

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, 30 November 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.

106. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th November 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

107. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor I C Bates declared a personal interest in each of the matters referred to in Minute Nos. 114 and 118 by virtue of his membership of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizon's respectively.

108. GROWING SUCCESS - CORPORATE PLAN

Further to Item No. 06/86, a report by the Head of Policy was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a copy of the replacement Corporate Plan – "Growing Success" developed to support the Council's Community Strategy.

Having noted the plan's key targets, of place making, the environment, partnership working, neighbourhood and lifestyles, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to adopt – "Growing Success" as its Corporate Plan.

109. BUDGET AND 2007-12 MEDIUM TERM PLAN

Further to Minute No. 06/54 and by way of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with the present position in relation to the Council's draft budget and Medium Term Plan for the period up to 2011 – 2012, together with the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) thereon.

In considering the information contained in the report, and while noting that the required budget savings had been identified in the

current year and for 2007/08, it was agreed that Executive Councillors should review critically with appropriate Heads of Service all schemes/projects currently listed in the draft Plan. On the understanding that the outcomes of that review might result in changes to the Plan as presently envisaged which in turn might impact on the budget requirement, it was -

RESOLVED

that the Council be invited to approve the draft Medium Term Financial Plan as the basis for the production of the 2007/08 Budget, the revised Medium Term Plan for 2008 – 2012 and a financial plan to 2018/2019.

110. 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 requests for the release of funding from the Medium Term Plan.

In considering a request to release £25,000 towards the initial tender process and preparatory work on a scheme to extend the Impressions Fitness Suite at Huntingdon Leisure Centre, Executive Councillors expressed concern that an appropriate business plan for the scheme should be submitted as a pre-requisite to the release of any funding for this project. Having referred also to the recent findings of a condition survey of the five Leisure Centres in the District undertaken as part of the Medium Term Plan process and the perceived need to review future leisure service provision, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the relevant funding be released to support the building of a new football pavilion at Priory Park, St. Neots and the appointment of a new part-time Environmental Health and Safety (Housing) Officer; and
- (b) that the request to release funds towards preparatory work for the proposed expansion of the Impression Suite at Huntingdon Leisure Centre be deferred pending the submission of a further report to a future meeting of the Cabinet outlining the implications of preparing a business plan for the scheme; and
- (c) that a further report be submitted to Cabinet addressing the perceived requirement for a business plan covering all the Leisure Centres and Impressions fitness suites, and the issues associated with potential options for the delivery of leisure services in the future.

111. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

A report by the Head of Financial Services was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which reviewed the respective levels of performance achieved during the period July – September 2006 by external fund managers in the matter of investment of the

Council's Capital Receipts.

RESOLVED

that the content of the report be noted.

112. MOBILE HOME SITE, EYNESBURY CONTAMINATED LAND REMEDIATION WORKS

Further to Minute No 06/26, the Cabinet considered an updated report by the Head of Housing Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on a programme of work for the remediation of contaminated land at the Council's Mobile Home Park and requesting a supplementary capital estimate to allow the final stages of the works to commence.

In considering the information contained in the report, Members were reminded that Government funding towards the whole of the project had been sought from the Contaminated Land Capital Projects Programme. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) that supplementary capital estimates of £151,000 in 2006/07 and £369,000 in 2007/08 be approved; and
- (c) that the Director of Commerce and Technology, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Housing and Public Health and for Finance, to approve further supplementary capital estimates on this scheme up to a maximum of £200,000.

113. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

By way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were invited to consider the content of a revised Local Development Scheme for Huntingdonshire together with a statement of community involvement. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the draft revised Local Development Scheme be endorsed for submission to the Secretary of State;
- (b) that prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make minor changes to the draft Local Development Scheme, as he considers necessary following informal consultation with Go-East; and
- (c) that the statement of community involvement appended to the report now submitted be approved.

114. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS

(See Minute No. 107 for Members' interests).

By means of a report by the Planning Policy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with proposals published by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council for minerals and waste planning to 2021.

In discussing the implications of the proposals for Huntingdonshire and the contents of a suggested response, Executive Councillors referred to transport issues impacting on the area when moving waste and the need to minimise the use of local minor roads by waste landfill traffic. Having expressed concern over the continued absorption of waste in the County from the London area and the requisite for the appropriate body to establish the necessary processes to minimise and manage this waste, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Planning Policy Manager be authorised to convey to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council the observations contained in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, together with the District Council's concerns about issues associated with transportation and the disposal of waste from Greater London within Cambridgeshire.

115. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - GYPSY AND TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which described the key elements of an issues and options report for a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document produced by South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of its Local Development Framework.

In discussing the contents of the report, Members emphasised that South Cambridgeshire should meet the needs of gypsies and travellers within its area by allocating sufficient sites and not seek to disperse the site allocations to neighbouring authorities. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Head of Planning Services be authorised to respond to South Cambridgeshire District Council along the lines set out in the report now submitted.

116. FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS

The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which summarised the

preferred options for the core strategy of Fenland District Council's Local Development Framework on which observations had been requested.

Having noted the contents of the report, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the report be received and the provisional content of the response to Fenland District Council endorsed.

117. GAMBLING ACT 2005: STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES

Further to Minute No. 06/58 and with the assistance of a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered the results of consultation on the Council's draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles along with suggested amendments thereto.

RESOLVED

that full Council be recommended to approve the Statement of Licensing Principles appended to the report now submitted with effect from 31st January 2007 for a period of three years.

118. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS LIMITED - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(See Minute No. 107 for Members' interests).

Further to Minute No. 05/159 and with the assistance of a report by the Head of Legal and Estates (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet was acquainted with the background to a memorandum of understanding for Cambridgeshire Horizons Limited. Having noted details of the District Council's involvement and in discussing the allocation of the funding involved, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Cabinet authorise the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding as outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the report now submitted, subject to the final wording being agreed by the Head of Legal and Estates; and
- (b) that the Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the deputy Leader of the Council, to determine future constitutional and other similar matters arising from the Council's membership of Cambridgeshire Horizons Limited.

119. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

In receiving and noting the report of the Safety Advisory Group held on 15th November 2006, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Head of Human Resources and Payroll be authorised to arrange an exercise to test the Council's bomb procedures.

Chairman