

**STRATEGY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE****3 September 2007**

4.00pm –7.27pm

PRESENT: Councillors Blackhurst, Boyce, Bradnack, Ellis-Miller, Herbert, Sadiq, Shah, Taylor (Chair) and Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith, The Leader. Councillor Cantrill, Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources. Cllrs Dixon and Durrant were present for 07/S&R/09. The following members of the public were present for 07/S&R/09: Robert Hallam - MD of John Lewis, Michael Wiseman – representing The Grafton Centre, Shara Ross - General Manager, Hotel Felix and Chair of the Hoteliers Association, Martin Garratt - Greater Cambridge Partnership, Richard Preston - Cambs County Council, Chris Hollins - Vice Chair, Association of Town Centre Management

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**07/S&R/05 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Strategy Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2 April, the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committees held on 24 May (amended to reflect the members present and the start and finish time) and 25 June plus Customer Services and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 27 March 2007 were signed as correct records

07/S&R/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

07/S&R/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Shah declared a personal interest in 07/S&R/12 as a member of the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum.

07/S&R/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present who wished to ask a question.

07/S&R/09

THE FUTURE ROLE OF CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT
(See also Record of Decision 07/02)

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources introduced the item and explained that he wanted a different approach to scrutiny on this issue and had invited key stakeholders to consider the discussion paper with members.

Points raised in the debate from the representatives of the business community were:

No one or two business interests should dominate the current debate
There should be an Independent Board overseeing city centre management and tourism.

Tourism (and in particular business tourism) needs a stronger voice. There is a lack of investment in tourism.

Proper consultation was needed, the City Council should not rush this.

Desire for continuity and strong leadership was important because of the inevitable changes in management in the hotel/retail trade

Cllr Dixon asked whether there was a case for the separation of roles keeping the management of city centre (eg. street trading, street cleaning, buskers, charity collectors) in-house and outsource the development and marketing of the city. Any consultation with the public (and further with members) should be clear about the options and what they would mean.

Cllr Cantrill stated that the Council was not embarking on a savings exercise, but it had to accept that the Council could not deliver certain capital project improvements in the city centre alone.

Cllr Bradnack stated that whatever was agreed, tourism should not be the poor relation. He was not clear that Option A was automatically ruled out based on what had been stated by others at the meeting. He wanted to know more about what the Council could do to the existing model of working to better deliver the service and Council's MTOs.

Cllr Durrant stated that the Council should commit to improve the Market Square particularly with the Grand Arcade close to completion. Cllr Cantrill said the Council was focused on this and which had come out of the Business Planning Forum in March.

Councillor Herbert requested an amendment to recommendation 2.1 as the Scrutiny Committee had not had the opportunity to debate the issue because of time constraints, despite it having been useful to listen to the views of the key stakeholders present. The Committee agreed to amend the recommendation to delete 'Scrutiny Committee and' in second and third line and replace with 'stakeholders and members' in the third line.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations (as amended) for the Executive Councillor by 4 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

07/S&R/10 **REVIEW OF STREET DRINKING AND ALCOHOL RELATED DISORDER** *(See also Record of Decision 07/03)*

The Chair welcomed the progress made by officers under the current approach.

Referring to the report, Cllr Ward asked whether the Council should look into providing benches for the street drinking community to meet (paragraph 9.5) as he had raised it before. Cllr Sadiq asked for like for like comparison data for cities using dispersal orders and DPPOs.

Action by Community Safety Team

Cllr Bradnack commended the work of officers in this area but re-stated Labour Group's held position that the Leader had not given the police the more effective powers that it could have used (DPPOs).

The Leader stated that the report made it clear that DPPOs did not add anything to the measures the Council was already undertaking, and section 5 of the report (pros and cons of dispersal) could equally apply to DPPOs. He informed the Scrutiny Committee that unlike Dispersal Orders, there was no equivalent research on the use of DPPOs yet. He stated that it was important to maintain the working across a broad partnership to deal with street drinking and the report should be shared with a wider constituency.

Action by Community Safety Team

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

07/S&R/11 **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VUNERABLE ADULTS POLICY** *(See also Record of Decision 07/04)*

The Leader asked that officers prepare briefings and training for members at the appropriate time. The Head of Human Resources said that this would be service specific procedures for Democratic Services.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

07/S&R/12 **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMPACT** *(See also Record of Decision 07/05)*

The Scrutiny Committee noted that the Leader wished to be the Member Champion (recommendation 2.2. refers) and in that role would report back to the Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

07/S&R/13 **TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR CAMBRIDGE** *(See also Record of Decision 07/06)*

Councillor Herbert asked what funding through Local Strategic Partnership/Local Area Agreement was directed to services that the Council would have provided in any case. The Director of Customer & Democratic Services stated that the LSP did not have a budget but would in future (from April 08) influence the spending of the LAA. The LAA Board could in future decide whether there should be a shift from the existing funding streams. Councillor Ward, in his capacity as the Council's appointee to the LAA Scrutiny Committee, advised that it would be looking at LAA outcomes from a value added perspective.

The Leader agreed to look at the wording of paragraph 5 to make it clear that these were the Aims, other than this the Scrutiny Committee had no comments.

07/S&R/14 **SAFER CITY GRANTS – ROUND 2 OF 2007/08** (*See also Record of Decision 07/07*)

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendation for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

07/S&R/15 **MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY** (*See also Record of Decision 07/08*)

The Director of Finance referred members to the amendment which had been tabled. The amendment reflected the revised Employers pay offer (for 2007/08) and the recommendation that the level of savings required be increased to 3.44% for the General Fund and 3% for the Housing Revenue Account (with appropriate changes to associated detail in the MTS). The Leader stated that the revisions would be incorporated for reporting to Council on 13 September. He stated that it was important to protect the Priority Policy Fund to enable the Council to secure its Medium Term Objectives and recognised that the new savings target would present challenges for the organisation.

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

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations for the Council's consideration.

07/S&R/16 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF EQUALITIES** (*See also Record of Decision 07/09*)

Mr Lewis, a public member of the Council's Equalities Panel attended for this item.

The Committee noted that the year had been one of mainstreaming equalities work across the organisation through service planning in particular. Cllr Bradnack said that the Joint Staff Employer Forum had asked officers to look at adaptation costs (and comparing with starting afresh) associated with disabled access to its buildings. Cllr Cantrill said that a full audit would be looked into in the longer term (because of current officer resources) but he had agreed that an audit of the Council's four main buildings should be done.

The Leader thanked the Equalities Panel for its work and emphasised the need to maintain the progress that the Council is making in this area. The Chair thanked Mr Lewis for attending.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

07/S&R/17 **POLICY ON APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES** (*See also Record of Decision 07/10*)

The Director of Customer and Democratic Services stated that with regard to appointing to Cambridge United Charities, the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources was being asked to appoint to two vacancies. If the Leader adopted the new Policy on Appointments, there would need to be discussions with the Charity (and other affected bodies) about interim arrangements and that these appointments would not be city councillors. Cllr Bradnack queried why the Junction should still be appointed to. The Leader stated that there would be some outside bodies which would find it difficult constitutionally if the Council withdrew appointing without notice. Therefore, he asked that officers liaise with those bodies and arrange for interim appointments to enable the transition to the new Policy.

Cllr Bradnack advised of nominations to the Folk Museum (Blencowe), Lynn (Junction).

The Chair asked that officers remember to brief members appointed to these bodies as that had been inconsistent in the past.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 6 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

07/S&R/18 **APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY** (*See also Record of Decision 07/11*)

The Executive Councillor approved the appointment of Cllr C Rosenstiel to LGIU.

07/S&R/19 **RECORD OF DECISION – ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CUSTOMER ACCESS CENTRE**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the decision taken on 15 August which because of the urgency had been unable to be reported for pre scrutiny.

The meeting ended at 7.27pm

CHAIR