

STRATEGY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**22 January 2007**

6.00pm –7.18pm

PRESENT: Councillors Armstrong, Blackhurst, Boyce, Bruce (Chair), Herbert, Hymans, Shah, Stafford and Ward (Vice-Chair).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith, The Leader. Councillor Sian Reid, Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport (for 07/STR/07)

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**07/STR/01 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 20 November 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

07/STR/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

07/STR/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

07/STR/04 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

**07/STR/05 SERVICE PLANS, DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2007/08
(i) Strategy & Partnerships and (ii) CCTV (See also Record of Decision
07/STR/01)**

Referring to recommendation h in the report, the Leader advised the Committee that the Executive would be asked to review the Council's Hold List at its meeting on 25 January.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader approved the recommendations for submission to the Executive.

**07/STR/06 2007/08 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – OVERVIEW (See
also Record of Decision 07/STR/02)**

The Committee noted a tabled update report from the Director of Finance.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations (as amended in the update report) for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader approved the recommendations for submission to the Executive.

07/STR/07 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY *(See also Record of Decision 07/STR/03)*

The Chair proposed amendments to the recommendations in the report as follows

Delete all and replace with:

- 1) that the principles and approach of a Cambridge Climate Change Strategy presented in the report are approved and supported by Councillors where appropriate;
- 2) that the lead Member for the Cambridge Climate Change Strategy be the Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport who will liaise closely with the Leader;
- 3) that the Leader be responsible for ensuring that the corporate and partnership engagement of the council with the Cambridge Climate Change Strategy is maximised;
- 4) that the Leader and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport jointly report progress in developing the Cambridge Climate Change Strategy to the Strategy Scrutiny Committee.

The amendment was approved by 7 votes to 0.

In response to questions from Cllr Stafford about the engagement and consultation process, it was agreed to copy the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to those members who wished to see it. The Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport confirmed that good progress had already been made with engagement. She also welcomed Cllr Herbert's comment that the Labour Group was keen to work with the Executive on this issue.

Answering a question from Cllr Herbert about a lack of performance indicators or other means of measuring success, the Leader stated that the Strategy was a framework. PIs and other measures were to be developed as and when the issues in the Strategy were better understood and where relevant shared with partners.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations as amended above for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader agreed the recommendations as amended.

07/STR/08 CORPORATE BUILDING MAINTENANCE SERVICES CONTRACT SUITE
(See also Record of Decision 07/STR/04)

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader agreed the recommendations.

07/STR/09 **MONEY TRANSMISSION (BANK) CONTRACT** *(See also Record of Decision 07/STR/05)*

In response to a question from Cllr Shah about banking ethos and links to the Council's own values, the Director of Finance stated that the tendering process would include (within the legal framework of such procurement) relevant evaluation methods.

Action by DoF/Procurement Manager

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader agreed the recommendations.

07/STR/10 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH BILL AND ASSOCIATED WHITE PAPER** *(See also Record of Decision 07/STR/06)*

In introducing the report the Head of Strategy & Partnerships advised the Committee that the Bill had received its second reading earlier that day. Regarding Local Area Agreements, the Committee noted that from April 2008 Government funding would move to a single pot rather than through the current themed areas. It was also noted that the County Council would not be subject to Community Call for Action.

Cllr Ward gave the proposals for overview and scrutiny a cautious welcome but commented that the North Area Committee had had no difficulty in arranging for partners to be scrutinised (eg Stagecoach). Cllr Herbert hoped that the spirit of the Community Call for Action would not be watered down by the City Council's own interpretation. Cllr Boyce requested that the Council support the Single Transferable Vote for local elections. Councillors Ward, Boyce and Blackhurst all commented on the Bill's highlighting of parishes.

The Leader proposed that representations are submitted to the LGA (copied to the City's M.P's) and that the issues covered include those raised in the officer report and the following:

- The list of partners subject to overview and scrutiny should include NHS Trusts
- To highlight that not all two tier authorities have county-wide LSPs (and therefore how the requirements of the Bill will be delivered)
- Community Call for Action – (i) the legislation needs to be flexible enough to enable continuation of the Council's developing approach to Area Committees and Neighbourhood Policing (ii) that County Councils are excluded is unfortunate
- Introduce the Single Transferable Vote for Local Government Elections

The Leader stated that although the issues raised by some members about parishes were interesting, he believed that the Council should await to see the Lyon's review of local government finance and any proposals for local discretion on taxation.

The Scrutiny Committee noted and supported the Leader's approach by 7 votes to .0

07/STR/11 **SAFER CITY GRANTS – ROUND 4** (*See also Record of Decision 07/STR/07*)

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Leader by 7 votes to 0.

The Leader approved the recommendations.

07/STR/12 **RECORD OF DECISION – INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICE**

The Committee noted the record of decision.

The meeting ended at 7.18pm

CHAIR