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## Cabinet

Report of the meetings held on 16th December 2004  
and 13th January 2005

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### Matters for Information

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#### **101. DRAFT PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR CORE POLICIES DPD**

Having being acquainted with the details and requirements of new planning legislation, the Cabinet has noted the potential approaches which might be considered appropriate for inclusion as "core policies" in the Council's first Development Plan Document (DPD). Once completed this document will set out the spatial framework and key policies for Huntingdonshire.

Having noted the key steps and timescales for the preparation of the Plan, which includes informal consultation with key stakeholders in the early part of the New Year, the potential policy approaches will be presented to Cabinet and subsequently the Council prior to a formal consultation period in the summer of 2005. The Cabinet has therefore authorised the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make changes to the policy scoping sheets as necessary for inclusion in the DPD during the final editing process prior to the stakeholder consultation.

A number of meetings and seminars will be convened for key stakeholders and the Cabinet has requested that details and times be circulated to all Members for information.

#### **102. LICENSING ACT 2003: STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Further to Item No 65 of the Report submitted to the meeting of the Council held on 29th September 2004, the Cabinet has considered the results of consultation on the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy and suggested amendments to the policy arising therefrom. The revised statement has subsequently been approved by the Council at a special meeting held on 20th December 2004 for implementation with effect from 7th January 2005 for a period of three years.

In recognising the financial and other uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the new licensing regime, the Cabinet has asked for an update on issues associated with the administration and enforcement of the new regime, nine months after its implementation.

**103. URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK – ANGLIA HOUSE, HUNTINGDON**

The Cabinet has approved a draft Urban Design Framework for the site of the existing Anglian Water headquarters in Huntingdon for public consultation. The framework is designed to present the planning policy context and to set design parameters for any future re-development of the site.

**104. LAND AT CALIFORNIA ROAD, HUNTINGDON**

The Cabinet has agreed terms for, and approved the sale of, land in the Council's ownership at California Road, Huntingdon to Huntingdonshire Housing Partnership for the purpose of providing affordable housing in conjunction with the proposed re-development of adjoining garage courts.

**105. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION LAND, ST NEOTS**

The Cabinet has agreed the terms for, and approved the transfer of, land to St Neots Town Council at the following locations in St Neots –

- ◆ Riversmead;
- ◆ Shady Walk recreation area;
- ◆ Dukes Road/Kings Road play area;
- ◆ Brickhills open space; and
- ◆ Garden of Rest, New Street/Tan Yard.

**106. WETLAND AT LITTLE PAXTON**

The Cabinet has agreed to accept the offer of ownership of two acres of wet grassland beside the River Great Ouse at Little Paxton.

**107. BEST VALUE REVIEW: IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES**

The Cabinet has considered the outcome of the Best Value Review on improving access to services.

Having noted the impact of the District Council's 'Customer First' project on the methodology adopted for this review, and subsequent developments via the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and the associated Improvement Plan, the Cabinet has agreed that the completion of the Access to Services Best Value Review be endorsed and the exercise 'signed off'.

**108. FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET**

The Cabinet has noted the projected outturn of the 2004/05 budget and the expected budget variations identified in the current year.

**109. CASH IN TRANSIT – RENEWAL OF CONTRACT**

Having been acquainted with the outcome of a recent tendering exercise for the Council's cash collection services, which it was

estimated would result in unavoidable increases in the Medium Term Plan in future years, the Cabinet has approved the necessary increases in expenditure.

**110. SAPLEY SQUARE, OXMOOR: RE-DEVELOPMENT**

Having been acquainted with progress to date on the re-development of Sapley Square, Oxmoor, Huntingdon, the Cabinet has agreed to accept a tender from Gleeson Construction Services Ltd for design and construction works associated with the work.

The Cabinet has agreed that all matters relating to Oxmoor should in future be allocated to the Executive Councillor for Resources, Welfare and IT, and requested that a progress report on developments in the area be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

**111. OXMOOR (HUNTINGDON) ACTION PLAN: PROPERTY UPDATE**

Having been updated on the current position in relation to the implementation of the Oxmoor Action Plan, the Cabinet has authorised the Director of Central Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources, Welfare and IT to approve detailed terms for the acquisition of the leasehold interest of 2a Sapley Square.

The Cabinet has also approved the terms for the lease of the community facilities to Hunts Forum and authorised the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor to approve the detailed terms of the lease.

**112. MONITORING OF CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05**

Consideration has been given by the Cabinet to a monitoring report of Capital Programme expenditure in 2004/05. Particular attention was given to variations to the approved programme and consequential estimated revenue savings.

**113. ST IVES AND HEMINGFORDS FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Consideration has been given by the Cabinet to the Environment's Agency's "preferred option consultation" in respect of the proposed St Ives and Hemingford's Flood Alleviation Scheme. The scheme would provide protection against a 1 in 100 year flood event to substantial areas of St Ives, Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots and the Greenfields area of Fenstanton Parish. In total it was anticipated that some 1,600 houses would benefit from the scheme.

The Cabinet was reminded that the outcome of a study by the Agency on flooding in Hemingford Grey in 1998 and 2001 had been considered at their meeting held on 15th July 2004 and that support had been obtained in principle for the measures proposed. In line with a previous decision by the Cabinet that a contribution would not be made by the Council towards the capital cost and ongoing responsibility for its operation and maintenance, the Head of

Environment and Transport has been authorised to continue to secure the provision of any pumping installation wholly through Environment Agency funding and without any significant District Council financial support.

The Cabinet has been assured that the scheme has been designed in such a way as to avoid flooding of the Dolphin, Old Mill and other adjacent premises in St Ives and in that light the Cabinet has, subject to the determination of any unresolved planning or conservation matters re-affirmed its support for the proposed scheme.

**114. WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES**

The Cabinet has been acquainted with a petition which had been referred from full Council in support of a request to return to a weekly collection of refuse in the District without any additional cost to Huntingdonshire District Council taxpayers.

Having regard to the EU Landfill Directive and local and regional targets for waste minimisation and recycling, the Cabinet has been acquainted with cost, operational, health and safety and other considerations associated with the possible return to weekly collection arrangements. Following the success of the Council's roll-out of arrangements for the collection of household waste and green and dry recyclable materials, the Cabinet has agreed to continue to roll-out the new waste and recycling service across the District based on alternating weekly collections.

**115. DISTRICT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER OFFICE ACCOMODATION MEMBERS ADVISORY GROUP**

The Cabinet has considered a report by the District Council's Headquarters and other Office Accommodation Members Advisory Group as a result of their meeting held on 21st December 2004. In respect of the commissioning of further design work for new Council headquarters, the Cabinet has been informed that the estimated cost of £30,000 would be met from existing budgets and that a supplementary revenue estimate would no longer be required.

**116. LAND AT PARKWAY, HINCHINGBROOKE**

The Council has approved the sale and disposal of Council owned land at Parkway, Hinchingsbrooke and agreed that further consideration of the funding of the affordable housing element of the scheme be deferred for future consideration in conjunction with the Medium Term Plan.

D P Holley  
Chairman