

CABINET

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 15th January 2003
(11.00 am – 12.25 pm)



Nottinghamshire
County Council

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

	J E Anthony	(Social Services)
	C J Bromfield	(Culture)
	T H Butler	(Environment)
	J Carter	(Finance and Property)
	D Kirkham	(Deputy Leader)
A	Vicki Smailes	(Business Manager)
	John R Stocks	(Resources)
	M Storey	(Education)
	M Warner	(Leader)
	C P Winterton	(Economic Development)

Also In Attendance

Councillor Kate Allsop
Councillor Roy R J Barsley
Councillor Sue Bennett
Councillor M M Brandon-Bravo
Councillor W J Clarke
Councillor J Cottee
Councillor Mrs K L Cutts
Councillor V H Dobson
Councillor G P Jackson
Councillor Joe Lonergan MBE
Councillor Mrs V C Pepper
Councillor Mrs S M Smedley
Councillor B G Smith
Councillor M Suthers OBE
Councillor P Tsimbiridis

The Leader was pleased to report that Councillors C J Bromfield, K L O'Toole and David Taylor were all beginning to make steady progress following their recent operations.

1. MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that the Labour Group had appointed the following as non-voting Members:-

Councillors C Baron, Joyce Bosnjak, W J Clarke, G P Jackson, Mrs S M Smedley, B G Smith, and P Tsimbiridis

2. CABINET NOTES

The notes of the meeting held on 18th December 2002 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader of the Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Vicki Smailes

Councillor C Baron*	}	
Councillor Joyce Bosnjak*	}	
Councillor R Butler	}	non-voting Members
Councillor B Laughton	}	

* denotes on other County Council business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors John R Stocks and M Warner declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item number 21 – Child Migrant Trust: Cost of International Congress.

SECTION A

5. FARNSFIELD ENDOWED C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WALTER D'AYNCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARNSFIELD – POSSIBLE AMALGAMATION

RESOLVED:- **2003/001**

1. That the report on the consultation meetings concerning the possible amalgamation, as set out in the appendix to the report, be noted and

2. that, in conjunction with the Southwell Diocese, statutory notices be published as under:-

- a) to discontinue the operation of the 2 schools with effect from 31st August 2004 and
- b) to establish a new Church of England voluntary aided Primary school with effect from 1st September 2004.

6. PLANNING REFORM – GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

Councillor T H Butler introduced the report and expressed his disappointment that the Government had not been able to take on board views expressed by the Council, for example in relation to the continuation of Structure Plans. Cabinet agreed with his views that the new arrangements would be confusing to all those who wished to use them. In the circumstances, Members were pleased to hear that Councillor Butler proposed to hold a seminar for all Members on the implications of the new arrangements.

RESOLVED:- **2003/002**

1. That the comments set out in the paragraphs 30-39 of the report be approved and be referred to the County Council for adoption as the formal view of the Authority and
2. that the action taken in contacting local MPs and the County Councils' Network, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report, be endorsed.

7. NEW RATES FOR INDEPENDENT SECTOR NURSING, RESIDENTIAL AND HOME CARE SERVICES FOR 2003/04

The Leader reported that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

RESOLVED:- **2003/003**

That in line with the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan and the framework developing through the Community Strategy:-

1. the commitment to developing new partnerships with the National Health Service, using the "flexibilities" in the Health Act where appropriate, be re-affirmed and
2. the approaches to the improvement of older people's services as identified in the report be supported.

9. SUPPORTING PEOPLE: CONSTITUTIONAL, CONTRACTING AND CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED:-
2003/004

1. That the approach to the drafting of supporting people constitutional arrangements identifying the County Council as lead authority, working in consultation with other partner organisations with primary rights and consequent responsibilities in relation to the delivery of the programme, be approved;
2. that the mechanism for letting the supporting people interim contracts in line with guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, without competitive tender, acknowledging that these arrangements fall outside the County Council's usual procurement rules be approved;
3. that the supporting people interim contract, attached as appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
4. that the draft supporting people charging and associated relief policy document, attached as appendix 4 to the report, be approved and
5. that the establishment of the posts set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report be noted.

10. PROPOSED ACCOMMODATION CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Councillor J E Anthony introduced the report which set out, based on current information, the implications of the proposal to site a centre for asylum seekers at the former RAF base at Newton for services provided by Social Services and also for the wider community. He also updated Cabinet on developments in relation to the public inquiry for the Oxfordshire site and the lessons from this which would be applied in relation to the Newton Inquiry to be held later in the year.

Cabinet welcomed the report and looked forward to receiving the views of the Overview Select Committee in due course. All Members did, however, feel that Government policy on this issue appeared to be somewhat uncoordinated (examples were quoted that locally both the Police Authority and the Highways Agency did not seem to have been advised of the developments) and also that relevant information was not being released by the Government in good time to allow local policy to be put in place. Even at this early stage, Members voiced real concern that the Government would not provide sufficient funds to cover any additional costs arising from the proposal.

RESOLVED:-
2003/005

1. That the report be noted;
2. that the matter be referred to the Overview Select Committee on 5th February 2003 for detailed consideration of the implications for the County Council and
3. that a further report, including recommendations for future action, together with any identifiable cost implications be submitted to the meeting to be held on 12th March 2003.

11. REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE STRATEGY

In introducing the report, Councillor J E Anthony referred to the addendum circulated at the meeting setting out a revised paragraph 2.9.3 to the paper.

The following comment/questions were raised during the debate:-

- concern was expressed about the role of some District Planning Authorities in the delivery of the strategy referred to in the report
- clarification was sought on the reference to the “.... need for therapeutic residential care for younger children.” in revised paragraph 2.9.3. It was explained that such provision was needed to reduce the need for out-county placements, which were very expensive and
- clarification was sought on whether the proposed smaller homes could cater for children with physical disabilities. It was explained that the proposed smaller establishments could cope with children who had mild physical disabilities but where such disability was severe then more specialised provision was provided in some larger units. Further to this, Councillor J E Anthony undertook to provide more information in a written answer to Members.

RESOLVED:-
2003/006

1. That the County Council no longer seeks to provide residential care for young people looked after by the development of a 12 bed unit and that, as an alternative, the interim strategy of smaller units agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 13th February 2002 be pursued as a longer term policy and
2. that proposals for funding the revenue implications of (1) above be submitted to a future meeting.

12. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2002/06 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2003/04

In response to a question, explanation was provided on the implications for the County Council of the deprivation factors and resource equalisation process as referred to in paragraph 3.4.3 of the report.

RESOLVED:-
2003/007

That the budget proposals set out in the report be issued as the basis for consultation.

13. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WOOD HEAT PROJECT

RESOLVED:-
2003/008

1. That the County Council become a member of the Energy Services Company "Renewable Nottinghamshire Utilities Limited", to be established by the Wood Heat Partnership and
2. that the Cabinet Member for Resources be nominated to become one of the 6 Directors of the Energy Services Company.

14. SOCIAL SERVICES CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RESOLVED:-
2003/009

1. That the award of the contract for the provision of software for the new Social Services Case Management System to Corelogic be noted and
2. that the Director of Social Services report annually to Cabinet on progress of the project and associated costs.

15. LOCAL TRANSPORT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT
2003/04

RESOLVED:-
2003/010

That the report be noted.

SECTION B

16. REFERRAL FROM THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE – REVIEW OF THE YOUTH SERVICE: FINAL REPORT

Cabinet was of the view that the suggestion of Overview to appoint a Member to champion young people was a very good idea. Recognising the current situation of the Cabinet Member for Culture, the Leader suggested that it would be sensible to defer consideration of this issue for the time being and reconsider at a later date.

RESOLVED:- **2003/011**

That the report be noted and that consideration of the appointment of a Member to champion young people be considered at a later date.

17. CAPITAL PROGRAMME VARIATIONS AND FINANCING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2002/03

RESOLVED:- **2003/012**

That the capital programme variations set out in the report be approved.

18. ALLOCATIONS FROM THE CONTINGENCY AND UN-ALLOCATED RESERVE

RESOLVED:- **2003/013**

That the report be noted

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:- **2003/014**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the agenda on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

SECTION C

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

19. OUTCOME OF THE INVITATION TO SUBMIT OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED:-
2003/015

That the selection of the 5 companies to be invited to negotiate for the waste management contract, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

20. LATEST ESTIMATED COST - EASTWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

RESOLVED:-
2003/016

1. That the latest estimated cost report for the building works at Eastwood Comprehensive School be approved as set out in the report and
2. that the Director of Environment be authorised to receive the guaranteed maximum price and to enter into a contract within the latest estimated cost subject to the provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Council.

21. CHILD MIGRANT TRUST – COST OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

In accordance with their earlier declarations of interest, Councillors John R Stocks and M Warner left the room prior to consideration of this item. In the circumstances, Councillor D Kirkham, Deputy Leader, took the Chair for this item.

RESOLVED:-
2003/017

1. That the underwriting of the deficit in the sum outlined in the report and in the appendix to the report be approved and
2. that the conversion of the loan approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 13th February 2002 to a grant within the overall support towards the deficit be approved.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

NOTE

The decisions contained in these minutes were made on Wednesday, 15th January 2003 and published on Monday, 20th January 2003. They become effective on Tuesday, 28th January 2003 unless a Call-In Request is made to call-in the decision in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules paragraph 15.

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