

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY  
MEETING OF EAST HERTS COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON  
WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2004 AT  
6.30 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor D E Mayes (Chairman).  
Councillors W Ashley, P R Ballam, H G S Banks,  
K A Barnes, S A Bull, N Burdett, A L Burlton,  
M G Carver, D Clark, R N Copping, J Demonti,  
R Gilbert, Mrs M H Goldspink, J Hedley,  
Mrs D L E Hollebon, Mrs D M Hone, A P Jackson,  
G McAndrew, M P A McMullen, S Newton,  
N C Poulton, J O Ranger, D Richards,  
T K H Robertson, S Rutland-Barsby, J J Taylor,  
M J Tindale, J P Warren, N Wilson and M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Miranda Steward  | - Executive Director<br>(Returning Officer)       |
| Rachel Stopard   | - Executive Director<br>(Head of Paid<br>Service) |
| Alison Brown     | - Communications<br>Officer                       |
| Simon Drinkwater | - Assistant Director<br>(Law and Control)         |
| Jeff Hughes      | - Head of Democratic<br>Services                  |
| Martin Ibrahim   | - Senior Democratic<br>Services Officer           |
| Claire Sime      | - Planning Officer<br>(Local Plans)               |
| Bryan Thomsett   | - Head of<br>Environmental<br>Planning            |

374 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that the portfolio report by the Executive Member for Economic and Regional Development, which was deferred from last week's Council meeting, would be given at tonight's meeting. This item would be dealt with as agenda item 6.

In respect of agenda items 3 – 5, a report of the recommendations agreed at the Executive meeting held earlier today, had been placed around the table. The Leader of the Council would be referring to these recommendations when presenting these items.

375 EAST HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – SECOND REVIEW – FURTHER MATERIAL AMENDMENTS FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE REDEPOSIT LOCAL PLAN (NOVEMBER 2004)

Council considered and supported the recommendations made by the Executive, at its meeting held on 9 November 2004, in relation to the East Hertfordshire Local Plan – Second Review – Further Material Amendments for Incorporation into the Redeposit Local Plan (November 2004).

RESOLVED: that the material amendments as detailed at Appendix 'A' to the report now submitted, be agreed for incorporation into the consolidated Redeposit Local Plan (November 2004).

APP

376 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISALS: EAST HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – SECOND REVIEW – REDEPOSIT VERSION (NOVEMBER 2004) AND VEHICLE PARKING AT NEW DEVELOPMENT – DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (NOVEMBER 2004)

Council considered and supported the recommendations made by the Executive, at its meeting held on 9 November 2004, in relation to the Sustainability Appraisals: East Hertfordshire Local Plan – Second Review – Redeposit Version (November 2004) and Vehicle Parking at New

Development – Draft Supplementary Planning Document (November 2004).

RESOLVED: that Sustainability Appraisals of:

APP

(A) the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Redeposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'B' to the report now submitted; and

(B) the Draft Vehicle Parking at New Development Supplementary Planning Document (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'C' to the report now submitted;

be approved as the basis for public consultation as supplementary documents to the Redeposit Local Plan and the Draft Supplementary Planning Document.

377 EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT ORDER) NO 2 2004

Council considered and supported the recommendations made by the Executive, at its meeting held on 9 November 2004, in relation to the East Hertfordshire District Council (Parking Places) (Amendment Order) No 2 2004.

RESOLVED: that the East Hertfordshire District Council (Parking Places) (Amendment Order) No 2 2004 be confirmed as an unopposed Order.

ALC

378 PORTFOLIO REPORT

Council recalled that the portfolio report by the Executive Member for Economic and Regional Development had been deferred from the Council meeting held on 3 November 2004. The Executive Member referred to her portfolio area generally, which included Benefits and Elections as well as Regional Planning. She also referred to the Regional Assembly meeting, which had been held on 5 November 2004, at which the 'East of England Plan' had been agreed.

Due to the significance of this decision for the future of East Herts, the Executive Member focussed her report on the issues arising from this.

The Executive Member referred to the general process and the background to the deliberations of the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA). She highlighted the changes to the planning process under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the various consultants' studies undertaken.

The Executive Member reminded Council that the original draft RPG14 report, which had been issued in February 2004, had proposed an additional 9,700 houses in East Herts. The final numbers agreed by EERA on 5 November 2004, was 20,800 for East Herts. This would likely have a significant impact for areas to the north of Harlow and the Areas of Special Restraint near Bishop's Stortford.

The Executive Member outlined the significant impact these additional numbers would have, in terms of health, transport, the Green Belt and quality of life. Finally, she stated that the 'East of England Plan' was due to be launched formally on 8 December 2004, for a 14-week consultation period.

During the ensuing debate, Members asked various questions and made a number of comments of which the following issues were highlighted:

- The role of the Regional Spatial Strategy Scrutiny Panel recently established by Council.
- The need for sound scientific evidence to support the Council's formal response.
- The need for an effective communications strategy to be put in place.
- The role of all Members in explaining the implications to the people of East Herts.

- The need to challenge the process and to highlight the fundamental flaws.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm

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| Chairman | ..... |
| Date     | ..... |

Nps\Council\Minutes 9 November 2004