

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

3 July 2003
2.30pm – 6.45pm

PRESENT: Councillor Reid (Chair), Boyce, Bradnack, Callaghan, Ellis-Miller, Howell, Liddle, Slatter, Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr J Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Community Development And Leisure, Cllr Schofield (Alt) for discussion at minute..

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

03/CDL/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

03/CDL/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adigun-Harris.

03/CDL/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared personal interests as follows; they remained in the room and took part in the discussion:

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| James | Membership of Arbury Community Centre Steering Group | 03/CDL/40 |
| Bradnack | School Governor of School contemplating taking over after school activities | 03/CDL/34 |

The Executive Councillor declared a prejudicial interest as follows; the Leader would make a decision in relation to the related grant application:

03/CDL/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two members of the public addressed the committee

Keith Bennett, CIAC

Mr Bennett drew members attention to and spoke on a report by the CIAC on the concerns of the voluntary sector over funding, with specific reference to legal services funding.

Loric Menzies

Mr Menzies outlined a number of concerns and suggestions relating to youth participation in the city.

Members responded to the comments by the speakers and the Executive Councillor confirmed the Council's commitment to support for the voluntary sector and to the youth participation in the city.

03/CDL/27 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL FINAL OUTTURN FOR 2002/03 AND BUDGET CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/14)*

The officers' report set out the final outturn position for the financial year 2002/03, in respect of those services reporting to this Committee. The report highlighted any significant variances from budget and updates the requests for approval to carry forward certain budget under-spends to 2003/04 (subject to the Council's final overall outturn position).

The Director of Environment and Planning spoke in relation to the significant deficit on the Employment Foundation Scheme budget. The details of the deficit were set out in appendix B1 of the report and amounted to £131,471 on a budget of £228,540. The deficit had arisen due to increased activities of the service and staffing changes during the year, which had not been effectively managed and monitored. Improved financial arrangements had been introduced and an action plan to respond to the situation was set out in the Business Plan elsewhere on the committee's agenda.

Except for identifying specific carry forward requests in Appendix C for approval by Council, the Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/28 MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2004/05 TO 2009/09 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/15)*

The report by the Director of Finance responded to Part 4C (Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution which included the requirement for the issuing of a Medium Term Strategy (MTS) document. This document 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.

A copy of the draft Executive Summary of the MTS was being submitted to all Scrutiny Committees for the purpose of consultation, the aim being to ensure that all appropriate items have been taken into consideration in developing the strategy. The final version was then to be submitted to Council on 17 July 2003 for adoption.

The Committee did not put forward any views on the MTS for consideration by the Leader.

03/CDL/29 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2002/03 AND FUNDING STRATEGY FOR 2004/05 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/16)*

The Council's Best Value Review of Grants to Voluntary Organisations had recommended that each grant-giving Committee establish a funding strategy for the grants in their remit to contribute to a corporate grants policy. The Best Value review recommended that each committee consider their draft strategies in June each year and these should be submitted City Board as part of an Annual Report to enable the Council to scrutinise its arrangements for grant aiding the voluntary sector. The report reviewed the grants that were awarded in 2002/03 in the context of the funding strategy for Community Development grants and the corporate policy.

Liberal Democrat members proposed the following changes to the 2004-05 grants objectives

CD1 3 from: 'Increase awareness and celebration of the city's cultural diversity' to 'Increase awareness of and celebrate the City's cultural diversity, and challenge intolerance towards it'.

CD2 Bullet Point 6 to read

- Encouraging joint working where appropriate
- Encouraging Innovation

Subject to these amendments, the Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/30 KEY DECISION - REVIEW OF LEISURE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2002/03 AND FUNDING STRATEGY FOR 2004/05 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/17)*

The Council's Best Value Review of Grants to Voluntary Organisations had recommended that each grant-giving Committee establish a funding strategy for the grants in their remit to contribute to a corporate grants policy. The Best Value review recommended that each committee consider their draft strategies in June each year and these should be submitted City Board as part of an Annual Report to enable the Council to scrutinise its arrangements for grant aiding the voluntary sector. The report reviewed the grants that were awarded in 2002/03 in the context of the funding strategy for Community Development grants and the corporate policy.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/31 KEY DECISION - REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2002/03 AND FUNDING STRATEGY FOR 2004/05 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/18)*

The Council's Best Value Review of Grants to Voluntary Organisations had recommended that each grant-giving Committee establish a funding strategy for the grants in their remit to contribute to a corporate grants policy. The Best Value review recommended that each committee consider their draft strategies in June each year and these should be submitted City Board as part of an Annual Report to enable the

Council to scrutinise its arrangements for grant aiding the voluntary sector. The report reviewed the grants that were awarded in 2002/03 in the context of the funding strategy for Community Development grants and the corporate policy.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/32 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2002-03 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/19)*

The Committee noted the following grants which had been awarded under the delegated authority to officers from the 2002-03 Community Development and Leisure grants budget:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------------|
| CAMTAD | £470 | for exhibition costs |
| Seesaw Playgroup | £584 | for running costs |
| Farrago Dance Group | £120 | for running costs |

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/33 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2003-04 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/33)*

The report sets out the officers' recommendation on applications for 2003-04 grants from voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working in Community Development, Economic Policy and Leisure.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/34 KEY DECISION - STRATEGY FOR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/20)*

The report responded to one of the outcomes of the Best Value Review of Community Development, completed in March 2003, to prepare a new strategy for the service's work with children and young people. Specifically, it had been agreed that "services for children and young people should be reconfigured to support the implementation of a new strategy and to provide service delivery options."

The BVFSR final report had considered many areas in which children and young people were affected by the Council's work and actions and also areas of need that required support, either from the Council or through partnerships. These considerations form the background to the proposed strategy and the actions flowing from it.

This area of work increasingly involved cooperation with a wide range of voluntary organisations and public services and a commitment to the engagement of service users in decisions about the services they receive.

The Council had been a strong supporter of services for children and young people and had developed a reputation for innovation, most recently, for encouraging the participation of children and young people in its work and decision making.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/35 EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION SCHEME BUSINESS PLAN APRIL 2003 – MARCH 2004 *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/21)*

The report outlined the Business Plan of the Employment Foundation Scheme and suggested priorities for the Action Plan. The Business Plan followed the appointment of a new manager to the Employment Foundation Scheme in January 2003 and the appointment of Head of Economic Development and Tourism in April 2003. The Scheme had therefore gone through a significant period of assessment and review resulting in the submission of a Business Plan for the 2003/04 period for adoption. The Plan outlined priorities for consolidation and development during the year and highlighted actions to ensure the financial viability of the section.

Members discussed the possible structure of the proposed Management Board and a timetable for its establishment. They felt it was imperative to have at least a shadow structure in place pending formal approval by the Executive Councillor during the November cycle.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 7 votes to nil, subject to the addition of a further recommendation:

- 4 In consultation with the Chair and spokesperson, to set up a shadow Board of Management with draft Terms of Reference before the next meeting of the Committee with a view to finalising arrangements for Management of the EFS at the Scrutiny Committee in November 2003.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/36 STREET SCENE SERVICES CONSULTANCY REPORT ON FUTURE PROCUREMENT *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/22)*

The report by the officers referred to the decision by the Environment Committee at its meeting in March 2002 following considerations of the findings of the inspection of the BVFSR of Streets and Open Spaces. It was agreed to appoint consultants to:

- Independently evaluate the effectiveness and value-for-money of the Council's delivery of street services; and
- Provide advice, information and recommendations on how these services are delivered in the future.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/37 KEY DECISION - PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY (See also record of decision 03/cdl/23)

The officers' report responded to the need identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Management Best Value Review for a strategic document to guide future development and maintenance of the City's parks, commons and play areas.

On 28 June 2001 the Community Development and Leisure Committee approved the final report and action plan of the Review. Action point 1.1 of the review required the officers to develop and implement a Parks and Open Space Strategy in accordance with the Council's strategies the Local Plan and residents' expectations to direct the preparation of detailed conservation and management plans for individual parks and open spaces.

In September 2002 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued Planning Policy Guidance 17 which recommended that local authorities develop an overall open space, sport and recreation strategy which would carry out an assessment of all open space available to the public whether in public or private ownership. It also recommended that this strategy also reviewed the provision of sports halls and community facilities available to the public.

The Head of Parks and Recreation drew attention to amendments to the draft document following a meeting of the Corporate Management Team which would be incorporated in the final consultative draft of the Parks and Open Space Strategy.

Members noted that an Executive Summary would be prepared prior to consultation being carried out.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil, subject to the final consultative draft Parks and Open Space Strategy being submitted to the Executive Councillor, Chair and Spokespersons prior to publication.

03/CDL/38 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved to exclude members of the public from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and set out in Appendix 1 of Part 4B of the Council's Constitution.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/39 CAMBRIDGE SWIMMING SERVICES AND CHERRY HINTON VILLAGE CENTRE TENDER EVALUATION (See also record of decision 03/cdl/24)

At its meeting on 8 November 2001 the Community Development and Leisure Committee had instructed officers to subject the City Council's swimming pools, paddling pools and Cherry Hinton Village Centre to competitive tendering. The aim of the process was to provide an integrated swimming service in the city managed by a single contractor and to market test the service. The Committee had recognised that it was not in the best interest of the service to have the swimming facilities in a city

the size of Cambridge managed by two separate providers. There were clear weaknesses in terms of consistency, efficiency, service provision and cost effectiveness. The officers' report and executive summary of the Tender Evaluation Process, co-ordinated by the appointed consultant company, Strategic Leisure, set out options, details of the evaluation and proposals for the contract

Members considered the report and commented as follows:

Cllr Bradnack was concerned about the conclusion of the evaluation which he felt was not supported by the process leading up to it. He commented that the bids were not made on an even basis and would result in a lower level of service.

Cllr Howell felt that the process had been deeply flawed and the timetabling of meetings with bidders and the Scrutiny Committee had been unsatisfactory. His view was that two of the companies bidding for the contract were on a par and deserved to be considered on an equal basis. He was also concerned that the inclusion of the management of the Village Centre in the contract had not been the subject of consultation in accordance with a previous decision.

Cllr Schofield agreed that the timetabling had been unfortunate, but expressed confidence in the process, the extensive preparatory work and the capability for the development of the partnership.

The Head of Parks and Recreation reaffirmed the details of the evaluation and the procedure of identifying 'preferred partners' which had been carried out independently and had complied with a well-established process. The consultation process would incorporate public discussion of the inclusion of the management of the Village Centre.

Councillor Howell's proposal that the matter be deferred to allow for relevant interested parties to take the bid by DC Leisure into account was lost by 6 votes to 4. (Councillors Bradnack, Callaghan, Howell and Wright voted in favour of the proposal).

Councillor Bradnack's proposal that the contract with the preferred bidder run for 5 years rather than 7 was lost by 6 votes to 4. (Councillors Bradnack, Callaghan, Howell and Wright voted in favour of the proposal).

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to 3. (Councillors Bradnack, Howell and Wright voted against the recommendations).

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/40 **PROJECT APPRAISALS** (*See also record of decision 03/cdl/25*)

Approval had previously been given to the projects set out below, project appraisals for which were circulated with the agenda:

- A St Matthew's Piece Play Area Refurbishment. £29,000
- B Skateboard Areas ~ Coleridge and Kings Hedges Recreation Grounds
£100,000
- C Trumpington Recreation Ground multi sport area £29,000
- D Trumpington Recreation Ground Play Area refurbishment £78,300
- E Midsummer Common path edging re-enforcement £55,000

- F Wildlife Strategy £40,000
- G Abbey Pool lift installation £27,000
- H Manor Community School grant to indoor sport facility £227,000

The Committee agreed to the recommendation that the Executive Councillor approve project appraisals for these schemes by 8 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/41 **MIDSUMMER COMMON - CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES** *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/26)*

The report referred to recent public consultation showing dissatisfaction amongst residents concerning the condition of some of the city's public conveniences. To address these concerns the Executive Councillor for Environment and Planning had initiated a programme of refurbishment and rebuilding of public conveniences with the aim of providing facilities that meet the users expectations. The block along Victoria Avenue/Midsummer Common formed part of the rebuilding programme. The footprint of the new building differed in a small way from that of the existing, it was necessary for the affected areas of Midsummer Common to be formally removed from public open space use.

Councillor Bradnack commented that the Labour Group opposed the location of toilets on this site as it felt there was over-provision in the centre of the city.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to 3.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/42 **HOLBROOK ROAD PLAY AREA** *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/27)*

The report referred to a grant application in early 2002 by Homerton Nursery School under the Government's "Early Excellence Centre" scheme. This scheme provided capital money for fifty nursery schools in the United Kingdom to become a Centre of Excellence for pre school children. While the prime aim of the award was to enhance facilities for young children there was a general benefit to the local community that there would be improved facilities available out of school hours.

Homerton Nursery School was situated on a very small site adjacent to Holbrook Road play area and, while there was sufficient room for the additional buildings required for this project within the curtilage of the school, it did require building on their current, very small, outdoor play area.

The governors of the nursery school had asked the City Council to consider selling or leasing a strip of land approximately 30 m x 8 m immediately adjacent to the nursery school. This area was currently an informal area of small trees and bushes. If the transfer of land took place it was the school's intention to keep all the trees but remove the undergrowth and provide a grassed area for outdoor informal play. There would be a secure fence between the two properties.

When the housing in the area was first built, the area now used as a play area was an allotment site. By the 1960's it had largely fallen in to disuse and became derelict. About 20 years ago the residents requested that it be used as a play area and so it became Holbrook Road Play Area. Unfortunately the land had not been formally removed from allotment use at that time and so before any sale or lease could be finalised this consent had to be obtained.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 4 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/43 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/28)*

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend the following:

| <i>Organisation</i> | <i>Representatives</i> |
|---|---|
| Arts Forum for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough | Cllr Adigun-Harris |
| Folk Museum | Cllrs White and Wright |
| Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service | Cllrs Bradnack and Reid |
| Cambridge Enterprise Agency | Cllr Schofield |
| Cambridge Independent Advice Centre | Cllrs Slatter (alt Ellis-Miller) and Ellis-Miller |
| Cambridge Sports Hall Trust (Board) | Cllr Schofield |
| Cambridge Women's Resources Centre | Cllr Bagnall and Ellis-Miller |
| Cambridgeshire Careers Guidance Centre 33 | Cllr Smart |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | Cllr Liddle |
| Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Partnership | Cllr Dixon |
| East Barnwell Community Centre | Cllr Durrant |
| Eastern Orchestral Board | Cllr R Smith |
| Guidance, Employment & Training Group Junction | Cllr White |
| Manor Community Sports Hall Steering Group | Cllr Reid |
| | Cllrs Bradnack, Callaghan, Hipkin, Howell, Schofield |
| | Cllrs Bell and James |

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/CDL/43 NOMINATIONS TO SCHOOLS GOVERNING BODIES *(See also record of decision 03/cdl/29)*

The Committee noted that no nominations had been made for the vacancies on a number of School Governing Bodies
Recommended that officers advise the Clerks to the relevant Governing Bodies of the situation and further efforts be made to seek nominations.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

CHAIR

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