

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD,  
ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2009, AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A P Jackson (Chairman/Leader).  
Councillors M R Alexander, L O Haysey, T Milner,  
R L Parker and M J Tindale.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, W Ashley, R N Copping,  
J Demonti, R Gilbert, A M Graham, P Grethe,  
Mrs M H Goldspink, G Lawrence,  
M P A McMullen, D A A Peek, J O Ranger,  
P A Ruffles, S Rutland-Barsby, R I Taylor and  
M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Caroline Goss	- Communications Officer
Philip Hamberger	- Programme Director of Change
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Alan Madin	- Director of Internal Services
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

745 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor M G Carver.

**RECOMMENDED ITEMS****ACTION****746      RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON FUTURE  
REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND**

The Leader of the Council submitted a report seeking approval for a response to consultation on future regional local government arrangements in the East of England.

The Executive noted that Parliament was considering a Bill which, amongst other changes, would revise regional arrangements for economic development and regeneration including the role of local government. The Bill follows what had come to be known as the Sub National Review (SNR). The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) had set up a members' task force to review the implications of the Bill for the East of England and had consulted on the proposals from that group.

The Leader's suggested response raised concerns about the outcome of the Sub National Review, in particular, the failure to devolve further to local authorities. He referred to the consultation document set out at Appendix 'A5' of the report now submitted. He also detailed a proposed response as set out at Appendix 'B5' of the report now submitted. In summary, the response:

- emphasised the Council's view that further devolution was desirable;
- proposed that governance should focus on strategic rather than organisational issues;
- set out an alternative model for the composition of the proposed Leaders Board and a view that this Board should take precedence over EEDA as

the forum for final decisions; and

- sought a limited non-executive role for a voluntary East of England Councils Assembly.

The Leader reminded Members that they could respond to the consultation on an individual basis if they wished.

The Executive endorsed the proposed response as now submitted.

**RECOMMENDED** - that the proposed response to the consultation, as now submitted, be endorsed.

#### RESOLVED ITEMS

747 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AT GRANGE  
PADDOCKS AND HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRES  
(LEISURE CONTRACT VARIANT BID 2)

The Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture submitted a report that set out potential capital investment of up to £3,508,000, to improve the Hartham and Grange Paddocks leisure centres for consideration by the Executive. The Executive recalled that this matter had been deferred from its previous meeting held on 21 April 2009 (Minute 740 refers) to enable further financial analyses.

The Executive was reminded of the Community Scrutiny Committee's comments as reported at the previous meeting. The Executive Member believed that the concerns raised had now been addressed. She drew attention to the conclusions of the independent leisure consultant as detailed in the report now submitted. Also, the business case for Hartham had been strengthened by the minor adjustments to the development proposals.

The Executive Member referred to the four main options now available, which were detailed in the report now submitted. She recommended that the Executive should agree option A, which entailed accepting the proposals for both Grange Paddocks and Hartham. She also proposed that, if the Executive accepted this option, regular progress reports be submitted to the Executive.

Members highlighted the projected revenue savings of £3.777m over the life of the 10-year contract if option A was approved. Various Members expressed support for this option and welcomed the improved facilities that would ensue.

The Executive approved option A, as detailed in the report now submitted.

RESOLVED – that (A) the business case and options for a capital investment of up to £3,508,000 for the development of Grange Paddocks and Hartham leisure centres, as set out in the report submitted, be received;

(B) the views of the Community Scrutiny Committee of 7 April 2009 in relation to the financial and cultural impact of the developments proposed in this report, be received;

(C) option A, as set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report now submitted, that is, accepting the proposals for both Grange Paddocks and Hartham, be endorsed; DCCS

(D) as a result of (C) above, the current profile of the Council's capital programme be amended to accord with the profile required to deliver the development as agreed; and DIS

(E) regular updates on the progress of the developments be included within the corporate DCCS

healthcheck reports to the Executive.

The meeting closed at 6.28 pm

Chairman	.....
Date	.....