

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, 17 May 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

Councillors P L E Bucknell, A Hansard,
C R Hyams, Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers
and L M Simpson.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th April 2007 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 2007/08 be allocated as follows –

Finance	- Councillor T V Rogers
Planning Strategy, Environment and Transport	- Councillor P L E Bucknell
Resources and Policy	- Councillor A Hansard
Housing and Public Health	- Councillor D C Reynolds
Headquarters, Information Technology and Leisure	- Councillor L M Simpson
Operations, Parks and Countryside	- Councillor C Hyams

- (b) that the Leader of the Council be appointed to serve as ex-officio Member of the Employment Panel; and

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

Executive Councillors	Ex-Officio for –
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Resources and Policy	Licensing and Protection Panel/Licensing
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Planning Strategy,
Environment and
Transport

Committee
Development Control
Panel

4. LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

that for the Municipal Year 2007/08, Members be appointed to serve on the Leisure Centre Management Committees as follows –

- **Huntingdon Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors K Baker, J J Dutton, J D Fell, Miss S Kemp, D J Priestman and L M Simpson
- **St Neots Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors R W D Bailey, R W Eaton, B Farrer, A Hansard and R J West
- **St Ivo Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors J D Ablewhite, J T Bell, S J Criswell, J W Davies, T V Rogers and C J Stephens
- **Ramsey Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors P L E Bucknell, E R Butler, I R Muir, R Powell and P A Swales
- **Sawtry Leisure Centre Management Committee**
Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, J E Garner, C R Hyams, P G Mitchell and J S Watt

5. COUNTRYSIDE JOINT GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors M Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, J D Fell and C R Hyams be appointed to serve on the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

6. HUNTINGDONSHIRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AREA JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that Councillors M Baker, P L E Bucknell, R S Farrer, M F Newman, K Reynolds and T D Sanderson be appointed to serve on the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

7. CUSTOMER FIRST AND ACCOMMODATION ADVISORY GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors P L E Bucknell, S J Criswell, P J Downes, K

Reynolds, T V Rogers, L M Simpson and G S E Thorpe be appointed to serve on the Customer First and Accommodation Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

8. MEMBERS' ADVISORY GROUP FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

RESOLVED

that the Members' Advisory Group for Public Conveniences remain in abeyance pro temp.

9. DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY ADVISORY GROUP.

RESOLVED

that Councillors I C Bates, P L E Bucknell, P J Downes, P G Mitchell, J M Sadler, P A Swales and G S E Thorpe be appointed to serve on Development Plan Policy Advisory Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

10. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

RESOLVED

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

11. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors M G Baker, I C Bates, P L E Bucknell, D B Dew, J A Gray and R G Tuplin be appointed to serve on the Environment Strategy Working Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

12. MEMBERS' CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors P L E Bucknell, K J Churchill, J E Garner, C R Hyams, D J Priestman, K Reynolds and J M Sadler be appointed to serve on the Members' Car Parking Working Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

13. MEDIUM TERM PLAN - REQUESTS FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

(The Chairman announced that he proposed to include within the following item a proposal to release funds for an element of the Leisure Centres' Condition Survey 2007-11 in accordance with Section 100B(4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 given the need to make urgent repairs to the swimming pool roof at St Neots Leisure Centre.)

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Financial Services

requesting the release of funding for various schemes included in the Medium Term Plan. (Copies of the report and associated justifications are appended in the Minute Book).

With regard to the scheme to improve the appearance and safety of public conveniences in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots, Members were of the opinion that the proposal to refurbish the public conveniences on South Street, St Neots should be deferred to enable officers to investigate further issues relating to design and location. Members also sought information on the proportion of County Council funding on a number of partnership schemes and requested that the justifications for the release of schemes should be more detailed in future.

Members were informed that as a result of heavy rainfall on the evening of 15th May, water had penetrated the roof of the swimming pool at St. Neots Leisure Centre, causing the building to have to be evacuated and closed. Although the pool had been re-opened, it was suggested that the situation was likely to recur in the event of another rain storm. It was pointed out that provision had been made in the current 5 year condition survey for leisure centre maintenance and in the MTP for the repair of the roof. However this had not been brought forward for the release of funds while negotiations were ongoing with the County Council for them to bear a proportion of the costs.

The Cabinet were informed that, in preparing the condition survey, consultants had estimated that the replacement of the pool roof would take 24 weeks and that it would be advisable for all of the other internal refurbishment/maintenance at the pool to be undertaken while the pool was closed to minimise the loss of income.

Members were concerned to ensure that the County Council contributed to the cost of the work, especially since the District Council had met the whole of the cost of replacing the pool roof at Ramsey Leisure Centre some years previously.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the relevant funding be released for the following schemes and projects within the Council's Medium Term Plan –
- Crime and Disorder – lighting improvements
 - CCTV digital services
 - Local Transport Plan
 - Safe cycle routes
 - Huntingdon Transport Strategy
 - Bus shelters – extra provision
 - Huntingdon Bus Station
 - St Ives town centre Phase II
 - A J C small scale improvements
 - Environmental improvements – village residential areas
 - Street naming

- Accessibility improvements; and
 - Affordable housing social housing grant.
- (b) that £170,000 of capital funding be released for new public conveniences and the associated revenue costs, with the exception of work at South Street, St. Neots; and
- (c) that the release of £464,000 of capital funding for essential repairs to the swimming pool roof at St Neots Leisure Centre and associated internal refurbishment/maintenance work be approved and the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, authorised to approve the final costing of the scheme following negotiations with the County Council.

14. QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

The Cabinet received and noted a report by the Head of Revenue Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) summarising debts which had been written off during January – March 2007 as irrecoverable.

15. RIVERSIDE MOORINGS - ENFORCEMENT OF SHORT STAY MOORING RULES

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking approval to enter into an agreement with the Environment Agency for the Agency's river inspectors to take action when necessary, to ensure that boats using the District Council's short stay moorings did not overstay the time period allowed.

Members were advised that some boat owners had been abusing the short stay period and reminded of the likely demand for temporary moorings for the forthcoming Inland Waterways Festival in St Ives in August. Having been advised that the Council did not have the necessary resources to regulate moorings on the river, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that arrangements for the District Council to enter into an agreement for the Environment Agency to enforce the terms and conditions of the Council's short stay river moorings be approved and the Head of Operations, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Operations, Parks and Countryside, be authorised to determine the period of the agreement.

16. BUSINESS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND WASTE PROGRAMME (BREW) FUNDING 2007/08

With the aid of a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered a proposal by the Recycling Cambridge and Peterborough Waste Partnership

(RECAP) to introduce a pilot project to provide recycling facilities for small and medium sized shops and businesses in the market towns in Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East and South Cambridgeshire Districts.

Having noted that funding of £71,000 had been secured from DEFRA's business resource efficiency and waste funding to finance the project, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the arrangements proposed for the District Council to host the pilot project for recycling waste generated by small and medium-sized businesses be approved.

17. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION DRAFT

Further to Minute No. 06/147 and by way of a report by the Head of Technical Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet was invited to consider the contents of the second draft of the proposed Environment Strategy for Huntingdonshire.

In discussing the content of the Strategy, Executive Councillors suggested that references should be included in the document to the possible development of eco-friendly housing in the District and to issues relating to the Waterways in Huntingdonshire including the risks of contamination. Having noted the timetable for consultation with the public, parish and town councils and other interested bodies, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the draft Environment Strategy be approved for consultation purposes;
- (b) that the engagement and consultation proposals as detailed in section 2 of the report now submitted be approved; and
- (c) that the Head of Technical Services, after consultation with the Environment Strategy Working Group, be authorised to agree the form of the base line survey.

18. RISK REGISTER

By way of a report by the Audit and Risk Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were reminded of the development of a Risk Register to identify corporate risks. This had included a number of very high or 'red' residual risks which the Risk Management Strategy required the Cabinet to address further. The Executive Councillor for Finance explained that of the 8 risks identified, action had been taken that had reduced the likelihood of 3 risks occurring, of the 5 remaining, it was suggested that all practical measures possible were being undertaken to manage the risks to reduce their likelihood and severity.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the progress being made in developing risk management be noted; and
- (b) that the actions proposed in the report now submitted and the resulting level of mitigated risks be approved as being acceptable.

Chairman