

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
(Special Meeting)16 June 2008
5.00pm – 7.22pm**Present:** Councillors Taylor (Chair), Bick, Blackhurst, Blair (Alt), Ellis-Miller, Herbert, Howell and Shah**Also Present:**

The Leader, Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith

Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources, Cllr Rod Cantrill

For the Information of the Council**08/SR/30 Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Bradnack and Ward. Cllr Blair attended as alternate for Cllr Ward.

08/SR/31 Declarations of Interest

None

08/SR/32 Public Questions

None

08/SR/33 Future Role of City Centre Management and Tourism

On 3 September 2007 the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee had considered a discussion paper by the Head of Tourism and City Centre Management on the future role and structure of City Centre Management and Tourism. This report had prompted discussion between members of the Scrutiny Committee and key stakeholders within the City who had an interest and involvement in City Centre Management and Tourism. It sought to review how the role and structure of City Centre Management and Tourism could be enhanced as a public/private sector partnership. There was recognition that there was a need to reshape and build on the existing partnership to make it genuinely effective and to ensure that it has the organisational capability and capacity to meet the emerging challenges for the city centre. Three options were considered. The outcome of the discussion was to recommend further debate with city councillors, the area committees and research into best practice in other similar historic locations. Following on from this consultation and detailed research, this report now proposes a way forward through developing a new independent Tourism and City Centre Management Partnership for Cambridge. It is perceived that this

new Partnership will play a key role in ensuring that Cambridge fulfils its potential as a great place to live, work and visit.

The Committee supported the recommendation set out in the Officers' report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources approved the recommendations.

08/SR/34 Guildhall Project

Item withdrawn

08/SR/35 Disposal of Former Nursery School Premises, Wadloes Road

Item withdrawn

08/SR/36 Disposal of Simons House and Eight Bungalows, Rackhams Close

The report set out proposals for the disposal of Simons House to Flagship Housing Group. In March 2006 the Council had adopted a strategy for the improvement of its sheltered housing accommodation to bring it up to modern standards. Simons House, because of its design, had not been considered capable of achieving an acceptable solution without a complete demolition and rebuild. As an alternative it has been decided to offer the scheme to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) for redevelopment to provide new sheltered housing for older people. To provide a sensible site for new development, eight small bungalows had been also included in the project

The Committee supported the recommendation set out in the Officers' report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources approved the recommendations.

08/SR/37 Disposal of former Yasume Club premises, Auckland Road

The project appraisal set out proposals for the open market disposal of a small non-operational Council property, now vacant, formerly known as the Yasume Club in Auckland Road. The property had been let to a club for former Prisoners of War of the Japanese since 1985, prior to that it had been

a Council staff social club. The Council had accepted a surrender of the lease with effect from the 24 March 2008.

The Committee supported the recommendation set out in the Officers' report by 7 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources approved the recommendations.

08/SR/38 Annual Complaints Report 2007/08

The Council had been recording the number of complaints received by each department, and how they were dealt with, for a number of years. Regular complaints monitoring was recognised as good practice in customer service, and by looking at the data from across the Council its performance could be monitored and assessed.

The Standards Committee's comments were noted.

The Committee supported the recommendation set out in the Officers' report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources approved the recommendations.

08/SR/39 CCTV Business Plan

As part of the current round of service reviews a comprehensive review of the Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) service had been undertaken and a Business Plan had been drawn up.

The Council's CCTV service had an excellent reputation locally, regionally and nationally. The service had won the national CCTV team of the year award in April 2008. The service operated at many levels to create confidence within the public perception of a safe environment. This was demonstrated through the performance delivery and stakeholder support.

The opportunities available for the service could be developed by ensuring that the service continued to influence the sector, that technological improvements were maximised, cost effectiveness maintained and that new funding sources were sought. Despite the identified pressures concerning budgets and potential market competition, the preparation of the Business

Plan informed Members to assist the achievement of Medium Term Objectives and provided a clear route for management to follow.

As part of the service review process, opportunities to reduce budget commitments, recover income and ensure value for money was achieved had been identified.

Following discussion, the Leader asked for further work to be done to estimate the level of savings from each element, in order to decide whether these should be approved in part, or in total, or not at all.

The Committee supported the recommendations set out in the Officers' report, subject to the further work identified being carried out, by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources approved the recommendations.

08/SR/40 Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership Peer Challenge

The report reflected that effective partnership working was becoming increasingly important as the Council strove to improve the quality of life for those who live in, work in and visit our city.

Government was encouraging public sector organisations to work together by placing new duties on them, directing funding streams through partnerships and shifting their inspection regime to focus on area based assessment. This meant that in future the Council would be judged with its partners on the outcomes delivered collectively for the local area.

In Cambridgeshire, each of the 5 District level Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) would play a crucial role in helping to ensure the new County-wide Local Area Agreement (LAA) was delivered. The Council needed to ensure that the Cambridge City LSP was clear about its role and working effectively.

In February 2008 the Cambridge City LSP had asked a team of peers, led by SOLACE Enterprises, to carry out a review of the partnership. This report asked the Leader of the Council, who was also Chair of the LSP, to consider any comments from the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the Peer Challenge Team's recommendations and to feed the comments back to the next meeting of the LSP.

Following discussion, the Leader said he would feed the Committee's comments back to the LSP at its next meeting on 9 July 2008.

The Meeting closed at 7.22pm

Date and time of meetings: In an informal discussion after the meeting, the committee decided not to change the scheduled date and time of the meetings of their meetings.

CHAIR