

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 6 April 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor L M Simpson – Vice Chairman in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs J Chandler, N J Guyatt, A Hansard, D P Holley, Mrs P J Longford, Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers and L M Simpson

APOLOGY An apology for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor I C Bates.

192. MR TERRY PARKER

The Chairman welcomed Mr Terry Parker, the newly appointed Director of Commerce & Technology to his first meeting of the Cabinet.

193. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16th March 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

194. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor N J Guyatt requested that it be recorded that his participation in the debate and voting would be undertaken without prejudice to the subsequent consideration and/or determination of any relevant planning application by the District Council's Development Control Panel of which he was a member.

195. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (4TH AMENDMENT) : SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS ON DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By way of a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with proposed amendments to the Local Development Scheme in relation to developer contributions towards affordable housing.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the proposed amendments to the Local Development Scheme for Huntingdonshire as outlined in Annex 1 to the

report now submitted be endorsed for submission to the Secretary of State.

196. MEDIUM TERM PLAN: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS:LICENSING

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the relevant funding as outlined in the annex to the report now submitted be released from the Medium Term Plan (scheme ref 324/B) in respect of implementation of the Council's licensing functions.

197. FINANCIAL STRATEGY, MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2007-2011 AND BUDGET 2006/7

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet were acquainted with the deliberations of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Planning & Finance), following their discussions with the Executive Councillor for Finance on the Budget, Medium Term Plan and Financial Strategy.

Having noted the background to the Panel's request to be consulted on any future reductions in expenditure and in noting the existing processes and roles for scrutiny in preparing, considering and reviewing the Budget & Medium Term Plan, the facility to "call-in" executive decisions, the need to avoid conflict with the non-executive powers and duties of other Panels, in particular those of the Employment Panel and the requirement to identify and implement efficiency savings as and when opportunities arose, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that the request by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Planning & Finance) for consultation additional to that already inherent in existing budget, MTP and other processes be not approved; and
- b) that the Executive Councillor for Finance be requested to convey to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Planning & Finance) the decision referred to in (a) above and the reasons therefore.

198. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains information which relates to the business affairs of the Council.

199. DISTRICT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS & OTHER ACCOMMODATION

In conjunction with the report of the District Council's Headquarters and other Office Accommodation Members' Advisory Group held on 27th March 2006 (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) and with the assistance of a report by the Head of Technical Services (a copy of which is also appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with progress on and recent developments, in the procurement of new headquarters and other accommodation for the District Council.

Having been informed of the advantages in exploiting, as far as possible, the acquisition of a site for a new Operations Centre, the conversion of the existing Godmanchester depot for car parking and further design work on the project prior to completion of the development agreement with Alfred McAlpine Capital Projects, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- a) that subject to the successful acquisition of the proposed site for the Operations Centre, the relevant funds as described in Annex A to the report now submitted be released from the Medium Term Plan in respect of the office accommodation project;
- b) that the Head of Technical Services be authorised to make further "on account" payments to the developer up to a maximum of £100,000 in respect of design costs; and
- c) that the Head of Technical Services be further authorised to initiate the detailed design of a traffic signal-controlled junction at the entrance to the proposed car park at Bridge Place and report further thereon to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Chairman