

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, 1 September 2005.

PRESENT: Councillor D P Holley – Chairman.

Councillors I C Bates, Mrs J Chandler,
N J Guyatt, A Hansard, Mrs P J Longford,
Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers and
L M Simpson.

47. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st July 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

49. FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2005

Consideration was given to a report by the Director of Commerce and Technology (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) setting out three potential options available in terms of adopting a strategy for managing its finances in the period to 2011/12.

In so doing, Executive Councillors were acquainted with the assumptions made in setting and updating the budget for the current year, Government policies and grant regimes, the work which had been undertaken thus far in reviewing the Council's base budget and Medium Term Plan and the implications of adopting a service or tax driven alternative. Having discussed the implications of future capping regimes and their possible impact and in deciding that option 2 should be deleted from any future deliberations, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) for comment and the Panel informed of the Cabinet's deliberations thus far; and
- (b) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

50. 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 April to June 2005 as irrecoverable.

51. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Environmental Health Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet were acquainted with the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and the consequential implications for the District Council.

Whilst the Act extended the powers of the Council to deal with "environmental crimes" in the District, Members expressed concern that no direct additional funding was likely to be made available by the Government to assist in its implementation. Against the background of insufficient additional resources being forthcoming in respect of the costs of implementing new duties under the Act and having referred to the difficulties inherent in issuing fixed penalty notices, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Operational Services to appoint authorised Officers to enforce the relevant provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act ,2005 as follows –
 - ◆ Part 2 of the Act, in relation to nuisance parking, abandoned and illegally parked vehicles;
 - ◆ Part 3 of the Act, as it extends the statutory offence of dropping litter and amends the powers of local authorities in relation to litter;
 - ◆ Part 4 of the Act, as it amends the law relating to graffiti, fly-posting etc;
 - ◆ Part 5 of the Act, in relation to the miscellaneous provision about waste;
 - ◆ Part 6 of the Act, as it allows local authorities to create offences relating to the control of dogs; and
 - ◆ Part 7 of the Act, as it addresses various issues relating to noise nuisance.
- (b) that the Director of Operational Services be authorised, after consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor - to have proceedings instituted to prosecute an offender through the Courts, for offences under the provisions of Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Act;
- (c) that the Director of Operational Services be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Licensing and Protection Panel (as appropriate) to have proceedings instituted to prosecute an offender through the Courts, for offences under the provisions of Part 7 of the Act;
- (d) that the Director of Operational Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for 'Housing and Public Health' and a relevant Ward Member be authorised to formally request Cambridgeshire County

Council to exercise their authority under Part 1 of the Act to allow the gating of minor highways that attract anti-social behaviour; and

- (e) that a further report be submitted to Cabinet relating to the implementation of Fixed Penalty Notices.

52. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (AMENDMENT)

With the aid of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet was acquainted with a suggested amendment to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Huntingdonshire prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.

The Cabinet were informed that discussions with Go-East had revealed that the Proposals Map in future would be referred to as a Local Development Document and not a Development Plan Document. In that respect, it was suggested that an appropriate reference should be included within the LDS, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Local Development Scheme, as amended, be approved for submission to the Secretary of State; and
- (b) that the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, be authorised to make additional changes to clarify the status of the proposals map.

53. PLANNING FOR HOUSING PROVISION - A CONSULTATION PAPER

With the aid of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet was acquainted with the contents of a consultation paper issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on proposals for a new policy approach aimed at making the planning system more responsive to the housing market.

Having considered the terms of a suggested response, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy, be authorised to make representations to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister based on the contents of paragraph 4.1 of the report now submitted.

54. DESIGN BRIEF - ALFRED HALL MEMORIAL FIELD/EYNESBURY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

A report by the Head of Planning Services was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft design brief for the redevelopment of the Alfred Hall Memorial Field.

Having been informed that the brief had been produced to identify the design parameters, opportunities and constraints of the site for any future redevelopment, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the design brief be approved as draft interim planning guidance for public consultation.

55. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT : WIND POWER

With the aid of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet received a draft Supplementary Planning Document on wind power exploring the potential capacity and sensitivity of Huntingdonshire's landscape in terms of accommodating this form of development, suggesting the criteria that needed to be taken into account when considering specific proposals and providing guidance on potential mitigation measures where appropriate.

RESOLVED

that the draft Supplementary Planning Document on wind power be approved for the purpose of public consultation.

56. DISTRICT COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION - MEMBERS' ADVISORY GROUP

The Cabinet received the report of the meeting of the District Council Headquarters and Other Accommodation Members' Advisory Group held on 26th July 2005 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

Having considered issues regarding the tendering and evaluation process, the appointment of technical/legal advisers, internal/external communications and the future of the existing Godmanchester Depot, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that progress thus far be noted;
- (b) that the tendering timetable be noted and the process set out in Annex B of the report now submitted for the award of the contract approved;
- (c) that the communications strategy appended at Annex C to the report be approved; and
- (d) that an appraisal on the future of the Godmanchester Depot site be presented to a future meeting.

