

## 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, 7 September 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.

### **52. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th July 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **53. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Bates declared a personal interest in Minute No 57 by virtue of his membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor Bucknell as a Member of the Development Control Panel requested that it be recorded that his participation in the debate and voting on Minute nos 65 and 68 would be undertaken without prejudice to the consideration and/or determination of any relevant planning application subsequently by the Panel.

Councillor Hansard declared a personal interest in Minute No 64 by virtue of his membership of St Neots Town Council.

### **54. FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No. 06/41 and by way of reports by the Heads of Financial Services and of Administration (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with work on the preparation of the draft budget and Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the period to 2018/19, together with the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) thereon.

In discussing the content of the report and in particular the need to identify and implement savings to achieve a balanced plan, Members reiterated their disappointment that the Government continued to withhold some £547 k in grant due to the Council as a way of a safety net in light of future grant reductions. With regard to possible savings and in addition to those listed in Annex A, Members' attention was drawn to a "Reserve List" of suggestions made by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Having noted that Officers had been asked to review

the suitability of the Panel's suggestions as part of the ongoing review of budgets and Medium Term Plan schemes and in noting references by the Executive Councillor for Finance as to the extensive range of grants made available by the Council in addition to those for community initiatives, it was

RESOLVED

that full Council be recommended to;

- (a) support the saving items set out in Annex A to the report now submitted.
- (b) support the strategy for a steady profile of savings as represented by Annex B to the report now submitted; and
- (c) request Officers to review all budgets and Medium Term Plan schemes (revenue and capital) to identify any further opportunities for savings.

## **55. GROWING SUCCESS - PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Cabinet received a report by the Head of Policy (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) presenting performance management data for the period April to June 2006.

Having been acquainted with the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) on the document, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted.

## **56. THE SANCTUARY PROJECT**

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the role, development and funding of a county-wide sanctuary scheme aimed at providing home security measures for victims of domestic violence.

Having discussed financial and other issues associated with the proposed procurement of the service via the Luminus Group, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted and the Director of Central Services authorised to enter into an Agreement with partner authorities and the Luminus Group in relation to the Cambridgeshire Domestic Violence Sanctuary Project.

## **57. PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE**

By way of a joint report by the Head of Legal and Estates and the Countryside Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a proposal to extend Little Paxton Nature Reserve from 240 to 700 acres by way of the acceptance by the District Council of leases of land adjacent to the existing reserve following the completion of gravel extraction operations.

Having considered proposed terms and conditions for the leases, and the sources of funding identified to finance key elements of the extended nature reserves, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy, be authorised to approve detailed terms for leases of land, adjacent to the Little Paxton Nature Reserve, by the District Council.

**58. GAMBLING ACT 2005: STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES**

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Book) to which was attached a draft Statement of Principles under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005.

Having regard to the timetable for consultation and in noting the endorsement of the principles by the Licensing Committee, it was

RESOLVED

that the draft Statement of Principles be approved for consultation purposes.

**59. PROMOTING BETTER HEALTH IN OLDER PEOPLE THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

A report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which summarised the findings of a study by the Panel's Older Persons' Working Group regarding the needs of older people and the services available to them.

With regard to the Panel's recommendations, the Cabinet was informed that the District Council was represented on the Out and About Steering Group by the Leisure Centres' Co-ordinator . In discussing the scope for optimizing the availability and use of services for older people within available resources, Executive Councillors referred to the need for these to be compatible with the emerging financial strategy and accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that the report be received and Officers requested to report further to a future meeting on the operational and financial implications of the Panel's

recommendations.

**60. GODMANCHESTER (POST STREET) CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft copy of the Management Plan for Godmanchester Post Street Conservation Area.

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

RESOLVED

that the draft Management Plan for the Godmanchester Post Street Conservation Area be approved as basis for public consultation.

**61. KEYSTON CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

With the aid of a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a draft Management Plan for the Keyston Conservation Area.

Having been informed that the plan had been produced to clearly identify, co-ordinate and programme a series of specific projects for the enhancement of the conservation area, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the draft Management Plan for the Keyston Conservation Area be approved as a basis for public consultation.

**62. GODMANCHESTER (EARNING STREET) CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft copy of the Management Plan for the Godmanchester, Earning Street, Conservation Area.

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

RESOLVED

that the Draft Management Plan for the Godmanchester Earning Street Conservation Area be approved as a basis for public consultation.

**63. STONELY CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

With the aid of a report by the Planning Policy Manager, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a draft

Management Plan for the Stonely Conservation Area.

Having been informed that the Plan had been produced to clearly identify, co-ordinate and programme a series of specific projects for the enhancement of the conservation area, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the draft Management Plan for the Stonely Conservation Area be approved as a basis for public consultation.

**64. URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK & MASTER PLAN: ST. MARY'S URBAN VILLAGE, ST. NEOTS**

Further to Minute No. 06/12, the Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) outlining the responses received to the consultation on the Urban Design Framework and Master Plan for land to the west of St. Mary's Church, St. Neots and suggested amendments as a consequence thereof.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the revised urban design framework and master plan for St. Mary's Village as amended to reflect the content of Annex 1 to the report now submitted, be approved as Interim Planning Guidance; 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 as a result of the amendments referred to in the preceding resolution

**65. CUSTOMER FIRST & ACCOMMODATION ADVISORY GROUP**

A report of the meeting of the Customer First and Accommodation Advisory Group held on 26th July 2006 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was received. Having considered issues regarding call handling arrangements at the Call Centre, and the naming of the new Operations Centre, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Director of Operational Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for the new Headquarters and Information Technology, be authorised to determine an appropriate name for the new Operations Centre; and
- (b) that the continued use of call queuing arrangements be approved.

**66. ST. NEOTS LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - REPRESENTATION**

Having been advised of the resignation of Councillor R W Eaton from the St. Neots Leisure Centre Management Committee and in

considering the nomination from the Liberal Democrat Group, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs D E Collins be appointed to fill the vacancy on the St. Neots Leisure Centre Management Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

**67. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to terms proposed in the course of negotiations for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

**68. NEW HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION - PROGRESS**

Further to Minute No. 05/199 the Cabinet received and noted a report by the Head of Technical Services (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book). The report outlined progress on and recent developments in the procurement of new headquarters and other accommodation for the District Council and the opportunities which were to be taken to seek savings in the interests of containing the overall project cost within the provision made in the Medium Term Plan.

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted.

Chairman