

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor L Haysey (Chairman/Leader)
Councillors E Buckmaster, J Goodeve,
G Jones, G McAndrew, S Rutland-Barsby
and G Williamson.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors A Alder, P Ballam, R Brunton,
S Bull, M Casey, T Page, M Pope and
T Stowe.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Aley	- Interim Legal Services Manager
Isabel Brittain	- Head of Strategic Finance and Property
Jonathan Geall	- Head of Housing and Health
Martin Ibrahim	- Democratic Services Team Leader
Christine Ogunkanmi	- Project Manager
Anjeza Saliaj	- Project Manager
Helen Standen	- Deputy Chief Executive
Kevin Steptoe	- Head of Planning

Liz Watts

and Building
Control Services
- Chief Executive

292 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed Members and Officers and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast. She wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

She also referred to this meeting being the last to be attended by Martin Ibrahim, who was leaving after 34 years' service in local government, 18 of them at East Herts. On behalf of Members, she thanked him for his support over that time and wished him well in his retirement.

293 MINUTES – 23 OCTOBER 2018

Councillor G McAndrew moved, and Councillor S Rutland-Barsby seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 23 October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

294 UPDATE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Executive received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing its comments and

recommendations on various matters considered at its meeting held on 6 November 2018, including on:

- Shared Services: Revenues and Benefits;
- Homeless Strategy;
- Update from Executive Member for Housing; and
- OSC Work Programme.

The Executive received the report.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

295 UPDATE FROM JOINT MEETING OF PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Executive received a report from the joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee detailing its comments and recommendations on various matters considered at its meeting held on 20 November 2018, including on:

- Medium Term Financial Plan, Budget Report and Service Plans 2019/10; and
- Progress Report on the Old River Lane Development.

The Executive received the report.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

296 BUDGET REPORT AND SERVICE PLANS 2019/20 - 2022/23

The Executive Member for Finance and Support Services submitted a report which set out proposals in respect of:

- the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2019/20 – 2022/23;
- the Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23;
- the Schedule of Charges for 2019/20; and
- the draft service plans for 2019/20.

He referred to the comments of the joint meeting of Scrutiny Committees, at its meeting held on 20 November 2018, which had been noted elsewhere in the meeting (Minute247 refers).

In response to various Members' comments and questions, the Head of Strategic Finance and Property explained that the sums shown in the capital programme for Ward Freman swimming pool were separate from the general maintenance sums which were held in a different budget. These indicative figures related to refurbishment works yet to be profiled. In respect of Fanshawe pool, negotiations were continuing and a meeting with the Head teacher was being planned.

In respect of the New Homes Bonus, the Head of Strategic Finance and Property reminded Members on how this was allocated. In relation to Pay Awards, she also expressed confidence that the budget allocation was within the affordability range as the worst scenario had been assumed.

The Executive Member confirmed that a £5 per year increase in council tax had been included across all four years of the MTFP.

The Leader referred to the recent Peer Review and thanked the Head of Strategic Finance and Property for the clarity provided on funding issues generally.

Councillor G Williamson moved, and Councillor J Goodeve seconded, a motion to support the recommendations now detailed. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

The Executive supported the proposals now detailed.

RESOLVED – that Council be recommended to approve (A) the draft service plans for 2019/20;

(B) the East Herts share of Council Tax for a band D in 2019/20 at £169.09;

(C) the updated position on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2019/20 including the budget pressures and risks;

(D) the new savings in 2019/20 as shown in table 9 of the report submitted;

(E) implementation of the Capital Programme as set out in Essential Reference Paper 'C' of the report submitted; and

(F) the schedule of charges set out in Essential Reference Paper 'D' of the report submitted, with an overall increase of 2.5% for 2019/20.

297 EAST HERTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2018-2023

The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing submitted a report on the updated Health and Wellbeing Strategy covering the period 2019-2023, including the draft new Physical Activity Strategy.

He explained that, whilst the seven priorities remain unchanged, more explicit links were now being made between the Council's strategic framework and health and wellbeing priorities. He reiterated the Council's role as:

- a provider of public health assets and services;
- a deliverer of public health activities and programmes; and
- an enabler of health improvement.

He expressed his gratitude to Officers for their continuing good work and support. Councillor A Alder also expressed her gratitude for the important social prescribing work which had improved people's quality of life.

Councillor E Buckmaster moved, and Councillor S Rutland-Barsby seconded, a motion to support the recommendations now detailed. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

The Executive supported the recommendation now detailed.

RESOLVED – that Council be recommended to approve the content of the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2023, incorporating the draft Physical Activity Strategy.

298 HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN VISION AND DESIGN CHARTER

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Vision, together with its supporting Design Guide, and requested that they be supported as material planning considerations.

The Leader welcomed the wide-ranging engagement within the consultation events and advised that Essential Reference Paper 'G', which set out the comments made, would be updated and submitted for Council to consider.

Councillor R Brunton thanked the Leader for acknowledging the local concerns raised and expressed his support for the recommendations.

Councillor L Haysey moved, and Councillor S Rutland-Barsby seconded, a motion to support the recommendations now detailed. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now

detailed.

RESOLVED – that Council be recommended to approve (A) the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Vision, as set out in Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ to the report submitted, and its supporting Design Guide, as set out in Essential Reference Paper ‘C’, to the report submitted, as material planning considerations for the preparation of masterplans, the preparation of the Gilston Area Charter, pre-application advice, assessing planning applications and any other development management purposes;

(B) the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, being authorised to agree any minor amendments following consideration of the Vision and Design Guide documents by the Garden Town local planning authorities; and

(C) the final Vision and Design Guide documents being taken to the Garden Town Member Board on the 4 February 2019 for endorsement.

299 DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report seeking approval to publish the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

Various Members expressed support for the recommendations and welcomed the clear statement in respect of what the Council would require from future developments.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Housing and Health explained the 80% cap on equity in shared ownership properties within Designated Protected Areas.

The Executive Member for Housing referred to the Housing Fair that would be held in February 2019.

Councillor L Haysey moved, and Councillor J Goodeve seconded, a motion to support the recommendations now detailed. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A), in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Council be recommended to determine that a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the emerging Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects; and

(B) to approve the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), as set out in Essential Reference Paper 'B' of the report submitted, for a six-week period of public

consultation.

300 QUARTERLY CORPORATE HEALTHCHECK - QUARTER 2
(SEPTEMBER 2018)

The Executive considered and noted a report on finance and performance monitoring for July – September 2018.

The Executive noted the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the projected revenue budget forecast underspend of £32k in 2018/19, be noted;

(B) the capital budget for 2018/19 of £6.578m be noted; and

(C) the reported performance and actions for the period July to September 2018, be noted.

301 OLD RIVER LANE AND NORTHGATE END DEVELOPMENT

The Executive considered a joint report of the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Finance and Support Services on progress made with respect to the Old River Lane (ORL) and Northgate End development sites in Bishop's Stortford. They sought approval for:

- an emerging Heads of Terms which will form the basis of the development agreement;
- a final brief and estimated budget for the Arts and Entertainment Centre;
- the estimated budget and final business case for the

Multi Storey Car Park and residential and commercial units at Northgate End and an update on the procurement of the design team, surveys and investigations; and

- the land required that is currently in the ownership of Hertfordshire County Council and Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

The Leader reminded Members that Essential Reference Papers 'C' and 'D' contained exempt information and that, if Members wished to go into detail on these, the meeting could exclude the press and public.

In response to Members' comments and questions, the Chief Executive confirmed that the heads of terms signed with Bishop's Stortford Town Council and the Rhodes Birthplace Trust in relation to capital and revenue funding of the Arts and Entertainment Centre, were indications of intent and were not binding.

Councillor G Williamson moved, and Councillor L Haysey seconded, a motion to support the recommendations now detailed. After being put to the meeting, and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

The Executive supported the recommendations as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the comments from the joint meeting of Overview Scrutiny and Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committees with respect to:

- (i) the competitive dialogue procurement

- process for Old River Lane;
- (ii) the latest brief (Essential Reference Paper 'B'), estimated budget and likely funding partners for the Arts and Entertainment Centre;
- (iii) the draft Heads of Terms for the Development Agreement at Exempt Essential Reference Paper 'C'; and
- (iv) the final business case for the Multi Storey Car Park and adjoining residential/commercial units at Northgate End (Exempt Essential Reference Paper 'D'), known as the 'Northgate End Developments';

be noted;

(B) the final business case for the 'Northgate End Developments' detailed at exempt Essential Reference Paper 'D', be approved;

(C) Council be recommended to approve:

- (i) a capital allocation of £19.03m for the Northgate End Developments; and
- (ii) subject to the construction of the Northgate End Developments, planning conditions being discharged and conditions listed under recommendation (D) below being met;

(D) the commencement of construction of the Northgate End Developments being conditional upon the following:

- (i) planning permission;
- (ii) capital funding being allocated by Council on 19 December 2018;
- (iii) a preferred developer for the main ORL site is approved by Council on 5 March 2019;

be noted; and

(E) Council be recommended that land owned by Hertfordshire County Council and Bishop’s Stortford Town Council (as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report submitted) is purchased, using LEP funding granted for this purpose.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm

Chairman
Date