

**CABINET**

**5 May 2004**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Campbell (Chairman) (P)

Beveridge (P)

Cook (P)

Evans (P)

Hiscock (P)

Learney (P)

Nelmes (P)

Wagner (P)

Others in attendance and speaking:

Councillors Allgood, Busher and Davies

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1439. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services reported that discussions were continuing on the possibility of creating a cultural centre at the Jewry Street Library site.

1440. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 20 April 2004 (less exempt items) be approved and adopted.

1441. **REPRESENTATION FROM COUNCILLORS**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davies expressed concern at the re-routing of flights to and from Eastleigh Airport, which had resulted in increased noise over the town area of Winchester. He asked the Leader to explain the consultation that had taken place with the City Council over the changes, the role undertaken by the local Member of Parliament and why City Councillors had failed to be informed.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being reported that he was a Deputy Member representing the City Council on the Eastleigh Airport Liaison Committee (Councillor Bailey was the Council's principal representative). He explained that for a period of four months as an experimental exercise, the flight path had been altered from its normal routing landing over Compton, Twyford and Colden Common areas with take off over the Solent. At the conclusion of the four month period the flights would revert back to their original routing and a full public consultation exercise would be undertaken. He commented that whichever route was chosen there would be winners and losers in terms of the noise impact of the changes.

The Leader added that information had been received from the Airport operator about the proposed experiment but Eastleigh Borough Council was the Planning Authority in charge of the Airport and there had been no formal consultation as such about the proposed experimental period. It was agreed that copies of the explanatory leaflet about the proposed experiment be obtained from the Airport for distribution to all Members of the City Council for their information.

The Chief Executive added that it was for the Airport to undertake the consultation exercise and the information received to date mentioned that the approach routes for the Airport were variable depending on a number of factors including weather conditions.

1442. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

1443. **PEOPLE AND WORK BEST VALUE REVIEW**  
(Report CAB871 refers)

Arising out of consideration of the report, Cabinet noted that 40% of employment within the District was now centred on Whiteley.

The Chief Executive added that the observations made by the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economy and Development were correct in that the Council needed a sophisticated approach to economic development and to promote a business aware culture. This included appreciating factors such as the provision for affordable housing and a good transport infrastructure as these were key elements in maintaining the economic prosperity of the area. He also spoke of the work undertaken by the Hampshire Economic Partnership and the South East England Development Agency who were working with the business community and provided an important stimulus.

The Leader also commented that Broadband provision was now an important element and would increasingly be so in the future, particularly in determining the economic prosperity of rural areas.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Busher, spoke on this item. She stated that together with Councillor Collin she was a Member representative on the Task Group undertaking the Best Value Review and she made reference to the time taken in undertaking detailed consultation exercises and making enquiries. She stated that it was the view of Councillor Collin and herself that although the District was prosperous at the present time, it had a high dependency on Government Agencies such as educational establishments and Government administrative services which could alter the balance of the economy should in the future these services and agencies decide to relocate.

In conclusion, Cabinet thanked the Officers involved in their work of undertaking the Best Value Review.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the issues raised in this review be noted and the improvement plan set out in the final report be approved.

1444. **INSURANCE FUND REVIEW**  
(Report CAB869 refers)

In introducing the report the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources commented that in the future the Council would undertake a review of its insurance strategy to ascertain whether self insurance would be a suitable option in certain circumstances to reduce its insurance premiums.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

1 That £100,000 be ring fenced within the Insurance Reserve for HRA property subsidence claims for 2002/03 and prior years.

2 That the Provision of £185,000 in respect of MMI be retained until further information is made available about outstanding MMI liabilities.

3 That £100,000 be released from the Insurance Reserve and transferred to the ICT Reserve, and £25,000 be released from the Insurance Reserve to the Housing Revenue Account, subject to the matter not being called in by Principal Scrutiny Committee.

4. That a further review of the Insurance Reserve be undertaken later this year and thereafter on an annual basis.

1445. **DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 1: CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**  
(Report CAB868 refers)

Arising out of consideration of the report, the Director of Development Services commented that there appeared to be less emphasis on good design within the policy statement. A Member commented that the principles of good design and good practice should also be extended to developers. Cabinet agreed that a guide to good practice for developers would be of great assistance and that good practice should be shared between developers as well as between Authorities.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the comments set out in Appendix 1 be approved and forwarded to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as the formal comments of the City Council on proposed PPS1: 'Creating Sustainable Communities.'

1446. **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ARTS AND SOCIAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD 14 APRIL 2004**  
(Report CAB872 refers)

Cabinet considered the minutes of the special meeting of the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee held 14 April 2004.

The City Secretary and Solicitor stated that the recommendation relating to the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2004/2005 would also be submitted to the Principal Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee held on 14 April 2004 be noted and the Minute relating to the Scrutiny Work Programme 2004/05 be approved and adopted.

1447. **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD 14 APRIL 2004**  
(Report PS127 refers)

Cabinet considered the minutes of the special meeting of the Environment and Access Performance Improvement Committee held 14 April 2004.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Allgood spoke in support of the recommendation under the Review of Planning Grants to fund phase 2 of the Denmead village centre improvements. In summary he stated that the proposals had a long history of support within the Local Plan and its supporting documents and there was now also a local organisation to ensure that the improvements were implemented efficiently. He asked Cabinet to approve the funding as recommended. Cabinet supported the recommendation as set out.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economy and Development stated that with regard to funding for the Forest of Bere project, the County Council had assumed that the City Council, in common with other Local Authorities that were part of the proposals, had made contributions towards the project. In fact this had not been the case and an invoice had now been received to fund the project for 2003/2004. Cabinet agreed with his approach that this request should be initially be considered by the Environment and Access Performance Improvement Committee prior to any decision by Cabinet.

With respect to the use of the Planning Grants Reserve to meet part of the cost arising from the Byron Avenue Telecommunications Appeal, Cabinet supported the approach that the Planning Grants Reserve should be used in this manner. It also noted comments by the Director of Finance that in fact the costs from the planning grants reserve towards the appeal were nearer £18,000 and not the £30,000 as stated within the minutes.

In discussing the wider use of the Planning Grants Reserve it was noted that this had now been allocated for the next three years and the use of this fund was not sustainable in the long term as contributions were no longer being made to the Fund. It was agreed therefore that the Environment and Access Performance Improvement

Committee should be requested to look at this situation to take a long term view towards funding. In addition, arising out of consideration of the report on Development Services Planning Fees and Charges, it was noted that in the future the Planning Department may be able to charge for pre application advice and that there could be an increase in planning fees by as much as 39% to replace in the long term the funding that was now available through Planning Improvement Grant.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment and Access Performance Improvement Committee held 14 April 2004 be approved and adopted with the exception of the Recommendation relating to the funding of the Byron Avenue Telecommunications Appeal where it be agreed to use of the Planning Grants Reserve to meet part of the costs arising.

1448. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD 20 APRIL 2004**  
(Report CAB873 refers)

Cabinet considered the minutes of the special meeting of the Health Performance Improvement Committee held 20 April 2004.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being stated that the Committee had received a presentation from local Health Trusts. The presentation focused on the demise of the Communities Health Council's and the formation of Foundation Trusts.

The Chief Executive added that both Winchester and Eastleigh were in favour of formation of Foundation Trusts but significant issues remained to be resolved, including the element of elected member representation on their boards.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Health Performance Improvement Committee held 20 April 2004 be noted, including the Report of the Commercial Team Inspection Informal Group.

1449. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davies spoke on this item. In summary he stated that the Forward Plan contained a number of items marked for consideration at future dates of Cabinet which might prove unrealistic in terms of the items being considered. He suggested that Directors should treat the Forward Plan with more realism in terms of both the volumes of work to be transacted and the dates that these would be reported to Cabinet. He also asked that the Forward Plan be page numbered.

In reply, the Chief Executive stated that the Forward Plan was responsive to time constraints and changing priorities and therefore both subject matter and target dates were variable. However, he accepted that improvements could be made and this had been discussed at Corporate Management Team. In addition the monitoring of business plan targets would assist Directors in planning their workload.

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Council's Forward Plan for May 2004, be noted.