



## **Cabinet** **25 June 2008**

### **Report of the Policy Development Committee held on 18 June 2008**

On 18 June 2008, the Committee also considered the following issues:-

- Review of the Annual Reporting and Corporate Planning Cycle;
- Corporate Asset Management Plan and Capital Management Strategy;
- Single Equality Scheme; and
- Asset Management Plan and Capital Management Strategy Performance Management and Implementation Plans,

and separate reports appear on this agenda.

#### **(a) Annual Report of the Cabinet 2007/2008**

The Leader attended this meeting of the Committee, and presented the Cabinet's Annual Report for 2007/2008. As at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2008, members examined the document in detail, questioning the Leader on the report's contents. The Committee's particular areas of interest included the future development of the borough (in particular affordable housing, congestion and the opportunities afforded by the 2012 Olympics), Bury St Edmunds Town Centre (in particular parking), environmental issues (including waste management and abandoned vehicles) and local government reorganisation. The Committee expressed its broad support for the document and the revised priorities of the Cabinet for 2008/2009.

#### **(b) Cabinet Forward Plan – June to September 2008**

The Committee perused the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period June to September 2008, and as the Leader was still in attendance he was able to answer members' questions on a number of issues, which the Committee appreciated.

#### **(c) Approval of 2008/2009 Work Programme**

Following a ranking exercise held in April 2008, and later consultation with officers and the Cabinet, a draft Work Programme for 2008/2009 had been drawn up and was approved by the Committee, with the addition of the National Fraud Initiative Strategy and Action Plan, which would be considered by the Committee on 10 September 2008. Three members were also appointed to work with officers on the review of the private sector grants system.

**(d) Re-appointment to Panels, Reviews and Working Groups**

The Committee considered its requirements for 2008/2009 with regard to re-appointment to ongoing panels, reviews and working groups, specifically the Service Delivery Review Panel, Diversity Group, Leisure and Cultural Services Review and Cemeteries Service Review. The Committee resolved that should the existing members of these groups wish to continue, then they may be re-appointed, and added Councillor Bradbury as a substitute Member on the Service Delivery Review Panel. Should any members not wish to continue on a particular panel or review, then the relevant Group Leader would be requested to nominate an alternative member.

**(e) Delivering a Sustainable Budget 2009/2010**

A key responsibility of the Policy Development Committee is to assist the Cabinet and Council in the development of the budget. A five year financial model considered by full Council in February 2008 indicated that to deliver a sustainable budget over the period 2009 to 2012 the Council may need to find over £1.9m savings on a net budget in 2008/2009 of £13.7m. A complicating factor in assessing options to deliver a sustainable budget for 2009/2010 was the prospect of the Local Government Review, and therefore a pragmatic 4 step approach to the development of a sustainable budget for 2009/2010 was considered by the Committee. This is set out in Report Z26, and the Committee will monitor progress at each of its meetings up to budget setting in early 2009.

**(f) Minutes of the Service Delivery Review Panel Meeting held on 6 May 2008**

The Policy Development Committee is leading the Service Delivery Review, via the Service Delivery Review Panel, and periodically receives the Panel's minutes, as well as any recommendations put forward for consideration and recommendation to Cabinet. Last week the Committee received the Panel's minutes from 6 May 2008 for information; there were no recommendations for consideration arising from that meeting.

**Contact:**

Ian Houlter, Chairman of Policy Development Committee (01284 714248)

David Nettleton, Vice Chairman of the Policy Development Committee (01284 702212)

Adriana Stapleton, Scrutiny Manager (01284 757613)