

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

23 January 2003
2.30pm – 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Knowles (Chair), Cllrs Bailey, Callaghan, Ellis-Miller, Hart, Howell, James, Hannah Reed, Sian Reid, Slatter

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr J Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Community Development And Leisure

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

03/CDL/01 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

03/CDL/02 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

03/CDL/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Knowles declared personal interests in minute number 03/CDL/06B as a non-executive director of the Primary Care Trust and as a member of the board of Guidance Education & Training. She remained in the room and took part in the discussion.

Councillor Slatter declared personal interests in minute number 03/CDL/06B as a member of the board of Cambridge Independent Advice Centre, as a trustee of Trumpington Village Hall and as a member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade. She remained in the room and took part in the discussion.

03/CDL/04 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public Mrs D Runnicles addressed the committee on two issues:

1) Older People's Services – she welcomed the invitation at the Mayor's Day In for older people to put their views on provision and improvement of services. There had been many ideas put forward then and the Phoenix project attracted extra funds after the seed funding from the Council. She expressed concern at the possibility that services might be reduced.

The Executive Councillor replied that there was an on-going commitment to older people via support for the two advice agencies and Age Concern. It was possible for Phoenix groups still to benefit. There was to be an additional £10,000 available despite continued pressure on the Council's budget.

2) Community Development Programme – Mrs Runnicles was concerned at the proposed reductions in the budget for the Community Development Programme. As a fund raiser for the Petersfield Area Community Trust she knew that it was the work of the Community Development team that had helped to generate positive

community action and improve available resources in an area with 10% poverty and high crime rates.

The Executive Councillor replied that work would continue in Petersfield to support community development. The area would also benefit from S106 agreements and initiatives such as the skateboard park.

The Chair thanked Mrs Runnicles for her contribution and invited her to stay to hear the discussion on the budget.

03/CDL/05 **DRAFT BUDGETS AND SERVICE PLANS FOR 2003/04** (*see also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/01*)

The Committee considered the Service Plans in turn asking questions of clarification:

i) **Arts and Entertainments**

The Head of Arts and Entertainments introduced the report. He highlighted that the benefits of the restructuring would be evident in the future with the integration of functions, roles and budgets. He particularly mentioned the strong performance of the Corn Exchange which the Committee endorsed.

The Chair also commended the success of all the partnership working mentioned in the Service Plan.

The Head of Strategy and Partnerships reported on the Council's partnership with the Junction CDC located in the Strategy and Partnerships team.

ii) **Community Development**

The Head of Community Development introduced the report commenting that this was a time of change for Community Development with the Best Value Fundamental Service Review due to report in March 2003. The priorities for the service, in the coming year, would be to consolidate good work and to implement the service improvements arising from the review. The Service's contribution to several partnerships would continue to be important. This would include work on community safety; with children and young people; on the Community Legal Services Plan; the voluntary sector compact and grant aid strategy and assisting with the development of the Council's equalities work. If Area Committees were introduced then he was anticipating there would be a community development contribution to those.

iii) **Parks and Recreation**

The Head of Parks and Recreation introduced the report. All areas had been subject to Best Value Fundamental Service Reviews and these were driving the service. The final Sports Service Strategy and that for Parks were to come to Committee in March. Funding was to come from S106 agreements, Sport England and the tender for the swimming contract.

iv) **Economic Development and Tourism**

The Head of Policy and Projects handed out an updated sheet for Table 3 giving performance information and targets for the Service Plan 2003-2004. He introduced the report by saying that the picture was a mixed one. There was a need to track different outcomes such as 'soft' skills. There was to be a review in the autumn 2003

focused on the mix of training delivery.

The Chair suggested that the programme of events throughout the year which were aimed at boosting the City Centre's appeal to both tourists and residents should include celebration of a range of events from all cultures.

The Committee then considered the Review of Charges. Councillor Reed proposed an amendment to increase the charge for an adult swim from £3.20 to £3.25, retain the Leisurecard A price for Adult and Junior at the current charge.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost by 3 votes to 7.

Councillor Howell stated that he felt that the savings were not valid as charges had been substantially increased.

The Executive Councillor introduced the Draft Budget by putting it in a broader context. The Council settlement from Central Government was much less than anticipated at 3.3% while there were increases in expenditure. Therefore it was difficult to maintain existing levels of services. However, this portfolio still had the largest budget and would continue to deliver high quality services. The savings were to come from not filling the Senior Community Development Officer post and using S106 money to repair play areas. There were bids for funds for work with older people and to address health inequalities.

Councillor Hannah Reed proposed a number of amendments and the Labour Group asked for the votes to be recorded by name:

1. To re-instate the £1500 to fund the summer trip for children from low income families (S04)

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by 3 votes (Councillors Callaghan, Hart, Hannah Reed) to 6 (Councillors Bailey, Ellis-Miller, James, Knowles, Sian Reid, Slatter)

2. Use £2500 to re-invest in work with disabled groups (S05)

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by 3 votes (Councillors Callaghan, Hart, Hannah Reed) to 6 (Councillors Bailey, Ellis-Miller, James, Knowles, Sian Reid, Slatter)

3. Use £7500 to continue to fund the Bandroom (S05)

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by 4 votes (Councillors Callaghan, Hart, Howell, Hannah Reed) to 5 (Councillors Bailey, Ellis-Miller, Knowles, Sian Reid, Slatter)

The Committee agreed to the recommendations as stated in the reports as follows:

- a) Approve, with any amendments, the charging policies for this committee and any review of charges, shown as Annexe 1, before the Appendices, to this report (by 6 votes to 3).

- b) Agree the performance targets (in Services Plans table 3) and proposals and other objectives (in Services Plans table 4) by 6 votes to 0.
- c) Approve, with any amendments, the revised budget for 2002/03, as shown in Appendix A, for submission to Strategy Scrutiny Committee. Changes since these were reported to this committee in the October/November cycle are shown in Appendix B (by 9 votes to 0).
- d) Agree proposals for revenue savings and bids, as set out in Appendix C, which have been incorporated into the budgets presented to this committee (by 6 votes to 3).
- e) Agree the Capital Bids, as identified in Appendix C, that should be submitted for consideration by Strategy Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in the Capital Plan or addition to the Hold List as indicated (by 9 votes to 0).
- f) Approve the revised cash limit for 2003/04 as shown in Appendix D (by 9 votes to 0).
- g) Approve, with any amendments, the budget for 2003/04 as shown in Appendix A (which excludes bids above the Cash Limit), for submission to Strategy Scrutiny Committee (by 9 votes to 0).

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as stated in the reports.

03/CDL/06A FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2002/03 *(see also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/02)*

The Grants Manager introduced the report. The Chair asked whether organisations which did not meet all the grants criteria fully should be given grants. The Grants Manager explained that some of the more fragile groups, working for disadvantaged communities, needed ongoing support to develop their ability to work with external agencies and she considered it important to sustain that support.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as stated in the report.

03/CDL/06B KEY DECISION VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS GRANTS 2003/04 *(see also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/03)*

The Grants Manager tabled an information card for councillors about the Council's Community Development & Leisure Grants 2003-2004. Funds allocated to core funding would be held at 02-03 levels which was 85% of the total sum available. The Executive Councillor said that an even split of the remaining budget into 5% each for new projects, efficiency measures and small organisations would be considered. Recommendations for core grants had generally been held at 02-03 levels. Final allocations of core, new project and efficiency grants would be made at the March committee meeting when the budget was known.

Community Development grants policy priorities:

Councillor Hannah Reed asked whether the remaining funds might be used to support more groups developing new projects and those benefiting because of efficiency measures. There were many organisations with a long-standing relationship with the Council which made it difficult for new groups to be considered. Parts of the voluntary sector needed support to get them working efficiently.

Councillor Sian Reid thought that priority C “supporting a flourishing and diverse voluntary sector particularly through capacity building” needed to have money specifically allocated to it to indicate that the Council was serious about it.

The Executive Councillor said that the implications of the Government’s cross-cutting review, legal services review and the Best Value Fundamental Service Review which were to take place in the coming year would make a difference to the grants process in 2004/05.

Economic Policy grants:

Councillor Hannah Reed asked whether there was any long term strategy for addressing the fact that there was going to be a reduction in European Union funding in the future. The Head of Policy & Projects replied that the new Head of Economics & Tourism should be in place soon and would undertake a major review in the first 6 months in post.

The Committee noted that many organisations in this sector had larger reserves than other sectors and that the Grants Manager would be issuing a fact sheet on the Council’s reserves policy.

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

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as stated in the report.

03/CDL/07 PARKER’S PIECE: CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
(see also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/04)

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

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as stated in the report.

03/CDL/08 KEY DECISION PARKS, COMMONS, OPEN SPACE & PLAY AREA STRATEGY – SCOPE AND POSITION STATEMENT *(see also Record of Decision 03/cd&l/05)*

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

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations as stated in the report.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

CHAIR