

**STRATEGY  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**15 July 2002  
(6.30 – 8.00pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Smart (Chair), Bagnall, Bradnack, Currie, Knowles, Schofield, Stuart and Ward.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor David Howarth, The Leader, Councillor Colin Rosenstiel, Deputy Leader and Councillor Joye Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****02/STR/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Durrant and Sian Reid.

**02/STR/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following personal interests were declared.

Councillor Bagnall, in her personal capacity on the management committee of Cambridge Women's Aid and Women & Homelessness; Council observer on CIAC and Enterprise Agency (02/STR/9).

Councillors Currie, Knowles and Ward members of Cambridge-Szeged Society (02/STR/11) and Councillor Knowles as Non-Executive Member of the PCT (02/STR/14).

Councillor Schofield in his personal capacity as a trustee of Wintercomfort (02/STR/10)

**02/STR/3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

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

The Director of Finance highlighted new requests for carry forward which had been included in Appendix C of the report. The Committee was advised of a reference (tabled at the meeting) from the Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure (CD&L) to carry forward £9,508 from the Youth Employment & Skills PDP and that it be vired for use on the YETI project. Councillor Bagnall supported the proposal as put at CD&L by Councillor Reed. Councillor Knowles stated that she was unsure whether the YETI project was the best (or only) youth activity that should benefit from the carry forward. Councillor Joye Rosenstiel elaborated on the discussion which had taken place at CD&L Committee.

The Leader advised the Committee that although he would agree to recommend to Council the carry forward the Executive Councillor for CD & L was best placed to determine whether it was put towards YETI or other youth provision.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Leader as stated in the report with the additional carry forward of £9,508 (by 7 votes to 0).

The Leader agreed to the recommendations which would be forwarded to Council for determination.

**02/STR/5 COUNCILLORS NOTIFICATION UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR /5)*

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

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/6 MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR /6)*

The Chair ruled under 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the covering report of the Director of Finance circulated on 11 July be considered despite not being made publicly available three clear days prior to the meeting as, although it did not contain new information, had to be considered as it brought together the recommendations which members of the Committee had to focus on.

The Leader highlighted the budget pressures for 2003/04 detailed in section 8 of the document. The Director of Finance circulated to members a summary of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review announced that afternoon, of which the Leader commented, offered no reason to change the projections in the Strategy. The Committee noted that agenda items 12 and 13 would need to be built into the Medium Term Strategy if approved.

The Director of Finance proposed a further recommendation:

'To delegate agreement of the Council's response to the draft Local Government Bill and consultation on the Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution to the Leader, after consultation with Chair and spokes.'

The Committee agreed (by 5 votes to 0) the recommendations 2.1 - 2.8 and the additional recommendation above for the Leader, as stated in the report.

The Leader agreed to the recommendations which would be forwarded to Council for approval (except the additional recommendation above which does not require Council approval), subject to any changes to the Medium Term Strategy resulting from decisions taken under agenda items 12 and 13.

02/STR/7     **PROJECT APPRAISAL – UPGRADING THE COUNCIL E-MAIL AND FILE SERVER** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/7)*

The Committee agreed (by 5 votes to 0) with the recommendation for the Leader as stated in the report.

The Leader agreed to the recommendation.

02/STR/8     **IMPLEMENTING E-GOVERNMENT STATEMENT** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/8)*

The Committee agreed with the recommendation for the Leader as stated in the agenda.

The Leader agreed to the recommendation.

02/STR/9     **GRANT FUNDING TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR – ANNUAL REVIEW AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR A COMPACT** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/9)*

The Leader proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.3 as follows:

'To approve the principles embodied in Appendix 6 as the basis for further discussions with the voluntary sector.'

The amendment was agreed by 6 votes to 2.

Councillor Bagnall expressed disappointment that the Council was still unable to offer a single gateway and 'pot'. She was also concerned over the capacity of the Council to reflect its policies within the allocation and distribution of grants, and for example by using the Mapping Poverty data more effectively. Councillor Bagnall proposed that the Council should make the Priority Policy Fund open to bids from external applicants either alone, or in partnership with the Council, and proposed this as an amendment. This was lost by 5 votes to 3.

The Leader stated that he had some sympathy with Councillor Bagnall's amendment as the Council would be promoting partnership working through budget bids in 2003/04 as stated in the Medium Term Strategy (section 2.37). The Council was making progress toward a single gateway but it was important that the Compact was completed first. Mapping Poverty data would be used more and the Council would be doing more to incorporate its use.

The Committee agreed (by 5 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Leader as stated in the report and amended above.

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/10 SAFER CITY GRANT** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/10)*

The Leader requested that the Committee agree to defer consideration of the application from Wintercomfort until the Council had completed negotiations for a Service Level Agreement.

The Committee agreed with recommendation 2.1 (Kingsway Residents Association) for the Leader as stated and agreed to defer consideration of the application from Wintercomfort.

The Leader agreed to the recommendation in 2.1.

**02/STR/11 GRANTS TO TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/11)*

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

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/12 CITY LOTTERY FUND REVIEW** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/12)*

The Leader proposed that the Fund should be designated Revenue rather than Capital. In response to a query from Councillor Stuart, it was confirmed that an application for capital would not necessarily be refused as revenue funding could be converted to capital. The Leader proposed that £10,000 be allocated to the Fund.

The Committee agreed with recommendation 2.1 and 2.4 for the Leader as stated in the report and to the Fund being designated revenue expenditure set at £10,000.

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/13 MOBILE PHONE MASTS – APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON OFFICER** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/13)*

The Leader advised the Committee that the funding for the post was for two years and any extension or request to make the post permanent would be the subject of a budget bid at the appropriate time.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations (by 5 votes to 0) for the Leader as stated in the report.

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/14 MAPPING POVERTY RESEARCH 2002: A REVIEW OF KEY FINDINGS** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/14)*

The Committee welcomed the report and that the information would prove a valuable resource for the Council and its partners. Councillor Stuart requested that future work on mapping attempted to identify better student poverty, possibly in conjunction with the Universities, although it was acknowledged that if pursued would have to be a separate exercise. The Leader agreed that this should be looked into.

In response to a request from Councillor Bradnack, the Leader undertook to report back on whether there were any plans and strategies to which item 1.9 of the Action Plan would not apply.

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

The Leader agreed to the recommendations.

**02/STR/15 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/15)*

The Committee nominated Councillor Smart to the Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee (by 5 votes against 2 votes for Councillor Durrant) and Councillors Bagnall and Slatter to the LGA Urban Commission, subject to Councillor Slatter confirming her nomination.

**02/STR/16 DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/16)*

The Chief Executive requested that the current delegations be amended to include 'Performance Management including Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Best Value'

The Committee agreed with the recommended change.

The Leader agreed to the recommendation.

**02/STR/17 DATE OF STRATEGY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN JANUARY 2003**

The Committee agreed to change the date of the meeting to Tuesday 28 January.

**02/STR/18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee resolved to exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by Categories 3, 7 (02/STR/ 20) and 8

(02/STR/19) as defined in the Council's Constitution part 4B (page 154).

**02/STR/19 CORPORATE CONSULTATION PROGRAMME – COUNTY WIDE PROCUREMENT** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/19)*

The Committee received a four page summary of the evaluation of tenders. The Committee noted that Bostock Marketing Group was the recommended contractor subject to final contract being agreed.

The Committee agreed with the recommendation for the Leader in the report as amended above.

The Leader agreed the recommendation.

**02/STR/20 NDR IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS TO BE WRITTEN OFF** *(See also Record of Decision 02/STR/20)*

After discussion, the Committee agreed that 31316840 should be pursued further by the Director of Finance, with the remainder written off as recommended.

The Committee agreed with the recommendation for the Leader in the report as amended above.

The Leader agreed the recommendation.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

**CHAIR**