

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2008 AT
7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A P Jackson (Chairman/Leader).
Councillors M R Alexander, M G Carver,
L O Haysey, R L Parker and M J Tindale.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors W Ashley, R Beeching, D Clark,
N Clark, R N Copping, J Demonti, R Gilbert,
Mrs M H Goldspink, A M Graham, P Grethe,
J Hedley, M P A McMullen, J K Mayes,
J O Ranger, P A Ruffles, J P Warren and
M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Tony Hall	- Interim Head of Business Support Services
Philip Hamberger	- Director of Internal Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Lois Prior	- Head of Strategic Direction (Shared) and Communications Manager
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jane Sharp	- Unison
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503 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor T Milner.

504 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed the press to the meeting.

505 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Clark declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 507 – Service Options 2008/09, in that the report submitted included a reference to the Stop Harlow North Campaign, of which he was the Secretary.

Councillor J P Warren declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter referred to at Minute 512 – Consolidated Budget Report – Probable Outturn 2007/08: Revenue Budget 2008/09 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2008/09 – 2011/12, in that he was a member of the Town Centre Management Board. He left the chamber whilst this matter was considered.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS**ACTION**506 **ROUND 2 SERVICE ESTIMATES – REVENUE BUDGET PROBABLE 2007/08 – ESTIMATES 2008/09**

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report dealing with the second stage of the estimate process.

The Executive Member detailed the estimates in respect of all General Fund Services at Appendix '7A' to the report now submitted, in line with the Council's operational management arrangements. The costs of office accommodation together with the Directorate Establishments' (including Support Services) costs

had now been fully recharged to the service budgets now being submitted.

The Probable Estimates for 2007/08 were based on the actual payments to date, plus anticipated expenditure to the end of the financial year. The Estimates for 2008/09 were based on current (November 2007) prices except where existing contracts or Service Level Agreements allowed for indexation. Price increases due in 2008/09 had been anticipated in such cases. The Estimates for 2008/09 included the full effect of the 2007 pay award and an estimated 2.5% pay award for 2008.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 22 January 2008 (Minute 495 refers), supported the Estimates, but commented on the level of subsidy in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle Licensing. The Committee believed that the subsidy of £90,000 should be reviewed and the Committee Chairman expressed the view that the Council should give notice of its intention to seek a break even position on this service.

The Executive Member thanked the Committee for its comments and undertook to review the Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle Licensing service as requested.

Councillor M Wood referred to various elements of the budget proposals and raised a number of issues in respect of:

- the use of car parks income for cycle routes and bus services;
- the need for capital investment on the Castle moat, Bishop's Stortford; and
- the future of the playschemes service.

The Leader responded with a general comment on the enabling role of the Authority and the greater purpose attached to the budget proposals in their linkage to the Council's priorities.

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support referred to the need to look at a variety of ways of delivering a playschemes service and the possibility of working in partnership with other providers. The Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture added that Officers would be requested to look into such options and report to the next Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee meeting.

In respect of the Castle moat, the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support commented that this item had not been included in the proposed capital programme, as there were questions about the proposed scheme and whether it would deliver the aspiration of returning water to the moat. The Leader added that it would be important to be mindful of other partners, such as the Bishop's Stortford 2020 group.

In relation to Councillor M Wood's comments on the use of car parking income, the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support referred to the holistic approach being taken towards transport issues, as articulated at previous meetings. The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport expanded on this by referring to potential partnership arrangements for various community transport initiatives and the provision of cycle routes. He also mentioned the proposed capital provision in car parks.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink referred to various environmental issues and expressed concern that it was not proposed to employ an Energy Efficiency Officer, which could help the Council achieve savings. In response, the Leader stated that the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation would be

developing a strategy in the coming year which would determine the level of resources needed. Until this work was completed, it would be inappropriate to allocate resources at this stage.

The Executive recommended the proposals as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the probable Revenue Estimates for 2007/08 and the draft Revenue Estimates for 2008/09 be approved, and

DIS

(B) the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2008, be received.

507 **SERVICE OPTIONS 2008/09**

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report detailing the variety of service options prepared by Heads of Service for their service areas for 2008/09 and beyond, in line with the medium term financial planning process.

The Executive recalled that the agreed 2008/09 budget strategy (Minute 217 refers), set out details of a new process for delivering Council services. Senior Officers had been asked to consider four different levels of service delivery for their areas, each of them having considered issues such as demographics, costs, service levels, impact on performance and risk. The four options they had been asked to consider were:

- Option One: Desired – the ultimate desired level of service
- Option Two: Current Service – maintaining the current level of service

- **Option Three: Efficiency – running the service with at least 3% efficiency**
- **Option Four: Minimum Statutory/Minimum Economic – the minimum level of service which could be achieved without cutting totally.**

These service options had been considered at a series of “Challenge” days by the Corporate Management Team. The details of the original submissions made by each Head of Service were set out in the report now submitted. The final level of service proposed had been set out within the consolidated budget report (Minute 512 below refers).

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 22 January 2008, had commented on the preferred options for each service, some of which were hybrid options.

Councillor D Clark commented that, in her view, it was difficult for Members to scrutinise budgets without having the necessary background information. She believed that no information had been provided since September 2007.

The Executive Member commented that the report now submitted represented a useful tool for determining future priorities.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the report be received; and

(B) the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee and in particular, its views on how the service options support the

Council's corporate priorities, be received.

508 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 (REVISED) – 2010/11

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report setting out proposals for the Council's Capital Programme for the period 2007/08 (Revised) to 2010/11. He also referred to proposed amendments in the tabled sheets that had been circulated at the meeting.

The Executive Member stated that, in line with current annual budgetary processes, a complete review of the current programme had been undertaken and a new draft had been prepared for the period 2007/08 (revised) to 2010/11. Lead officers had been invited to submit proposals for new schemes to be included within the programme.

In order to co-ordinate this review as well as giving greater focus to the Council's overall capital planning arrangements, the Capital Strategy Group had considered the draft programme in detail and in particular, had assessed the proposed new schemes against the Council's vision and corporate priorities. The Executive Member detailed the proposed programme at Appendix '6A' of the report now submitted.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 22 January 2008, had supported the draft programme, subject to a number of comments. The Committee had expressed concern on the proposal relating to kitchen caddies and had suggested that the Environment Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider whether this was the best use of funds and whether this could be done in a subsidised manner, as with large composting bins.

The Executive Member commented that this proposal had originated from a task and finish group and had

been subject to robust scrutiny. Further details would be submitted in the summer of 2008 as the improved recycling service developed.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee had also requested that further consideration be given to three of the proposed new schemes as follows:

- CCTV Safer Parking Award 2008 (£90,000)
- On Street Charging – Town Centres (£130,000)
- Linking Hertford MSCP to HCC TVP Control Room (£74,000)

The Executive Member referred to his proposed amendments on the tabled sheets, in which it was suggested that two of these schemes (on-street charging – town centres and linking Hertford MSCP to HCC TVP control room) should be deleted from the programme. In respect of the CCTV Safer Parking Award 2008 scheme, the Executive Member proposed that the Scrutiny Committee's suggestion be rejected. The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport commented that this scheme was part of improving standards generally and would assist in providing safer and lighter car parks.

Councillor D Clark referred to the River Stort footbridge project and the risks associated with the external funding streams. She sought assurance from the Section 151 Officer that this was prudent. In response, the Section 151 Officer commented that it was prudent to articulate the Authority's ambitions and to consider how to fund the project.

Councillor N Clark referred to the use of the capital receipts from disposals to support the programme. He suggested that Members were being asked to approve the capital programme without having seen the disposals programme. He also questioned whether it

was prudent to approve a programme based on assumptions around future receipts. Finally, he queried whether the Council would run out of assets to dispose of during the period of the programme and the potential impact this could have on council tax levels.

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support disagreed. He commented that the capital programme was an indicative programme containing a number of assumptions. Each disposal was reported to Members as and when they arose. All of the proposed schemes needed a robust case and there were risks inherent in all investments.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the new Programme for the period 2007/08 (Revised) to 2010/11, as now submitted, be approved, and

DIS

(B) the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2008 be received.

509 FEES AND CHARGES 2008/09

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report detailing additional income that could be generated by increasing fees and charges in 2008/09 for a variety of services.

The Executive recalled that the budget strategy for 2008/09 had been set out at the Executive meeting in September 2007, and approved by Council. As part of the strategy, Officers had been asked for suggestions for fees and charges that reflected increases of at least 3.5% and 5% for car parking.

Officers had prepared proposals for increasing fees and charges, the details of which were set out in

Appendix '8A' of the report now submitted.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 22 January 2008, had supported the proposed fees and charges.

In response to a question by Councillor N Clark, the Executive Member confirmed that some of the proposed increases in fees and charges were greater than the proposed council tax increase, which had been necessary because of the Government's reduced revenue support grant. Councillor D Clark commented that efficiency savings should have been sought before increasing fees and charges.

The Leader referred to the Audit Commission's recently expressed view that the charging regime should reflect a sense of purpose and that local authorities should seek to recover its costs, especially in areas where services were provided by others.

The Executive Member for Planning and Transport referred to the lack of funding for government initiatives, such as concessionary fares, where it had been necessary for the Council to increase car parking charges in order to fund the service.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the increases in fees and charges for 2008/09, as set out in Appendices '8A' and '8B' of the report now submitted, be approved; and

DIS

(B) the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2008 be received.

510 FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE AND DRIVERS; PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE AND DRIVERS AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR'S LICENCES AND ANCILLARY CHARGES 2008/2009

The Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection submitted a report proposing to increase the fees charged to recover the costs of issuing and administering licences relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

The existing fees and the proposed fees for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 were set out in Appendix 'A10' to the report now submitted. The Executive Member advised that no comments or objections had been received.

The Executive Member commented that the costs of the service would not be met fully by the proposed charges and that the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee's comments detailed above (Minute 506 refers) were valid. He undertook to examine charges at other local authorities and proposed an additional recommendation that, as part of the budget process for 2009/10, the service be reviewed with a view to moving towards a cost neutral position.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) it be noted that no objections have been received;

(B) the increase in fees for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, as set out in the Appendix to the report now submitted, be approved; and DNS

(C) as part of the budget process for 2009/10, the service be reviewed with a view to moving DNS

towards a cost neutral position.

**511 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT
AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008/09**

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report seeking approval for the 2008/09 Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy.

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to have regard to the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. Therefore, the Act required the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy, setting out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The suggested strategy for 2008/09 in respect of the following aspects of the treasury management function was based on the Treasury Officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor. The strategy covered:

- treasury limits in force which will limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
- Prudential Indicators;
- the current treasury position;
- the borrowing requirement;
- prospects for interest rates;
- the borrowing strategy;

- debt rescheduling;
- the investment strategy (including fund manager review); and
- minimum revenue position.

Councillor D Clark referred to the Sector view on interest rates of 5.3%, as outlined in the report submitted and asked whether in light of the recent international credit crunch, a more up to date view had been received.

The Executive Member stated that the latest advice received was set out in the report now submitted. Sector had taken all relevant factors into consideration and had given a prudent view.

In response to a question from Councillor D Clark, the Section 151 Officer confirmed that the report, as now submitted, offered the best advice available at the present time.

In respect of potential interest rate movements, the Executive Member referred to the Interest Equalisation Reserve, which had been set up to address such fluctuations.

Councillor N Clark referred to the budget strategy agreed in September 2007, where a 5% investment rate had been assumed and commented that, despite interest rates falling since then, the proposals being considered now had assumed an investment rate of 5.3%.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that the 2008/09 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual

DIS

Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for East Herts Council be approved.

512 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET REPORT – PROBABLE OUTTURN 2007/08: REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 AND (MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN) 2008/09 to 2011/12

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report detailing the Probable Outturn for 2007/08 and the proposed Revenue Budget for 2008/09. This report consolidated information provided on various reports set out above (Minutes 506 – 509 above).

The Executive Member detailed the background and process adopted in arriving at the proposals now submitted. The revenue support grant settlement had been set by the Government at only 1% for 2008/09 and 0.5% for the following two years. He detailed the key principles of the strategy and the medium term financial plan to 2011/12.

The Executive Member stated that the Probable Outturn 2007/08 indicated a potential underspend of £1,159,000 and details of the major variances were set out in the report now submitted.

The Executive Member referred Members to the revised sheet that had been tabled correcting the figures in paragraph 8.1 of the report now submitted. He also referred to the integrated service planning framework and the options for service levels that had been used in compiling the budget.

Finally, the Executive Member detailed the various reserves that he proposed to establish alongside those existing ones. Overall, his budget proposals indicated a council tax increase of 4.5% for 2008/09 and the remaining three years of the medium term plan. Details of the consultation undertaken were also

set out in the report now submitted.

It was noted that the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee would be considering this matter at its meeting on 12 February 2008. Its comments and/or recommendations would be referred direct to Council on 20 February 2008.

Councillor N Clark sought clarification on the proposed Service Improvement Reserve and whether this was preparation for a redundancy programme in March 2009. In reply, the Executive Member stated that there was no such programme. The Chief Executive added that the Reserve would provide opportunities to fund investment initiatives and that a clear set of criteria would be applied to potential schemes.

In response to a question from Councillor R Gilbert on the findings of the Citizens Panel consultation, the Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection commented that the public believed that Police and Community Safety Officers were effective.

In response to a query from Councillor D Clark on building control fees income, the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport referred to the impact of the delays in a number of significant developments, such as the goods yard site in Bishop's Stortford.

Councillor D Clark commented on the statutory requirements of setting a sustainable budget and the commentary within the Executive Member's report that the current medium term plan was not sustainable.

The Section 151 Officer stated that there was a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget for 2008/09 and that the report acknowledged that further work was needed in the years 2009/10 onwards. The Leader added that the medium term plan contained the

necessary detail for 2008/09 and that the medium term plan showed that the Council was moving away from using the general reserve to support the budget.

The Leader also commented that the budget proposals, as now submitted, represented a significant step forward for the Council to achieve service improvements and improve the quality of life of residents. The proposed council tax increase equated to only 13p per week.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now submitted.

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| <u>RECOMMENDED</u> - that (A) the draft medium term financial plan for 2008/09 to 2010/11 be approved; | DIS |
| (B) the probable outturn for 2007/08 be approved; | DIS |
| (C) the revenue budget for 2008/09 be approved; | DIS |
| (D) the proposed council tax increase of 4.5% for 2008/09 and indicative increases of 4.5% in 2009/10 to 2011/12 be approved; | DIS |
| (E) Financial Procedure 2.68 be amended to enable the delegation of authority to apply in respect of the Service Improvement Reserve as proposed under paragraph 9.4 of the report now submitted; and | DNS |
| (F) the other proposals for reserves and balances, as now detailed, be approved. | DIS |

513 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report seeking adoption of principles and appropriate practices as a basis for an Asset Management Strategy.

The Executive recalled that from 2001 to 2004, all Councils were required to produce an Asset Management Plan to demonstrate the effectiveness of asset management practices. In common with other Councils that achieved a “good” rating for the Asset Management Plan in 2003/04, East Herts had not had to produce further published plans and the Plan was now out of date as a working document. The Use of Resources Action Plan had recommended that the Council should review and update its strategy to ensure that it was linked to corporate priorities and the medium term financial plan. It had also recommended that the Council should make investment and disposal decisions based on thorough option appraisal and whole life costing. The Government had published an outline Local Government Asset Management Strategy for adoption by local Councils, as detailed at Appendix ‘A14’ of the report now submitted.

The Executive Member stated that a detailed action plan would be developed and would be available as a working list with valuation, income/cost information and the most recent strategy review. Review of ownership of the non-operational property had been undertaken by the Asset Management Group (and predecessor groups) as an ongoing process since 1991. In principle, non-operational property was only retained if it contributed towards the achievement of corporate objectives or for strategic reasons. The ownership of non-operational property would continue to be reviewed on a regular basis using a decision tree for review and challenge used and promoted by beacon authorities as detailed at Appendix ‘B14’ of the

report now submitted.

The Executive Member proposed to use independent consultants to undertake thorough option appraisal and whole life costing in respect of any proposed capital investment of £500,000 or more in property. Consideration would need to be given to training and software acquisition to enable staff to apply these techniques to other significant projects below £500,000.

In response to a query from Councillor N Clark, the Executive Member commented that Government advice was that external consultants should carry out option appraisals on projects of over £500,000.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now submitted.

<u>RECOMMENDED</u> - that (A) the proposed Asset Management Strategy for Local Government be adopted as the basis for East Herts Asset Management Strategy;	DIS
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(B) any capital projects involving the investment of £500,000 in property be subject to independent option appraisal and whole life costing review; and	DIS
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(C) provision be made for training and software acquisition to enable staff to apply option appraisal and whole life costing techniques to other significant projects.	DIS
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RESOLVED ITEMS

514 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 29 January 2008 be confirmed as a

correct record and signed by the Chairman.

515 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

The Executive received a report detailing those issues referred to the Executive 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.

516 SERVICE PLANS 2008/09

The Leader of the Council submitted a report seeking approval for the service plans 2008/09.

The Leader stated that the Council used an Integrated Service Planning and Financial Management Framework to ensure that all services delivered the District Community Strategy and the Corporate Priorities. Service Plans were produced each year by Heads of Service and set out what key actions needed to be undertaken to deliver the Corporate Priorities and Objectives. These actions were linked to key Performance Indicators, so that achievement could be measured and tracked.

The Leader detailed the plans in the appendix to the report now submitted. It was noted that the plans would also be considered by Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2008.

In response to a query from Councillor D Clark, the Chief Executive confirmed that the service plans had been developed within the framework of the corporate strategic plan previously agreed and therefore, was a matter for Executive decision.

Councillor D Clark referred to the 2007/08 Service Plans, when it had been agreed that monitoring by scrutiny would be undertaken. She did not recall this having been done.

In response, the Leader undertook to discuss with Officers. The Chief Executive added that an interim report had been seen by Officers and that, if requested by scrutiny, this could be submitted.

Councillor D Clark referred to the Customer Services and New Media plan and sought clarification on the key action (08-CSM10) relating to a six month trial of extended call handling, bearing in mind that this action appeared to have been one of the growth items rejected at Minute 512 above. The Director of Internal Services clarified that these were not the same items.

The Executive approved the service plans as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that the 2008/09 Service Plans as now detailed, be approved.

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517 STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

The Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection submitted a report seeking approval for a policy for the naming and numbering of streets and buildings in the District of East Hertfordshire and to delegate authority for this activity to the Director of Internal Services.

The Executive Member stated that as the Authority had no defined policy statement governing the naming and numbering of streets, it would be necessary to approve a policy framework that would assist the Director of Internal Services to undertake this activity. He detailed a suggested policy and referred Members to the consultation responses of parish and town councils.

Councillor P A Ruffles expressed a number of concerns with the proposed policy, which he believed to be officious and inflexible. He exemplified a number of potential problems with the proposed use of terminal words.

In view of the need to adopt the powers under the provisions of sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act

1925, the Executive supported the policy in principle, but agreed that Environment Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider and refine the detail.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the adoption by East Hertfordshire District Council of the powers relating to the naming and numbering of streets and buildings under the provisions of sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 be confirmed; DIS

(B) the policy, detailed in the report now submitted, be referred to the Environment Committee for consideration, and DIS

(C) the naming and numbering of streets and buildings in the District of East Hertfordshire, including renaming and renumbering, be delegated to the Director of Internal Services, in consultation with parish and town councils. DIS

518 BUSINESS PERMIT PARKING SCHEME – SOUTH STREET, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport submitted a report detailing the history and context of the development of a proposed business permit parking scheme in the South Street area of Bishop's Stortford, linked to the creation of a new public footbridge over the River Stort. He summarised the objections received during the statutory process and Officers' proposed response to these objections. He also detailed the outcome of a meeting of the Highways Joint Member Panel on 14 January 2008, at which Members supported an alternative proposal for a peak hour (single yellow line) restriction, to be implemented at the same location.

The Executive Member proposed that the objections received be overruled and that the scheme be implemented as originally intended. This would mean the

provision of 13 free permits for the owner/landlord of Millars Three for distribution to their tenants as compensation for the loss of car parking spaces accommodating the construction of the new pedestrian footbridge.

The Executive Member emphasised that this was not just a parking matter. He believed that the wider benefits outweighed the objections received.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink expressed a number of concerns with the proposals. She referred to the shortage of residents' parking in the area and the impact this scheme would have for users of the Bowls Club and local residents. She believed that it was unfair for free permits for parking on the public highway to be provided.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink also referred to the consideration given by the Highways Joint Member Panel. An 89 signature petition had been submitted, requesting the implementation of a peak hour parking ban achieved by means of a single yellow line, to apply to most of the area proposed for the business permit parking scheme. This had been supported by the Panel.

Finally, Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink referred to the potential for parking provision on the other side of the river and believed that the Council should make a commitment to provide spaces there.

In response, the Executive Member referred to Officers' advice that the resident scheme requested by the petitioners would not work. He and other Members reiterated the greater good being addressed by the proposals.

In response to Members' comments, the Leader stated that the Executive Member would continue to look at options for parking provision elsewhere, as and when opportunities arose.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the summary of objections received in respect of the above proposed scheme, as now detailed, be noted;

(B) the actions of Officers in overruling these objections, as now detailed, be endorsed;

(C) the recommendations of the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 14 January 2008, in respect of the Council’s proposals, be received; and

(D) the continued implementation of the proposed business permit parking scheme and ancillary single yellow line restriction, be supported.

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The meeting closed at 9.55 pm

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Chairman
Date