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Jeff Hughes
*Head of Democratic and Legal
Support Services*

MEETING : EXECUTIVE
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2012
TIME : 6.00 PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Tony Jackson	- Leader of the Council
Councillor Malcolm Alexander	- Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Safety and Environment
Councillor Mike Carver	- Executive Member for Planning Policy and Economic Development
Councillor Linda Haysey	- Executive Member for Health, Housing and Community Support
Councillor Michael Tindale	- Executive Member for Finance

CONTACT OFFICER: Martin Ibrahim
Tel: 01279-502173
Email: martin.ibrahim@eastherts.gov.uk

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PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

1. A Member with a personal interest in any business of the Council who attends a meeting of the Authority at which the business is considered must, with certain specified exemptions (see section 5 below), disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest prior to the commencement of it being considered or when the interest becomes apparent.
2. Members should decide whether or not they have a personal interest in any matter under discussion at a meeting. If a Member decides they have a personal interest then they must also consider whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.
3. A personal interest is either an interest, as prescribed, that you must register under relevant regulations or it is an interest that is not registrable but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of the Council more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward(s) affected by the decision.
4. Members with personal interests, having declared the nature of that personal interest, can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter unless the personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.
5. An exemption to declaring a personal interest applies when the interest arises solely from a Member's membership of or position of general control or management on:
 - any other body to which they have been appointed or nominated by the authority
 - any other body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g another local authority)

In these exceptional cases, provided a Member does not have a prejudicial interest, they only need to declare their interest if they speak. If a Member does not want to speak to the meeting, they may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

6. A personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if all of the following conditions are met:
 - the matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decisions
 - the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter
 - a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

7. Exempt categories of decisions are:
 - setting council tax
 - any ceremonial honour given to Members
 - an allowance, payment or indemnity for Members
 - statutory sick pay
 - school meals or school transport and travelling expenses: if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full-time education or you are a parent governor, unless it relates particularly to the school your child attends
 - housing; if you hold a tenancy or lease with the Council, as long as the matter does not relate to your particular tenancy or lease.

8. If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must declare that interest and its nature as soon as the interest becomes apparent to you.

9. If you have declared a personal and prejudicial interest, you must leave the room, unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise. If that is the case, you can also attend the meeting for that purpose. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished or when the meeting decides that you have finished (if that is earlier). You cannot remain in the public gallery to observe proceedings.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2012.

3. Leader's Announcements

To receive any announcements.

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Member(s) declaration(s) of interest.

5. Local Development Framework Executive Panel - Minutes: 29 March 2012

To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2012 (to follow) and to consider recommendations on the matters below.

Members are reminded to bring their copy of the LDF Executive Panel agenda to the meeting.

(A) Local Development Scheme (LDS) Version 3 - May 2012

(B) Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Approach, Technical Work and Next Steps

(C) Population and Household Forecasts and the East Herts Housing Requirement

(D) Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) Progress

6. Urgent Business

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2012, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A Jackson (Chairman/Leader)
Councillors M Alexander, M Carver and
M Tindale.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, S Bull,
Mrs R Cheswright, M McMullen, M Newman,
P Phillips, N Poulton, P Ruffles, N Symonds,
M Wood and C Woodward.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Democratic Services Team Leader
Alan Madin	- Director of Internal Services
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

667 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor
L Haysey.

668 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 7 February 2012, be approved and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

669 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

The Executive received a report detailing those issues referred to it 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.

670 SERVICE PLANS 2012/13

The Leader of the Council submitted a report setting out planned service activity for 2012/13. He referred to the comments submitted by the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees held on 14 February 2012, and stated that the Executive accepted these. He referred to the need for more measurable outcomes to be identified and encouraged Officers to look at a more focussed approach.

Councillor M Wood referred to previous comments he had made at other meetings in respect of leaf clearance and the impact this had on the elderly. He reiterated his request that greater priority be given by Officers to addressing the issues he had raised.

The Leader reminded Members that the District Council did not have primary responsibility for this issue and that Officers should be encouraged to work with partners. He suggested that, if there were particular problem locations, these should be referred to the relevant Executive Member. The Leader stated that resources were targeted at problem locations.

In response to a question by Councillor N Poulton, the Leader commented that Officers could look at how leaf collection was dealt with in rural locations.

In response to a question by Councillor N Symonds relating to the establishment of Friends of Waytemore Castle, Councillor C Woodward stated that this had been a County Council initiative and that he would make further enquiries.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the comments of the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees, as now submitted, be received and accepted; and

(B) the service plan activity for 2012/13, as now submitted, be approved.

671 RESIDENTS SURVEY 2010 ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLAN

The Leader of the Council submitted a report detailing the results of the 2011 Residents Survey. He summarised the main findings and suggested that more detailed analysis should be undertaken, in order that a better understanding could be achieved. To this end, he proposed that a small informal Member working group be established to develop an action plan around the priorities identified for further investigation.

The Leader also referred to the comments submitted by the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees held on 14 February 2012, which in the main, the Executive supported. Councillor D Andrews, as the Chairman of that meeting, highlighted the enthusiasm of Members for further investigation into the choice based lettings scheme and giving greater emphasis on the awarding of points on a more local basis than the District level.

Some Members commented that the findings showed a generally high satisfaction rating with the Council. It was agreed to record Members' thanks and appreciation for the hard work of staff in achieving such successful results.

The Executive Member for Finance commented on the methodology used in the Survey and suggested that the

working group could also look at options for future surveys. This was supported by the Executive.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the ORS Residents Survey and the comments of the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees be received;

(B) a small number (possibly 4 or 5) priority areas for further investigation / action by Officers be identified; and

(C) the Leader be authorised to convene an informal working group of Members (to include an Opposition Member) to develop an action plan and to consider the best methodology for future Residents Surveys, the outcome to be reported back to the Executive.

672 2011/12 ESTIMATES AND 2012/13 FUTURE TARGETS

The Leader of the Council submitted a report setting out the performance indicators the Council was required to publish in its Annual Report. He advised the Executive of estimated performance for 2011/12 and the proposed targets for the next three years.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the estimates for 2011/12 and the comments of the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees, be noted;

(B) the targets, as set out in paragraph 5.1 – 5.3 of the report submitted, to either improve, reduce or retain performance, be approved;

(C) the data quality spot checks that are currently being undertaken, as detailed at paragraph 6.3 of the report submitted, be noted; and

(D) the non inclusion of Unit Cost indicators in the list of PI estimates and targets, as detailed at paragraph 7.1 of the report submitted, be noted.

673 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - JANUARY 2012

The Leader of the Council submitted an exception report on finance, performance and risk monitoring for January 2012.

The Executive approved the proposals now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the budgetary variances set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;

(B) £317,900 of the Bircherley Green multi storey car park capital budget be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13;

(C) £50,000 of the Hertford Theatre Renew Roof Covering capital budget be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13;

(D) £92,100 of the Footbridge over the River Stort capital budget be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13;

(E) £16,500 of the North Drive (reconstruct road and drainage) capital budget be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13;

(F) £45,000 of the Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Measures capital budget be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13; and

(G) action taken to control strategic risks during the period October 2011 to January 2012, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm

Chairman
Date