

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON TUESDAY 24 MAY 2005 AT
4.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M G Carver (Chairman/Leader).
Councillors M R Alexander, D Clark, A P Jackson,
T Milner, R L Parker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors W Ashley, P R Ballam, J Demonti,
R Gilbert, M P A McMullen, Mrs S Newton,
L R Pinnell, N C Poulton, D Richards, P A Ruffles,
J D Thornton, M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Miranda Steward	- Executive Director
Rachel Stopard	- Executive Director
Simon Drinkwater	- Assistant Director (Law and Control)
Andrea Gilmour	- Development Control Manager
Paul Harris	- Head of Direct Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Lorraine Kirk	- Senior Communications Officer
Bernard Perry	- Assistant Director (Human Resources)
Lois Prior	- Head of Communications
David Tweedie	- Assistant Director (Financial Services)
Alison Young	- Planning Enforcement Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Susan Thomas

- Ove Arup and
Partners Ltd

17 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor N Burdett.

18 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader referred to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor D E Mayes, who had suffered a stroke at the weekend. The Leader was sure he could speak on behalf of all Members in expressing best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Leader also referred to the new Executive portfolio responsibilities that were now in place following the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2005, which had agreed to reduce the size of the Executive to 5 Members plus the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Finally, the Leader welcomed the press and public to the meeting. He outlined the provision for public engagement under the Council's Constitution, which provided for public representation to be made by way of petitions or questions at Council meetings only.

19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors L R Pinnell and M Wood declared personal interests in the matter referred to at Minute 20 – Implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders for Resident Parking and On-Street Charging Schemes, in that they resided in areas suggested for parking schemes.

Councillor J D Thornton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter referred to at Minute 20 – Implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders for Resident

Parking and On-Street Charging Schemes, in that he owned and lived in a property in an area suggested for a parking scheme.

Councillor R Gilbert declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 20 – Implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders for Resident Parking and On-Street Charging Schemes, in that he resided in an area suggested for a parking scheme. He did not accept the advice of the Assistant Director (Law and Control) in respect of his type of interest and left the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

ACTION

20 IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS FOR RESIDENT PARKING AND ON-STREET CHARGING SCHEMES

The Executive Member for Community Development submitted a report providing the Executive with a summary of the residents parking and on-street charging schemes, formally advertised in February/March 2005, the objections to the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) advertised, and the response recommended by the Parking Member Sub-Group.

The Executive recalled that the Council had approved the principles of introducing charging for limited waiting spaces in town centres and of introducing residents' parking schemes on residential streets, as a result of Phase 1 of the East Herts Parking Study, which reported in May 2003. Charging for on-street limited waiting was intended to encourage turnover and increase the value of premium space. Residents' parking was intended to give priority to residents on residential streets. Details of the outcome of the consultation produced by the Council's consultants, Ove Arup, were set out in an Appendix to the report now submitted.

ACTION

The Executive Member detailed the Traffic Regulation Orders for seven parking management schemes that were advertised from 17 February 2005 to 14 March 2005. These schemes were:

- The East Herts (Hertford) On-Street Charging Order 2005 proposed charging 20p for a maximum of 30 minutes limited waiting in on-street parking bays on Bell Lane, Bull Plain, Castle Street, Cowbridge, Fore Street, by Blue Coat School, Parliament Square, Queens Road and St Andrews Street, Hertford.
- The East Herts (Bishop's Stortford) On-Street Charging Order 2005 proposed charging 20p for a maximum of 30 minutes limited waiting in the existing on-street parking bays on North Street, Bishop's Stortford.
- The East Herts (Ware) On-Street Charging Order 2005 proposed charging 20p for a maximum of 30 minutes limited waiting in the existing on-street parking bays on Amwell End, Ware.
- The East Herts (Folly Island, Hertford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005 proposed a permit holder parking zone on The Folly, Thornton Street, Old Hall Street and Frampton Street, Hertford, between 9am and 9pm, Monday to Saturday.
- The East Herts (West Street, Hertford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005 proposed permit holder parking bays on the south side of West Street, Hertford, in force from 9am to 9pm Monday to Saturday and double yellow lines on the north side of the street.
- The East Herts (Stansted Road Area, Bishop's Stortford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005 proposed a controlled parking zone covering Cherry

ACTION

Gardens, Dolphin Way, Heron Court, Kingfisher Way, Kings Court, Kingsbridge Road and Kingsmead Road, Bishop's Stortford, between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

- **The East Herts (Dunmow Road Area, Bishop's Stortford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005 proposed permit holder parking on East Road, Edens Close, Elm Grove, Limes Crescent, Manor Road, Stortford Hall Park, Urban Road, Wayletts Drive and Wilton Close, Bishop's Stortford, between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.**

The Executive Member outlined the comments and objections that had been made in respect of the above schemes and referred to minor changes to some of the proposals as a result of the consultation. He also proposed that the East Herts (West Street, Hertford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005, be postponed, pending further discussions.

The Executive Member for Environmental Management referred to the proposals in respect of Amwell End, Ware. He suggested that, since the introduction of regular parking attendant patrols, the parking management position had improved. As such, he proposed that the implementation of the East Herts (Ware) On-Street Charging Order 2005, be deferred.

Councillor P R Ballam expressed her support for the proposal that the East Herts (Ware) On-Street Charging Order 2005, be deferred.

The Deputy Leader referred to a number of recent meetings in respect of the proposals for St Andrew's Street, Hertford. He suggested an amendment to the East Herts (Hertford) On-Street Charging Order 2005, in that the element relating to St Andrew's Street be deferred.

ACTION

Councillor P A Ruffles expressed his support for the Deputy Leader's proposed amendment.

Councillor J Demonti referred to the proposals in respect of North Street, Bishop's Stortford, as set out in the East Herts (Bishop's Stortford) On-Street Charging Order 2005. She highlighted the various major developments ongoing within the town centre, and stated that implementing the Order, as proposed, would add to the upheavals.

In response to these comments and proposed amendments, the Leader reiterated a fundamental principle of the Council's parking strategy, namely that the costs of car parking management should be borne by the motorist and not the Council taxpayer. He also reminded the Executive that deferring implementation of any proposed scheme would impact on the Council's approved financial model. Members were also asked to bear in mind that, deferring the proposals at Amwell End, Ware, North Street, Bishop's Stortford and St Andrew's Street, Hertford, would result in decreased patrolling hours as enforcement would need to be redirected to other areas, such as residents parking areas. This could negate the benefits recently experienced and result in a return to poor turnover of spaces.

In respect of the East Herts (Folly Island, Hertford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005, the Executive Member for Community Development, in response to a question from a Member, stated that the position with the use of Hartham car park would be reviewed and was ongoing.

In respect of the East Herts (Dunmow Road Area, Bishop's Stortford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005, the Executive Member for Community Development, in response to a Member's question, confirmed that existing disabled parking bays would not be affected by the proposals.

ACTION

In respect of the East Herts (West Street, Hertford) (Parking Zone) Order 2005, the Executive noted that, in view of the divided opinion of the residents, the scheme would not proceed without the support of all residents.

The Executive supported the proposals, as detailed in the report now submitted, except for those relating to Amwell End, Ware, North Street, Bishop's Stortford, St Andrew's Street, Hertford, where it was agreed to defer these, subject to a review within two years of the TROs being advertised.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the schemes for charged on-street limited waiting by method of pay and display (in various streets, Hertford excluding St Andrews Street), be implemented according to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) advertised in February and March 2005, **ACS**

(B) the scheme for charged on-street limited waiting by method of pay and display (North Street, Bishop's Stortford; Amwell End, Ware; and St Andrew's Street, Hertford) be deferred, subject to review within two years of the TROs being advertised, **ACS**

(C) the Folly Island residents parking scheme be implemented according to the TRO advertised in February and March 2005, with the minor change of excluding 3, 3a and 3b The Folly from permit eligibility, and the scheme be reviewed in future for permit numbers and scheme hours, **ACS**

(D) the Stansted Road area residents parking scheme be implemented according to the TRO advertised in February and March 2005, with the minor changes of extending the double yellow lines on Dolphin Way to the east property **ACS**

ACTION

boundary of 1 Dolphin Way; removing the proposed parking bays opposite the cul-de-sac encompassing 45-49 Kings Court and replacing these with double yellow lines, while replacing the double yellow lines nearby in front of 41 Kings Court with a similar amount of parking bay, and including 105 through 125 (odds) Stansted Road for eligibility for resident permits, these amendments be made without re-advertising the TRO,

(E) the Dunmow Road area residents parking scheme be implemented according to the TRO advertised in February and March 2005, except for where the draft Order applies to Stortford Hall Park and Edens Close, which are to be removed from the residents parking scheme (although some proposed double yellow lines around the junction of Stortford Hall Park with Dunmow Road should remain), with numbers 190 through 198 (evens) Dunmow Road being included for eligibility for resident permits, these amendments be made without re-advertising the TRO, and

ACS

(F) the West Street scheme as advertised in February and March 2005 be postponed until further negotiations can take place between Ward Members, Guide Hut users and local residents.

ACS

21 IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 8 OF THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2003 – HIGH HEDGES

The Executive Member for Environmental Management submitted a report summarising the new legislation, which was due to come into effect on 1 June 2005, and recommending an appropriate fee for the consideration of applications under that legislation.

ACTION

The Executive Member stated that Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, gave local authorities new powers to deal with complaints about high hedges from 1 June 2005. From this date, provided that they had first taken all reasonable steps to resolve their hedge dispute, people would be able to take their complaint to their local authority. The role of the Authority was not to mediate or negotiate between the complainant and the hedge owner, but to adjudicate on whether, in the words of the Act, the hedge was adversely affecting the complainant's reasonable enjoyment of their property. In doing so, the Authority had to take account of all relevant factors and strike a balance between the competing interest of the complainant and hedge owner, as well as the interests of the wider community.

If the local authority, having taken all views into account, found that the hedge was having an adverse effect, it could issue a formal notice to the hedge owner to take action to remedy the problem and to prevent it recurring. Failure to comply with such a notice could result in a fine of up to £1,000. The Authority also had the power to carry out the required works in default and recover their costs. The Act included rights of appeal (currently proposed to be the Planning Inspectorate) against a local authority's decision. The complainant, as well as the hedge owner, could also exercise these rights.

The Executive Member stated that the Government had not exercised its powers under section 68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, to prescribe the maximum fees that local authorities could charge for dealing with high hedge complaints. It was a matter for each local authority to determine the level of the fee and such issues as to whether to waive it entirely; whether to set different rates for different groups; and whether any refunds should be allowed.

ACTION

In response to the Government's consultation on this legislation last year, most authorities favoured a fee set at a level that would allow them to recover their costs in implementing the legislation. This indicated that a fee in the range of £300 to £600 would achieve this.

The Executive Member detailed the relevant factors in determining a fee. To allow for contingencies, and the additional administrative burden of handling general enquiries, etc, he recommended that this authority initially set a fee of £500 for dealing with each complaint. This fee would not be refundable once the application had been accepted as valid, irrespective of the decision made. A reduction of the fee might be agreed in cases where the applicant was in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, and with capital below £16,000.

The Executive Member, in response to a Member's question, undertook to make available to Members, an explanatory leaflet that had been produced by the Government.

The Executive noted that there would be a need to monitor the impact of the new legislation on the workload of the Development Control Enforcement team. Also, the level of costs incurred by the Council in administering the new legislation should be reviewed in 12 months.

The Executive agreed to recommend that the proposals, as now detailed, be supported.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the report on the new legislation be noted,

ACTION

(B) applications/complaints submitted under the requirements of the new legislation be dealt with by the Development Control Enforcement team, in consultation with the Council's arboricultural and/or landscape officers,

ADC

(C) a non-refundable fee of £500 be set for dealing with each validated complaint,

ADC/AFS

(D) a 25% reduction of the fee might be agreed in circumstances where the applicant was in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, and with capital below £16,000, and

ADC/AFS

(E) the level of costs incurred by the Council in administering the new legislation be monitored over the first 12 months and the level of fees reconsidered after that period.

ADC

**22 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION DECEMBER 2004 –
JANUARY 2005**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Re-Deposit Consultation December 2004 – January 2005.

RECOMMENDED - that all objections and representations received to the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), between 16 December 2004 and 26 January 2005, together with late responses received between 27 January and 9 February 2005, be accepted as duly made, to be considered by the Local Plan Executive Panel with recommendations thereon being made to the Executive.

APP

ACTION

**23 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
CHAPTER 1A (INTRODUCTION) – RESPONSES TO
THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-
INQUIRY CHANGES**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 1a (Introduction) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation and Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 1a (Introduction) of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A6' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A6' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and

APP

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 1a (Introduction), as detailed at Appendix 'B6' and 'C6' to the report now submitted, be agreed, subject to the minor typographical errors being corrected.

APP

**24 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
CHAPTER 2 (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) –
RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION
AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 2 (Sustainable Development) – Responses to the Re-

ACTION**Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.**

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 2 (Sustainable Development) of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A7' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A7' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and

APP

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 2 (Sustainable Development), as detailed at Appendix 'B7' and 'C7' to the report now submitted, be agreed.

APP

25 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW – CHAPTER 4 (GREEN BELT & COUNTRYSIDE) – RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 4 (Green Belt & Countryside) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 4 (Green Belt & Countryside) of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A8' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

ACTION

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A8' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and

APP

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 4 (Green Belt & Countryside), as detailed at Appendix 'B8', 'C8' and 'D8' to the report now submitted, be agreed.

APP

26 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW – CHAPTER 5 (TRANSPORT) – RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 5 (Transport) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 5 (Transport) of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A9' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A9' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and

APP

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 5 (Transport), as detailed at Appendix 'B9' and 'C9' to the report now submitted, be agreed.

APP

ACTION

**27 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
APPENDIX I (VEHICLE PARKING STANDARDS) –
RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION
AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Appendix I (Vehicle Parking Standards) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Appendix I (Vehicle Parking Standards) of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix ‘A10’ to the report now submitted, be received and considered; **APP**

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix ‘A10’ to the report now submitted, be agreed; and **APP**

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Appendix I (Vehicle Parking Standards), as detailed at Appendix ‘B10’ & ‘C10’ to the report now submitted, be agreed. **APP**

**28 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
CHAPTER 6 (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
EMPLOYMENT) – RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT
CONSULTATION AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 6 (Economic Development And Employment) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-

ACTION**Inquiry Changes.**

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 6 (Economic Development and Employment) of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A11' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A11' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and

APP

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 6 (Economic Development and Employment), as detailed at Appendix 'B11' and 'C11' to the report now submitted, be agreed.

APP

29 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW – CHAPTER 8 (ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN) – RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 8 (Environment And Design) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 8 (Environment and Design) of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A12' to the report now submitted, be received and considered;

APP

ACTION

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A12' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and **APP**

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 8 (Environment and Design), as detailed at Appendix 'B12' and 'C12' to the report now submitted, be agreed. **APP**

30 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW – CHAPTER 9 (BUILT HERITAGE) – RESPONSES TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 9 (Built Heritage) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 9 (Built Heritage) of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A13' to the report now submitted, be received and considered; **APP**

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A13' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and **APP**

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 9 (Built Heritage), as detailed at Appendix 'B13' and 'C13' to the report now submitted, be agreed. **APP**

ACTION

**31 EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN SECOND REVIEW –
CHAPTER 18 (IMPLEMENTATION) – RESPONSES
TO THE RE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION AND PRE-
INQUIRY CHANGES**

The Executive received and supported the recommendations of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005, in respect of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review – Chapter 18 (Implementation) – Responses to the Re-Deposit Consultation And Pre-Inquiry Changes.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the representations submitted in respect of Chapter 18 (Implementation) of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version (November 2004), as detailed at Appendix 'A14' to the report now submitted, be received and considered; **APP**

(B) the Officer comments made in response to the representations referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Appendix 'A14' to the report now submitted, be agreed; and **APP**

(C) the Pre-Inquiry changes relating to Chapter 18 (Implementation), as detailed at Appendix 'B14' and 'C14' to the report now submitted, be agreed. **APP**

RESOLVED ITEMS

32 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive meetings held on 20 and 26 April 2005, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION

33 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT BRIEF – LAND WEST OF THE RIVER STORT AND SOUTH OF STATION ROAD, SAWBRIDGEWORTH (THE ESBIES ESTATE)

The Executive Member for Environmental Management submitted a report seeking approval for a Draft Development Brief for land to the west of the River Stort and South of Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, known as the Esbies Estate, for the purposes of consultation.

The draft brief, as set out in Appendix 'A6' of the report now submitted, had been prepared within the context of existing and emerging policy, along with other agreed Council standards, and would be regarded as a material consideration in the assessment of any planning application. Statutory consultees had been involved in the preparation of this brief and, where relevant, their requirements regarding the development of this site had been included.

The aim of the brief was to provide a framework for the development of the site. This would include consideration, in the context of the adopted policies of the East Herts Local Plan and the emerging policies from the East Herts Local Plan Second Review Re-Deposit Version, of the provision of open space, the amount of affordable housing, highway improvements and estate layout. It would also address some of the constraints to developing the site, particularly in relation to the location of part of the site within the floodplain. In accordance with the procedures for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), the draft brief would be subject of public consultation for between four and six weeks, with local parishes, statutory agencies, key consultees and local residents to guide future development decisions regarding the site. As the development brief was to be adopted for Development Control purposes only and all statutory consultees had been involved in drafting the brief, it was proposed that a four-week consultation period would be sufficient.

ACTION

The Executive Member detailed the main features of the site in the report now submitted.

Councillor D Richards, speaking as a local Member, welcomed the proposals.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the draft development brief for Land West of the River Stort and South of Station Road, Sawbridgeworth (The Esbies Estate) be approved for the purposes of public consultation; and

ADC

(B) the responses to the consultation and any appropriate revisions to the brief be reported to the Development Control Committee and the Executive prior to final endorsement of the brief by Council, to guide development control decisions on the future use and development of the Esbies Estate site.

ADC

34 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE – APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF FROM (1) THE BRITISH RED CROSS, (2) ST MARGARETSBURY RECREATION GROUND TRUST CLUBHOUSE, AND (3) ST MARGARETSBURY RECREATION GROUND TRUST TENNIS COURT

The Deputy Leader submitted a report detailing three applications for discretionary rate relief from the British Red Cross, St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Trust Clubhouse and St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Trust Tennis Court.

The Executive considered the evidence submitted in support of the applications. After careful consideration, the Executive concluded that there were no extenuating circumstances applicable in these cases, and that the applications did not meet the Council's policy. Therefore, the applications should be refused.

ACTION

RESOLVED - that the applications for discretionary rate relief from the British Red Cross, St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Trust Clubhouse and St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Trust Tennis Court, be refused.

AFS

35 LOCAL PLAN EXECUTIVE PANEL

The Executive agreed to receive the Minutes of the Local Plan Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2005.

Arising from these, the Executive agreed that the Local Plan Executive Panel comprising two Executive Members (Councillors M G Carver and M R Alexander) be reconstituted, to advise the Executive on the results of the public consultation on the Redeposit Version of the Local Plan. Further, in order to support the work of the Panel, the Executive agreed that Councillors W Ashley, R Gilbert and Mrs M H Goldspink be invited to attend the Local Plan Executive Panel meetings and participate in the work of the Panel specifically.

RESOLVED – that (A) the Local Plan Executive Panel comprising two Executive Members (Councillors M G Carver and M R Alexander) be reconstituted to advise the Executive on the results of the public consultation on the Redeposit Version of the Local Plan; and

ALC

(B) Councillors W Ashley, R Gilbert and Mrs M H Goldspink be invited to attend the Local Plan Executive Panel meetings and participate in the work of the Panel specifically.

ALC

(see also Minutes 22 – 31 above)

ACTION36 FORWARD PLAN: JULY – OCTOBER 2005

The Executive Member for Environmental Management submitted a report seeking approval for the publication of the Forward Plan for the period July - October 2005.

The Executive agreed that the Forward Plan, as now detailed, be approved.

RESOLVED - that the Forward Plan for July - October 2005, as set out at Appendix 'A' to these Minutes, be approved for publication.

ALC

37 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report informing the Executive of the Authority's plans to meet the Government's new targets for efficiency savings during 2005/06

The Executive noted that the Government had commissioned a review of local government expenditure headed by Sir Peter Gershon. The findings of that review, published in July 2004, placed new requirements on local authorities to make efficiency savings of 7.5% over three years.

The definition of efficiencies under the Gershon Review was that half the targeted savings must be cash savings, that was money that would be identified and saved or redirected to priority services. The remaining half of the targeted amount was found through identifying ways in which the authority could achieve greater output for the same value.

The Leader detailed the implications for East Herts. In summary, the authority was required to find £210,000 cash savings this year and for each of the next two years, together with identifying efficiencies worth £210,000 this year and for each of the next two years.

ACTION

The Authority was also required to provide progress reports to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), by way of an 'Annual Efficiency Statement'. This had to be submitted within a set format by 15 April 2004, and included plans for meeting the 2005/06 efficiency targets. This document was attached for Members' information at an Appendix to the report now submitted. Also, the Executive noted that the Audit Commission would use an assessment of the Authority's Annual Efficiency Statement in its judgement of the organisation within the revised criteria for the next phase of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).

The Executive agreed that the report be noted.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm

nps\executive\24 may 2005\minutes - 26 may 2005

Chairman
Date