



Buckinghamshire County Council

Decisions

Cabinet

12 July 2004

ITEM [3]: [Minutes]

The Cabinet agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2004.

ITEM [4]: [Portfolio Roundup]

Cabinet Members reported on developments in their portfolio areas.

ITEM [5]: [Scanning and Planning]

There were no changes to the Forward Plan.

ITEM [6]: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Environment – Road Design in Environmentally Sensitive Areas]

The Cabinet received the report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Environment of Buckinghamshire.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet accept the following recommendations:-

- i. **Innovation in design should be encouraged and urban solutions should be avoided in a rural setting unless they can be seen to fit into the environment. Schemes should seek to balance the effects on the environment with the benefits to safety, economy and effects of the scheme on the public.**
- ii. **The Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Roads in the Chilterns, together with the principles underlying the Management Plan for the Chilterns AONB should be adopted for the whole of Buckinghamshire not only in the Chilterns. This must not lose sight of the significance of roundabouts as strategic horizontal calming measures and the importance of lighting and other safe management techniques even in areas of environmental sensitivity.**
- iii. **Consistency plus choice should be an essential principle of road design across the County while recognising that the design of roadside features such a gateways should be recognisable as such in order for them to be effective at influencing the behaviour of the travelling public entering the area. Consideration should be given to local character and the use of local materials when carrying out designs of particular roadside features. Local councils should be given a range of options with regard to outline road designs on the condition that they would be expected to contribute towards a more expensive solution if that was desired.**
- iv. **The Council should lobby the Department for Transport, perhaps through national local government associations, for greater local freedom to be able to use road design solutions that suit the local environment.**

- v. **The specific features identified in the section below headed “Design and innovation” should be incorporated into local guidelines as examples of the considerations that should be taken into account when designing rural road schemes.**
- vi. **Local members should be the prime focus for early consultation on road schemes in their area and to be kept informed regularly as the decision developed. They should be the judge of how much consultation material they receive.**
- vii. **Members should be kept abreast of the outcomes of pilot studies currently being undertaken whereby roads are being stripped of signs and other features to encourage drivers and pedestrians to think their way around the road environment.**
- viii. **A member seminar should be held on the subject of Corporate Manslaughter once forthcoming legislation is published.**

ITEM [7]: [Provisional Budget Outturn for 2003/04]

The Cabinet received the report of the Leader of the Council on the financial position for 2003/4.

RESOLVED

That the provisional budget outturn position for 2003/4 be noted.

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