

## CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2004 at 10.00 am at County Hall, Lewes.

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85. PRESENT - Councillor Reid (in the Chair)  
Councillors Glazier, Lock, Mrs Stroude, Tidy and Mrs Waite

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Birch	-	items 91 and 93
Councillor Bridger	-	item 94
Councillor Field	-	item 93
Councillor Freeman	-	item 92
Councillor Martin	-	item 94
Councillor Tunwell	-	items 91 and 96
Councillor Tutt	-	item 89, 91 and 97

Also present: Mr D Wells and Mr R Grant (Audit Commission) – for item 89.

### 86. MINUTES

86.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17 November and 24 November 2004 as correct records.

### 87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

87.1 Councillor Jones

### 88. REPORTS

88.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 89. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

89.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources.

89.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to welcome the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Annual Letter.

Reason

89.3 To consider the Audit Commission's Annual Letter.

### 90. BUDGET MONITORING 2004/05

90.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources.

90.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note the report

## Reason

90.3 Management action is being taken to address any areas of concern to ensure that budgets are balanced.

### 91. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES AND THE COUNCIL PLAN 2005/06

91.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers.

91.3 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

- (1) to note the report and supporting appendices;
- (2) to welcome the comments from the Scrutiny Committees and to ask them to note the changes at 4 below which flow, in part, from comments they have made to date through the Reconciling Policy and Resources process;
- (3) in the light of the above, and the results of the provisional grant settlement from government, to approve the following changes to the guidelines under the Reconciling Policy and Resources process;
- (4) to amend the existing financial guidelines as follows:-

#### (a) reductions in the existing savings target as follows:

- (i) £500,000 in the central Local Education Authority block to avoid, where possible, reductions in those services which are central to the Council's Children Act agenda.
- (ii) £100,000 in Children's Social Services so as to avoid, where possible, any reduction in frontline service.
- (iii) £63,000 in Trading Standards so as to maintain existing resources in this area.
- (iv) £30,000 in libraries so as to avoid any need for reductions in service
- (v) £30,000 in the Personnel budget (Chief Executive's Department) so as to avoid service reductions over and above identified efficiency savings
- (vi) £50,000 in building maintenance so as to avoid any reduction in the currently budgeted programme
- (vii) to ask that proposed reductions in core services within Transport and Environment are avoided as far as possible by reasonable use of surpluses arising from decriminalised and other parking initiatives

#### (b) to establish the following provisions for previously identified but unfunded risks:

- (i) £225,000 necessary investment to support the Council's approach to the Children Act
- (ii) £225,000 as a new on going provision to support Single Status developments

- (iii) £200,000 for a new corporate provision to support possible increases in highways maintenance costs following the forth-coming re-tendering exercise

(c) to establish the following new risk provisions:

- (i) £1m held as a corporate provision to support the Council's improvement agenda for Adult Social Care
- (ii) £500,000 as a provision for medium term financial risks

(d) to finance the above as follows:

- (i) use of the unallocated risk provision of £2m in the standstill budget for 2005/06
- (ii) removal of the contributions to the strategic change and restructuring reserves totalling £920,000
- (iii) reduction of £700,000 in the standstill provision for pension increases
- (iv) reduction of £300,000 in the treasury management budget

5 to note that the available flexibility, after the above, is £997,000 and this will be applied to support the council tax as set out in 9 below.

6 to ask portfolio holders, and their respective Chief Officers, to develop further the Council Plan and supporting service plans to reflect the above.

7 to note that the standstill budget for 2005/06, and the medium term position, will be updated and reported to the Cabinet on 1 February 2005.

8 to endorse the stance taken in response to the unfair result of the latest distribution of additional government grant to East Sussex.

9 to note that the above requires a 4.5% increase in council tax for 2005/06

Reason

91.3 To achieve the development of a sound medium term financial strategy.

92. EAST SUSSEX LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006-11

92.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

92.2 On the motion of Councillor Lock (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to agree to consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (2006-2011) commencing in early 2005; and

(2) to authorise the Director of Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and the Local Transport Plan Panel, to make any appropriate detailed amendments to the draft Local Transport Plan prior to public consultation.

## Reason

92.3 The Local Transport Plan provides a framework for investment in the County's transport infrastructure and services, contributing to delivering the corporate and regional objectives for raising economic performance in East Sussex. The draft Local Transport Plan will be available for a 12 week period of public consultation prior to it being finalised for submission to GOSE.

## 93. THE GOVERNMENT'S FIVE YEAR STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION

93.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education and Libraries.

93.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to note the issues identified in the commentary on the Five Year Strategy attached as Appendix A to the report; and

(2) to approve the draft responses to the Department for Education and Skills consultation papers attached as Appendices B and C to the report, subject to the following being deleted from the third paragraph of Appendix B 'Although there are as yet no foundation schools in East Sussex, ESCC is not opposed to the concept in principle.'

## Reason

93.3 The Five Year Strategy has many positive aspects which will assist schools and the authority in taking forward the Council's commitment to school improvement and raised standards. The responses highlighted those aspects of the Strategy which may tend to harm the increasing partnership and collaboration between schools.

## 94 COMMUNITY SAFETY IN EAST SUSSEX

94.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Policy Management and Communications.

94.2 On the motion of Councillor Tidy (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED–

(1) to note the progress being made by each of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to tackle crime and the fear of crime;

(2) to note the input made by the County Council into meeting its Section 17 responsibilities;

(3) to note the introduction of a mini Local Area Agreement on Safer and Stronger Communities from April 2005; and

(4) to seek approval for the priorities to be taken forward in the new three year East Sussex Community Safety Strategy.

## Reason

94.3 To approve the community safety priorities.

## 95 THE CHILDREN'S FUND 2005-08

95.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education and Libraries.

95.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED - to approve the three year plan for the Children's Fund for submission to the Department for Education and Skills.

Reason

95.3 The three year plan for the Children's Fund is consistent with developing policy on a Children's Trust for East Sussex. It aims to embed key services developed to date through the Fund and to locate decision making on preventative services for children and young people with the four children's services area planning groups established last year.

#### 96 PROPOSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT WILLINGDON TREES, EASTBOURNE

96.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education and Libraries.

96.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Stroude (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to approve the capital plans for the proposed Children's Centre (see Capital Allocation for Sure Start funding at Appendix A of the report) as a basis for further detailed development, including arrangements for the management and implementation of the capital project, should accountable body status transfer from Eastbourne Primary Care Trust to the County Council;

(2) to provisionally approve the addition of £908,081 to the Education and Libraries capital programme to cover capital development of the Children's Centre at Oakwood Primary School, Eastbourne, which will be fully funded by grants for this local programme from the Government's Sure Start Grant, subject to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources being satisfied that funding for the project is secure; and

(3) to delegate authority to the Director of Education and Libraries and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources to negotiate with Eastbourne Primary Care Trust on the transfer of accountability arrangements from the Primary Care Trust to the County Council, including for design and management of the project.

Reason

96.3 The proposed Children's Centre will directly contribute towards tackling deprivation and inequalities and promoting lifelong learning. The proposal to takeover the formal accountability role for Sure Start in Eastbourne will enable the Council to discharge its responsibilities for the Children's Centre programme more effectively.

#### 97 PROPOSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT SHINEWATER, EASTBOURNE

97.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education and Libraries.

97.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Stroude (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to approve the capital plans for the proposed Children's Centre (see Capital Allocation for Sure Start funding at Appendix A of the report) as a basis for further detailed development, including arrangements for the management and

implementation of the capital project, should accountable body status transfer from Eastbourne Primary Care Trust to the County Council;

(2) to provisionally approve the addition of £425,445 to the Education and Libraries capital programme to cover the capital development of the Children's Centre at Shinewater Primary School, Eastbourne, which will be fully funded by grants for this local programme from the Government's Sure Start Unit and the General Sure Start Grant, subject to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources being satisfied that funding for the project is secure; and

(3) to delegate authority to the Director of Education and Libraries and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources to negotiate with Eastbourne Primary Care Trust on the transfer of the accountability arrangements from the Primary Care Trust to the County Council, including design and management of the project.

#### Reason

97.3 The proposed Children's Centre will directly contribute towards tackling deprivation and inequalities and promoting lifelong learning. The proposal to takeover the formal accountability role for Sure Start in Eastbourne will enable the Council to discharge its responsibilities for the Children's Centre programme more effectively.

#### 98. ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

98.1 The Cabinet agreed that agenda items 5, 7 8, 9 and 10 be reported to the County Council.

*[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 89, 91, 92, 93 and 94.]*