

**ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

13 July 2004
10.00am – 1.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors Reid (Chair), Adey, Baker, Bradnack, Churchill, Durrant, Herbert, Holland and Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: Executive Councillor (Environmental Services): Cllr Coleman
Executive Councillor (Planning and Transport): Cllr Bailey

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

04/ENV/35 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

04/ENV/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

04/ENV/37 APOLOGY TO GLENYS MALYON

The Chair formally apologised to Mrs Malyon, on behalf of the Committee, who had been denied her full speaking rights at the meeting of 27 April 2004.

04/ENV/38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal interests under the Code of Conduct were declared:

Minute Number 04/ENV/:45

The Chair (Cllr Reid) as a member of the Preservation Society.
Cllr Adey in regard to the position of his allotment.
Cllr Ward in regard to the position of his back garden.

Minute Number 04/ENV/:52

The Chair (Cllr Reid) as owner of a Building of Local Interest: 27 Millington Road, Cambridge.

04/ENV/39 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

**04/ENV/40 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL FINAL OUTTURN,
SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES AND CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS
FOR 2004/05** *(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/26)*

The report by the Director of Finance asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the additional carry forward requests, totaling £11,280 as detailed in Appendix C. The Committee was asked to consider requesting approval from Council to carry forward resources to fund rephased capital spending of £88,000 from 2003/04 into 2004/05, as detailed in Appendix D, subject to the final outturn position.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendations as amended for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

04/ENV/41 MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

The Committee and Executive Councillor considered the Medium Term Strategy report by the Director of Finance and agreed, by 6 votes to 0, not to express any additional views to the Leader.

As there were no additional views expressed by the Committee the Executive Councillor was not required to make a decision.

04/ENV/42 PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) BID FOR WASTE SERVICES
(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/27)

The Head of Environmental Health and Waste Strategy introduced the report and commented that because of the financial uncertainty of the PFI credits the council should consider entering into a partnership agreement.

Members asked whether withdrawing from the PFI credit scheme would jeopardise income from the government and any other benefits that might occur. The Head of Environmental Health said that the financial position was unclear at this stage.

Cllr Durrant was concerned that in relation to the recommendations in paragraph 2.3.2 and 2.4, the Committee was being asked to consider something even though terms had not been agreed at this stage. Cllr Durrant's proposal that 2.3.2 and 2.4 be deleted was lost by 6 votes to 3. The Committee agreed (unanimously) to amend recommendation 2.3.2 by replacing the word 'if' with the word 'when'.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) to the recommendations, as amended, to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations as amended.

04/ENV/43 SECOND REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF AIR QUALITY (*See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/28*)

The Director of Environmental Health and Waste Strategy introduced the report and commented that the Committee and Executive Councillor would need to:

- consider the contents of the Air Quality Review and Assessment
- note that the national objective for nitrogen dioxide was unlikely to be met by the due date in 2005;
- consider the Air Quality Management Area for an area as detailed in the report (Appendix 1).

Members questioned the positions of the six automated monitoring sites and commented that the data may not provide an accurate reflection of the city as they had been in the same positions for a long time. Members suggested that the sites be moved so more information became available.

The Principal Pollution Officer said that the sites had to be in the same position in order to accurately measure air pollution over a period of time. He said that if they were moved on a regular basis then it would not be possible to draw any accurate long term conclusions.

Members raised the issue of pollution from cars, buses and HGV and the enforcement of drivers having to switch off their engines when in long term traffic queues. Members suggested that more data was required. Cllr Herbert proposed (which was lost by 6 votes to 3) that officers prepare a report for the next meeting on this issue,.

The Chair advised that the Joint Area Committee was considering the issue of car emissions and queuing in October. She said that the County Council was looking at increased powers to stop cars and test for emissions.

Members commented that in London it was estimated that 2000-3000 people per year died from complications associated with air pollution and asked whether there was any similar information available about Cambridge.

The Principal Pollution Officer advised that he was unaware of any information in regard to deaths from air pollution in Cambridge. He said that if there were any figures available he would expect them to be considerably lower than London.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes) the recommendations to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

04/EN/44 CONSULTATION OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OPTIONS TO MEET THE COUNCIL'S WASTE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (See also Record of Decision 04/EN/29)

The Head of Environmental Health and Waste Strategy introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the process of public consultation on how the Council can meet its waste management objectives.

Certain Members queried the public consultation process and asked whether the Executive had already decided on an enforcement and fine system to reach the desired recycling targets. Comments were made by other Members that the consultation on waste recycling was to gauge public response and that no prior decision had been made at this stage.

Some Members commented that there was little detail on how the budget was to be spent and that the recycling options needed to be clearer and, as a result, they were unable to take part in the process at this stage.

Cllr Baker proposed to amend the recommendation to include the words "or should Labour and Conservative decline to participate" and was agreed by 6 votes to 0.

Cllr Ward proposed that the word 'process' be removed from the recommendation. The Committee agreed to the amendment by 6 votes to 0.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations (by 8 votes to 0), as amended, to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations as amended.

04/ENV/45 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY (See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/30)

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the content of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy and adopt it as Supplementary Planning Guidance. He also asked that the following revised recommendations be considered:

2.1 To adopt those elements of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy relevant to the 1996 Local plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to that Plan.

2.2 To adopt the Open Space and Recreation Strategy as Statement of Council Policy to support the policies in the new Local Plan, and guide the development of Area Action Plans and supplementary planning documents and as a material consideration in the determining of planning applications.

2.2. To recommend the Executive Councillor, in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson, to agree the final wording of the Strategy

The Committee agreed to the revised recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the revised recommendations.

04/ENV/46 REVIEW GRANTS OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2003/04 AND FUNDING STRATEGY FOR 2005/06 – SUSTAINABLE CITY GRANTS *(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/31)*

The Head of Policy and Projects, Environment and Planning, submitted the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the 2005/06 funding strategy for Sustainable City grants, as set out in paragraphs 7.1 – 7.3 of the report.

Members commented that the Council was not spending the money that had been allocated for this process and that more work needed to be done to promote the scheme as there was sufficient money in the budget for more projects.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/47 CORE SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS – ANNUAL UPDATE 2004

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the report.

The Committee agreed to note the recommendation to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to note the recommendation.

04/ENV/48 CAMBRIDGE TOURISM SERVICE (VISIT CAMBRIDGE) BUSINESS PLAN 2004-2005 *(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/32)*

The Head of Economic Development and Tourism introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the Tourism Business Plan for 2004-2005.

Members asked whether the level of hotel accommodation was catching up with demand. The Head of Economic Development and Tourism commented that Cambridge received about 4.5 million visitors per year and approximately 900,000 stayed over night. He said that there was an obvious lack of capacity if more people decided to stay over night and managing these pressures was difficult.

Members commented that he would like to see an improvement in the marketing of tourism in Cambridge with more city destinations being advertised.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/49 CAMBRIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2004-2005
(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/33)

The Head of Economic Development and Tourism introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the Economic Development Strategy for 2004-2007.

Members pointed out that poverty levels remained high in Kings Hedges, Abbey and Arbury and that Cambridge, along with the rest of the country, was experiencing a good economic climate and therefore more should be done to address poverty. It was suggested that an Action Plan be developed on this issue and that members be consulted.

The Head of Economic Development and Tourism advised that further research on poverty could be undertaken, however, further resources would need to be allocated through the budget process.

Executive Cllr Bailey acknowledged the views of Members and advised that they had been noted.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 6 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/50 AMENDMENTS TO PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) (See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/34)

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to note the results of the consultation

undertaken as part of the Local Plan, in respect of the current Car & Cycle Parking Standards as given in the existing Parking Standards SPG.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 5 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/51 PROTECTION AND FUNDING OF ROUTES FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE CITY CYCLE NETWORK (*See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/36*)

The Head of Policy and Projects presented the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the content of the responses to the consultation on the draft "Protection and funding of routes for the future expansion of the City Cycle Network" and adopt the document as Supplementary Planning Guidance'.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 5 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/52 BUILDING OF LOCAL INTEREST (*See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/37*)

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the draft supplementary guidance on Buildings of Local Interest (BLIs), including the list of BLIs as appended, and to approve them as the basis for public consultation.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 4 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/53 MID-PERIOD REVIEW OF THE CITY WIDE ARBORICULTURAL STRATEGY 2000-2007 (*See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/38*)

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider the recommendations to progress the Arboricultural Strategy.

Cllr Durrant proposed that the recommendations contain some consideration and overview of Hedgerows protection. The Committee considered the proposal and agreed (by 7 votes to 0) to add an amendment to recommendation 1 to incorporate Hedgerows protection.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 5 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/54 LOCAL NATURE RESERVES *(See also Record of Decision 04/ENV/39)*

The Head of Policy and Projects introduced the report and asked the Committee and Executive Councillor to consider :

- the development of the role of the Community Reserves Liaison Officer over the next 24 months;
- the principle of a funding bid for a post beyond 2006 when funding from English Nature Ceases;
- the establishment of a LNR Working Group.

The Committee agreed the recommendations (by 5 votes to 0) to the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/ENV/54 APPOINTMENT TO REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Executive Councillor agreed to the following nominations by the Committee:

- i) Archives County Advisory Group: Cllr Durrant.
- ii) Bus Strategy Reference Group: Cllrs Bailey, Hughes and Barrett-Payton
- iii) Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee: Cllr Coleman
- iv) Cambridge Transport Reference Group: Cllr Bailey
- v) Cambridgeshire Councils Association Waste Forum: Cllr Coleman
- vi) Joint Strategic Planning Panel: Cllr Bailey
- vii) East of England Tourist Board: Cllr Bailey
- viii) Northstowe Member Steering Group: Cllr Bailey
- ix) Rail Policy Advisory Group (formerly Rail Strategy Group): Cllr C Rosenstiel

Meeting closed at 1:00pm

CHAIR