
Cabinet

Report of the meetings held on 22nd April and 19th May 2010

Matters for Information

1. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

Executive responsibilities for the Municipal Year 2010/11 have been allocated by the Leader of the Council as follows:-

- ◆ Finance and Customer Services –
Councillor T V Rogers
- ◆ Environment and Information Technology –
Councillor J A Gray
- ◆ Planning Strategy and Transport –
Councillor D B Dew
- ◆ Resources and Policy –
Councillor K J Churchill
- ◆ Housing and Public Health –
Councillor A Hansard
- ◆ Leisure and Law, Property and Governance –
Councillors Mrs D C Reynolds
- ◆ Operational and Countryside Services –
Councillor C R Hyams

Executive Councillors have been appointed to serve as ex-officio Members of Panels as follows-

Executive Councillor for	Ex-Officio for
Finance and Customer Services	Corporate Governance
Planning Strategy and Transport	Development Management Panel
Resources and Policy	Corporate Governance Licensing and Protection Panel/ Licensing Committee

2. PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

The Cabinet has considered the findings of a study by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) regarding the availability of

play facilities in Huntingdonshire and the ongoing revenue costs associated with such facilities. (Item No. 3 of their Report refers).

In considering the Panel's recommendations, Executive Councillors have concurred with the Panel that further research into the availability of group insurance with the aim of achieving a lower insurance premium and the feasibility of combining safety inspections should be undertaken. In discussing the Panel's suggestions on the future revenue funding of play equipment, the Cabinet decided that the provision and management of local play facilities should be undertaken at a local level by town and parish councils and community organisations and that the District Council's role should be confined to strategic, district-wide initiatives and in advising on opportunities for funding.

3. HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFITS AND ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY AND PROSECUTION POLICY

The Cabinet has approved the contents of a revised and enhanced Benefit Fraud Strategy and Policy for the prosecution and investigation of those persons found to have been committing benefit fraud. In so doing, staff in the Fraud Team have been authorised to undertake investigations in fraud affecting all other District Council services and to report to the relevant Head of Service on the outcomes, findings and recommendations arising from these investigations.

4. CHEQUERS COURT, HUNTINGDON, PLANNING BRIEF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Having been acquainted with the responses received from the consultation exercise on the draft planning brief on the redevelopment of Chequers Court, Huntingdon, the Cabinet has agreed to adopt the brief as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Cabinet has also authorised the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations as necessary.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet has reviewed the Council's performance against targets within the Corporate Plan - "Growing Success" together with achievements, service performance, data for priority objectives, progress against the Council's improvement plan and the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the matter. At the same time, the Cabinet has approved the revised targets, objectives and measures for 2010/11.

6. MONITORING OF THE REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration has been given by the Cabinet to reports on the projected outturn for the revenue budget and capital expenditure in

2009/10. In so doing, Members have noted the variations to the approved programme and the associated capital and revenue implications. Having regard to the level of estimated underspend of £1.6m, the Cabinet has decided that this will be transferred to the Special Reserve on the closure of the accounts.

**7. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT,
THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT 1977 AND
THE PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT ACT 1997**

The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Environmental and Community Services to appoint Officers to enforce the provisions of the Criminal Law Act 1977 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 when dealing with allegations of harassment and illegal eviction in the private housing sector. Eight to ten reports of such cases are reported each year but at present, the Council does not have the necessary powers to undertake investigations and prosecute offenders. The new powers will enable Officers to regain possession of a property on a tenant's behalf enabling them to reside there until the correct legal procedures for possession have been followed. The changes will not have any financial implications for the Council.

8. GREAT FEN MASTERPLAN

The Cabinet has considered the contents of a revised masterplan for the Great Fen. The Masterplan is a spatial plan that indicates how the project might be developed by the partner organisations. The document was the subject of extensive consultation with interested parties prior to its approval by the project partners.

**9. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT WITHIN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

The Cabinet has approved the principle of entering into an Information Management and Technology Partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. The purpose of the Partnership is to oversee a number of Cambridgeshire ICT projects including the procurement of the Cambridgeshire Public Sector Network which aims to extend the scope of the shared infrastructure and "Tell Us Once" Initiative which concentrates on the sharing of information.

10. LAND AT CEMETERY ROAD, ST. NEOTS

The Cabinet has approved the transfer of land at Cemetery Road, St. Neots to St. Neots Town Council. The Urban District Council of St. Neots acquired the land in 1933 for the purpose of a burial ground. However as the result of local government organisation in 1974 the land was transferred to Huntingdonshire District Council and the land was never formally vested to the town council as the burial authority. The terms of the transfer will ensure that the land is used for burial purposes only.

11. WESTERN LINK ROAD

The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Finance and Customer Services and for Resources and Policy, to approve the terms for the acquisition of properties required for the implementation of the Western Link Road, Huntingdon. The road will improve traffic movements on the ring road and will open up land for new development. The acquisition of properties is subject to an assessment that demonstrates that there is minimal risk to the Council.

12. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION, HUNTINGDON

The Cabinet has approved, in principle, the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of land required for the construction of a multi-storey car park as part of the re-development of Chequers Court, Huntingdon. The scheme is an important element of the overall regeneration of Huntingdon Town Centre.

The Director of Environmental and Community Services has been authorised to progress the necessary preparatory work to enable the Cabinet to consider and make a formal resolution to make a CPO at the earliest opportunity, concurrent with continuing negotiations to secure the land by agreement. In response to Executive Councillors' concerns over the potential cost implications of a CPO, a further report by the Director of Environmental and Community Services will be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet addressing this issue.

I C Bates
Chairman