

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PANEL held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 10 December 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor C J Stephens – Chairman.
Councillors M G Baker, P J Downes,
P M D Godfrey, J A Gray, T V Rogers and
L M Simpson.

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 23rd September 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

29. CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2009/10

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) and after consideration of a report by the Head of Customer Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) setting out the general principles for the calculation of the tax base for the District, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the report by the Head of Customer Services regarding the calculation of the District Council's tax base for the year 2009/10 be approved; and
- (b) that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), the amount calculated by Huntingdonshire District Council as the tax base for the whole District for the year 2009/10 be 57,960 and shall be as listed below for each parish of the District:

Abbotsley	188
Abbots Ripton	127
Alconbury	553
Alconbury Weston	282
Alwalton	123
Barham & Woolley	27
Bluntisham	729
Brampton	1795
Brington & Molesworth	109
Broughton	83
Buckden	1148

Buckworth	50
Bury	603
Bythorn & Keyston	142
Catworth	142
Chesterton	58
Colne	339
Conington	73
Covington	42
Denton & Caldecote	24
Diddington	29
Earith	573
Easton	75
Ellington	237
Elton	294
Eynesbury Hardwicke	786
Farcet	580
Fenstanton	1205
Folksworth & Washingley	347
Glatton	129
Godmanchester	2280
Grafham	241
Great & Little Gidding	122
Great Gransden	454
Great Paxton	368
Great Staughton	317
Haddon	21
Hail Weston	236
Hamerton	40
Hemingford Abbots	327
Hemingford Grey	1150
Hilton	445
Holme	238
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	971
Houghton & Wyton	1178
Huntingdon	6790
Kimbolton & Stonely	592
Kings Ripton	76
Leighton Bromswold	80
Little Paxton	1144
Morborne	11
Offord Cluny	203
Offord d'Arcy	300
Old Hurst	94
Old Weston	86
Perry	265
Pidley-cum-Fenton	151
Ramsey	2858
St Ives	5681
St Neots	9178
St Neots Rural	118
Sawtry	1731
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	210
Somersham	1383
Southoe & Midloe	158
Spaldwick	226
Steeple Gidding	12
Stilton	780

Stow Longa	59
Tetworth	20
The Stukeleys	794
Tilbrook	108
Toseland	37
Upton & Coppingford	85
Upwood & The Raveleys	411
Warboys	1357
Waresley	125
Water Newton	42
Winwick	39
Wistow	215
Woodhurst	156
Woodwalton	84
Yaxley	2885
Yelling	<u>136</u>
	<u>57960</u>

30. REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

With the aid of a report by the Audit and Risk Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel gave consideration to an updated Risk Management Strategy. Following questions raised by a Member, the Panel were assured that appropriate mechanisms were in place to consider both the performance and governance arrangements of partnerships. In so doing, Members were advised that an exercise was currently being undertaken to ensure that associated risks would be flagged up by the Council's performance management system. In noting that the Strategy had been reviewed by the Risk Management Group at their November meeting, it was

RESOLVED

that the revised Risk Management Strategy be approved.

31. REVIEW OF THE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY

By means of a report by the Audit and Risk Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel was acquainted with the outcome of a review of the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. In noting that the review had identified a number of recommended changes which had arisen as a result of the External Auditor's Use of Resources assessment and best practice guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Association of Local Authority Risk Managers (ALARM), it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy be adopted; and
- (b) that the process for the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework be endorsed.

32. WHISTLEBLOWING: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Panel received and noted a report by the Audit and Risk Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the outcome of the annual review of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure. Following discussions on the future treatment of cases dealt with by the Benefits Fraud Investigation Team, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that in future, the annual review of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure and activities in respect of Housing Benefit Fraud be considered at the same time;
- (b) that the outcome of the review of the policy and procedure on Whistleblowing be noted; and
- (c) that the changes to the guidance notes on Whistleblowing be approved.

33. FEEDBACK PROCEDURE

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel was acquainted with the outcome of a review of the Council's complaints procedure. In noting that the review proposed a new general feedback procedure to be established under the current system, it was

RESOLVED

that the revised procedure for handling customer feedback be adopted.

Chairman