

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2005 AT
6.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M G Carver (Leader/Chairman).
Councillors H G S Banks, M R Alexander,
N Burdett, D Clark, A P Jackson, T Milner
and N C Poulton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors W Ashley, A L Burlton, R N Copping,
J Demonti, R Gilbert, Mrs M H Goldspink,
M P A McMullen, D E Mayes, D A A Peek,
L R Pinnell, J O Ranger, D Richards, M J Tindale,
J P Warren and M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Miranda Steward	- Executive Director
Rachel Stopard	- Executive Director
Simon Andrews	- Planning Officer (Environmental Planning)
Alison Brown	- Communications Officer
Simon Drinkwater	- Assistant Director (Law and Control)
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mary Orton	- Assistant Director (Policy and Performance)
Bryan Thomsett	- Head of Environmental Planning

653 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor R L Parker.

654 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Clark declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 655 – Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (RSS14) – Response to the Consultation Document – December 2004, as her husband was the Secretary of the Stop Harlow North Campaign.

RECOMMENDED ITEM

ACTION

655 REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND (RSS14) – RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – DECEMBER 2004

The Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Economic and Regional Development submitted a joint report outlining a suggested response to the East of England Plan Consultation Document.

The Leader referred to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council being held later that evening. He suggested that it would be more appropriate for a full debate on the issues raised by the Consultation Document to be held at that meeting. It was not the intention to duplicate the debate at the Executive meeting. However, technical issues and questions could be raised by Members and dealt with at this meeting.

The Executive Member for Economic and Regional Development outlined the consultation process and the Examination in Public, which would lead to the Government approving the Plan in late 2006.

The Executive Member expressed her gratitude to all the staff involved for their efforts in drafting the

Council's response and in communicating the issues to raise public awareness.

The Executive noted the recommendations of the Regional Spatial Strategy Scrutiny Panel, made at its meeting held on 3 March 2005. The Chairman of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee suggested two additional amendments in respect of Policy References D34 and D52. The Executive recommended that these amendments be supported.

Members requested that, in respect of the protection of the Green Belt, the draft response be toughened up to take account of the comments made.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed. Further, the Executive noted that its recommendations would be considered by the Council meeting on 9 March 2005.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the content of Appendix 'D' to the report now submitted, be agreed as the basis of East Herts Council's formal response to the East of England Plan – Consultation Draft Document – December 2004; and

APP

(B) the Assistant Director (Policy and Performance), in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Economic and Regional Development, be given delegated authority to agree any further amendments/additions to the Council's response, arising from the Executive and Extraordinary Council meetings on 9 March 2005.

APP

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm