

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
POLICY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
WAYTEMORE ROOM, COUNCIL
OFFICES, BISHOP'S STORTFORD ON
THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2006

PRESENT: Councillor J O Ranger (Chairman).
Councillors H G S Banks, A D Dodd,
Mrs M H Goldspink, Mrs D L E Hollebon,
D Richards.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors M G Carver and N Burdett.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Fisher	- Chief Executive
Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Mary Orton	- Director of Policy
Jackie Sayers	- Scrutiny Officer

60 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of
Councillors B W J Sapsford and A P Jackson.

61 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Hollebon declared a personal interest in Minute
66(5) because she had been involved in the comments
made by the Town Council and a personal and prejudicial
interest in Minute 66(4) because she was employed by the
Essex Police Force (she left the meeting room during
discussion of this item).

Councillor Dodd declared a personal interest in Minute
66(4) because he was a member of the Hertfordshire
Police Authority.

62 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Chief Executive, Anne Fisher, to the meeting.

He commented on the new arrangements for dealing with key decisions. On this occasion all the key decisions programmed for discussion by the Council's Executive had been included on the agenda for the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED ITEMSACTION63 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64 WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

A report was submitted to help the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee plan its work programme for 2006/07. Suggestions for potential topics for scrutiny had been invited from members of the public, the Executive, the Committee and other Members. The views of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) had been sought.

A list of items was circulated and prioritised and the Committee agreed some additions. It also expressed the wish to receive a further report from the Energy Efficiency Scrutiny Panel in October.

RESOLVED - that the Committee's Work Programme as circulated at the meeting be prioritised as agreed, subject to the addition of youth issues (in August), leisure strategy (in January) and recycling (when appropriate).

ACTION

65 RECONSTITUTION OF SCRUTINY PANEL

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Governance to seek approval for the reconstitution of the Energy Efficiency Panel to continue work started previously. Members agreed to the reconstitution of the Energy Efficiency Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED - that the Energy Efficiency Scrutiny Panel be reconstituted as follows:

1. To consist of 8 Members;
2. The terms of reference be to determine the scope and content of the energy efficiency policy for the Council, make recommendations to the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee on it and to meet and report as necessary to consider emerging legislation and obligations regarding energy and water efficiency;
3. The allocation of seats be as follows:

<u>Panel</u>	<u>Seats</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Independent Group</u>
Energy Efficiency	8	6	1	1

4. Members be appointed to the Panel in accordance with the wishes of the political groups to whom seats have been allocated.

66 ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE - KEY DECISIONS

The Committee considered items which would be dealt with by the Executive as key decisions.

ACTION1. Capital Grant Ware Town Council

The Committee noted that this grant for Fletchers Barn at The Priory, Ware would act as a substantial subsidy for the Town Council and agreed they would not wish to see a further revenue grant for the project. In addition, the Committee hoped some energy saving measures would be incorporated into the building.

RESOLVED - that the Executive be informed that the Committee agrees the grant should be approved but the Executive should not make any revenue grant for this project and should request energy saving measures be incorporated in the building.

2. Amendment to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy and Pointing System

The Committee noted a proposal to offer tenants of local registered social landlords the opportunity to seek a property transfer through the Council's housing register during a trial period. In addition, some revisions to the points system were suggested. The Committee thought this and the revisions to the points system should be approved.

RESOLVED - that the Executive be informed that the Committee agrees the principle of developing a common housing register and the revision of the housing allocation system as set out in the appendix to the report should be approved.

3. East Herts Housing Capacity Assessment - Appointment of Consultants

The Committee noted the Executive was being asked to approve the appointment of consultants to

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undertake the East Herts Housing Capacity Assessment as part of the Local Development Framework.

The Committee thought the assessment needed to be made with sensitivity towards landowners and local communities and supported the appointment of consultants.

RESOLVED - that the Executive be informed that the Committee agrees that consultants be engaged to undertake the housing capacity assessment on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender but asked that the consultants act with sensitivity towards landowners and local communities.

4. Police Force Amalgamation Proposals

The Committee noted a response proposed by the Council on proposals for police force amalgamation and concluded that the Executive should support this.

There were concerns over local policing if Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex were merged and the costs of merging IT systems.

RESOLVED - that the Committee informs the Executive that the response to government plans set out in the report submitted should be approved subject to drafting amendments and attention being drawn to the high cost of amalgamating IT systems.

5. Proposed Supplementary Planning Document - Sustainability Appraisals: Indicators and Targets

The Committee considered the comments made on the draft supplementary planning document on sustainability indicators and targets, officers'

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comments and amendments. It recommended the Executive should approve these.

RESOLVED - that the Executive be informed that the Committee considers the amended document should be agreed as a material consideration for planning policy and development control purposes pending the adoption of the Local Plan Second Review in Spring 2007.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.