

**ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**9 July 2002
(10.00 – 3.05pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Dixon (Chair), Bailey, Baker, Blencowe, Bradnack, Hipkin, Pinnington, Stuart and Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Nichola Harrison, Executive Councillor for Environment

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

02/ENV/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Durrant.

02/ENV/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

02/ENV/3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public wished to address the Scrutiny Committee.

02/ENV/4 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN FOR 2001/02 AND BUDGET CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS INTO 2002/03 *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV /4)*

The Director of Finance highlighted new requests for carry forward which had been included in Appendix C of the report.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report (by 6 votes to 0).

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations which would be forwarded to Council, via the Leader, for determination.

02/ENV/5 MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

The Director of Finance presented a report which set out the financial context in which the budget for the following year would be made, issues which were or would be facing the Council, policy priorities and an indication of the approach which Executive Councillors were minded to take in respect of preparing budget proposals. The document also outlined proposals for consulting the public regarding budget matters.

Members noted that the approach taken this year to involve all Scrutiny Committees

in the process would be reviewed. Councillor Bradnack suggested the word 'scrutiny' be replaced in paragraph 8.43. It was noted that views could be submitted to the Leader prior to Strategy Scrutiny Committee on 15 July.

02/ENV/6 A JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY *(See also Record of Decision 02/CHR/6)*

The Scrutiny Committee noted that the bid for Government funding for an extension of the Green Bin Scheme had been unsuccessful. The Executive Councillor stated that it was likely the Council would wish to bid for Government funding in a second round of bidding in the autumn.

Councillor Bradnack was not satisfied with the proposed Recycling Plan and in particular the cost effectiveness and other merits of using recycling boxes against the Green Bin. The Executive Councillor stated that although the Council had made considerable progress, there were enormous challenges to meet the recycling targets for 2003/04 and that dry recycling and composting schemes would both be needed in order to achieve recycling targets. It would be impossible to meet the 2003/4 target of 28% without a successful outcome in the second round of bidding for Government (recycling) funding.

The Committee agreed that as the figures for recycling were available on a monthly basis, the information should be made available to members and the public. The Committee also agreed that it would be helpful if the monthly figures could be provided on the Council's website.

In response to a question from Councillor Pinnington on involving hard-to-reach groups, such as those in sheltered housing, the Executive Councillor stated that the Recycling Officer had been addressing the matter on a case by case basis and the results would be reported to Scrutiny Committee in the autumn.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report (by 9 votes to 0 on recommendation 2.1 and by 6 votes to 3 on recommendation 2.2).

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/7 CAMBRIDGE CITY URBAN CAPACITY STUDY

The Director of Environment & Planning requested that the Committee agree to amend recommendation 2.4 of the report to read 'that the Executive Councillor be authorised in consultation with the Chairs and spokes to amend the study in the light of comments received prior to its final publication.' This was agreed by the Committee and the Executive Councillor concurred.

In reply to a question concerning the Council's response to be put to the Structure Plan Examination in Public, the Committee was advised that there would be a

requirement to hold a special meeting in late September [later agreed to be 20 September at 10.00am] to agree the response.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer advised the Committee that the phrasing used to explain the use of compulsory purchase powers (para. 4.5 of the covering report and 1.6 of the Study) was meant to indicate that the use of such powers were not to be ruled out, but neither was there a requirement to seek any new policy on the use of such powers. The Committee agreed (and the Executive Councillor concurred) that the section be re-worded:

‘Such decisions will rest with the landowner as your officers do not see a need for the Local Planning Authority to change its policy on compulsory purchase powers to facilitate the assembly of housing development sites. For the most part, in Cambridge, this can successfully be left to market forces.’

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (as amended in 2.4) for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

**02/ENV/8 CAMBRIDGSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT 2002** *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/8)*

The Scrutiny Committee was advised by the Head of Policy & Projects that the Council was awaiting Annexe E (the detailed statement by the County Council of its requirements for a LRT system between Huntingdon and Addenbrookes). It was agreed that recommendation 2.1 be amended to reflect that the County’s report be endorsed subject to any further comments the Council would wish to make after consideration of Annexe E, subject to consulting Chair and spokes.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations by 7 votes to 2 (as amended in 2.1) for the Executive Councillor in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

**02/ENV/9 CONSULTATION REPORT ON CAMBRIDGE WALKING AND
CYCLING STRATEGY** *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/9)*

Members of the Scrutiny Committee raised the issues of signage, enforcement by the police and safe cycling. The Cycling & Walking Officer stated that the County Council was looking at signage as part of its review of access to the city centre. With reference to the police, the Committee was advised that they had not attended past meetings of the Cycle Liaison Group and but having taken on board members’ comments, police attendance should be encouraged.

The Committee agreed with the recommendation (by 6 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/10 A PUBLIC ART PLAN *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/10)*

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to nominate Councillors Baker and Bradnack to the Public Art Steering Group as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 7 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/11 PLANNING OBLIGATION STRATEGY *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/11)*

The Special Projects & Implementation Manager advised the Committee of proposed revisions to the suggested Strategy following additional comments from the consultation exercise and the implications of a recent Planning Appeal. Both the proposed revisions and additional comments were tabled. The Committee agreed to an additional recommendation (2.2) 'that the Executive Councillor be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Planning Obligation Strategy based on the tabled information having consulted Chair and spokes.'

The Director of Environment and Planning advised members that Planning Committee would be advised immediately of the Planning Appeal decision on open space to inform any imminent decisions required.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/12 LOCAL NATURE RESERVES *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/12)*

The Committee was advised that the Community Development & Leisure Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 4 July with no adverse comment.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 9 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations subject to the Labour spokesperson being consulted.

02/ENV/13 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - SUSTAINABLE CITY GRANTS ANNUAL REVIEW 2002 *(See also Record of Decision*

02/ENV/13)

The Head of Policy & Projects tabled an amended sheet to the report with revised figures for tables 6.1 and 6.2.

Councillor Bradnack proposed two amendments:

- 1) that mapping poverty information should be used when assessing grants
- 2) that organisations should be able to bid for PPF funding in addition to grants.

The Executive Councillor agreed that mapping poverty should be used and the Head of Policy & Projects agreed to build this into the process next year. The proposal regarding the use of PPF was a debate which had been gone through before (at City Board) and if to be put again, was for the Strategy Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 7 votes to 0) as amended by (1) above) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/14 STRATEGY FOR TACKLING FLY POSTING *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/14)*

In response to a request from Councillor Blencowe, the Head of Street Services undertook to provide details (to all members) of the number of prosecutions the Council had pursued in the last 10 years.

Councillor Ward requested that the report include the Arbury Community noticeboard
In appendix 3.

Councillor Bradnack circulated photographs of a site in Granchester Street which had become through 'community' use an unofficial noticeboard and suggested that the Council would need to consider carefully that which is acceptable fly posting and that which is not.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 7 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/15 GOOD PRACTICE IN COACH BASED TOURISM *(See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/15)*

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/16 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – WAR MEMORIAL & MARKET SQUARE FOUNTAIN – APPLICATION TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND** (*See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/16*)

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations, subject to the Labour spokesperson being consulted.

02/ENV/17 **USE OF URGENCY POWERS**

- a) **Bid for Government funds for recycling**
- b) **Amendments to the walkway agreement for the Grafton Centre**

Under the bid, the Committee was advised that the Council had been unsuccessful, but no reasons had yet been received (see also minute 02/ENV/6).

02/ENV/18 **THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY AGREEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT AREA JOINT COMMITTEE** (*See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/18*)

Councillor Blencowe raised concerns over the quality of the work undertaken by contractors in the city centre. The Head of Street Services agreed to meet with the Councillor to discuss the issues further.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

02/ENV/19 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES** (*See also Record of Decision 02/ENV/19*)

The Committee noted that the nominations from the Liberal Democrat Group were as in the report. Councillor Bradnack requested that the officers investigate with the relevant bodies whether an additional place was permissible for the Bus Policy Advisory Group and the Cambridgeshire CA Waste Forum. If so he nominated Councillor Durrant to both and if not, whether the papers from each could be made available.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the nominations listed on the agenda.

02/ENV/20 **DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS** (*See also Record of Decision*

02/ENV/20)

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

Other business

The Director of Environment & Planning advised the Scrutiny Committee that a special meeting would be required in September to agree the submission to the Examination in Public (of the Structure Plan). The Committee agreed to 20th September at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 3.05pm

CHAIR