

CABINET

29 JANUARY 2014

Present :- Councillor Anne Turrell (the Leader of the Council)
(Chairman)
Councillors Nick Barlow, Tina Bourne, Annie Feltham,
Martin Hunt (Deputy Leader) , Beverley Oxford,
Paul Smith and Tim Young

Also in Attendance :- Councillor Nigel Chapman
Councillor Beverly Davies
Councillor Sue Lissimore
Councillor Will Quince
Councillor Colin Sykes
Councillor Laura Sykes
Councillor Dennis Willetts

69. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 Novmber 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

70. Have Your Say!

Nick Chilvers addressed the Cabinet pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(2) to ask whether Leisure World was meeting income targets by September 2013. He also explained that he believed that the information provided on the Creative Hub was not clear. He noted the assurances given that it would be given no ongoing revenue support. However, he believed that the creative industries had diverse needs and asked whether their views had been sought on issues such as rents or parking costs and queried who would manage the Hub. Further information about the proposals needed to be put in the public domain and the project needed firm handling. He also suggested that the walls project would be a better use for section 106 funding.

Councillor Feltham, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services, explained that Leisure World was on target to break even. Whilst income was 7.7% below that projected, expenditure was 12.5 % below that expected. It was acknowledged that the targets set for Leisure World were challenging but there had been an increase in business usage and financial returns. Income from Lifestyles memberships and the pools was down, but that from swimming lessons, Aquasprings and beauty threapy was above projected levels. Overall there had been 45,000 extra visits to key areas of the business than in the previous year. There had been an increase in Lifestyles membership income of £91,000,swimming lessons were at their highest level since 2011and 95,000 tickets had been issued to customers using self service. She stressed that she was proud of the work staff had put into improving Leisure World.

Councillor Barlow, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, explained that he was continuously working with partners on the Creative Hub and was working with the

creative industries to ascertain their needs. He also explained that section 106 funding was ring fenced for particular projects and could not be allocated to other projects.

71. 2014/15 General Fund Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Forecast

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with minute 45 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 28 January 2014.

Councillor Willetts attended and, with the consent of the Chairman addressed the Cabinet. He stressed that the Conservative Group supported most of the proposals in the budget and had supported the process of Fundamental Service Reviews that had delivered savings in a structured way. However, the budget did not contain any exciting, big ideas that would rejuvenate Colchester, such as proposals for a late night levy or for the restoration of the Jumbo water tower. He noted also that no provision had been made for the Tour series, which brought trade and publicity to the borough. He noted also the Council's revenue spending power was only being reduced by 2% and needed to be seen in the context of falls in income from car parking and community alarms. Staffing levels remained stubbornly high in contrast with some neighbouring authorities. The New Homes Bonus should be used to a greater extent to support infrastructure projects. He supported a freeze in Council Tax and noted that a rise of 1.95% would only generate an additional £89,000, which was poor value for the residents of the borough.

Councillor Davies, Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel, attended and with the consent of the Chairman addressed the Cabinet. She stressed the need for the Scrutiny Panel to be given more time and more detailed information in order to be able to scrutinise the budget proposals properly. The main concern of the Panel was the process for the approval of projects to be funded via the New Homes Bonus. Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that the late receipt of information on which the budget was based made it difficult to finalise the budget any earlier.

Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, introduced the proposed budget and responded to the points made. The cut in government funding of £1.3 million made it difficult to present an "exciting" budget. Savings of £2.6 million had been identified, 60% of which was being met through Fundamental Services Reviews and through channel shift initiatives. Only 20% was being met through cuts to services and frontline services were being protected as far as possible. He noted Essex County Council was proposing a rise of 1.49% but no criticisms had been made about the value of that rise. In respect of the New Homes Bonus, it was anticipated that bids in excess of the available funding would be submitted, but proposals would be judged on their merits and funding would only be granted where it was justified. He recommended the budget proposals to the Cabinet.

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Barlow, Portfolio for

Regeneration, Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Community Safety and Culture, and Councillor Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services, expressed their support for the budget. In the course of the debate the following points were made:-

- That to those who were vulnerable and relied upon Council services, the budget proposals, which maintained frontline services as far as possible, would be exciting;
- The inconsistency of the opposition's position on the funding of the Tour Series and the lack of detail provided about how they would reduce staffing levels;
- The scale of the cuts in government funding;
- A number of other Conservative authorities in the region were proposing Council Tax increases;
- The need for further savings to be found in future years as government funding reduced further and the scope for increasing income through Council Tax was reduced.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The outturn for the current financial year, forecast to be on budget, be noted (see paragraph 3.4 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report).
- (b) The cost pressures, growth items, savings and increased income options identified during the budget forecast process as set out at Appendices B, C and D of the Assistant Chief Executive's report be approved.
- (c) The 2014/15 Revenue Budget requirement of £22,006k (paragraph 6.8 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report) and the underlying detailed budgets set out in summary at Appendix E and Background Papers, subject to the final proposal to be made in respect of Council Tax, be agreed and *RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL*.
- (d) A proposal to Council on Colchester's element of the Council Tax for 2014/15 be made in consultation with the Leader of the Council following the formal Finance Settlement announcement and confirmation of Council Tax referendum threshold. The formal resolution to Council will also include the Parish, Police, Fire and County Council elements (paragraph 12.2 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report).
- (e) Revenue Balances for the financial year 2014/15 be set at a minimum of £1,800k and that £74k of balances be applied to finance items in the 2014/15 revenue budget.
- (f) The provisional Finance Settlement figures set out in Section 7 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report including the figures for the business rates retention scheme and the arrangements for completion of the required return of estimated business rates income as set out at paragraph 7.11 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report be noted.
- (g) The following releases be agreed (paragraph 10.7 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report):-

- £100k from the Capital Expenditure Reserve in 2014/15 to meet costs including the community stadium.
- £30k from the section 106 monitoring reserve

(h) It be agreed and *RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL* that £100k of Revenue Balances be earmarked for potential unplanned expenditure within the guidelines set out at paragraph 11.3 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report.

(i) The Medium Term Financial Forecast for the financial years 2014/15 to 2017/18 be noted.

(j) The position on the Capital Programme shown at section 14 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report and the release of £100k as set out be agreed.

(k) The comments made on the robustness of budget estimates at section 15 of the Assistant Chief executive's report be noted.

(l) The 2014/15 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy as set out in the background paper at Appendix H of the Assistant Chief Executive's report be approved and *RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL*.

REASONS

The reasons for the decisions were set out in detail in the Assistant Chief Executive's report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Various options were investigated at every stage of the budget setting process.

72. Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2014/15

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with minute 45 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 28 January 2014.

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing, introduced the proposals and highlighted the fact that staff had been transferred to CBH under the new housing arrangements and that the changes would enable the delivery of improved services to Council tenants and residents. The management fee paid to Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) had been increased to reflect these new responsibilities and also the delegation of responsibility for the responsive repairs budget. She also stressed that the underspend referred to in the Head of Commercial Services report would be reinvested as part of the Housing Improvement Programme in the Sheltered Housing Review and the project to bring forward Council housing on garage sites.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The 2014/15 HRA revenue estimates as set out in Appendix A of the Head of Commercial Services report be approved.
- (b) The dwelling rents as calculated in accordance with the rent restructuring formula be approved as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the Head of Commercial Services report.
- (c) The rents for garages be approved as set out in paragraph 4.11 of the Commercial Services report.
- (d) The HRA revenue funded element of £6,960,200 included within the total management fee for Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) be approved (set out in paragraph 4.14 of the Head of Commercial Services report).
- (e) The inclusion in the budget of a revenue contribution of £6,900,000 to the Housing Investment Programme be noted (see paragraph 4.29 of the Head of Commercial Services report).
- (f) The HRA balances position in Appendix B of the Head of Commercial Services report be noted.
- (g) The Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) set out at Appendix C of the Head of Commercial Services report and the 30 Year HRA financial position set out at Appendix E of the Head of Commercial Services report be noted.

REASONS

Financial Procedures require the Head of Commercial Services to prepare detailed HRA estimates for approval by the Cabinet, setting the new rent levels for the new financial year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were proposed.

73. Housing Investment Programme 2014/15

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which was circulated to Members together with minute 46 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 28 January 2014.

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing, introduced the proposals and highlighted the proposal at paragraph 8 of the Head of Commercial Services report. These projects and programmes would make a real difference to tenants' lives. Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, expressed his delight that the Council was addressing the housing shortage by building Council homes again for the first time in many years.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The Housing Investment Programme for 2014/15 be approved.
- (b) The Capital Medium Term Financial Forecast (CMTFF) as set out at Appendix A of the Head of Commercial Services report be approved.

REASONS

Each year as part of the process to agree the Council's revenue and capital estimates the Cabinet is required to agree the allocations to the Housing Stock Investment Programme. These allow for work to be undertaken to maintain, improve, and refurbish the housing stock and its environment.

Following the Cabinet meeting on the 30 November 2011 it was agreed in principle to accept a proposed 5 year Housing Investment Programme (HIP) as the framework for procuring housing related planned works, improvements, responsive and void works and cyclical maintenance, subject to overall budget decisions in January 2012 and annually thereafter.

It was also agreed that the proposed 5 year investment programme would be linked to the Asset Management Strategy and reviewed annually in the light of available resources and for each annual allocation to continue to be brought to Cabinet for approval as part of the overall HIP report.

The Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) Board has been apprised of the content of the Cabinet report submitted on the 30 November 2011 and is now seeking approval for the 2014/15 Capital programme being the third year of the HIP.

This report seeks the release of funds under grouped headings as described in the Asset Management Strategy and supported by the Management Agreement dated 9th August 2013, which governs the contractual relationship between Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and CBH.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were proposed.

74. Request for Delegated Authority for the Portfolio Holder for Housing to Approve the Award of a Construction Contract for the Development of New Council Homes

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing, indicated that it was proposed to build 34 new Council Homes, which would be the first Council housing built in the Borough for over two decades. In view of the timescales, delegated authority was sought from the Cabinet to enable the Portfolio Holder to award the construction contract to the successful tenderer.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Housing to approve the award of the contract for the procurement of construction contractors to deliver 34 new Council homes across the borough.

REASONS

To enable the Council to extend the tender period to ensure that the tenders received are best value. The contractors have requested more time as some have a greater volume of work than expected and require additional time to receive costings from sub contractors and suppliers.

Originally it was planned that the decision would be taken at the 5th March Cabinet, however the contractors who were invited to tender have requested an extension of 3 weeks to allow them to submit full and complete tenders. Our consultants advised that a five week period would be sufficient when the programme was written, however the market is telling us that this is insufficient time to be able to submit a tender.

Due to the timing of the 2014 elections there will not be another Cabinet meeting until the

25th June and this would mean that the appointment of contractors would be sufficiently delayed to impact on the timing of construction works. This would have a negative impact on the delivery of new affordable homes.

If we are unable to extend the tender period for contractors this may mean that no tenders are returned or tenders are returned that are outside of the budget allocated for the project. This would mean having to re-tender and thus significantly delaying the progress of the project.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

(a) To progress the approval through the normal channels, and ask Cabinet to consider the contract award at its 25th June meeting. This would significantly delay the overall project.

(b) To progress the approval through the normal channels, and ask Cabinet to consider the award of the contract at its 5th March meeting. This would mean a five week tender period and this could introduce higher risk in terms of not receiving tenders back and that contractors may price increased risk into their tender figures, meaning that the cost for the project exceeds the budget allocated.

75. Commercial Review of Community Alarms Service - Business Plan

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, and

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing highlighted the value of the Community Alarms Service, which supported many of the Council's strategic priorities. They were pleased to note that such a valuable service was the first to be the subject of a completed commercial review by the Trading Board.

RESOLVED that the contents of report by the Head of Commercial Services be noted and that a decision be made under Part B of the agenda on the recommendations from the Trading Board to approve the Business Plan for the Community Alarms Service and to decide how the revenue investment required by this Business Plan will be funded.

REASONS

The Council established a Trading Board at the beginning of this municipal year to review commercial opportunities and make recommendations to Cabinet. The Terms of

Reference for the Trading Board includes the following:-

- a) Consider and review the activities performed by the commercial services arm of the Council;
- b) Identify and develop any new commercial agreements generating significant income for the Council for approval by Cabinet or Council.

The Trading Board has reviewed commercial proposals for the Community Alarms service and has recommended the Business Plan on Part B of the agenda to Cabinet for approval.

The report is for information purposes and to provide context to members of the public about the decisions to be taken under Part B of the Agenda.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were proposed.

76. Installation of Photovoltaic Systems Upon Non-Housing Council Owned Properties

The Assistant Chief Executive circulated a report a copy of which had been circulated to members together with a copy of the high level business case produced by Eco-Langley on behalf of Blue Sky Peterborough.

Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, introduced the proposals and stressed that were both environmental and economic benefits from the scheme.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Photovoltaic (PV) systems be installed on ten of the Council's commercially sized, non-housing, owned properties.
- (b) The existing carbon management capital programme allocation be increased by £0.8m and that this be provisionally funded through borrowing.
- (c) The Council enter into a contract with Peterborough City Council via its Blue Sky Peterborough (BSP) Framework for the design, supply and installation of the PV systems.
- (d) The charging of tenants within four of the shortlisted properties and Colchester and

Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) for use of the electricity generated by the PV systems be agreed.

REASONS

Cabinet agreed an allocation in the budget to investigate the feasibility and cost of installing PV systems on a number of the Council's non-housing properties.

Following the completion of initial feasibility work, ten properties have been shortlisted as being suitable for the installation of PV systems and it is estimated that revenue savings can be made from this work

The BSP Framework established by Peterborough City Council for the supply and installation of PV systems has been proven by a process of "soft" market testing to be competitive and well resourced.

If PV systems are to be installed ahead of the predicted change in feed in tariff (FiT) due at the end of March 2014, then Cabinet needs to agree to enter into a contract with BSP by the end of January 2014.

Four of the shortlisted properties currently house tenants and one property is operated by CIMS. As the tenants and CIMS will benefit from the free electricity generated by the

PV systems to be installed on their properties, it is proposed to charge them for the electricity generated and used by each property, thereby producing some additional income to the Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- (a) Decide not to proceed with the proposed project. However, this would mean that the Council would miss the opportunity to generate a net potential annual saving after allowing for financing costs.
- (b) Decide not to proceed with the BSP Framework and thereby postpone the project pending a further tender exercise. However, the next review of the FiT at the end of March 2014 is likely to see the FiT value reduce again meaning that the potential income generated by the project will also be reduced if delivered post March 2014.

(c) Decide not to charge the four tenants and CIMS for the use of the free electricity generated by the PV systems to be installed upon their properties.

77. Officer Pay Policy

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2014-15 be adopted.

REASONS

The Localism Act requires "relevant authorities (including Colchester Borough Council) to prepare, approve and publish pay policy statements articulating their policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce." The Pay Policy for 2013/14 was approved by Full Council on 6 March 2013. These statements must be prepared and approved by Full Council for each financial year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The only alternative would be not to approve the pay policy statement, but that would be contrary to the requirements of the Localism Act.

78. Half Yearly Performance Report including Progress on Strategic Plan Action Plan

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with minute 42 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 10 December 2013.

Councillor Davies, Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel, attended and with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Cabinet. The main area of concern for the Scrutiny Panel had been the increase in sickness absence attributed to mental health issues. It had been explained that this was an issue in a few pockets around the Council. She hoped that the issue was being investigated and addressed.

Councillor Turrell, Portfolio Holder for Strategy, explained that the administration took the issue very seriously and offered Councillor Davies a briefing with the relevant officers to explore the issue in more detail. Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, indicated that a programme of emotional resilience was being offered to staff, and those in particularly affected areas were being signposted towards this support.

Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive and Head of the Paid Service, was invited to address Cabinet. Whilst it was the case that this was an issue in pockets of the Council, these

pockets were not static. This tended to be an issue in areas which were subject to Fundamental Service Reviews as staff were put at risk of redundancy. Emotional resilience support was being offered to staff to help them through the review process. Where staff were on long term sickness this was actively managed to help them return to work.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) The Performance Summary for the period up to the end of September 2013 at Appendix 1 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report be noted.

(b) The progress on the Strategic Plan Action Plan at Appendix 2 of the Assistant Chief Executive's report be noted.

REASONS

Part of the Council's performance management framework includes the commitment to report the Council's half yearly performance progress to Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to the Cabinet in the light of the nature of the report.

79. Member Development Group Policy and Councillor Role Profiles

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the Member Development Policy and Member Role Profiles be approved.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that the revised Member Development Policy and Role Profiles be adopted.

REASONS

The Member Development Policy and Member Role Profiles were approved in February

2010. In view of the time that has elapsed it is good practice to look again at the policy and see if it is still fit for purpose, particularly in view of the forthcoming reassessment for Charter Status. Since the Member Role Profiles were approved, the structure of Council has changed and new responsibilities have emerged. Therefore this is an opportune point to review the profiles and check that they accurately reflect members' roles and responsibilities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was open to the Cabinet to suggest amendments to the policy and the role profiles or not to approve them.

80. Transportation Review

Minute 19 of the Policy Review and Development Panel meeting of 4 November 2013 was referred to the Cabinet.

Council Barlow, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, thanked the Policy Review and Development Panel and the guests that attended the meeting on 4 November 2013, for their helpful suggestions.

RESOLVED that the following issues be borne in mind when considering the Council's future transportation policy:

- (i) The need for the Local Development Framework to consider how to attract funding for developers to create sustainable developments;
- (ii) To investigate further the high percentage of car usage for journeys of one mile or less and the possible measures to reduce these short journeys;
- (iii) To consider ways in which Essex County Council and the local rail operators could work more closely to provide a more integrated transport solution;
- (iv) To look into the ways in which freight is moved around with a view to reducing the number of van movements around the Borough for a more sustainable solution;
- (v) To investigate the possibility of utilising the Council's Licensing role in order to encourage the development of a demand led transport solution, similar to that being delivered in Maldon District;
- (vi) The need for the signage system in the Borough to be reviewed to ensure that it appropriately directs motorists through the town centre without exacerbating congestion problems;
- (vii) To initiate a public transport summit with a view to identifying a more sustainable, collaborative future provision;
- (viii) The need for local employers to be encouraged to provide home working solutions for their employees as a means to assist in the peak rush hour congestion problems;
- (ix) Bearing in mind transport poverty issues, the investigation of a moped hire type scheme for young people to access education and employment opportunities.

REASONS

Cabinet welcomed the recommendation from the Policy Review and Development

Panel and considered that the identified issues would strengthen the Council's transportation policies. The recommendations were in line with the approach already being taken by the Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was open to the Cabinet not to agree the recommendation from the Policy Review and Development Panel or to agree with some of the issues put forward by the Panel.

81. Introduction of 20 mph Speed Limits in Colchester

Minute 20 of the Policy Review and Development Panel meeting of 4 November 2013 was referred to the Cabinet.

Councillor Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services noted that whilst the Local Highway Panel would now deal with requests for 20 mph speed limits, no additional funding had been made available to support this work.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The work of the Task and Finish Group be noted.
- (b) It be noted that a local request based approach, via the Local Highway Panel, is to be pursued to introduce 20mph limits in Colchester.

REASONS

Cabinet noted the recommendation from the Policy Review and Development Panel.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were put forward to Cabinet.

82. Appointments to External Organisations

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the reports from those Councillors appointed to external organisations which are of strategic importance be noted.

REASONS

The Council makes a number of appointments to external organisations and Council Groups. These are normally made at the first Cabinet meeting of the municipal year. As a matter of good governance, those who are appointed to external organisations are

invited to report on the work of the organisation to the Cabinet. This enables Cabinet to see the value of the appointments it makes and the contribution that those appointed to external organisations make.

A number of appointments are made to organisations of strategic importance to the Borough. In view of their importance, it is appropriate that appointees to these organisations report on a six monthly basis.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were proposed.

83. Progress of Responses to the Public

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a progress sheet a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Progress Sheet be noted.

REASONS

The progress sheet was a mechanism by which the Cabinet could ensure that public statements and questions were responded to appropriately and promptly.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were presented to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet/Panel resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

84. Commercial Review of Community Alarms Service – Business Plan

Minute 22 of the Trading Board meeting on the 8 January 2014 was referred to Cabinet, including the Business Plan.

Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, reported that Councillor Greenhill, Chairman of the Trading Board, was unable to attend the meeting but had written to Cabinet members to express his support for the business plan and recommending its approval. Councillor Turrell and Councillor Bourne, Portfolio for Housing, indicated their support for the business case.

Cabinet thanked the Trading Board for its work in bringing forward the proposals.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) The Business Plan for the Commercial Review of Community Alarms Service be approved.

(b) The revenue investment required by the Business Plan be funded via the New Homes Bonus.

REASONS

The Trading Board has reviewed commercial proposals for the Community Alarms service and has recommended the Business Plan to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet considered that the Business Plan was sound.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was open to Cabinet not to approve the Business Plan or to approve it subject to amendments.