

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2011, AT 7.00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors S Bull, Mrs R Cheswright,
M McMullen, P Moore, M Newman, T Page,
N Poulton, C Rowley, P Ruffles and
S Rutland-Barsby

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

398 APOLOGIES

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

399 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 11 October 2011, be approved and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

400 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.

401 SHARED SUPPORT SERVICES STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

The Executive considered proposals to develop a detailed business case for sharing support services (ICT, HR and Payroll, Facilities Management, Print, Estates Management) with North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Councils.

The Leader referred to the comments of the Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee and the need for scrutiny of the business cases to be developed before any were finalised. The Executive accepted this on the basis that scrutiny of proposed business cases would be undertaken and not the detailed partnership agreements between the Authorities.

In response to Members' questions, the Director of Internal Services outlined the agreed approach towards apportioning identified savings and costs between the three Authorities. It was noted that further detail would emerge once the business case for each support service was developed.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the Council develop a detailed business case for sharing ICT, Human Resources, Payroll, Facilities Management and Print services with North Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council;

(B) the Council develop a detailed business case for

Estate Management services with North Hertfordshire District Council;

(C) the Council fund one third of the cost of developing the detailed business case, estimated as £80,000, i.e. £26,666 per Authority, to be funded by virements from under spending within the 2011/12 revenue budget or from the earmarked Service Improvement Reserve, as determined by the Director of Internal Services when finalising the 2011/12 accounts; and

(D) Scrutiny Committees scrutinise Shared Services business cases for appropriate services before they are finalised.

402 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - SEPTEMBER 2011

The Leader submitted an exception report on the finance, performance and risk monitoring for September 2011.

The Executive noted with disappointment the delay to the Castle Weir Hydro Scheme. The Environment Agency's advice was that the scheme should not be implemented until a time of low water levels, which would next be in the summer of 2012. The Executive Member for Community Safety and Environment advised that a review of the business case had been undertaken and would be reported back to the Executive.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

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

(B) The Bourne, Ware Play Area Development Programme capital budget of £40k be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13, as detailed at paragraph 2.26 of the report submitted;

(C) the Castle Weir Micro Hydro scheme capital budget of £165k be re-profiled from 2011/12 into 2012/13, as detailed at paragraph 2.27 of the report submitted; and

(D) the action taken to mitigate and control strategic risks during the period July to September 2011, as detailed at paragraph 2.28 of the report submitted be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.32 pm

Chairman
Date