

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD,  
ON TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2009 AT  
7.30 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, W Ashley, S A Bull,  
A L Burlton, R N Copping, A D Dodd, R Gilbert,  
P Grethe, D A A Peek, P A Ruffles,  
S Rutland-Barsby.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Cliff Cardoza	- Head of Environmental Services
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Caroline Goss	- Communications Officer
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Alan Madin	- Director of Internal Services
David Thorogood	- Environmental Coordinator

300 APOLOGY

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

301 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader advised that Agenda Item 11 – Data Sharing Protocol, had been withdrawn, as it had been dealt with at the previous meeting.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

302 EAST HERTS CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Executive considered the final report of the Climate Change task and finish group. The Chairman of the task and finish group detailed the background to the report and the huge volume of data that had been considered. The group had distilled this information into the Strategy and Action Plan documents that had been subjected to extensive consultation. He advised that these documents represented a consensus view that that been reached by the group.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 15 September 2009, had endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan, as now submitted (Minute 247 refers).

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation welcomed the findings and expressed support for the key objectives. However, he referred to potential financial implications arising from some of the actions and the need to ensure that a full business case evaluation was carried out in the future, where actions could not be funded from within existing budgets. Therefore, he suggested an amendment to the effect that the Strategy and Action Plan be endorsed, subject to the need for individual business cases to be made for those actions not funded within existing budgets. This was supported by the Executive.

The Executive Member for Planning and Transport

referred to the Eastern Plateau project and the need for the Strategy and Action Plan to include reference to it. He requested an appropriate amendment, which the Executive supported.

The Executive endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan as now amended.

**RECOMMENDED** - that (A) the objectives of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group be endorsed; and,

(B) the draft East Herts Climate Change Policy and Action Plan be approved, subject to:

DCCS

(1) the need for individual business cases to be made for those actions not funded within existing budgets; and

(2) the inclusion of linkages with the Eastern Plateau project.

### 303 **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Executive considered the final report of the Planning Enforcement Policy Review task and finish group. The group had reviewed existing policy and had made revisions that reflected the latest national guidance and best practice.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 15 September 2009, had endorsed the revised policy, as now submitted (Minute 246 refers).

The Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection welcomed the findings and commended the revised policy to the Executive.

The Executive endorsed the Planning Enforcement Policy, as now submitted.

**RECOMMENDED - that the revised Planning Enforcement policy, as now submitted, be endorsed.**

**DNS**

RESOLVED ITEMS

304 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 8 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

305 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.

306 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Executive considered the final report of the Environmental Quality task and finish group. The group had reviewed local environmental quality and had compiled a draft action plan detailing how the Council could improve the way it worked in partnership to manage local standards.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 15 September 2009, had endorsed the findings of the task and finish group and had commended the draft action plan, as now submitted (Minute 248 refers).

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation welcomed the findings and commended the action plan to the Executive. However, he referred to the ENCAMS (“Keep Britain Tidy”) Local Environmental Quality Survey of

England (LEQSE) in 2006/07, which had been funded by the Government. He advised that future surveys would not be funded and that local authorities would need to identify future funding if they wished to continue this approach. Therefore, he proposed an additional recommendation to the effect that the Council does not commit to funding ENCAMS LEQSE surveys, unless external funding is obtained or costs are significantly reduced. The Executive supported this.

In view of the need for partnership working, Members suggested referring the action plan to the Local Strategic Partnership and Highways Joint Member Panel. The Executive requested Officers to consider these suggestions. Officers were also requested to check the accuracy of references to Circle Anglia.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the findings of the Task and Finish Group and the Draft Action Plan be approved; and

(B) the Council does not commit to funding ENCAMS LEQSE surveys, unless external funding is obtained or costs are significantly reduced.

### 307 PLACE SURVEY FINDINGS 2008/09

The Leader submitted a report on the findings of the 2008/09 Place Survey.

As part of the new performance framework, the first Place Survey was undertaken by the Council from September 2008 to January 2009. It was required to be a postal survey and residents were randomly selected by Opinion Research Services. To ensure efficiency, the survey had been undertaken in conjunction with the other Hertfordshire authorities. The survey was sent out to 4500 East Herts residents and a response rate of 39.22% had been

achieved, which was the third highest in the County.

The Leader detailed some of the highlights of the findings and referred to the action plan that would deal with potential areas for improvement.

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 6 October 2009, had commented that the action plan should be structured to also show the work which would be undertaken through the Local Strategic Partnership (Minute 298 refers).

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the comments of Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, be received; and

(B) the action plan, as now detailed, be approved.

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308 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT  
2008/09 AND PRUDENTIAL CODE REVIEW

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report providing an annual review of the Council's 2008/09 Treasury Management and Prudential Code arrangements in line with the requirements of the code of practice on Treasury Management. In his absence, the Leader presented the report.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the 2008/09 Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Outturn be noted;

(B) an increase in the Authorised and Operational boundary of £6.0m to £24.5m and £17.9m for the current year be approved; and

DIS

(C) the MRP provision for 2009/10 be calculated as detailed in the report now submitted. DIS

309 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK – AUGUST 2009

The Leader of the Council submitted an exception report on the finance, performance and risk monitoring for the month of August 2009.

The Leader drew attention to the figures in the table at paragraph 2.2 of the report now submitted and detailed a line of figures relating to Leisure Services that had been omitted.

The Leader also referred to the capital programme and the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee in relation to underspends and slippage. He agreed with the sentiment that more flexibility in the management of the programme was needed. However, he believed that the Committee's suggestion for a judgemental adjustment to annual spending totals of 10% - 20% to anticipate a level of slippage would be too prescriptive. He reminded the Executive that the Section 151 Officer had a statutory duty to comment on the robustness of the Estimates and that this would provide a more flexible approach.

The Community Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 7 April 2009, had recommended a supplementary £6k capital estimate for the purchase of portable exhibition screens (Minute 689 refers). The Executive approved this.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) a draw down from the General Reserve in 2009/10 of up to £140k in response to meeting costs for legal and property advice in respect of the Causeway transactions, be approved. DIS

(B) the Capital Programme be re-profiled as set out in paragraphs 2.33 and 2.34 of the report now submitted;	DIS
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(C) supplementary capital estimates as detailed in paragraphs 2.37 to 2.39 of the report now submitted, be approved; and	DIS
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(D) the recommendation from Community Scrutiny Committee on 7 April 2009 for a £6k supplementary capital estimate, as detailed at paragraph 2.40 of the report now submitted, be approved.	DIS
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The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chairman	.....
Date	.....