

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Burgess Hall, St Ivo Leisure Centre, Westwood Road, St Ives, PE27 6WU on Wednesday, 23 September 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor J W Davies – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, M G Baker,
K M Baker, I C Bates, J T Bell,
Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell,
K J Churchill, W T Clough, Mrs K E Cooper,
S J Criswell, P H Dakers, Mrs J A Dew,
D B Dew, P J Downes, J J Dutton,
R W J Eaton, R S Farrer, J E Garner,
A N Gilbert, P M D Godfrey, P Godley,
J A Gray, A Hansard, C R Hyams,
L W McGuire, M F Newman, D J Priestman,
P D Reeve, T V Rogers, J M Sadler,
T D Sanderson, M F Shellens, L M Simpson,
C J Stephens, P A Swales, Ms M J Thomas,
G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin, P R Ward and
R J West.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, D Harty, Mrs P A Jordan, P G Mitchell, A Monk, Mrs D C Reynolds, P K Ursell and J S Watt.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Superintendent M Gipp and Mr D L Hall.

26. PRAYER

Father P Maddison, Priest of the Church of the Sacred Heart, St. Ives opened the meeting with Prayer.

27. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Councillors P D Reeve and Ms S Kemp

The Chairman welcomed Councillor P D Reeve, newly elected Councillor for Ramsey to his first meeting of the Council.

Having referred to the resignation of Councillor Ms S Kemp as District Councillor for the Huntingdon North Ward with effect from 1st September 2009, the Chairman asked for the Council's appreciation to be placed on record for Ms Kemp's contribution to the Council and the constituents of Huntingdon North over the past two years.

(b) **Charity Ball**

The Chairman reminded the Council that his charity ball would take place at the Burgess Hall, St. Ives on 30th October 2009 and he encouraged all Members to attend. Proceeds from the event would be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support, St. John's Ambulance and Magpas.

(c) **Council Procedure**

Having explained the programme for the evening, the Chairman welcomed Chief Superintendent M Gipp and a questioner from the public, Mr D Lewisohn, to the meeting.

28. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th June 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors Mrs K E Cooper, R W J Eaton and G S E Thorpe declared a personal interest in the following items by virtue of their membership of St. Neots Town Council - Minute No. 38 (a), Item Nos. 25 and 36 and Minute No. 38 (c), Item No. 12.

Councillor C R Hyams declared a personal interest in Minute No. 36 by virtue of his membership of Godmanchester Town Council.

Councillor L W McGuire declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 38 (f), Item No. 8 as the owner of a boat at Hartford Marina.

30. BY-ELECTION - RAMSEY WARD

The Chief Executive reported that Councillor P D Reeve had been elected to the office of District Councillor at the by-election held on 23rd July 2009 in the Ramsey Ward. In so doing, he extended his appreciation to candidates and their agents for their co-operation during the day.

Councillor Reeve thanked Members of the Council for their warm welcome to him since his election to office.

31. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: SECTION 84 - HUNTINGDON NORTH

Further to Minute No. 27, the Chief Executive confirmed the resignation of former Councillor Ms S Kemp with effect from 1st September 2009 and reported that the resultant vacancy in the Huntingdon North Ward would be filled at a by-election to be held on 29th October 2009.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor P J Downes paid tribute to the contribution made by Ms Kemp to the Council's overview and scrutiny process and indicated that, whilst disappointed at her resignation, he had understood the personal reasons for her

decision. Indeed he expressed the hope that she would return to serve as a district councillor again in the future.

32. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the Chairman invited Mr D Lewisohn to ask Councillor K J Churchill, Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health, the following question -

"What steps have the Council taken to bring privately owned residential properties that have been empty for a significant period, into use as they are surely needed to help alleviate the shortage of houses in the District ?"

A copy of Councillor Churchill's reply is appended hereto.

In response to a supplementary question from Mr Lewisohn which suggested that five properties had remained empty in Hartford over periods extending from 2/3 - 5/6 years, Councillor Churchill replied that whilst he had no knowledge of the properties referred to, the Council could offer assistance to bring properties back into use, that residents were encouraged to report empty properties and that if the questioner could advise either him or the Head of Housing Services of the location of the dwellings referred to he would investigate their circumstances.

33. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

By way of a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Council was reminded of the decisions taken recently to change the format of Council meetings which had included the introduction of headline debates and Cabinet "white paper" proposals. To seek to promote a free-flowing discussion and exchange of views, the Council considered the suspension of the formal rules of debate during the Council meeting when these items were being considered. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that Council Procedure Rule 11 (Rules of Debate) be suspended for the duration of the discussion on Minute Nos. 34 and 35 and at such time, the common law rules of debate be observed by Members and applied by the Chairman.

34. COUNCIL DEBATE

The Chairman requested Councillor K J Churchill, Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health and Chief Superintendent M Gipp to open the debate on -

"How successful is the Council and its partners in tackling anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime in Huntingdonshire ?".

In his opening remarks, Chief Superintendent Gipp drew the Council's attention to the percentage of Huntingdonshire residents (11%) who considered that anti-social behaviour was a problem in their local area

in comparison with the national average (20%). He also referred to the statutory responsibility of the Police Authority to co-operate in the formulation and implementation of crime and disorder reduction partnership strategies and their duty to consider the crime and disorder implications of those strategies in partnership with other agencies/authorities.

Chief Superintendent Gipp highlighted the issues perceived by the public to present the biggest problems in the Huntingdonshire area as being "noisy neighbours, people who were drunk or rowdy, teenagers hanging around, and abandoned cars", but he contended that this was largely a matter of perception with evidence suggesting for example that there are now fewer abandoned cars in the streets.

Councillor Churchill drew the Council's attention to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2008 - 2011 and the achievements of the community safety partnership during the period. He referred, in particular, to a joint project with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the County Council and Yaxley Parish Council which had resulted in the installation of three CCTV cameras and the re-opening of the youth centre in Yaxley and to the establishment of "Night Watch" to address issues associated with the night time economy in St. Ives. Councillor Churchill described the new and developing activities under the 2009 - 2012 plan which would seek to address anti-social behaviour including criminal damage in Huntingdon and the intention to seek, in partnership, to reduce criminal damage by 10% by 2011. In closing his address, Councillor Churchill highlighted other initiatives such as safer car park awards, CCTV in town centres and the results of the Place Survey which had demonstrated how the District Council was working with partners to combat anti-social behaviour.

Councillor J J Dutton informed the Council that he had worked in partnership with different agencies in Huntingdon North to reduce crime rates and make the area a better and safer place to live. Much had been achieved by encouraging residents to participate in community days, promoting interest in community activities and supporting parents in taking responsibility for their children.

Councillor G S E Thorpe underlined the importance of engaging young people in sport, voluntary organisations, scouts and guides etc. but accepted that these community activities might not appeal to all youngsters. He considered that careful planning of development could create safe play and meeting areas on new estates for instance. Recent anti-social behaviour surrounding a trim trail in St. Neots had occurred, because of its unsuitable location. He regretted the discontinuation of a youth coffee shop project which had been supported by grant aid from the Town Council and he urged all agencies to work in partnership to re-dress the lack of facilities for young people.

As Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor J M Sadler advised Members that since the District Council had taken over responsibility for licensing from the courts, the Licensing Section had worked closely with the Police and other relevant authorities to tackle complaints of under-age drinking and to remind licensees of their responsibilities not to sell alcohol to young people. He went on to

describe other action taken by the Licensing Section to deal with anti-social behaviour and endorsed the comments already made about the success of the pub watch schemes in the market towns.

Although pleased with the support received from the Police over incidents in Brampton, Councillor M F Shellens pointed out a number of cases where action had not been taken and drew attention to issues such as speeding, litter, dog and horse fouling which appeared not to be addressed at all.

Having thanked Chief Superintendent Gipp for police support for action being taken to reduce anti-social behaviour in Ramsey and welcoming the partnership work he had witnessed over recent weeks, Councillor D P Reeve questioned the funding position of the CCTV Mobile Unit and challenged the assertion that there was a lower crime rate by suggesting that the public were reluctant to report criminal incidents.

Councillor Bucknell also welcomed the support received from the Police which had addressed issues arising in Warboys and praised the working relationship he had enjoyed at the Neighbourhood Policing Panel.

In terms of the contribution of the CCTV Mobile Unit, Councillor C R Hyams reported that it was one of six in the County and together with the Council's 120 CCTV cameras had resulted in the resolution of a number of crimes. He added that the CCTV Team had recently been awarded "Supporter of the Year" for the third year in succession from Huntingdon Business Against Crime.

Referring to the results of the "Place Survey" in comparison with the national average and other districts in Cambridgeshire, the Leader of the Council, Councillor I C Bates highlighted statistics relating to perception of anti-social behaviour, individuals' perceptions of safety in their local area and after dark and how the public considered the District Council were dealing with anti-social behaviour. In welcoming the statistics presented, the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P J Downes considered that it would be of greater assistance if the figures could be reproduced at ward level as they might reflect a different picture to that of the District overall. He also urged agencies to be pro-active in involving young people in constructive activities and he questioned the effectiveness and desirability, in the long term, of the use of anti-social behaviour orders.

Chief Superintendent Gipp thanked all speakers for their support adding that the Police would only make use of an ASBO as a measure of last resort. He further reported that the Constabulary had agreed to the siting of a satellite receiver on the Police headquarters mast to help enhance the quality of image received by the CCTV Mobile Unit. Above all, he considered that it was essential to maintain quality of life and increase and maintain public confidence in the communities in which they lived.

Although welcoming the statistics presented, Councillor P A Swales expressed a wish to see more policemen, particularly in rural areas to combat the fear of crime on farm properties.

Councillor R J West urged Members to consider carefully the stereotypical views they might hold about young people, illustrating his point by contrasting the impression given by a group of youths around a public bench in a village and the different view which would be held by the public if that group were pensioners.

Councillor J A Gray questioned what action was being taken to dispel the fear of crime particularly in rural areas and urged agencies to continue existing good work, underlining the importance of engaging with the public in debate on these issues at the new Neighbourhood Forums.

Having received further comments regarding the drinking culture, the targeting of individual families by youths and the consequences of ball games on estate greens from Councillors J M Sadler and J E Garner, Councillor Churchill thanked all Members for their contribution to the debate and hoped that the Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary would continue to work together to reduce anti-social behaviour in Huntingdonshire. He undertook to report the issues raised during the debate to the HSP Thematic Group for Inclusive, Safe and Cohesive Communities.

35. EXECUTIVE POLICY ISSUES: GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Councillor J M Sadler, Chairman of the Licensing Committee, informed the Council that a consultation exercise had begun to review the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 to come into effect in January 2010. Members were reminded that the Council was the licensing authority for the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005 and had certain responsibilities under the Act to regulate gambling in Huntingdonshire including the issue of premises licences at Huntingdon Racecourse, betting shops, adult gaming centres and various other forms of establishment where gambling could take place and the issue of permits for gambling machines in pubs, clubs and elsewhere and various other forms of gambling such as the playing of poker and the registration of lotteries. The Council noted that the closing date for comment was 13th November 2009 and that the responses received would be brought to the attention of the Licensing Committee and Cabinet before submission to the Council for consideration on 2nd December. Councillor Sadler urged Members of the Council to raise any concerns about gambling in Huntingdonshire with him or with the Licensing Section who would be co-ordinating replies to the consultation.

36. HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY 2008 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - THE INSPECTOR'S BINDING REPORT/ADOPTION PROCEDURES

By way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, Councillor D B Dew, informed the Council that the Planning Inspectorate had issued its report on the examination into the Development Plan Document - Core Strategy 2008 which had concluded that the Strategy had satisfied legal requirements and was sound.

As the first District in the County to publish a Core Strategy, the Executive Councillor thanked his predecessor, Councillor P L E Bucknell, other Members and Officers for their contribution during compilation of the document.

Regarding the proposed strategic housing development at Godmanchester, Councillor C R Hyams reported that this would be dependant upon the implementation of the improvement scheme to the A14 between Ellington and Fen Ditton and particularly the construction of a new junction at the A1198, Ermine Street. He added that in his opinion, the developer would have to demonstrate that the scheme would not have a detrimental effect on traffic on the A1198 and that, his view was that the construction of 800 houses at Godmanchester could only exacerbate the current situation. In these circumstances, Councillor Hyams indicated that he would not be able to support the adoption of the strategy. Councillor P Godley endorsed the views expressed by Councillor Hyams adding that development in Godmanchester would lead to traffic congestion in the village if pursued in advance of improvements to the A14 and the removal of the Huntingdon viaduct.

In terms of development east of the railway line, St. Neots, Councillor G S E Thorpe welcomed the proposed extension to the town hoping that it would bring with it improved infrastructure and employment to ensure St. Neots remained a healthy and vibrant market town.

Councillor P D Reeve welcomed the proposed adoption of the Core Strategy and in particular those initiatives which promoted employment. In his view, it was essential that decisions on the future development of Huntingdonshire should be made by the District Council and not be influenced by the East of England Regional Assembly.

The Executive Councillor, Councillor Dew concurred with the comments made by Councillors P J Downes and R J West in respect of the requirement for stringent enforcement action if the expectation for strategic housing development was to be achieved and for presentations on the Core Strategy to be made to all town and parish councils. The latter suggestion was endorsed by Councillor J S Watt who also requested training for District Council Members on the Core Strategy and on subsequent development plan documents.

Councillor R G Tuplin raised his concern at the decision of H M Inspectorate to approve, on appeal, an application for development of 190 houses at Sawtry which, in his view, was already contrary to the Core Strategy.

In closing the debate, Councillor Dew reaffirmed that development would only progress in Godmanchester if it was established that there would be no detriment on the A1198 and that development for Ramsey should be balanced and sustainable, bringing forward together new houses and job opportunities.

Whereupon, and having explained that the strategic policies contained within the adopted Huntingdonshire Local Plan and Alteration and Huntingdonshire Interim Planning Policies would now be superseded, it was

RESOLVED

that the Huntingdonshire District Core Strategy 2008 be adopted.

37. REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL PANELS

Members considered a report submitted by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the changes required to the constitution of political groups on the Council following recent changes in Council membership. Having regard to the principles of proportionality to be applied to the appointment of Panels and in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part II of the Local Government Act 2000, it was

RESOLVED

that the allocation of seats on Panels and Committees to political groups and non-aligned Members be determined as set out in the report now submitted and the membership of Panels varied in accordance with the schedule appended hereto.

38. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, PANELS AND COMMITTEES

(a) Cabinet

Councillor I C Bates, Leader and Chairman of the Cabinet presented the Report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 23rd July and 17th September 2009.

.....

In connection with Item No. 26 and in response to a question from Councillor G S E Thorpe regarding the funding of officer time spent on the Great Fen Project, Councillor Bates replied that there was no specific budget set aside for this purpose, that costs were notional and that any contribution arising from the Section 106 Agreement would be required to relate to development arising from the project.

.....

Councillor T V Rogers, Executive Councillor for Finance presented the report and recommendation referred to in Item No. 29. In response to a question from Councillor P J Downes regarding the opportunity for the District Council to retain some flexibility in setting its Council Tax at the level suggested if circumstances were to change over the next few weeks, Councillor Rogers replied that there continued to be a number of uncertainties in the budget/MTP process but that Officers were continuing to work with the Cabinet to identify further measures to provide additional flexibility should this be necessary.

Having noted the contributions made to the process by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and on being put to the vote, the recommendation contained in item No. 29 was declared to be CARRIED.

.....

In connection with Item No. 33 and in response to a question from Councillor G S E Thorpe regarding arrangements for the nomination of parish councillors and position of chairman to each of the Neighbourhood Forums, Councillor Bates reminded the Council that forums would be reviewed after twelve months' operation but that at the outset, Councillor A N Gilbert would remain Chairman of St. Neots Forum.

.....

In connection with Item No. 35 and further to the findings of the study by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) regarding the adoption of roads and sewers, Councillor A N Gilbert urged Members of the Development Management Panel to place stringent conditions on planning consents for new development to ensure roads and sewers were completed by developers to adoptable standards and requested Members generally to draw to the attention of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs those construction companies who were failing to meet their responsibilities in this respect.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that subject to the aforementioned paragraphs, the Report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 23rd July and 17th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(b) Standards Committee

Mr D L Hall presented the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 9th July and 3rd September 2009.

.....

Further to Item No. 2, Mr Hall thanked both Councillors I C Bates and P J Downes as Leaders of their respective groups for their presentations to the Committee. In turn, Councillor R J West thanked Mr Hall for his attendance at a recent meeting of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Council which had been appreciated by the parish councillors who had attended.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 9th July and 3rd September 2009 be received and adopted.

(c) Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)

Councillor J D Ablewhite presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 16th July and 10th September 2009.

.....

In connection with Item No. 8 and in response to a question from Councillor M G Baker, Councillor Ablewhite confirmed that the District Council had no plans to re-open the tourist information office in Huntingdon.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 16th July and 10th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(d) Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)

Councillor P M D Godfrey presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 14th July and 8th September 2009.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 14th July and 8th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(e) Overview and Scrutiny (Social Well-Being)

Councillor S J Criswell presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) held on 7th July and 1st September 2009.

.....

In connection with Item No. 15 and in response to a question from Councillor M F Shellens regarding a suggested system to regulate car parking for visitors to Hinchbrook Park, Councillor Criswell reported that the matter was currently being considered by the Members' Car Parking Working Group.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) held on 7th July and 1st September 2009 be received and adopted.

(f) Development Management Panel

Councillor D B Dew presented the Report of the meetings of the Development Management Panel held on 20th July, 17th August and 14th September 2009.

.....

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Development Management Panel held on 20th July, 17th August and 14th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(g) Employment Panel

Councillor Mrs B E Boddington presented the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 15th September 2009.

.....

In connection with Item No. 10, Councillor Mrs Boddington drew Members' attention to the length of service to the Council of Mr R Probyn who would be retiring shortly and on behalf of the Council she extended her best wishes to him for his retirement.

.....

In connection with Item No. 11 and in response to a question from Councillor P J Downes, Councillor Mrs Boddington reassured the questioner that Members would be given early notification of the date of the seminar to be arranged on shared services.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 15th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(h) Licensing Committee

Councillor J M Sadler presented the Report of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 16th September 2009.

.....
Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 16th September 2009 be received and adopted.

(i) Corporate Governance Panel

Councillor C J Stephens presented the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 23rd June 2009.

.....
Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 23rd June 2009 be received and adopted.

39. ORAL QUESTIONS

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Paragraph 8.3 of the Rules), the Chairman proceeded to conduct a period of oral questions addressed to Executive Councillors and Panel Chairmen as follows:-

Question from Councillor D P Reeve to the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, Councillor C R Hyams

In response to a question regarding the contribution made by the CCTV mobile unit in helping combat anti-social behaviour and the possible threat to the service because of budgetary measures, Councillor Hyams replied that given the economic downturn and the uncertainties that surrounded local government finance, he could not give any undertaking that the mobile unit would be retained but he

acknowledged the valuable contribution that it made in helping to ensure public safety.

Question from Councillor W T Clough to the Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health, Councillor K J Churchill

In response to a question regarding the need to consider ways to attract public interest in Council meetings, Councillor Churchill replied that the Democratic Structure Working Group would be reviewing the outcome of the Council meeting and that of the forthcoming Neighbourhood Forum in St. Neots and that the Working Group would address any issues which had arisen at both meetings.

Question from Councillor R J West to the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, Councillor D B Dew

In response to a question regarding the potential effect of the economic downturn on the workload of the Planning Services Division, Councillor Dew indicated that in contrast to neighbouring authorities, Huntingdonshire was not experiencing any reduction in activity but that he would continue to monitor the situation.

Question from Councillor R W J Eaton to the Leader of the Council, Councillor I C Bates

In response to a question regarding the potential for offering one hour's free car parking in the market towns to mitigate the economic downturn and maintain the vitality of the town centres, Councillor Bates encouraged the Liberal Democrat's representative on the Members' Car Parking Working Party to raise the issue for consideration in that forum.

Question from Councillor Mrs K E Cooper to the Leader of the Council, Councillor I C Bates

In response to a question regarding the transfer of the tourist information centre from St. Neots Museum to the Priory Centre and its effect on the number of visitors and the cost implications, Councillor Bates undertook to reply to the questioner in writing.

Question from Councillor M G Baker to the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, Councillor C R Hyams

In response to a question regarding the progress of works to erect a fence between Hinchbrooke School, and the Country Park, Councillor Hyams replied that following consultation with the school, appropriate work would be undertaken by the end of September.

Question from Councillor P L E Bucknell to the Executive Councillor for Environment and Information Technology, Councillor J A Gray

In response to a question about the progress of an investigation into the surface water systems following flooding, after heavy rainfall of properties in Fenton Road, Warboys, Councillor Gray undertook to advise the questioner in writing of the current situation.

Question from Councillor D J Priestman to the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, Councillor C R Hyams

In response to a question regarding the number of reports of fly tipping received by the Operation Division in the current year, and the level of fines levied and paid, Councillor Hyams replied that whilst it was difficult to be precise as collection figures related to the County as a whole, the number of incidents were decreasing and he would be pleased to discuss the wider issues with the questioner after the meeting.

Question from Councillor P J Downes to the Executive Councillor for Environment and Information Technology, Councillor J A Gray

In response to a question as to whether the Council's Environment Strategy could meet the objectives of the new climate change criteria and whether the District Council would be a signature to the campaign to encourage others to reduce carbon emissions, Councillor Gray replied that the District Council's Carbon Management Plan provided for the authority to reduce carbon emissions by 30% over the next three years which suggested that the Council would fulfil the 10/10 objectives but that he would consider the issues raised after the meeting and respond to the questioner in writing with a view as to the intentions of the Council in this regard.

Question from Councillor P D Reeve to the Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health, Councillor K J Churchill

In response to a question regarding the advisability of housing young and elderly people in close proximity given the nuisance problems that could occur, Councillor Churchill replied that although he would raise the questioner's concerns with Luminus, the District Council had no influence over the registered social landlord and their decisions in terms of housing allocations.

40. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: SECTION 85

The Chief Executive reported that there were no absences of Members from meetings for consideration in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

Chairman