

DECISION SHEET

MEETING NO 11 OF THE CABINET **HELD ON 1 APRIL 2008**

1. **MINUTES**

CABINET DECISION

That the Minutes of Meeting No 10 of the Cabinet held on 4 March 2008 be taken as read and confirmed subject to the following amendments:

Minute 13 – Future arrangements for the District Children’s Trust Partnership (DCTP) Incorporating the new Integrated Youth Support Services

- a) In the third paragraph after the first sentence add a new sentence “The report additionally indicated that this Cabinet Member be nominated as Chair of the DCTP”.
- b) In line 8 of the third paragraph delete “for this role” and replace with “of the Chair’s role”.

2. **PRESENTATION FROM THE AUDIT COMMISSION**

Resources and Efficiencies Portfolio Holder
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal Performance)

CABINET DECISION

That the presentation be noted.

3. **DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW ON GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

Planning and Conservation and Housing Portfolio Holders
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet agrees that this Council submit an individual response to the Planning Inspectorate outlining its objections to the draft RSS Single Issue Review.
- (ii) That Cabinet agrees that this Council should object to the Draft RSS Single Issue Review for the following reasons:
 - a) EERA has failed to provide a clear definition of exactly what is meant by “need” to be met.
 - b) There should be no provision within the RSS beyond 2011. Need beyond 2011 should be based on a further round of robust need assessments (GTAAs), not the application of a 3% annual growth rate at a district level. The proposal that the number of pitches should increase by 3% per annum between 2011 and 2021 is not founded upon a robust and credible evidence base.

- c) The proposed redistribution of gypsy pitches from Fenland, South Cambridgeshire, Basildon and Chelmsford across the Region as a whole is flawed. In particular, it is inappropriate that the draft Single Issue Review proposes that some of the growth from these Districts should be redistributed to Hertfordshire. This Council feels that by redistributing the need across the whole region rather than to adjoining or nearby Districts, the needs of gypsy communities at these locations will not be met and would result in communities having to live in areas where they would not choose to.
 - d) EERA's analysis of development opportunities and constraints demonstrated that South and West Hertfordshire including St Albans falls within a highly constrained area in the region because of the Green Belt and environmental constraints. The distribution in the Draft Single Issue Review fails to reflect these constraints.
 - e) St Albans District has already proactively provided more gypsy pitches than any other District in Hertfordshire. EERA's proposed targets for 2006-2011 and 2011-2021 give St Albans the highest totals within the County. The District Council considers that the proposed 33 additional pitches between 2006 – 2011 and 29 further pitches between 2011-2021 is disproportionately high, particularly given the Green Belt and environmental constraints. Therefore, most of the need calculated to arise in St Albans District should be met in nearby Districts in west and central Hertfordshire, to bring about a more equitable distribution.
- (iii) That Cabinet expects this Council to be represented at the Examination in Public (EiP) to enable the case on these points affecting our District to be presented as directly and robustly as possible.

4. **ST ALBANS CITY VISION PROJECT**

*Planning and Conservation and Culture and Heritage Portfolio Holders
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)*

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet resolves to:
- approve the proposed arrangements for tendering the work described in paragraphs 7.2-7.6 of the report (and subject to the formal approval of the Regional Spatial Strategy) to appoint consultants to carry out the work within the available budget specified in paragraphs 4.1 and 5.1 of the report.
 - agree the contents of the draft Consultants Brief included in Appendix 1 to the report with delegated authority to carry out final editing being given to the Heads of Planning and Building Control and Culture and Community Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Conservation and Culture and Heritage.

- agree the proposed evaluation criteria and interview arrangements for selection of the consultant described in paragraph 7.5 of the report, including the delegation of the decision to appoint the consultants to the Heads of Planning and Building Control and Culture and Community Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Conservation and Culture and Heritage.
 - agree the management and consultation arrangements for carrying out the work described in paragraphs 6.1 and 7.6 of the report.
- (ii) That the Consultant's Brief should refer to the requirement that the study undertaken should demonstrate due regard for (a) the Local Strategic Partnership's CO² Action Plan to reduce the District's carbon footprint by 60% by 2025 and (b) the principles of sustainable development.

5. **NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION DRAFT ACTION PLAN – CONSULTATION RESULTS**

*Environment and Sustainability Portfolio Holder
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)*

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet receives the results of the consultation for the Nottingham Declaration Draft Action Plan.
- (ii) That Cabinet receives the St Albans and District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Carbon Management Action Plan.
- (iii) That Cabinet agrees that a further report be presented outlining a final action plan which has incorporated the consultation results which would fulfil the Council's obligations under the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

6. **ST ALBANS ANNUAL FESTIVAL**

*Culture and Heritage Portfolio Holder
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)*

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet endorses the Festival Plan and the Schedule of Proposals contained in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report.
- (ii) That Cabinet agrees that support is needed throughout all Departments at District level to enable the Festival to be an annual success.

7. **ST PETER'S STREET ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

*Environment and Sustainability Portfolio Holder
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)*

CABINET DECISION

At the request of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services) Cabinet refers the report to that Scrutiny Committee for their further

views to be brought to the July Cabinet meeting, and that Hertfordshire County Council be so informed.

8. **PLANNING CONSERVATION SERVICE**

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet agrees a strategy for Planning Conservation as follows:
 - a) To ensure that the service has clear direction in seeking to address and fulfil the Council's aims and objectives as far as they relate
 - b) To provide a service that is responsive to customer needs at the same time as fulfilling policy and statutory demands
 - c) To provide a service that is focused and operationally integrated within the planning service as a whole
 - d) To provide in all areas a transparent service
 - e) To transform to a cultural approach that is both proactive and reactive to the needs of the historic environment
 - f) To ensure that those involved know what part they play in taking the Council forward in its ambitions
 - g) To ensure prioritisation is given in seeking to achieve all elements of the strategy
- (ii) That Cabinet considers options for the delivery of the Planning Conservation service and agrees a way forward. In particular, Cabinet notes the alternative options for service delivery as detailed in paragraphs 8.2 - 8.6 of the report.
- (iii) That options be the subject of further work and consultation with all relevant staff and Unison.
- (iv) That a further report be considered by Cabinet following consultation and feedback.

9. **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

*Community Leadership and Communications Portfolio Holder
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal Performance)*

CABINET DECISION

That Cabinet:

- agrees that all Heads of Service work with their Portfolio Holder to take the lead on communication of key projects and initiatives
- notes that the communication team will ensure overall communications strategy delivery

- endorses the personal leadership provided by the Interim Chief Policy and Partnership Officer for the time being and the permanent postholder once appointed
- notes the action taken to support the Interim Chief Policy and Partnership Officer in managing the daily activity of the communication team and embed the new approach
- resolves to review the implementation of this Communication Strategy in relation to major projects in October 2008

10. **REVENUE BUDGETS AND CAPITAL PROGRAMMES 2007/08 UPDATE**

Resources and Efficiencies Portfolio Holder

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal Performance)

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer to phase the 2008/09 General Fund Capital Programme as resources become available, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, the Chief Executive and Heads of Service, and to report back to Cabinet with progress on the release of schemes.

11. **STAFFING AND ESTABLISHMENT**

Resources and Efficiencies Portfolio Holder

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal Performance)

CABINET DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet receives the statistical information presented in the report.
- (ii) That Cabinet notes the need to reduce reduce the staffing budget and full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers in line with plans outlined during the development of the three year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- (iii) That Cabinet notes that changes to the establishment are monitored on a weekly basis by the Chief Executive's Board.
- (iv) That Cabinet agrees that the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiencies should receive a monthly progress report on establishment totals.
- (v) That Cabinet agrees that future establishment reports will contain quarterly information which shows the target profile of change and progress against that target.

12. **FORWARD PLAN – JUNE TO JULY 2008**

All Portfolio Holders

Both Overview and Scrutiny Committees

CABINET DECISION

That the Forward Plan for the period June to July 2008 be approved as amended as follows:

June

- Add report on Local Development Scheme
- Add report on Nottingham Declaration

July

- Add report on St Peter's Street

[Note for future Forward Plan: **October:** Add report on Communications Strategy]

13. **CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM) IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Resources and Efficiencies Portfolio Holder

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal Performance)

CABINET DECISION

That Cabinet notes the changes in the implementation of the customer contact centre using a new corporate CRM solution.

Note: Although the agenda for the meeting stated that the above would be a Part II report, in the event the published report did not contain any exempt information and it was therefore considered in Part I of the meeting.

14. **PLACES FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME**

Housing Portfolio Holder

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Public Services)

CABINET DECISION

That Cabinet is pleased to note that the Council's joint bid with Hightown Praetorian and Churches Housing Association in relation to Open Door for £525,000 in respect of the improvement of services available to rough sleepers has been successful. Cabinet also notes that St Albans will receive additional funding in the sum of £4.86M in respect of the first tranche of the Government's Affordable Housing Grant.

Note: The above matter was raised as an item of other business.

Published on **Thursday 3 April 2008**

The above decisions will come into force, and may be implemented on the expiry of, 5 working days after the publication of the decisions (ie Friday 11 April 2008) unless a request

for call-in is made. [**Note:** Any requests for a decision to be called in must therefore be received by 5.15pm on Thursday 10 April 2008.]