

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Cabinet Room, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 26 April 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.
Councillors Mrs J Chandler, A Hansard, Mrs P J Longford, Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers and L M Simpson.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillors P L E Bucknell.

183. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th April 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to Item No 180, the Director of Central Services assured Executive Councillors that a further report would be submitted to Cabinet prior to any disposal of land at Priory Park, St Neots.

184. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs P J Longford declared a personal interest in Minute No. 189 by virtue of being a dog-owner. Councillor Mrs D C Reynolds declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No 188 by virtue of her employment under the auspices of the PCT and left the room for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.

185. FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET

The Cabinet received a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which appended in the Minute Book) on the projected out-turn for 2006/07.

RESOLVED

that the variations in the revenue budget for 2006/07 be noted.

186. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 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 noted; and
- b) that the estimated capital and revenue impact also be

noted.

187. MEDIUM TERM PLAN - REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS: CORPORATE ICT SYSTEMS' OFFICER

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 this new permanent post.

RESOLVED

that funding as detailed in the Annexe to the report now submitted be released in respect of the post of Corporate ICT Systems Officer.

188. HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

With the aid of a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a suggested response on behalf of the Council to a consultation paper issued by the Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust entitled "Seeking Sustainable Health Services for the People of Huntingdonshire".

Having considered the proposals outlined in the paper Executive Councillors agreed that any service changes for Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust should not reduce the quality and accessibility of services for residents in Huntingdonshire.

With regard to the comprehensive strategic review planned by the Strategic Health Authority, the Cabinet felt that it would be inappropriate for this to proceed given the recent review and the negative impact which another exercise could have on local hospital services.

On the issue of the future of the Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust, Executive Councillors commented that the dissolution of the Trust would result in a loss of accountability and would be detrimental to the local management and coordination of healthcare in the District. At the same time, Members recorded their concern that the paper did not address future population growth given the proposed increase in new housing for Huntingdonshire and the impact this would have on service requirements.

Finally, having expressed their support for the efforts of personnel at Hinchingsbrooke hospital in performing their duties, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Director of Operational Services, after consultation with the Leader, be authorised to respond to the consultation as outlined the report now submitted and in the light of the deliberations by Executive Councillors.

189. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Environmental and

Community Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet considered a proposal to introduce four dog control orders to replace existing dog control provisions as required under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Having discussed the proposals in the report and having regard to concern expressed in relation to the proposed Order relating to dogs on leads and its impact on other aspects of dog control, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that consideration of the matter be deferred pending the submission of further information to a future meeting.

190. PLAY STRATEGY

By way of a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) that Cabinet was invited to consider the content of a draft Play Strategy for Huntingdonshire and its proposed submission to the "Big Lottery Fund" in October 2007 for funding to create, improve and develop children and young peoples' play spaces locally.

Having been advised that the Strategy had been the subject of extensive consultation with interested parties and that the associated Action Plan would address the needs of local groups/individuals with disabilities, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- a) that the content of the draft Play Strategy for Huntingdonshire be approved;
- b) that the proposed key elements of the Action Plan outlined in paragraph 3.3 to 3.6 be approved and the associated financial implications costed; and
- c) that the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services be requested to report further to the Cabinet on the proposed Action Plan, with costings.

191. ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR CORE STRATEGY, DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS AND HUNTINGDON WEST AREA ACTION PLAN

Further to Minute number 06/170 and by way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet was invited to consider the content of the following documents:-

- Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2007 – Issues and Options
- Development Control Policies Development Plan Document – Issues and Options
- Huntingdon West Area Action Plan – Issues and Options

Having the noted the background to preparation of the documents, their main aims and objectives, a timetable for consultation with

stakeholders and arrangements for Member involvement by way of series of workshops, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2007 – Issues and Options, Development Control Policies Development Plan Document and the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan be approved for public consultation.

192. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business being transacted contains exempt information relating to negotiations for the disposal of land.

193. CALL-IN: LAND AT WESTWOOD ROAD, ST. IVES

Further to Minute No. 06/182 and with the assistance of a report by the Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended to the Annex to the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered the deliberations of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) in relation to their “call-in” of the decision made by the Cabinet on the proposed disposal of Council-owned land at Westwood Road, St Ives at its meeting on the 5th April 2007.

Arising from the deliberations of the Panel with regard to the sale of the land and in particular issues concerning the potential effect on adjoining premises leased from Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of a number of youth organisations, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the views expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be noted; and
- (b) that the resolution in Minute No 182 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th April 2007 be rescinded and the following substituted therefor –
“that the Director of Central Services be authorised to negotiate terms for the possible disposal of District Council-owned land at Westwood Road, St Ives and that a report thereon, to address also the long term accommodation requirements of Youth Organisations occupying adjacent land, be submitted to a future meeting”.

Chairman