

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 May 2005.

PRESENT: Councillor D P Holley - Chairman
Councillors I C Bates, Mrs J Chandler,
N J Guyatt, A Hansard, Mrs P J Longford,
Mrs D C Reynolds and L M Simpson

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor T V Rogers

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28th April 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

3. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED

(a) that executive responsibilities for the Municipal Year 2005/06 be allocated as follows –

- ◆ Finance – Cllr T V Rogers;
- ◆ Planning Strategy – Cllr N J Guyatt;
- ◆ Environment & Transport – Cllr Mrs P J Longford;
- ◆ Leisure – Cllr Mrs J Chandler;
- ◆ Resources & Policy – Cllr A Hansard;
- ◆ Housing & Public Health – Cllr Mrs D Reynolds;
- ◆ Operations & Information Technology – Cllr L M Simpson.

(b) that executive responsibility for issues associated with the Council's Headquarters and Other Accommodation and the strategic overview of personnel issues be reserved to the Leader of the Council; and

(c) that Executive Cllrs be appointed to serve as ex-officio Members of Panels as follows –

Executive Cllrs for - Ex-officio for –

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Resources & Policy | Licensing & Protection Panel |
| Planning Strategy | Development Control Panel |
| Strategic Overview of Personnel | Employment Panel |

4. LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

that for the Municipal Year 2005/06, Members be appointed to serve on the Leisure Centre Management Committees as follows –

- ◆ **Huntingdon Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors Mrs J Chandler, J J Dutton, J D Fell, C R Hyams, Mrs S A Menczer and L M Simpson
- ◆ **St. Neots Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, Mrs J Chandler, A Hansard, Mrs P J Longford and I P Taylor
- ◆ **St. Ivo Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors J D Ablewhite, I C Bates, J T Bell, Mrs J Chandler, S J Criswell and C J Stephens
- ◆ **Ramsey Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors E R Butler, Mrs J Chandler, I R Muir, R Powell and P A Swales
- ◆ **Sawtry Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs J Chandler, J E Garner, P G Mitchell and J S Watt.

5. HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK JOINT LIAISON GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs J Chandler and J D Fell be appointed to serve on the Hinchingsbrooke Park Joint Liaison Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

6. HUNTINGDONSHIRE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AREA JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that Councillors M G Baker, N J Guyatt, Mrs P J Longford, M F Newman, together with two further nominations from the

Conservative Group be nominated to serve on the Huntingdonshire Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

7. DISTRICT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION - MEMBERS' ADVISORY GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors I C Bates, W T Clough, P J Downes, P L E Bucknell, D P Holley, K Reynolds and T V Rogers be appointed to serve on the District Council's Headquarters and Other Accommodation Members' Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

8. DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors I C Bates, W T Clough, P J Downes, N J Guyatt, P G Mitchell, J M Sadler and P A Swales be appointed to serve on the Development Plan Policy Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

9. CUSTOMER FIRST ADVISORY PANEL

RESOLVED

that Councillors M G Baker, J T Bell, J D Fell, T V Rogers, L M Simpson and G S E Thorpe be appointed to serve on the Customer First Advisory Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

10. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors Mrs D E Collins, J W Davies, A Hansard, R Reynolds and L M Simpson be appointed to serve on the Safety Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

11. CORE POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

A report by the Head of Planning Services was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) inviting the Cabinet to consider suggested preferred options for inclusion in the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD).

Members were reminded that the core strategy would describe a spatial vision for the District and criteria-based policies to guide the development and use of land and would form a framework for a range of documents, which would include a planning proposals DPD containing site specific allocations.

The Development Plans Manager reported on the findings of the Draft Final Sustainability Appraisals on Strategic Environmental Assets to be circulated for the Special Council meeting on 25th May 2005. Members were informed that this had been produced by consultants and examined the suggested options against social, economic and environmental criteria to ensure the approaches recommended would be more sustainable than the alternatives identified.

Having been reminded of the timescale and procedure for public consultation and consideration by the Council prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to approve the content of the Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report as a basis for public consultation.

12. URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK: ST. NEOTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 schedule summarising those representations received during consultation on the Urban Design Framework which would guide development in the vicinity of St. Neots Community College.

Having recognised that the development of the area as envisaged would be subject to the receipt of detailed planning applications and that the matters raised during consultation would be addressed through the planning process, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make any consequential amendments to the text and illustrations of the Urban Design Framework document to incorporate those changes proposed during consultation; and
- (b) that the Urban Design Framework for St. Neots Community College (as amended) be adopted as Interim Planning Guidance.

13. HOUSING ACT 2004

By way of a joint report by the Heads of Environmental Health Services and of Housing Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members were acquainted with the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 and the arrangements required to ensure that the District Council, as local housing authority, was in a position to fulfil its duties under the Act in relation to private sector housing enforcement issues.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Council's scheme of delegation be varied to authorise appropriate Officers to use a range of powers and duties in relation to the Housing Act 2004 as set out in paragraphs 5.1 (a) – (f) of the report now submitted;
- (c) that the availability of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants be extended to those occupying caravans in the District as their only or main residence; and
- (d) that the Head of Housing Services consider the needs of gypsies and travellers living in the District when reviewing housing needs in accordance with statutory requirements and other relevant corporate strategies.

14. MEDIUM TERM PLAN: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered requests for the release of funding for MTP schemes.

Having considered the schemes involved, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the relevant funding be released for additional car parking spaces at Huntingdon Leisure Centre, a private sector housing survey, to meet a deficit in air quality fees and to commission work to investigate contaminated land-as included in the Council's MTP.

15. A14 HUNTINGDON TO CAMBRIDGE - PROPOSED 60MPH SPEED LIMIT

(The Chairman announced that he proposed to admit the following urgent item in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 given the need for the Council to respond to a proposal from the Highways Agency by a deadline of 8th June 2005 which fell in advance of the date for the next meeting of the Cabinet.)

A report by the Director of Operational Services was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) drawing the Cabinet's attention to a proposal by the Highways Agency to introduce a permanent 60 mph speed limit on the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge.

The Cabinet indicated their preference in the long term for variable speed limits together with SPECS cameras on the section of the A14 from the north west of the Spittals interchange to east of the Histon roundabout to be strategically placed in the vicinity of road junctions. Having also noted emerging proposals by the Highways Agency for the introduction of a permanent 40mph speed limit at the A14/141 Spittals interchange together with the installation of traffic signals, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that a proposal by the Highway Agency to introduce a 60mph speed limit on the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge be supported for a trial period.

Chairman