

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 9 April 2013.

PRESENT: Councillor D Harty – Chairman.

Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee,  
I C Bates, D A Giles, G J Harlock,  
C R Hyams and Mrs D C Reynolds.

Mr D Hopkins and Mr M Phillips – Co-opted Members.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J W Davies.

### **94. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 12th March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **95. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations were received.

### **96. NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Panel considered and noted the current Notice of Executive Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Executive Leader of the Council for the period 3rd April to 31st July 2013. Members requested sight of items entitled Revision of the Wind Power Supplementary Planning Document, the A14, Dairy Crest – Fenstanton: Planning and Urban Design Framework, Huntingdon West Masterplan and Affordable Housing Policy - Update prior to their submission to the Cabinet.

### **97. SPEED REDUCTION**

*(Councillor D M Tysoe, Executive Member for Environment, Mr D McCandless, St Ives and Ramsey Sector Community Speedwatch Coordinator, and Parish Councillor A Bush, Hilton Parish Council, were in attendance for consideration of this Item.)*

Further to Minute No. 12/68, the Panel considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which contained additional evidence in support of the proposed roll out to other areas of the District of a speed reduction initiative currently operating in Hilton using stickers placed on wheeled bins in the village. The Executive Councillor for Environment, Councillor D M Tysoe and the Head of Operations

addressed the Panel to assist Members' understanding of the issues. It had previously been agreed that speed reduction stickers could be displayed on wheeled bins in Hilton on a trial basis to establish whether they were effective in reducing the speed of vehicles and thus in promoting road safety. However, the Panel recognised that the success or otherwise of the pilot would be difficult to measure as data on speeding and road safety had not been collected before the trial commenced.

Although disappointed at the lack of evidence produced by the trial, Councillor Tysoe recognised that there were other sources which suggested that such schemes were effective. Therefore, he indicated that he was minded to support a proposed change in the policy to allow stickers displaying speed reduction messages to be affixed to the Council's wheeled bins subject to assurances being received regarding the management of potential schemes and the avoidance of consequential liabilities for the District Council. He also expressed the view that a decision whether to pursue a scheme should lie ultimately with the appropriate town or parish council who also should decide the locations where use of the stickers would be most effective.

Subject to the Head of Operations being satisfied with the design of the proposed stickers and approval of other guidelines, the Panel recommended that a change be made to the current policy to permit the placing of Speedwatch stickers on wheeled bins for speed reduction purposes on the proviso that any schemes introduced were funded and approved locally by the respective town or parish council.

Mr D McCandless thanked the Panel for its interest in the objectives of Speedwatch and assured Members that any use made of stickers would be properly controlled.

## **98. RECAP - WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH**

By means of a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel was updated on progress of the RECAP Waste Partnership which involved four District, Cambridge and Peterborough City and Cambridgeshire County Councils. Various options had been developed since 2011 such that partners working together would achieve savings and more efficient operating practices. Three specific areas were currently being pursued by partners and these included the 'whole waste system approach' which comprised a series of work streams relating, for instance, to waste services, joint procurement and cross border route optimisation. In endorsing the principles of a 'whole system approach', Members noted that a business case for the project would be presented to the Panel and the Cabinet for approval in the Autumn.

Following concern expressed at adverse reports, which had appeared in a national newspaper, the Head of Operations assured the Panel that material collected was recycled and not placed in landfill. Information to this effect featured on the District Council's website.

**99. WORK PLAN STUDIES**

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of studies being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Economic Well-Being and for Social Well-Being. Given general interest in the progress and plans of Hinchingbrooke Hospital, the view was expressed that Members of all Overview and Scrutiny Panels should be invited to attend when the matter next was discussed by the Social Well Being Panel.

**100. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS**

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions.

Councillor Mrs M Banerjee updated the Panel on preliminary discussions which had taken place at the County Council on the future of rural transport in Cambridgeshire. At a meeting of the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27th March 2013, matters discussed had included the fact that under the Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT) initiative only one bus service was in place. It had been suggested that solutions needed to focus on the needs of the majority and of the most vulnerable bus users. It had been put forward that a more holistic and ambitious approach should be taken, such as linking the initiative with health and well-being and environmental issues. At the meeting support had been expressed for the flexible approach taken by CFT in finding transport solutions. However, more information was required about costs/budgets available. There were areas of risk, specifically related to limited staff resources, timescales and the impact of services that had failed. Furthermore, greater consideration should be given to the initiative's environmental impacts. Communication issues were identified, for example, many older people were not computer users and concern had been expressed that expectations would be raised. It had been concluded that there should be one, not six, objectives, to provide focus for the programme.

The Panel then requested that reports on progress of drainage issues in Yaxley and the work of the Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership be submitted to future meetings. It was noted that the Panel would be invited to undertake a further visit to the Great Fen Project in September.

**101. SCRUTINY**

The 133rd Edition of the Decision Digest was received and noted.

**102. MR M PHILLIPS**

The Chairman referred to the fact that Mr M Phillips was attending his last meeting as a Co-opted Member. He placed on record his gratitude for the work Mr Phillips had undertaken and the contribution he had made to the Panel over the previous three years.

Chairman