

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) held in the CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 12 October 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor P M D Godfrey – Chairman.

Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee,  
J W Davies, P J Downes, P Godley,  
M F Newman, and J S Watt.

Mr M Phillips.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K M Baker and D Harty.

### **38. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **39. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations were received.

### **40. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel considered and noted the current forward plan of key decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet, which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council.

In so doing, Members requested sight of the report on the Local Transport Plan at a future meeting. The Panel was informed that reports on the St Neots East Urban Design Framework and the Environment Strategy were expected at their November and December meetings respectively.

### **41. CABINET FEEDBACK**

The Panel received and noted a report from the Cabinet (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) with its response to the Panel's comments on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Performance Management. Members were advised that their recommendations with regard to the latter had not been addressed because of the late circulation of the report. However the Panel's views would be considered as and when discussions took place on the Budget, Corporate Plan, Community Strategy and systems of performance management.

## **42. FLOODING IN ST. IVES**

Pursuant to Minute No.25, the Panel received a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) updating Members on steps being taken to resolve the problems encountered by residents in St Audrey's Lane, Warren Road and Pig Lane in St Ives arising from the flooding of the foul sewerage system. In addition, Councillor J W Davies addressed the Panel on the ongoing problems with unpleasant odours emanating from the sewers in West Street, St Ives and the response received by Anglian Water to his recent correspondence on the matter. Members also were advised by Councillor Davies of his concerns regarding new developments in St Ives and the capacity of the pumping station at Broadleas, St Ives to deal with the impact of such growth on the sewerage system.

With regard to the problems in the St Audrey's Lane area, Councillor Davies explained that, in recent correspondence, Anglian Water had referred to a need to clear the silt in a ditch which ran opposite the junction with Pig Lane which in their opinion was critical to the surface water drainage of the area. Members were advised that the matter had been referred to the County Council who would be liaising with District Council Officers but Councillor Davies stressed the continuing need to press the water company to resolve the unsatisfactory situation.

Other Members referred to similar problems being experienced within their Wards, the remedial action which had been taken and their own experiences in dealing with Anglian Water to resolve local issues.

The Panel discussed a suggestion by the Chairman that a local drainage liaison group should be established which would offer Ward Members an opportunity to meet representatives of Anglian Water and other relevant agencies to try and establish a way forward in tackling drainage problems. As the company appeared reluctant to attend Panel meetings, Members agreed that a small ad hoc group led by the Chairman might offer a more effective mechanism to resolve such issues with Anglian Water.

Whereupon, it was

**RESOLVED**

- a) that an ad hoc local drainage liaison group be established comprising the Chairman and relevant Ward Members in an attempt to resolve local drainage issues; and
- b) that the group be invited to address the issues of flooding in the St Audrey's Lane area of St Ives in the first instance.

## **43. WORK PLAN STUDIES**

The Panel considered and noted a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) reviewing the Panel's programme of studies and informing Members of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and

Scrutiny Panels. In doing so, Councillor M G Baker reported on the investigations being undertaken by the Working Group reviewing the role of the Planning Conservation Team.

#### **44. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS**

The Panel was advised of progress on issues that had been previously discussed.

In response to a question by Councillor P J Downes, the Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Joint Accountability Committee. Members were advised that the meeting had not proven particularly fruitful and that the value and future role of the Joint Accountability Committee was currently under consideration.

#### **45. SCRUTINY**

The Panel considered and noted the latest edition of the Council's Decision Digest summarising the Council's decisions since the previous meeting.

Chairman