

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2008 AT
7.30 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, R Beeching, A L Burlton,
S A Bull, N Clark, R N Copping, J Demonti,
R Gilbert, Mrs M H Goldspink, M P A McMullen,
J Mayes, J O Ranger, P A Ruffles, J P Warren
and M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Claire Bennett	- Housing Strategy and Policy Manager
Cliff Cardoza	- Head of Environmental Services
Mike Collier	- Acting Director of Internal Services
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Elizabeth Foy	- Housing Options Manager
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Gavin Rogers	- Communications and Reputation Coordinator
Ian Sharratt	- Environmental Manager
Sally Smallwood	- Housing Development Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Inspector D Kennedy (Hertfordshire Constabulary)

417 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor M J Tindale.

418 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed the press and public to the meeting.

He advised that the microphones in the chamber were not working.

419 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Clark declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 433 – Local Development Framework Executive Panel, in that the Minutes included references 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 427 – Town Centre Enhancements, although the nature of the interest was not declared. He left the chamber whilst the matter was considered.

Councillor T Milner declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minute 427 – Town Centre Enhancements, in that he was a Ware Town Council Member.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS**ACTION****420 PROPOSED DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER (DPPO) IN BISHOP'S STORTFORD**

The Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to use powers under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 to make a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) for parts of Bishop's Stortford town centre. He welcomed Inspector Kennedy, Hertfordshire Constabulary, to the meeting.

The Executive Member referred to the aim of the Order, which was to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime within the area of Bishop's Stortford marked on the map attached to the report now submitted. The DPPO would give the police the power to require individuals to surrender the alcohol and any opened or sealed containers where they had reason to believe that the alcohol would be consumed in a designated area. If any person failed, without reasonable excuse to comply with any of these requirements, then an offence had been committed. They would then be liable to a fixed penalty fine of £40 or £500 upon conviction.

It was noted that the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and Bishop's Stortford Town Council had also been consulted on the proposal.

In response to various questions, it was confirmed that the operation of the DPPO would be reviewed regularly and that Police and Community Safety Officers would be empowered to enforce its provisions.

The Executive supported the proposal as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that the proposed Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) in Bishop's

Stortford Town Centre be approved.

421 REVIEW OF CHOICE-BASED LETTINGS AND HOUSING REGISTER AND ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Executive Member for Housing and Health submitted a report reviewing the impact that the new Choice Based Lettings Scheme had had on Housing Register applicants, partner organisations and the allocation of social housing in East Herts since its implementation in April 2008. He also recommended changes to the current Housing Register and Allocations Policy that had been highlighted by this review.

The Executive recalled that the Choice Based Lettings Scheme had been introduced in April 2008. It had been agreed that a review of the operation of the scheme be conducted six months after its launch. This review had been carried out by the Housing Service with the assistance of the main housing associations and a range of significant partner organisations that used the scheme. The main findings of the review were set out in the report now submitted.

The Executive Member detailed the proposed revised Housing Register and Allocations Policy at Appendix 'A7' of the report now submitted.

The Community Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 21 October 2008, had agreed to receive the findings of the review and supported the proposed changes to the Policy.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the findings of the Choice Based Lettings review be received; and

(B) the revisions in the Housing Register and Allocations Policy as detailed in Appendix 'A7' of the report submitted, be approved. DNS

422 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2007/2008 AND REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS FIVE YEAR SUPPLY OF HOUSING

The Executive considered and supported the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel, made at its meeting held on 6 November 2008, in respect of the Annual Monitoring Report 2007/08.

RECOMMENDED – that (A) the Annual Monitoring Report 2007/2008, as now amended, be approved for submission to the Secretary of State; DNS

(B) the Local Plan Second Review 2007 Reserve Housing Sites and the Bishop's Stortford Areas of Special Restraint and Special Countryside Area be brought forward for development; and DNS

(C) the following be noted:

(i) the requirement to deliver a continuous five year supply of housing;

(ii) the implications of not delivering a continuous five year supply of housing; and

(iii) the ongoing strategic housing land availability work being undertaken as part of the East Herts Local Development Framework, to ensure delivery of a continuous five year supply of housing.

423 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SPD - REPRESENTATIONS FROM HERTS AND NORTH MIDDLESEX RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

The Executive considered and supported the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel, made at its meeting held on 6 November 2008, in respect of the Planning Obligations SPD.

RECOMMENDED – that (A) the Officer's comments made in response to the representations by the Herts and North Middlesex Ramblers' Association as detailed in Appendix 'A9' of the report now submitted, be agreed in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008; and

(B) the representations and responses be agreed for inclusion in the Statement of Issues to accompany the Planning Obligations SPD (October 2008).

DNS

RESOLVED ITEMS

424 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 14 October 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

425 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.

426 ALLOCATION OF FUTURE SOCIAL HOUSING
GRANT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON THE TXU
SITE, MEAD LANE, HERTFORD

The Executive Member for Housing and Health submitted a report seeking approval for capital funding of £535,000 for the provision of 17 units of affordable housing on the TXU site, Mead Lane, Ware.

The Executive Member detailed the quality standards and the revised mix of accommodation in the report now submitted. It was proposed that 50% of the allocation of £535,000 be drawn down once the contracts had been signed between the developer and Aldwyck Housing Association and the remainder when the site was complete, some 18 months away.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that the allocation of £535,000 future Social Housing Grant to Aldwyck Housing Association for the provision of 17 units of affordable housing on the TXU site, Mead Lane, Hertford, be supported, subject to;

DNS

- (1) £267,500 being paid in 2008/09 and £267,500 being paid in 2010/11;
- (2) receiving 100% nomination rights at all times; and
- (3) receipt of a signed Deed of Variation from the Developer reflecting the revised tenure mix of the affordable housing provision.

427 TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation submitted a report detailing proposals for various town centre enhancements. He drew Members' attention to the tabled document, which set out the financial implications and an amended recommendation.

He detailed each of the bids received from town councils. He suggested that various bids required further consultation and that these would be considered at a later meeting.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that funding of the following proposals, be approved in principle, by bringing forward part of the 2009/10 capital allocation, subject to a detailed business case being approved by the Director of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation:

DNS

Buntingford

Christmas lights	£6,000
Bus shelter	£6,000

Sawbridgeworth

Town Centre signs	£2,500
Armorial crest illumination	£1,200
Visitors map	£1,700
Town Centre board	£1,000

Ware

Mosaics	£3,000
---------	--------

428 PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS IN BUNTINGFORD AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport submitted a report seeking endorsement of decisions taken by Officers in respect of objections received in respect of

three Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) recently advertised. He also sought approval to proceed to make the Orders and implement the on-street changes.

Councillor S A Bull referred to the proposed yellow lining in Buntingford and expressed doubt that the suggested safety improvements would be achieved. In response, the Executive Member commented that the impact of the proposed changes would be reviewed

In response to a query from Councillor R N Copping, the Executive Member confirmed that the free waiting bays in Stanstead Abbots would be provided as part of the ongoing refurbishment of the car park.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the decisions made by Officers in respect of objections received in relation to proposed Traffic Regulation Orders in Buntingford and Stanstead Abbots, be noted; and

(B) Officers be authorised to make the Orders and implement the changes.

DCCS

429 RECRUITMENT SERVICES

The Leader of the Council submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to enter into a shared recruitment service with Hertfordshire County Council and Manpower plc. He drew attention to the Appendix of the report now submitted, which was exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and commented that, in the event of any detailed discussion of its contents, the press and public would need to be excluded from the meeting for this item.

Councillor J O Ranger drew attention to the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee

The Executive approved the proposal as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that the agreement with Hertfordshire County Council and Manpower for the provision of recruitment services, be approved. DIS

430 CALL-IN: SPONSORSHIP OF ROUNDABOUTS

The Executive recalled that a non-key decision adopting the pilot scheme for roundabout sponsorship on a permanent basis had been made by the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport on 26 September 2008.

In accordance with the Constitution, this decision had been called in by a number of Members for the reasons detailed in the report now submitted.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the call-in at its meeting held on 10 November 2008, and agreed to express a number of concerns in referring the matter to the Executive. These were also detailed in the report now submitted.

The Executive Member commented on the concerns raised and believed that the Environment Scrutiny Committee's debate had been most useful. He proposed amending the original decision to take on board the concerns raised.

The Executive approved the revised decision as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that the pilot sponsorship of roundabouts continues and the matters raised by Environment Scrutiny Committee are considered further, in particular: DCCS

(A) planting schemes for the current pilot sponsored roundabouts;

(B) appropriate discussions with Town Councils and representative ward Members accordingly;

(C) encouraging the engagement of local “in bloom” groups; and

(D) receiving a further report in 2009 to confirm the existing pilot scheme as permanent and proposing an extension of the scheme, if appropriate, to other sponsors and therefore, additional roundabouts, at no cost to the Council.

431 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) IMPROVEMENT PLAN: PROGRESS

The Leader of the Council submitted a report seeking approval for the absorption of three outstanding actions in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Plan into the new Improvement Plan, which will be launched in April 2009.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny, at its meeting held on 11 November 2008, supported the proposals now detailed.

The Executive approved the proposals now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the performance that has been achieved on the outstanding actions be noted;

(B) the three outstanding actions be absorbed into a new Improvement Plan for the Council; and CE

(C) the new Improvement Plan be launched in April 2009 focusing on the priorities the Council needs to achieve to ensure a good annual area and organisational assessment. CE

432 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK
– SEPTEMBER 2008

The Leader of the Council submitted an exception report on the finance, performance and risk monitoring for the month of September 2008.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny, at its meeting held on 11 November 2008, supported the proposals now detailed.

The Executive approved the healthcheck as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) £10,000 of the income received following the successful tender of the Critical Ordinary Watercourses be used to offset the £10,000 budget pressure for land drainage; DIS

(B) the capital project for CCTV Safer Parking Award 2008 (£90k) be deferred to 2009/10; and DCCS

(C) funding of £29,400 to enhance the Council's telephone system to make it fit for purpose, be approved. DCCS

433 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)
EXECUTIVE PANEL – MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2008

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel meeting held on 6 November 2008 be received, and where necessary the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

(see also Minutes 422 – 423 above)

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman
Date