

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2013, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A Jackson (Chairman/Leader)
Councillors M Alexander, M Carver,
L Haysey, P Phillips, S Rutland-Barsby and
M Tindale.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, E Buckmaster,
G McAndrew, M McMullen, P Moore,
P Ruffles, N Symonds, J Taylor and
N Wilson.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Democratic Services Team Leader
George A Robertson	- Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services
Adele Taylor	- Director of Finance and Support Services

**MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - FEBRUARY
AND MARCH 2013 (1)**

**Consideration was given to an exception report on the
finance and performance monitoring for February and
March 2013.**

The Executive supported the carry forward recommendation to Council as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED – that in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.7.3, the carry forward of capital budgets not spent in 2012/13, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper ‘D’ of the report submitted, be approved and these sums be added to the 2013/14 estimates.

(see also Minute 54)

49 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed Councillor S Rutland-Barsby to her first meeting as an Executive Member.

50 MINUTES - 5 MARCH 2013

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 5 March 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

51 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

The Executive received a report detailing those issues referred to it by the Scrutiny Committees. Issues relating to specific reports for the Executive were considered and detailed at the relevant report of the Executive Member.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

52 EAST HERTS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Executive considered a report setting out the proposed Improvement Plan for the Council, following the recent Peer Challenge event and the Executive's awayday session to consider the recommendations and service priorities for 2014/15 onwards.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 28 May 2013, had considered the Action Plan and supported the addition of the following points:

- 11a – debates to be held at scrutiny meetings to revitalise and focus topics on members' scrutiny priorities.
- 18 – e.g., early interventions be considered where they might reduce future demands for services.
- 26a – include a planning training event for parish/town council members.

The Executive supported all of these comments. The Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Community Services had already had discussions with Scrutiny Chairmen to consider how they might improve the focus and ownership of respective scrutiny work programmes, including considering them earlier in their meetings to encourage greater debate. The Leader advised that different methods of pump priming, as a principle, whereby spend on prevention might reduce spend on remedies, had been raised with the Local Strategic Partnership. Also, a separate planning training/open day would be arranged for town/parish council members.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the comments of Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee be received and supported; and

(B) the Improvement Plan be approved and monitored on a six monthly basis by Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee for one year.

53 2012/13 PERFORMANCE OUTTURNS

The Executive gave consideration to a report setting out the

performance indicator outturn for 2012/13.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 28 May 2013, had considered the outturns and had supported the inclusion of performance indicators for the new ICT service within the corporate healthcheck, as proposed in the report submitted.

The Executive noted the outturns and agreed that a general review of indicators should be undertaken by Scrutiny committees with a view to developing more relevant outcomes. Also, it was agreed that they be asked to review the targets set for 2013/14 and to consider whether they were sufficiently challenging.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the comments of Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee be received and supported;

(B) the 2012/13 outturns be noted; and

(C) Scrutiny Committees be requested to review the set of performance indicators with a view to focussing on more relevant outcomes and to challenge the performance targets set for 2013/14.

54 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2013 (2)

Consideration was given to an exception report on the finance and performance monitoring for February and March 2013. The Leader advised that the end year position had indicated a net underspend of £1.8m and detailed the major variances. He further advised that, whilst noting some windfall items, the Executive Member for Finance and the Director of Finance and Support Services were working hard on preparing more realistic budgets in order to minimise variances.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the budgetary variances detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted; and

(B) the ICT performance indicators, as detailed in Essential Reference Paper 'G' of the report submitted, be monitored as part of the Corporate Healthcheck in 2013/14.

(see also Minute 48)

55 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - APRIL 2013

The Leader of the Council submitted an exception report on finance, performance and risk monitoring for April 2013.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the sum of £24,606 be vired from the planning contingency for the recycling service as detailed at paragraph 2.5 of the report submitted;

(B) carry forward requests of £4,900, £6,690, £2,410, £2,500, £15,000, £8,550 and £40,480 as outlined in paragraphs 2.18 to 2.25 of the report submitted, be approved;

(C) the controls and scores listed in the strategic risk register for the period February 2013 to April 2013, as detailed at paragraph 2.26 of the report submitted, be approved; and

(D) 2013/14 monthly/quarterly performance indicator targets, as detailed at paragraphs 2.29 to 2.33 and Essential Reference Paper 'E' of the report submitted, be approved.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm

Chairman
Date