

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 11 MAY 2010, AT 6.45 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, W Ashley,
K A Barnes, R Beeching, S A Bull,
A L Burlton, Mrs R F Cheswright, D Clark,
N P Clark, R N Copping, J Demonti,
A D Dodd, R Gilbert, Mrs M H Goldspink,
A M Graham, P Grethe, J Hedley,
Mrs D Hone, G E Lawrence, J Mayes,
M P A McMullen, D A A Peek, J O Ranger,
P A Ruffles, S Rutland-Barsby, V Shaw,
J J Taylor, A L Warman, J P Warren,
N Wilson, M Wood and B M Wrangles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Eoin Baird	- Castle Hall General Manager
Cliff Cardoza	- Head of Environmental Services
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Philip Hamberger	- Programme Director of Change
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
Will O'Neill	- Head of

Emma Parlow	Community and Cultural Services - Marketing and Audience Development Manager
Rhys Thomas	- Arts and Entertainment Programme Director
John Woodham	- Deputy Section 151 Officer

685 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Clark declared a personal interest in the matters referred to at Minutes 688 – 689 and 694, in that they all related to Local Development Framework matters and he was Secretary of the Stop Harlow North Campaign.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

686 REFUSE AND RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT DESIGN

The Executive considered a report by the Refuse Contract Task and Finish Group on the proposed design for the next Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing contract.

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation thanked the Group for their work and Officers for their support. He drew attention to the Task and Finish Group's view on the potential for co-mingled collection and accepted the proposal made.

The Leader drew attention to the comments of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 16 March 2010.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of

Environmental Services commented on the ability to explore “ethical sorting” arrangements and its impact on recycling costs.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the comments and recommendations of Environment Scrutiny Committee be received; and

(B) the contract design proposals detailed within the report be approved.

687 EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the public consultation required on executive arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Leader referred to the consultation process and the timetable and process for any change. He also detailed the changes that would be required to the Council’s Constitution.

In response to some Members’ suggestions for a full postal ballot of all households, the Leader stated that he would discuss the pragmatic arrangements with Officers in order to ensure that a proportionate arrangement was put in place.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to alter the executive arrangements for local government be noted;

(B) a public consultation exercise to ascertain

the preferred option of elected Leader or Directly elected Mayor be authorised; and

(C) a further report to be produced for the Executive meeting on 12 October 2010 for an extraordinary meeting of Council on 8 December 2010 giving the results of that consultation and recommendations for the governance arrangements for the Council to begin in May 2011, be authorised. DNS

**688 EAST HERTS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
CORE STRATEGY - HARLOW INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY
STAGE 2 (MARCH 2010)**

The Executive considered and supported the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel, made at its meeting held on 1 April 2010, in respect of the Harlow Infrastructure Study Stage 2 (March 2010).

RECOMMENDED - that (A) East Herts Council maintains its total opposition to any development north of Harlow, in East Hertfordshire District, as contained in the 2008 approved East of England Plan, and Harlow's implied continual growth into East Hertfordshire, as set out in the September 2009 Regional Plan Review Consultation document;

(B) the Harlow Infrastructure Technical Study (March 2010), prepared for Harlow District Council and Harlow Renaissance, form part of the East Herts Local Development Framework Evidence base and be taken into account in preparing the East Herts Local Development Framework;

(C) it be noted that there remains a significant amount of outstanding technical work which will need to be completed in relation to Harlow before the Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy, in

particular a Green Belt Review and further work on infrastructure testing and transport; and

(D) it be emphasised to GO-East and the East of England Regional Assembly (and its successor body) that the Harlow Infrastructure Study highlights that the rate of housing construction implied by Policy HA1 of the East of England Plan is unrealistic, and that more realistic proposals will need to be developed, including prioritisation of growth to the east ahead of growth to the north.

(see also Minute 694 below)

**689 EAST HERTS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
CORE STRATEGY - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: FINAL
SCOPING REPORT (MARCH 2010)**

The Executive considered and supported the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel, made at its meeting held on 1 April 2010, in respect of the Sustainability Appraisal: Final Scoping Report (March 2010).

RECOMMENDED - that (A) the Sustainability Appraisal: Final Scoping Report (March 2010) be agreed as a basis for the sustainability appraisal of the East Herts Local Development Framework Core Strategy and subsequent Development Plan Documents; and

(B) the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport, be authorised to agree any typographical and/or non-material amendments, as necessary to the Final Scoping Report.

(see also Minute 694 below)

RESOLVED ITEMS

690 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 9 March 2010, be agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

691 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.

692 CASTLE HALL INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

The Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture submitted a report proposing an invest-to-save capital investment for the regeneration of Castle Hall. The Executive Member detailed the background to the project and outlined the:

- Refurbishment and re-modelling works;
- Ten year business plan;
- Financial sensitivity analysis and external validation;
- Marketing and re-branding proposals;
- Staff structure;
- Closedown and re-launch arrangements;
- Film sub-business plan; and
- Hydro-power installation

The Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 11 May 2010, supported the proposals. The Committee Chairman advised the Executive of the Committee's views, namely that there was some concern over the tight build time and potential for overrun and increased costs. In view of the experience of the Rhodes Centre

development, the Committee agreed to request the Executive to consider establishing a joint member/officer group to monitor the progress of the project during the construction phase. The Committee Chairman also advised that the Committee sought reassurance that community groups and people with disabilities would be fully considered during the design and future programming. Finally, the Committee Chairman referred to some Members' concerns over the proposed name change and the loss of the word "Castle".

The Executive Member thanked the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee for its comments. She detailed the reasons for the increased costs, in that the final specifications were of a much higher standard. She accepted the need for the suggested monitoring and in response to Members' comments, gave reassurance that regular performance monitoring by the Community Scrutiny Committee would be undertaken on at least an annual basis.

The Executive Member also referred to the film proposals and advised that a reduced sum of £100k capital would be needed.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

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

(B) the business plan presented at Essential Reference Paper 'C' of the report, be approved;

(C) capital of up to £978,536 for major redevelopment works and associated fixtures and fittings be approved;

(D) capital of up to £100,000 for the supply and fit of digital film, screen and associated audio equipment, be approved;

(E) a name change for the venue from Castle Hall to

Hertford Theatre be approved, in accordance with the marketing and re-branding proposals presented in Essential Reference Paper 'M' of the report;

(F) a business plan for a hydro electric power installation be presented to the Environment Scrutiny Committee; and DCCS

(G) a joint member/officer group be established to monitor the progress of the project during the construction phase. DCCS

693 REFUSE AND RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT - TENDER EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation submitted a report seeking approval of the contract tender evaluation criteria as now submitted. He drew attention to the proposed price/quality split and the risk management implications as now detailed.

In response to a comment on third party independent observation of the evaluation process, the Executive Member undertook to discuss the merits of this with Officers.

In response to a question on the proposed weightings within the criteria, the Executive Member undertook to provide a breakdown to Councillor D Clark.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the selection criteria outlined in paragraph 2.5 of the report now submitted, be approved; and

(B) the contract be let for a period of 7 years with provision for an extension of up to a further 7 years.

694 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE PANEL
- 1 APRIL 2010

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel meeting held on 1 April 2010, be received and where necessary the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

(see Minutes 688 - 689 above)

695 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - FEBRUARY
2010

The Leader of the Council submitted an exception report on the finance, performance and risk monitoring for the month of February 2010.

In respect of the overspend on Development Control advertising, the Executive noted that this would be reviewed with a view to minimising costs.

RESOLVED - that (A) the budgetary variances set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report now submitted, be noted; and

(B) the transfer to earmarked reserves as follows be DIS approved:

- £150k to the Interest Equalisation Reserve
- £160k to the Pension Reserve

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Chairman
Date