

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON  
TUESDAY 13 JULY 2010 AT 7.00 PM

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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, R Gilbert, J Hedley,  
J Mayes, V Shaw and M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Caroline Goss	- Communications Officer
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Alan Madin	- Director of Internal Services
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

128 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader advised that further to statements made at the previous Council meeting, technical issues had arisen in respect of the intention to provide Facebook as a one-way means of communication and that Officers were exploring options to resolve this.

## RESOLVED ITEMS

### 129 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### 130 REVENUES AND BENEFITS AT STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND EAST HERTS COUNCIL

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The Executive Members for Resources and Internal Support and Housing and Health submitted a joint report seeking approval for interim joint management arrangements to be put in place for the management of Revenues and Benefits services for East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council.

The Executive noted that initial work to investigate possible partnership models for a joint Revenues and Benefits Service had started several months ago. At this stage, no preferred model had been identified and the intention was to produce an options report in December 2010, whilst taking opportunities to realise short term efficiencies for both Councils. The model would need to maximise efficiencies and be capable of growth by allowing other Councils to join the arrangement.

Although, the work to date had not identified any issues where views diverged, it was recognised that as the partnership work progressed, relative priorities might differ. In the event of a disagreement arising, the matter would be put to the respective Councils' appropriate Directors (Section 151 Officers) to resolve. The joint arrangements were intended to be temporary in nature and would not form a long term binding agreement on either Council. This would allow the termination of the arrangement to take place quickly and easily, if the need arose.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that

details in the split of costs would come later as the partnership work unfolded.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

DIS

RESOLVED - that (A) interim joint arrangements be put in place for the management of Revenues and Benefits Services for East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council;

(B) such interim joint management arrangements be agreed for up to 12 months with effect from 1 August 2010; and

DIS

(C) an extension beyond six months be considered by the appropriate Directors (Section 151 Officers) at each Council, in light of progress made on developing proposals for a single service provision.

## 131 2009/10 CAPITAL AND REVENUE OUTTURN

The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report advising on the General Fund Revenue Outturn for 2009/10 and the significant variances against the approved Estimates. He also advised on the financing arrangements for the 2009/10 Capital Outturn and the planned financing of the 2010/11 capital budget allowing for the approved slippage from 2009/10.

The Executive Member advised Members of an error in paragraph 2.1 of the report submitted, in that net expenditure was £17.394m and not £16.743m as shown. He also referred to questions on the variances raised at the previous Council meeting and suggested that there had been some confusion around the comparison of expenditure against the Probable Estimate as against the Original Estimate. He advised that he had discussed with Officers the need to clarify such matters in future reports.

The Executive approved the proposals as now submitted.

RESOLVED - that (A) the General Fund Revenue Outturn 2009/10 be approved; DIS

(B) the level of fund Balances at 31 March 2010 as set out within the report, be noted; and

(C) Budget “carry forward” be reviewed in the light of the 2010/11 budget position and the recent Government announcements on public spending cuts. DIS

## 132 PERFORMANCE OUTTURNS 2009/10

The Leader of the Council submitted a report setting out the performance indicators that the Council was required to monitor and publish annually.

The Executive Member for Housing and Health referred to the performance of the Housing team and their excellent work in dealing with homelessness. He also commented on the performance in providing affordable housing and stated that most Authorities would be pleased to have achieved 185 units in the past year.

The Executive Member for Environment and Conservation advised that the latest recycling figure was 52% and congratulated Officers for their efforts in achieving this level.

In response to a question on how targets had been set for EHPI 2.1a – Planning Enforcement actions (informal), the Chief Executive advised that the target had been set based on Officers’ experience.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED - that (A) the outturns for 2009/10 be noted;

(B) the dates for when the outstanding data will be come available, as detailed at paragraph 4.4 of the report, be noted; and

(C) the new targets that have been made available since the 2009/10 Estimates and Targets report, as detailed at paragraph 5.1 of the report, be approved.

### 133 MONTHLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - MAY 2010

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

In response to Members' questions, the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport commented on the difficulty in forecasting expenditure on Concessionary Fares. The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support stated that discussions with Officers and the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership about more accurate Recycling forecasts were taking place.

The Executive approved the recommendations as now detailed.

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

(B) only annual targets for NI 15, NI 16 and NI 20 be set and the reporting of monthly performance will continue only so that performance trends can be analysed, as detailed at paragraph 2.9 of the report;

CE

(C) local indicators be established in partnership with the police to reflect the local priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, as detailed at paragraph 2.10 of the report; and

DNS

(D) a supplementary capital estimate of £5k for Bishop's Stortford and Hertford Receptions replacement of IT equipment, as outlined at paragraph 2.36 of the report, be approved.

DCSS

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

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