

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2008 AT 7.30 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors W Ashley, N Clark, R N Copping,
J Demonti, J Hedley, Mrs D L E Hollebon,
M P A McMullen, J K Mayes, D A A Peek,
J O Ranger and P A Ruffles.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood 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

601 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of
Councillors M R Alexander and L O Haysey.

602 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Clark declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 604 – Corporate Strategic Plan 2008/11, in that the report submitted included a reference to the Stop Harlow North Campaign, of which he was the Secretary.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

ACTION

603 EAST HERTS COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Housing and Health submitted a report seeking approval for the Council's Public Health Strategy 2008 – 13 and the associated work plan for 2008/09.

The Executive Member reminded Members that East Herts Council had an important role to play in the protection of public health. The Council had recognised its role by having a corporate priority that placed an emphasis on the prevention of ill health and the targeting of services and resources to those in greatest need. With increasing demands on the Council and greater emphasis for partnership working, the Public Health Strategy was needed to help focus the work of the Council's different services and facilitate joint working. This would deliver initiatives and projects that would contribute to the areas highlighted as being of greater importance based on statistical data that was available.

The Public Health Strategy aimed to provide a five-year framework (2008-2013) of action for the prevention of ill-health, the protection of health and the promotion of positive health and well-being. The main focus of the Strategy was on a partnership approach to delivering health based projects and initiatives. The Strategy focused on the aspect of care described as 'primary prevention'. This was defined as interventions that

promoted health and prevented diseases from developing.

The NHS focused more on the objectives of 'secondary interventions' that would detect disease in the early stages before clinical signs and symptoms manifest with a goal to reverse or reduce the severity of the disease or provide a cure. These interventions involved high levels of clinical insight and skills requiring illnesses to be treated. The objectives of this Strategy were focused on bringing about lifestyle change and enhancing healthy lifestyle options available to an individual or groups.

The Executive Member advised of the consultation undertaken by the Council with both internal services and external partner organisations. Many of the comments received had been incorporated into the Public Health Strategy. The Public Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2008/09 were both considered and supported by the Health Engagement Panel on 21 February 2008.

Finally, the Executive Member advised that Peter Wright, East and North and West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts (PCT), had undertaken to recommend the Strategy as a template for other Authorities to use in developing their own Strategies.

The Executive recommended the Strategy and Action Plan as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the Public Health Strategy 2008 -13, attached as Appendix 'A6' to the now submitted, be adopted; and DNS

(B) the Action Plan for 2008/09, attached as Appendix 'B6' and 'C6' to the report now submitted, be adopted. DNS

604 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-11

The Leader of the Council submitted a report proposing a three-year corporate strategic plan. This was the first year that a three-year plan had been drafted, which would replace the annual strategic plan and the Best Value Performance Plan. It outlined where the Authority was going in the next three years and would be updated annually.

The Council was required to produce details of what it planned to do. Traditionally, this had been completed on an annual basis only. However, the introduction of the Medium Term Financial Plan, as part of the Integrated Service Framework, meant that the Council's ambitions for the next three years could now be articulated. Details of how the Council had performed against its targets each year would continue to be reported through the Annual Report.

The Strategic Plan had been designed to act as an aspirational document, which captured the essence of what East Herts Council expected to deliver in the next three years time and, in many cases, beyond this timeframe. The detail of how it would get there was not included, as this information would be incorporated within the individual service plans each year. The Strategic Plan would be updated each year, to include new service developments planned for the third year of each plan and to remove actions once they had been completed. Therefore, it should be seen as a rolling document. The completed actions could then be incorporated into the Annual Report.

The Leader stated that the Administration was keen to streamline the existing corporate priorities at the start of 2008-09. This would have a knock-on effect on the corporate strategic plan, which would need amendments to reflect the streamlined priorities. Therefore, he proposed that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to

make final non-material amendments.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 18 March 2008, had supported the draft three year plan, subject to various comments intended to make the document more user-friendly.

The Executive accepted these comments and also suggested a number of amendments as follows:

Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities

- 12th bullet point – delete “council services” and replace with “local authorities. Amend 2nd sentence by removing reference to NNDR and emphasising Pathfinder services in general.

Pride in East Herts

- 4th bullet point – delete “adoption of a Carbon Reduction Strategy” and replace with “signing of the Nottingham Declaration on climate change”.

Caring for what’s built and where

- 3rd bullet point – delete “will” and replace with “may”. Amend reference to developments at Harlow North and Stansted Airport.

Contracts

- 3rd sentence – reword to read, “The new leisure contract will run from 1 January 2009 for 10 years. The evaluation of tenders will commence in May 2008 and the new contractor chosen by August 2008.”

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the draft corporate strategic plan for 2008-2011, as now amended, be approved; and

(B) authority to make final non-material changes be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

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RESOLVED ITEMS

605 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 25 March 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

606 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.

607 CASTLE HALL – ST ANDREWS STREET CAR PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES IMPROVEMENTS

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report seeking approval for additional funds for the completion of this capital project.

The Executive noted that the principle of improving and widening the bridges had been agreed previously and a budget of £40,000 had been included in the capital programme. The scheme had been delayed as planning consent was deemed to be necessary and this had now been granted.

The tenders for the works had been received, the lowest of which, was in the sum of £82,486. The increased cost over the original budget had been attributed to a number of factors, including a 40% increase in the price of steel since the original budget had been set, together with changes to and additional ground and civil engineering works to support the wider bridges and adjoining footways. Other modifications to the design had been made to satisfy the requirements of The Environment Agency, who managed this part of the River Lea over which the bridges passed.

The total revised cost of the scheme was now estimated at £95,000, including all fees and charges.

In response to a question from Councillor N Clark, the Leader stated that he was not aware of any other capital scheme that might be affected by the rise in steel prices.

The Executive approved the additional funding as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that the existing budget for improvements to Castle Hall – St Andrews Street Bridges be increased to £95,000.

608 OPERATIONAL AND STRATEGIC RISK MONITORING REPORT (1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2007)

The Leader of the Council submitted a report relating to action taken to mitigate and control risks tracked by operational and strategic risk registers during the period 1 October to 31 December 2007.

In response to a question from Councillor N Clark, the Director of Neighbourhood Services commented on operation risk OR43 – Facilities Management and referred to the review of all risks following Council's recent adoption of a revised Risk Management Strategy. The Leader undertook to raise the specific issue with Officers.

The Executive noted the report.

RESOLVED – that the progress in taking action to mitigate and control risks tracked by operational and strategic risk registers during the period 1 October to 31 December 2007 be noted.

609 CONFIRMATION OF SELECTED TENDER FOR
THE DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF
TWO NEW SECTION 106 FUNDED PLAY AREAS,
ST MICHAEL'S MEAD

The Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture submitted a report confirming the selection of Sutcliffe Play Ltd, as the successful tenderer for the contract for the provision of two new Section 106 funded play areas at St Michael's Mead in Bishop's Stortford.

The Executive recalled that, on 25 October 2006 the Development Control Committee had approved the proposal to use the £165,000 Section 106 funding to build two new play areas for the benefit of the community at St Michaels Mead. On 23 October 2007, the Executive had approved the selection criteria for the proposed tender for the contract to design, supply and install these two new play areas. The contract of the two play areas was put out to tender in December 2007 in line with East Herts corporate procurement procedure and processes.

The Executive noted details of the tenders received. It was anticipated that the works would be completed by 31 May 2008, in accordance with the contract deadlines.

Councillor Mrs D L E Hollebon praised Officers for their work and referred to the wider benefits for the local community.

The Executive noted the report.

RESOLVED – that the award of the contract for the design, supply and installation of the two new play areas in St Michael’s Mead, Bishop’s Stortford, be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.01 pm

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Chairman
Date