

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, 19 October 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs D C Reynolds and T V Rogers.

83. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28th September 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Chandler declared a personal interest in Minute No 91 by virtue of her membership of the Muir Group Housing Association Regional Committee.

85. TRAVEL PLAN

The Cabinet received a report by the Head of Technical Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was appended a proposed travel plan for the District Council.

In considering the plan, together with statistical information on employee travel data and in noting the views of the Employment Panel, Employee Liaison Advisory Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support), the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that subject to such minor textual amendments to the document as may be approved by the Head of Technical Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Environment and Transport, the District Council Travel Plan be approved for publication; and
- (b) that the promotion of car sharing, the introduction of a cycle to work scheme and the use of pool cars as detailed in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the report be approved; and

- (c) that the proposed use of virement among existing budgets to fund capital and revenue expenditure in 2006/07 as set out in paragraph 10 of the report be approved;

86. GROWING SUCCESS - CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE

By way of a report by the Head of Policy (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with progress in updating the Council's Corporate Plan.

Having noted the findings of a joint working group established by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to undertake a detailed review of the plan and associated objectives and targets, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that progress in the review of the Corporate Plan be noted.

87. MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07

By means of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and having been acquainted with variations in the Capital Programme in the current year, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the report be received and the expenditure variations and capital and revenue impact noted; and
- (b) that the position with regard to individual schemes as set out in Annex A to the report now submitted be noted.

88. FINANCIAL MONITORING - REVENUE BUDGET

The Cabinet received and noted a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) detailing expected budget variation already identified in the current year.

RESOLVED

that the spending variations estimated in the revenue budget as at 11th October 2006 be noted.

89. MEDIUM TERM PLAN - REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

By way of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a request for the release of funding for a Medium Term Plan scheme.

Having considered the scheme involved, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the relevant funding be released to support the establishment of a new post of Environmental Health and

Safety (Housing) Officer.

90. PLANNING SERVICES - PROPOSED COMMUNITY LIAISON AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

With the aid of a joint report by the Heads of Planning Services, of Policy and of Information Management Divisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered the content of the Community Liaison Engagement Strategy aimed at enhancing the integrity, visibility, accessibility and inclusiveness of the planning process.

In discussing the eight actions identified in the Strategy, Members' attention was drawn to terms for the introduction of public speaking at Development Control Panel meetings which would be considered further at the meeting of full Council on 6th December 2006. Having noted the Royal Town Planning Institute's Guidelines on "Effective Community Involvement and Consultation", the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Community Liaison Engagement Strategy for Planning Services, as appended in the report now submitted, be approved.

91. CAMBRIDGE SUB REGION CHOICE BASED LETTINGS SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 06/18 and by way of a report by the Head of Housing Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were updated on progress with the introduction of a sub regional Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Having noted details of the District Council's involvement and the requirement for a partnership agreement between the parties involved, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that progress on the introduction of the Choice Based Lettings scheme be noted; and
- (b) that the Head of Housing Services be authorised to continue with negotiations to establish a Choice Based Lettings scheme throughout the Cambridge Sub-Region and to present updates as necessary to Cabinet.

92. THE NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By way of a report by the Director of Operational Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with progress on the development of a community-wide Environmental Strategy and priorities relating to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

In considering the contents of the report, Executive Councillors noted the requirement for authorities subscribing to the Declaration to

commit to the preparation of a two year action plan with the aim of addressing, progressively, the causes and impacts of climate change. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the schedule proposed for submitting the Environment Strategy to Cabinet in January 2007 be noted; and
- (b) that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change on behalf of the District Council.

**93. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT:
HUNTINGDONSHIRE DESIGN GUIDE**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet received a draft Design Guide aimed at improving the quality and distinctiveness of Huntingdonshire's environment.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the draft supplementary planning document, "The Huntingdonshire Design Guide", be approved as a basis for public consultation; and
- (b) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy, to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations arising from the sustainability appraisal, prior to the issue of the document for public consultation.

**94. HUNTINGDONSHIRE LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE
ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft copy of the Supplementary Planning Document, "The Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment".

Having noted the main aims and objectives of the document, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the draft Supplementary Planning Document, "The Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment" be approved as a basis for public consultation; and
- (b) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy, to make any consequential amendments to the text and illustrations arising from the sustainability

appraisal, prior to the issue of the document for public consultation.

95. ST NEOTS CONSERVATION AREA: REVIEW, CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Further to Minute No. 06/49, the Cabinet considered a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) outlining the responses received to the consultation on the Boundary Review, Character Statement and Management Plan for the St. Neots Conservation Area and suggested amendments as a consequence thereof.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the St. Neots Conservation Area be designated according to the boundary in the St. Neots Boundary Review document without modification;
- (b) that the revised St. Neots Conservation Area Assessment, as amended to reflect the content of the Annex to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (c) that the Management Plan for the St. Neots Conservation Area be approved as a set of proposals for the enhancement of the area and as the basis for further discussion and project work; and
- (d) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy, to make any minor consequential amendment to the text and illustrations as a result of the amendments referred to in (b) above.

96. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to the financial affairs of particular persons (including the authority holding that information) and/or information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

97. SALE OF LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT CRANFIELD WAY, BUCKDEN

By way of a joint report by the Heads of Legal and Estates and the Head of Housing Services (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book), the Cabinet considered proposed terms for the transfer of Council-owned land at Cranfield Way, Buckden to the Nene Housing Society for the purpose of providing affordable housing.

While endorsing the principle of disposal of the land in question, Executive Councillors expressed the view that issues associated with

the tenure of the affordable housing to be provided on the site and the terms of any future disposals to tenants under the right to acquire would benefit from further clarification in conjunction with the Leader and Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy, be authorised to approve terms for the sale of land at Cranfield Way, Buckden to the Nene Housing Society.

98. UNIT 10, GLEBE ROAD, ST PETER'S INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HUNTINGDON

Further to item No. 06/36, the Cabinet considered a joint report by the Head of Legal and Estates and the Director of Commerce and Technology (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) regarding a request to purchase the freehold of a factory unit at 10 Glebe Road, St. Peter's Industrial Estate, Huntingdon. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Resources and Policy and for Finance be authorised to approve terms for the sale of the Council's freehold interest in Unit 10, Glebe Road, Huntingdon and the re-investment of the proceeds in an industrial/commercial property which is likely to yield an equivalent return.

Chairman