made the following recommendations:

- A. To approve the Committee of Inquiry objectives set out in section 4 of the report:

- To consider all activities currently funded and to rank them in order of importance in terms of achievement of the Council's Medium Term Objectives and their role in addressing issues arising from the growth and development of the city.
- To examine activities funded in each of the policy areas i.e. Community Development and Leisure, Safer City, Sustainable City, Economic Development and Housing and rank them in order of importance in terms of achievement of the Council's Medium Term Objectives and in addressing issues arising from the growth and development of the city.
- To provide "best practice" guidance on scrutinising the outcomes of the work of grant aided voluntary groups.
- To provide guidance on how to manage shifts in priorities for funding at a time when grant budgets are reducing.
- To consider ways in which innovation and the development of new ideas can be maintained when budgets are under pressure.
- To recommend ways to involve the public in decisions about future grant priorities.

B To agree the Inquiry Programme outlined in section 8:

The Inquiry would take place during February and March next year with a report of its findings being published for consultation and scrutiny by June 2005.

C To agree the Committee of Inquiry Panel membership recommended in section 7.

- Independent Chair
- 5 Liberal Democrat Members
- 2 Labour Members
- Conservative Member
- 2 Voluntary Sector Invitees
- An officer from another Local Authority or Funder
- Director of Community Services (Professional Adviser)
- Executive Councillor for Community Development and Leisure (In attendance)

Cllr Bradnack suggested that the reference to funding and budgets in the inquiry objectives be removed as this was a political issue and not an inquiry objective. He also suggested that the Inquiry membership be reduced (to make it more workable) and only contain officers and invitees who can provide expert advice to the Scrutiny Committee and Executive Councillor for their consideration.

Cllr Slatter moved that bullet points four and five of the inquiry objectives (section 4.1) be removed and replaced with:

- To provide guidance on how to manage shifts in priorities.
- To consider ways in which innovation and the development of new ideas can be maintained.

The Scrutiny Committee resolved (by five votes to zero) to accept Cllr Slatter's motion.

The Committee agreed the recommendations as amended (by five votes to zero) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as amended.

CHAIR