

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2006 AT
7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A L Burlton (Chairman).
Councillors M R Alexander, W Ashley, D R Atkins,
Mrs P R Ballam, H G S Banks, K A Barnes,
S A Bull, N Burdett, E J Cain, M G Carver,
D Clark, R Conway, R N Copping, A F Dearman,
A D Dodd, G L Francis, R Gilbert, A M Graham,
L O Haysey, J Hedley, Mrs D M Hone,
A P Jackson, G McAndrew, M P A McMullen,
T Milner, Mrs S Newton, R L Parker, D A A Peek,
H Penson, L R Pinnell, N C Poulton, J O Ranger,
P A Ruffles, S Rutland-Barsby, G D Scrivener,
J J Taylor, J P Warren, N Wilson, M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Philip Thomas	- Interim Executive Director
Gerald Balabanoff	- Interim Director of Organisational Development
Lorraine Blackburn	- Committee Secretary
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Corporate Governance
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic Services
Lorraine Kirk	- Senior Communications Officer
Jackie Sayers	- Scrutiny Officer
David Tweedie	- Director of Resources

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Fisher

RESOLVED ITEMS

ACTION

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor R N Copping presided for this item and invited nominations to the election of Chairman.

It was moved by Councillor A P Jackson and seconded by Councillor M R Alexander that Councillor A L Burlton be elected Chairman of the Council, to hold office for the Civic Year 2006/2007.

It was moved by Councillor M Wood and seconded by Councillor G L Francis that Councillor K A Barnes be elected Chairman of the Council, to hold office for the Civic Year 2006/07.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, Councillor A L Burlton was elected Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2006/07.

RESOLVED - that Councillor A L Burlton be elected Chairman of the Council and hold office for the Civic Year 2006/07.

Upon entering the Chamber, the Chairman made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor A P Jackson and seconded by Councillor M G Carver that Councillor R N Copping be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2006/07.

It was moved by Councillor A M Graham and seconded by Councillor G L Francis that Councillor M Wood be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2006/07.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken Councillor R N Copping was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2006/07.

RESOLVED - that Councillor R N Copping be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office for the Civic Year 2006/07.

The Vice-Chairman made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Members for appointing him and commented that he would likely resign from this office after six months for the reasons now detailed.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 April 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Members for their support over the previous year. He stated that he was sorry that Derek Mayes was not here to act as Vice Chairman.

The Chairman stated that his Charity was the Isobel Hospice and asked Members to keep their diaries free on 24 March 2007, when a Civic Reception would be held to honour the people of East Herts. He referred to the fact that many people's efforts and good deeds went unnoticed for their good deeds and it was his intention to give recognition to those people for their good works.

The Chairman welcomed the press and public to the meeting.

The Chairman commented that he had agreed to accept onto the agenda an urgent item of business in relation to the Hartham Common Skatepark on the grounds of avoiding any undue delay in progressing the scheme.

Members and officers were invited to join him in a glass of wine and some light refreshments at the conclusion of the Annual meeting.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members made the following declarations of interest:

- Councillors Mrs D M Hone, J Hedley, Mrs S Newton, P A Ruffles and N Wilson declared personal and prejudicial interests in the matter referred to at Minute 13 – Hartham Common Skatepark as they were Members of the skateboard Park Group and Hertford Town Councillors. They left the room whilst the item was being considered.
- Councillor G McAndrew asked Council to note that his declaration made in respect of Minute 876 - Report of the long-term Leisure Strategy Group was by virtue of the fact that he was an East Herts Council Representative and Trustee of Bishop's Stortford Sports Hall and not the school.
- Councillor L O Haysey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute.13 - Hartham Common Skatepark - as she was a Member of the Hertford Civic Society and the Society had loaned money to the Skateboard Park Group during a difficult time. She left the room whilst the item was being considered.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION

Mrs M Aldrich asked the Executive Member for Community:

“Given the steady downward trend in casual swimming over the last ten years and the assurances regarding the adequacy of Aspire’s contingency funds to meet unexpected cost rises, what guarantees can be given by East Herts Council or Aspire Leisure Trust that the staff and public will not have to suffer further reductions in the service in the future”.

In reply, the Executive Member for Community thanked Mrs Aldrich for her question. He stated that he could not agree that there had been a reduction in service, as all the centres had modern equipment installed. He stated that it was a fact that there had been a drop in casual swimming for many years. Aspire was aware of this and was trying to develop initiatives. He stated that the contract was being monitored by Performance Scrutiny Committee and that the Council would continue to work with Aspire to deliver a successful service.

He stated that other questions had been submitted from members of the public, but as these had referred to the financial affairs of Aspire, he had declined to respond, as this would necessitate the disclosure of exempt information.

As a supplementary question, Mrs. Aldrich asked whether health and safety was being eroded which had resulted in pools being closed recently.

The Executive Member commented that members of the public had asked him whether it was safe to take their children to the pools. He stated that the incident in the newspaper had happened nine months earlier and was very out of date. Tests had been carried out and there was no reason to think that health and safety measures were not being handled properly.

7 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

Councillor A M Graham asked the Leader of the Council whether he would give the Council categorical assurance that he had 100% confidence in Aspire’s credibility to

provide the quality service under the terms of the leisure contract that his party supported for the continuation of the gym and swimming pool programme of activities in 2006/07 and beyond.

In reply, the Leader stated that he was confident that Aspire could deliver the services under the terms of the contract. He stated that the Council was working with Aspire on an operational and strategic level and that in recent months, the Council had been acting as critical friend to ensure that services matched demand.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Graham asked why the Leader had not told Members about the outcome of the meeting with the press recently in which case Members would have been better placed to deal with questions. He asked for confirmation that no additional costs would fall on the Council in relation to the contract.

In reply, the Leader apologised for not providing the information following the press meeting. That information would be made available via the Members' Information Bulletin. He stated that the meeting was to help the press understand the difference between relevant information and the fact that they were creating a picture in their minds of impending disaster. He stated that there were a number of people in the Chamber that evening who would ensure that Members did not entertain becoming prophets of self fulfilling doom.

The fact was that discussions were ongoing with Aspire to ensure that the people of East Herts got the service the Council had contracted them to deliver. He stated that the Council would work with its partners to ensure that the public got the services they needed. In relation to Councillor Graham's request for 100% categorical assurance, the Leader stated that he had more confidence in Aspire being able to deliver than the Liberal Democrats being able to form a Government.

Councillor Graham sought clarification on additional financial costs.

The Leader stated that there was a precedent for working with partners and that the Council was working to make this a success.

8 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council reported on the work of the Executive and presented the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 2 May 2006.

The Leader offered his congratulations to the Chairman as the last meeting had been challenging and he had acquitted himself well. He was entirely confident that the Chairman would represent the Council well this Civic Year. He stated it would be an interesting year, a lot had been done but there was more to achieve. He also stated that the Council would be rigorous in providing for the people who lived and worked in the district.

The Council would be responding to BA's planning application submitted to Uttlesford District Council, the Bishop's Stortford Transport Study and the findings of the East of England Plan Examination in Public.

The Leader commented on the improvements to Castle Hall and the fact that the venue was being recognised as an arts and cultural centre. He stated that the Council had acted as facilitator in relation to the Rhodes Arts Complex which was now a facility that the community could enjoy.

The Leader stated that there was a need to work with the Council's partners to see where the Council could improve, e.g. in relation to the lives of the elderly.

The Leader looked forward to work progressing in relation to the Skatepark in Hertford.

The Leader commented on the changes to the committee system and its processes which he stated should help all Members feel part of the decision making process.

The Leader expressed his thanks to the Conservative Group and to Philip Thomas who had helped the Council focus on a renewed sense of purpose. He stated that this would be Philip's last Council meeting and welcomed Anne Fisher who would be attending the next meeting in her new role as Chief Executive.

The Leader stated that this year had the potential of being a good year for this Council and East Herts.

In response, Councillor M Wood thanked Councillor A L Burlton for his work during the last Civic Year following the illness and death of Councillor D Mayes.

He expressed his thanks to Philip Thomas who had been a "breath of fresh air". He stated that his unique position meant that he could say what he wanted without being "kicked out". Councillor M Wood stated that he agreed with some of the ways the Council was going and disagreed with others.

In response, Councillor K A Barnes stated that not only had Philip Thomas helped the Council move forward but he had assisted the Independents in forming a new group and thanked him for his efforts.

He stated that he recognised the work done by Councillor A L Burlton last year and thanked both he and his wife Wendy, for their "marvellous" work.

In relation to Minute 814 - Corporate Strategic Plan 2006/07, the Leader proposed a number of amendments in relation to the following:

- Priority - "Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable"

Insert :-

Objective - “proactively ensure that all people have access to services, benefits and support”.

- Priority - “Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures”.

Delete:-

Objective - “seek to enable an average of 40% affordable housing across the planning period up to 2011”.

Insert:-

“Seek to enable 40% affordable housing on all major and other relevant development sites across the planning period to 2011”.

RESOLVED – that (A) in relation to Minute 814 - Corporate Strategic Plan 2006/07, the draft plan, as now amended and detailed, be approved; and

(B) the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 2 May 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted

9 ANNUAL REPORT OF SCRUTINY CHAIRMAN

Councillor J O Ranger presented the Annual Scrutiny report and commented that this was a useful record of the Council’s Scrutiny activities and hoped that it would be widely read.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Report be approved.

10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES(A) DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE –
5 APRIL, 2006

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 5 April 2006, be received.

(B) PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
13 APRIL 2006

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 April 2006, be received.

(C) LICENSING COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2006

In respect of Minute 797 - Appeal Process in Grievance and Disciplinary Cases, Council noted that the report which had been submitted to Human Resources Sub-Committee on 1 March 2006, had been tabled at the meeting.

Councillor M G Carver stated that issues had been considered at the Local Joint Panel. He stated that it was important to recognise the separate roles in terms of corporate governance and the management of staff. He stated that the issue concerned the policy of corporate governance and that Members should not be involved in the management of staff. There needed to be transparency in the decision making processes.

He stated that as employment law was complex and that Members were not qualified or trained to manage that aspect, they should be there to ensure that policies were carried out. He stated that the Chief Executive should be the final arbitrator in the Appeal Process and that involving Members would only “muddy the waters”.

Councillor A M Graham commented that he was happy with a lot of what Councillor M G Carver had to say in relation to the management process being left to Council Officers. However, he believed that management did not always get things right and stressed the need to keep Members involved in hearing appeals against dismissal. He stated that there had been occasions where, if there had been no right to appeal, an injustice would have been done.

Training was something which could be given to Members. He stressed the need to include Members in the appeals process and stated that he felt this to be a fundamental right for employees.

Councillor A P Jackson agreed with Councillor A M Graham that it was right that there should be a clear distinction of roles. He stated that it was important that a consistent approach be applied, especially in relation to the level of training which Members might undertake. He stated that it would be difficult managing if then a decision then had to be made about management. He commented that Members' responsibilities were to the electorate. Councillors needed to bear in mind that there was also the possibility that they could be called as a witness to an Employment Tribunal.

The Leader stated that the Human Resources Committee would ensure that safeguards were in place to ensure that policies were in place and that staff were protected.

It was moved by Councillor M G Carver and seconded by Councillor A P Jackson that the recommendations of the Human Resources Sub-Committee be approved with the exception that Members not be included in the appeal process.

It was moved by Councillor A M Graham and seconded by Councillor M Wood that the

recommendation to include Members in the appeal process be retained. Following a vote being taken, this motion was declared LOST.

(Councillors A M Graham and M Wood requested that their contrary votes be recorded).

RESOLVED – that in respect of Minute 797 - Appeal Process in Grievance and Disciplinary Cases, (A) appeals against dismissal and appeals under the Grievance Procedure be heard by the Chief Executive or a joint Member/Officer panel chaired by the Chief Executive;

(B) appeals heard by the Chief Executive be reported to the Human Resources Committee at regular six monthly intervals and report the number of appeals heard and their outcome, including information on cases which have been referred to the employment tribunal and any associated costs also be reported;

(C) the proposed Harassment and Bullying at Work Procedure should not include a second right of appeal to a panel of Council Members; and

(D) the Minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 19 April 2006, be received.

(D) POLICY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2006

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 April 2006 be received.

(E) DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE –
3 MAY 2006

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 3 May 2006 be received.

(F) PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10 MAY 2006

Councillor A M Graham expressed his concern that an issue which had been discussed at length in relation to Aspire's ability to deliver in 2006/07, had not been included in the Minutes. The Chairman advised the Member to register his concern when the Minutes were submitted to the next meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee for approval as a correct record.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 May 2006 be received.

(G) POLICY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 11 MAY 2006

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 May 2006 be received.

11 REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Director of Corporate Governance submitted a report concerning revisions to the Constitution which would allow back bench Members greater involvement in decision making and Executive Members to make non-key decisions. An outline paper explaining the definition of key

decisions and the process was tabled at the meeting. The Interim Executive Director stated that the proposed new procedures were broadly supported by Members following their successful Challenge meeting held on 2 March 2006.

It was noted that Members would have seven days for an Advisory Panel to review a decision, not five as detailed in the report now submitted.

He stated that this process was bound to have initial hiccups and that Members might wish to review the process within the next year. He stated that the Council's modernising agenda needed to bring backbenchers into the process, but that to make it work, Members had to be involved in the process and not just assume others would agree to a particular course of action.

Councillor J O Ranger thanked the Interim Executive Director for his work. He commented that the new decision making process would create roughly 20 new Member positions and would change the structure of Committees.

Councillor D Clark commented on the terms of reference of the new Audit Committee and stated that it was the duty of the Council to approve the accounts and that this should not be the responsibility of the Audit Committee. She asked that the proposals, as now detailed, be amended to reflect the fact that the Audit Committee should review the annual statement of accounts for recommendation to Council for confirmation.

She referred to the Financial Codes of Conduct. The Interim Executive Director commented that it was not unusual for an Audit Committee to approve the accounts. He referred to the deadlines in relation to the accounts being approved, the Council's revised calendar and the danger of going back to more and more Council meetings being established.

Given the concerns expressed by Members in relation to the number of amendments proposed for the Human Resources Committee's Terms of Reference, it was agreed

that this could be deferred to a future Council meeting. The Director of Corporate Governance confirmed that the Constitution could be reviewed at any time.

A number of amendments were suggested to the Constitution now submitted as follows:

- paragraph 3.1 (A) after “policy formation insert ”Any” two Members”
- 3.1 (C) delete “Performance” and replace with “Policy Development”
- paragraph 3.1 (E) delete words “after prior to any” and replace with “key decisions (other than an Urgent item) being discussed by the Executive, Policy Development Scrutiny Committee will have the opportunity to consider this item”
- paragraph 3.1 (F) after “call the decision in” delete “in accordance with existing procedure”.
- Audit Committee Terms of Reference (Page 109) in “Accounts” first line, delete “approve” replace with “review”
- Part 3 Responsibility for Council Functions (Page 116) delete “Human Resources Committee” down to “Licensing Sub Committee“ and replace “Human Resources Committee”, after the item on Licensing Sub Committee with new wording to be submitted for approval.
- Part 4 Rules of Procedure delete paragraph 4. 2.
- Paragraph 10.8 After “Rule” delete “9.5” and replace with “10.5”.
- Paragraph 10.11 after...”deal with the Petition” add “local Members may also speak on the Petitions”.

Council supported the proposed amendments to the Constitution as detailed above.

Council also noted that the revised Constitution, as now detailed, contained a number of inconsistencies and typographical errors. It was agreed that the Director of Corporate Governance be authorised to amend typographical errors as necessary to ensure accuracy and consistency with the revised decision-making structure.

RESOLVED – that (A) the proposed amendments to the Constitution as now submitted and amended be approved; DCG

(B) the Terms of Reference of the Human Resources Committee be deferred for further consideration at the next meeting of Council on 17 July 2006; and DCG

(C) the Director of Corporate Governance be authorised to amend typographical errors as necessary to ensure accuracy and consistency with the revised decision-making structure. DCG

12 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURE

The Director of Corporate Governance submitted a report reviewing the Council's decision-making structure.

The report now submitted, had been prepared on the basis that the Council would continue with its existing political management model and constitution, subject to a number of amendments as detailed and would support all of the Council's corporate objectives.

Councillor M Wood stated that, in relation to Policy Development Scrutiny Committee, he was unhappy about the recommendation to reduce the membership to 12. In this regard, he referred to the size of the district in terms of representation. He stated that the new arrangements

sought to undermine his party and that the Liberal Democrats' powers were reduced. He felt that the proposal to abolish Call In Scrutiny Committee was regrettable.

It was moved by Councillor M Wood and seconded by Councillor K A Barnes, that Development Control Committee should be divided into two areas: East and West, with 25 Members on each area. Councillor K A Barnes stated that there was a lot of support to the proposal to regionalise Development Control. He stated that residents expected their Members to be accountable.

Councillor R Gilbert commented that he would be opposed to any suggestion of dividing the district into two districts on the basis that this had been tried before and there had been subsequent accusations of parochialism. Councillor A D Dodd agreed with this comment.

Following a vote being taken, this motion was declared LOST.

It was noted that the Vice-Chairman of Performance Scrutiny Committee would be elected at its first meeting.

Council agreed that in addition to those detailed in the report now submitted, the following Chairmen be appointed:

- Audit Committee – Councillor D Clark
- Bishop's Stortford Community Voice – Councillor A L Burlton
- Buntingford Community Voice – Councillor S A Bull
- Hertford Community Voice – Councillor S Rutland-Barsby
- Sawbridgeworth Community Voice – Councillor D Richards
- Ware Community Voice – Councillor Mrs J J Taylor

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that it was for the Council to decide upon the size of the Executive.

In respect of the calendar of meetings, the Executive Member for Public Engagement requested that Policy Development Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2006 be moved to 14 June 2006. This was agreed by Council.

Council agreed the proposed recommendations, as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the following Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Member/Employee Panel, and Joint Committees be appointed, with the number of voting Members stated:

DCG

Policy Development Scrutiny	12
Performance Scrutiny	12
Development Control	16
Licensing	15
Human Resources	7
Audit	7
Highways Joint Member Panel (6 from Hertfordshire County Council 6 from East Herts Council)	12
Local Joint Panel (4 Members of the Council and 4 representatives of employees drawn from UNISON with substitutes)	8
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford Joint PCT Scrutiny Committee (4 non- executive Councillors from this Council)	

South East Herts Joint PCT Scrutiny
Committee (2 non-executive Councillors
from this Council)

(B) the allocation of seats on Scrutiny
Committees and other Committees be as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Vacancy</u>	<u>Total</u>
Policy Development Scrutiny	12	10	1	1	0	12
Performance Scrutiny	12	10	1	1	0	12
Development Control	16	13	2	1	0	16
Licensing	15	12	1	1	1	15
Human Resources	7	5	1	1	0	7
Audit	7	5	1	1	0	7
Total	69	55	7	6	1	69

(C) the allocation of seats on Sub-Committees to
political groups be as detailed in the appendix to the
report now submitted;

(D) the allocation of seats on the Highways Joint
Member Panel (6) and Local Joint Panel (4) to
political groups be as follows:

	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
HJMP	5	1	0
LJP	3	1	0

(E) as a consequence of the decisions at (A) - (D) above, the membership of Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Member/Employee Panel and the Highways Joint Member Panel be as set out in the papers tabled, with Members being appointed in accordance with the wishes of the political groups to whom the seats on these bodies have been allocated;

(F) the following Members be appointed as Chairmen (and where specified, Vice-Chairmen) of the bodies detailed:

	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>
Policy Development Scrutiny	J O Ranger	Mrs M H Goldspink
Performance Scrutiny	Mrs D L E Hollebon	TBA
Human Resources	D A A Peek	-
Development Control	R Gilbert	S A Bull
Licensing	M P A McMullen	W Ashley
Audit	D Clark	-
Community Voice:		
Bishop's Stortford	A L Burlton	-
Buntingford	S A Bull	-
Hertford	S Rutland-Barsby	-
Sawbridgeworth	D Richards	-
Ware	J J Taylor	-

(G) the number of Executive Members to be appointed to the Executive be 5, plus the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council;

(H) the Council's Standards Committee be appointed for the ensuing civic year consisting of two independent Members (to serve a two year term of office), three District Councillors (one from each political party with four or more Members), one Town Council Member, one Parish Council Member and the following individuals be appointed thereto:

District Council

Councillors H G S Banks, J P Warren and M Wood.

Town/Parish Councils' Representative

Mrs E Woods (Town) and Mr B Taylor (Parish)

Independents

Mr J Morphew and Mr A Walker

(I) the programme of Council meetings, as amended, be approved;

(J) the Director of Corporate Governance (Head of Democratic Services) be authorised to make changes in the standing membership of committees and joint committees in (A) above, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups to whom seats on those bodies have been allocated;

DCG

(K) the action to be taken by the Director of Corporate Governance in consultation with the Leader, under delegated authority, concerning the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, be noted;

DCG

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(L) the Council's constitution be amended as necessary to take account of the decision at (A) – (H) and (J) above; and

DCG

(M) the Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to provide for the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to a Leader of a minority political group on the Council and the level of such an allowance be determined following receipt of a report on this matter from the Council's Remuneration Panel.

DCG

13 HARTHAM SKATEBOARD PARK

The Executive Member for Community Development commented that the Council had agreed to allocate a capital sum of £45,000 in 2004/05. However, because of prohibitive construction costs of over £250,000, the scheme had not progressed. Associated revenue costs were also a cause of concern.

In an effort to move things forward, a meeting had taken place with Hertford Town Council. The Town Council had agreed to fund the revenue costs over a number of years, if the Council increased its capital allocation by a further £55,000 to a total of £100,000. The scheme would be smaller, but it was anticipated that it could be designed in such a way that it could be added to at a later stage.

The Executive Member explained that the capital allocation could be financed through the use of Planning Delivery Grant and detailed the essential components of the project in terms of scale/size, design and construction, project delivery and in relation to the need to seek appropriate planning consent. Issues in relation to appropriate insurances and risk management implications were detailed in the report.

The Executive Member commented that the scheme had the support of the Executive. However, it was noted that the formal agreement of Hertford Town Centre to finance the ongoing costs of insurance, inspection, monitoring and

ACTION

maintenance of the facility was a vital factor in the scheme progressing.

Council supported the proposals as now submitted.

RESOLVED – that (A) a revised capital provision of £100,000 be allocated in the Council’s 2006/07 capital programme for the construction of a skateboard facility on Hartham Common; DR

(B) the additional capital funding required of £55,000 be allocated from the Council’s Planning Delivery Grant allocation for 2005/06 and 2006/07; DR

(C) the Director of Policy and Performance be authorised to enter into an agreement with Hertford Town Council to finance all the on-going costs of insurance, inspection, monitoring and maintenance of the facility; and DPP

(D) the Director of Policy and Performance be authorised to appoint a specialist project manager for the period and invite tenders for the design and construction of the facility. DPP

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman
Date