

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2010, AT 7.00 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, S A Bull,
N P Clark, J Demonti, R Gilbert,
P Grethe, J Hedley, J O Ranger,
P A Ruffles, J P Warren and
C Woodward.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Caroline Goss	- Communications Officer
Philip Hamberger	- Programme Director of Change
Alan Madin	- Director of Internal Services
Peter Mannings	- Democratic Services Assistant
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

73 APOLOGY

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

74 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader referred to recent announcements by the coalition government. He highlighted a number of funding reductions likely to impact on the finances of the Council. He referred in particular to a reduction in the Performance Reward Grant to the East Herts Local Strategic Partnership.

The Leader stressed that East Herts Council would have to work more closely with other organisations in a community leadership capacity. There would be significant challenges and tough decisions that Members would have to take.

The Leader also stated that the Council would have to work with partner agencies and the private sector to introduce innovative funding vehicles to ensure service delivery across the District.

75 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor N Clark declared a personal interest in the matter referred to at Minutes 76 and 80 relating to the Local Development Framework Executive Panel - Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2010, in that he was Secretary of the Stop Harlow North Campaign.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

76 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE PANEL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2010**

Councillor M G Carver updated the Executive in respect of progress relating to the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation document. He stated that this document provided an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to have an input into the wider planning

strategy for East Herts.

Councillor Carver referred to recent government announcements relating to imposed regional housing targets. He stressed that consultation with residents was an important local process of gauging the best way forward with the LDF Core Strategy consultation.

Councillor Carver stated that, in consultation with Officers, minor amendments would be made to the Core Strategy, particularly the chapter relating to Harlow North. He stressed that the document made clear that East Herts Council had always been opposed to development north of Harlow.

Councillor Carver commented that community feedback on the idea of development north of Harlow was essential in helping the Council prepare future plans for the District. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that consideration was given to the call for sites principle in relation to Harlow North.

Councillor Carver detailed the questions that would be put to residents in the 3 stage consultation questionnaire relating to Harlow North.

Councillor J O Ranger emphasised that the East of England Plan was no longer enforceable. He also stressed that some local authorities had now disregarded the policies contained in Local Plans. Councillor Ranger stated that the second question in relation to Harlow North should be deleted from the proposed consultation. He emphasised that the Council should make it clear that the consultation was a mandatory process.

Councillor Carver reminded Members that the call for sites principle must be applied to avoid the possibility of the Core Strategy being open to challenge. He also stressed the importance of considering the infrastructure requirements for new

housing across the District.

Councillor Carver stated that the consultation document had been kept very simplistic, so that the public could easily identify how the options had come forward. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the Authority was not challenged by any individual or land owner on the process that had been followed.

RECOMMENDED – that (A) the East Herts Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (May 2010), attached at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ of the report now submitted, be agreed and published for twelve weeks public consultation during Summer and Autumn 2010; DNS

(B) the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport, be authorised to make any necessary non-material amendments or corrections to the above document, which may be subsequently required or identified, prior to consultation taking place; DNS

(C) the Core Strategy Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal (April 2010) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report (April 2010) be agreed as accompanying documents to the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document; and DNS

(D) the responses received to the Call for Sites consultation between 12/08/2009 and 05/05/2010, attached at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ of the report submitted, be noted and taken into account as part of the preparation of the East Herts Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA). DNS

(see also Minute 80 below).

77 **MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - APRIL 2010**

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

RECOMMENDED – that in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.7.3, the Executive recommend to Council the carry forward of the capital budgets not spent in 2009/10, as set out in Essential Reference Paper ‘D’ and summarised at paragraph 2.26 of the report, and that these sums be added to the 2010/11 capital estimates.

DIS

RESOLVED ITEMS

78 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

79 **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.

Councillor N Clark made the Executive aware of a discrepancy in the Scrutiny Issues report now submitted. He stated that the wording of D (i) at paragraph 3.4 should have read ‘that future health checks should add up from one month to the next’.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

80 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXECUTIVE PANEL
- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2010

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Local Development Framework Executive Panel meeting held on 27 May 2010, be received.

(see Minute 76 above).

81 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - APRIL 2010

RESOLVED - that the budgetary variances set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Chairman
Date