

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the special meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 25 May 2005.

PRESENT: Councillor J A P Eddy - Chairman

Councillors J D Ablewhite, M G Baker,  
Mrs M Banjeree, I C Bates, J T Bell,  
Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell, E R Butler,  
Mrs J Chandler, K J Churchill, S J Criswell,  
J W Davies, D B Dew, P J Downes, J D Fell,  
N J Finnie, J E Garner, Mrs C A Godley, J A Gray,  
N J Guyatt, A Hansard, D Harty, D P Holley,  
C R Hyams, P G Mitchell, M F Newman,  
J M Sadler, T D Sanderson, L M Simpson,  
A B Stenner, J Taylor, G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin,  
Mrs S J Vanbergen, J S Watt and Ms M Wheeler.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors W T Clough, Mrs D E Collins, J J Dutton, D A Giles, Mrs K P Gregory, Mrs P J Longford, I R Muir, R Powell, Mrs D C Reynolds, K Reynolds, T V Rogers, C J Stephens, P A Swales and I P Taylor.

### 17. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th May 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 18. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor J A P Eddy declared a personal interest in Policy Area 5 of the Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report by virtue of his membership of the Anglia Central Regional Flood Committee.

### 19. CORE POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

*(The Chairman announced that he proposed to allow consideration of a summary of the draft Final Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment as an essential adjunct to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972).*

By reference to a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Councillor N J Guyatt invited the Council to consider the contents of the Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report (Appendix 1) prior to public consultation. Members' attention also was drawn to supplementary documents which had been circulated with the agenda and also are appended in the Minute Book as follows -

- ◆ Background Paper on Settlement Hierarchy (Appendix 2);

- ◆ Results of Initial Consultation on Options (Appendix 3);
- ◆ Final Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment – May 2005; and
- ◆ Index to Appendix 1 – Preferred Option Report.

The Council were reminded of the process and anticipated timescale for public consultation on the Preferred Options, the submission of the Draft Core Strategy to the Secretary of State, the independent examination of the proposals and the receipt of the Inspector's Report leading to final adoption of the Local Development Framework.

In his introduction, Councillor Guyatt indicated that much of the housing and business development required in the District would be accommodated in and around Huntingdon and St Neots with development on a lesser scale in the other market towns of St Ives and Ramsey. Mention was made of the intention to improve the habitats, landscape quality and recreation opportunities of several areas and to improve the green corridor running through the centre of St Neots to Little Paxton to maintain a buffer between the town and Little Paxton village. He added that similar steps should be taken to maintain the separation between Hampton and communities in the neighbouring parts of Huntingdonshire such as Yaxley, Farcet and Stilton. Together with the proposals map, Councillor Guyatt advised the Council that the Core Strategy Document would be the tool by which future decisions of the Development Control Panel would be guided.

The Council proceeded to examine the key principles and policy areas contained within the Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report and the Executive Councillor responded to questions from Members as they arose.

During discussion, the Leader, Councillor D P Holley, emphasised that Members also had the opportunity to submit their views during the consultation period and that whilst the principles to be established would, in time, be applied by the Development Control Panel they remained the policies of the Council as a whole.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Guyatt, duly seconded and

RESOLVED

that the content of the Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report be approved as a basis for public consultation.

## **20. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: SECTION 85**

The Director of Central Services 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 concluded at 8 pm.

Chairman