

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**29 April 2004
2.30pm – 5.25pm

PRESENT: Councillor J Smith (Chair), Adigun–Harris, Boyce, Bradnack, Callaghan, Ellis-Miller, Howell, Liddle, Slatter, Wright

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

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**04/CDL/16 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

04/CDL/17 APOLOGIES

There were no a apologies for absence.

04/CDL/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

04/CDL/19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

**04/CDL/20 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, CARRY
FORWARDS AND SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES FOR 2003/04**

The report set out the latest position against revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2003/04. Any anticipated significant variances were highlighted and requests for approval to carry forward budget under-spends to 2004/05 (subject to final out-turn) were set out in the report. Revenue carry forward requests totalling £55,910 were noted and capital slippage of £230,000 which required re-phasing.

Carry forward requests totalled £55,910; variance for the Community Development and Leisure budgets amounted to an underspend of £230,00 the majority of which arose from slippage, requiring re-phasing of the projects. The Employment Foundation Scheme budget had been anticipated to overspend by £48,000, but a re-examination had reduced this to £33,000, subject to further confirmation.

Labour Group members and Cllr Howell queried the rationale in carrying forward £6,000 underspend from the Community Facilities – Support for Area Committees budget and reallocating it for Area Committee promotion work by the Committee Section.

Councillor Howell's amendment that the Carry Forward of the Community Facilities – Support for Area Committees underspend be deleted was lost by 4 votes to 6.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/CDL/21 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2003-04

The report set out recommendations on applications for grants from voluntary and not-for-profit organisations working in Community Development, Economic Policy and Leisure. The Grants Manager (Community Development and Leisure) pointed out that the grant of £14,700 to Youth Action Cambridge for 2004/05 remained unclaimed and would be subsequently reallocated.

Members welcomed the CAB application for funding to prepare a premises strategy, in partnership with other providers. The request was based on a clear definition of a coherent, city wide community legal advice service intended to maximise resources, rationalise provision, improve access and make appropriate use of different methods of service delivery. Members encouraged Council officers, particularly in Planning and Property departments, to assist and advise the project team as appropriate.

Members discussed the circumstances of the application by the Cambridge Independent Advice Centre and welcomed the opportunity to consider their budget for 2004/05. The Grants Manager said she would pursue the points raised.

Councillor Howell's amendment that the CIAC be grant funded as for the full year was lost by 1 vote to 6.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/CDL/22 PROJECT APPRAISALS:

Stourbridge Common Play Area Refurbishment

Drainage of Coldham's Common Play Area

Christ's Pieces Play Area Refurbishment

Hard Surface Cherry Hinton Hall Car Park

Kings Hedges Learners Pool Refurbishment

Installation of a Vertical Platform Lift at Cherry Hinton Hall

The committee was asked to approve a number of Project Appraisals of Projects for which funding has been included in the Council's budget or secured from the other sources shown in each appraisal.

The Committee agreed to recommend the Executive Councillor to approve the Project Appraisals as set out by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/CDL/23 JUNCTION CDC – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The report set out the terms of the annual service level agreement with the Junction CDC in accordance with the funding agreement with them.

Members raised a number of issues including the future of the Drama Centre the lease of which would revert to the Council in May 2005, the concern over fly-posting of events, safety of the Junction's customers, improved marketing of community events and recycling of waste.

The committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/CDL/24 KEY DECISION EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION SCHEME BUSINESS PLAN

The report said that the Employment Foundation Scheme (EFS) had undergone considerable internal restructuring during 2003-04 in accordance with the Service Plan for Economic Development and Tourism This had set out the objectives for EFS in the context of the Council's Medium Term Objectives. The Business Plan attached as an appendix sets out how the EFS element of that Service Plan was to be delivered during 2004-05, including detailed goals and actions

The EFS budget had been anticipated to overspend by £48,000, however further examination of the figure reduced this to approximately £33,000. The figures were still subject to final confirmation.

The statistics on the trainees had not been collated until recently and these would be routinely reported to the EFS Board and could be made available to members of this committee.

The committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/CDL/25 KEY DECISION DRAFT CAMBRIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The report said that the last Economic Policy Statement had been approved in 1999 and had been due to be reviewed in 2003. The restructuring within the Environment and Planning Department during 2003 delayed this review process. A full review of the Council's economic development activities had begun in the summer of 2003 in conjunction with reviews of the Local Plan and other strategic reviews.

The report was being made to both the Environment and Community Development and Leisure Services Scrutiny Committees because of the overlap of the areas of their responsibilities.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 6 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations relating to its area of responsibility.

04/CDL/26 KEY DECISION **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY**

The purpose of the Strategy was to set out the new provision, protection and enhancement of open space required to meet the needs of the expanding city, and the mechanisms for implementation.

The Strategy would be an umbrella document to co-ordinate related strategies and to guide priorities for spending at a strategic level. It was required under Planning Policy Guidance 17, and was essential to support the policies in the Local Plan.

Members discussed the proposals in the strategy in some detail and expressed concern on the relationship of the standards which were to be appended to the Local Plan to obtaining funding for grant aid and the effect of population growth on their relevance. They noted it was recommended that the wording of the Strategy be agreed by the Executive Councillors for Environment and Community Development and Leisure in conjunction with the relevant Chairs and Spokespersons prior to stakeholder consultation and suggested that improvement of the standards for Indoor Sports provision be taken into account prior to stakeholder consultation.

The committee agreed the recommendations by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm

CHAIR