

## CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 February 2005 at 10.00 am at County Hall, Lewes.

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106. PRESENT - Councillor Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors Glazier, Lock, Reid, Mrs Stroude, Tidy and Mrs Waite

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Bridger	-	item 111
Councillor Daniel	-	item 111
Councillor Dyason	-	Item 111
Councillor Livings	-	item 118
Councillor McPherson	-	item 111
Councillor Neighbour	-	items 113 and 118
Councillor Tunwell	-	item 113
Councillor Tutt	-	items 110 and 111
Councillor Webb	-	items 110, 111 and 113

### 107. MINUTES

107.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2005 as a correct record.

### 108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

108.1 Councillor Livings declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 13 as a member of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board.

108.2 Councillor Lock declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 13 as a member of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board.

108.3 Councillor McPherson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 10 as a member of the East Sussex Disability Association.

108.4 Councillor Neighbour personal, non prejudicial interest in item 13 as a member of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board.

### 109. REPORTS

109.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 110. BUDGET MONITORING 2004/05

110.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources.

110.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED to note the report.

## Reason

110.3 Management action is being taken to address area of concern.

### 111 RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

111.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers including a report on the outcome of the various consultation exercises (Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report), a report on the draft Council Plan 2005/06 (Appendix 2 to the report), the Capital Programme 2005/06 to 2008/09 (Appendix 3 to the report) and the Revenue Budget 2005/06 (Appendix 4 to the report).

111.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

#### Council Plan 2005/06

1. note the results of the various consultation exercises which have been undertaken as part of this year's Reconciling Policy and Resources process;
2. recommend the County Council to approve the draft Council Plan, as set out at Appendix 2, as the basis of further work on a final version to be considered by Cabinet in March;

#### Capital Programme

- 3 note the resourcing position for the 2005/06 Capital Programme and the estimated position for the following 4 years;
- 4 note the likely level of unsupported borrowing to be undertaken in 2005/06 and 2006/07 and the extent of the challenge for 2007/08 to 2009/10;
- 5 to recommend the County Council to approve the draft Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2005/06 and to note the schemes provisionally included in the Capital Programme in future years, as set out in Annex C of Appendix 3 subject to the education list of high priority bids for future programme to be amended as follows:
  - delete Grove Park Phase 1 access works and insert Grove Park School
  - delete Claverham CC new places and insert secondary school new places
  - delete East Hoathly new places and hall;
- 6 note the draft prudential indicators for the period 2003/04 to 2007/08 resulting from the proposals for capital investment arising from the current programme and the new starts proposed for 2005/06 and 2006/07

#### Revenue Budget

7. approve the following additions to the 2005/06 revenue budget on the basis that these are one-off additions for 2005/06 only:

	£000
• Response to the South East Plan	40
• Enhancing footway repairs and anti-speeding measures	250
• Support for E-Government (to mitigate the impact of the base reduction in resources in the area)	400

• Support for 'invest to save' benefit take-up	100
• Support for faith community partnership working	10
• Contribution towards 'invest to save' and PFI procurement costs within Adult Social Care.	200
• Provision for upgrade of County Hall reception	40
• Corporate provision for 'invest to save' efficiency initiatives	90
• Support for the review of Special Education Needs and related children's social services initiatives.	220
• Support for the CBOSS schools roll out.	60
• Support for the further roll out of IRT.	50
• Establishment of a Community Fund (including 'anti-social behaviour' initiatives)	500
• Economic Development Partnership Fund.	300
• Freedom of Information – 'invest to save' management of records.	50
	2310

and to note that the above will be financed as follows:

	£000
• Estimated underspend in 2004/05	600
• Excess of accumulated general balances over the 2 ¼% target minimum	1400
• Extended phasing of future pension increases.	310
	2310

8. agree to add new waste recycling grant (of £216,000) to the Waste PFI reserve;

9. recommend the County Council to approve the revenue budget estimates for 2005/06 as set out in Annex A of Appendix 4 incorporating the adjustments outlined in (7) above, and the following amendments subject to the decisions in relation to the review of community transport services for social services and the reprovisioning of services currently at 47a Western Road, Lewes through the independent and voluntary sector being agreed in principle and the results of further consultation being reported to the Lead Member:

	£000
• Increased allowance for managing growth pressures in Adult Social Care.	300
• Increased allowance for managing growth pressures in Children's Social Services.	100
• Increased resources for Disability and Disabled Act access requirements.	120
• Additional library resources	30
• Capacity for key appointment recruitment scheme (feasibility to be tested)	200
• Addition to new medium term risk provision.	100
• Reduction in proposed council tax increase.	554
	1404

10 recommend the County Council to issue precepts accordingly to be paid by Borough and District Councils in accordance with the agreed schedule of instalments;

11 approve the fees and charges set out in Annex F of Appendix 4; and

12 recommend the County Council to set a council tax increase of 4.2% for 2005/06.

Reason

111.3 To achieve the development of a sound medium term financial strategy.

112 EFFICIENCY AND THE GERSHON REVIEW

112.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

112.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to note the report; and

(2) to note that the Council's efficiency target, excluding schools, is estimated to be £7.1m per annum and £21.3m in total after three years.

Reason

112.3 The maximisation of all available efficiency opportunities is a key policy steer. The Service Productivity and Procurement Management Board will oversee this area of work.

### 113 DIRECT PAYMENTS

113.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Social Services and Health Scrutiny Committee on the scrutiny review of Direct Payments, and a report by the Acting Director of Social Services with observations on the Scrutiny Committee's report.

113.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Waite (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED -

(1) to note and welcome the Scrutiny Committee's report; and

(2) to recommend the County Council to welcome the main recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Committee's report and to approve the response of the Acting Director of Social Services to the recommendations and their implementation.

#### Reason

113.3 Direct payment forms an essential element in ensuring choice for service users and carers. The implementation of the recommendations will build on the activity already undertaken and enable further development of the direct payment scheme in East Sussex.

### 114 PROPOSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE AT HOLLINGTON, HASTINGS

114.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Libraries.

114.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Stroude (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED -

(1) to provisionally approve the addition of £258,000 to the Education and Libraries capital programme for the Hollington Sure Start Children's Centre, using funds from the capital element of the General Sure Start Grant;

(2) to approve the outline proposals for the Children's Centre, set out at Appendix A of the report, subject to further feasibility work, with a final decision on the scheme to be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources; and

(3) to note the Department for Education and Skills approval of the Hollington Children's Centre Implementation Plan (a copy of which is available in the Members' Room)

#### Reason

114.3 The proposed Children's Centre would directly contribute towards the Council's strategic priorities of tackling deprivation and promoting lifelong learning.

### 115 CARERS' GRANT

115.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Acting Director of Social Services.

115.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Waite (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve the spending plans for the Carers' Grant as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report

Reason

115.3 The spending plans for the Carers' Grant will enable the Council to maximise the benefits of the grant.

116 CORE BACK OFFICE SYSTEMS SOLUTION

116.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

116.2 On the motion of Councillor Tidy (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED to note the report.

Reason

116.3 To note the progress made with the implementation of the Core Back Office Systems Solution.

117 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR 2005/06

117.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

117.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to recommend the County Council to:

(1) determine that for 2005/06 the authorised limit for borrowing shall be £289m;

(2) adopt the prudential indicators and limits as set out in the appendix to the report; and

(3) agree the revised Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement for 2005/06 as set out in the appendix to the report.

Reason

117.3 As required under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance 2004 the County Council is required to determine its authorised borrowing limit, to adopt treasury management prudential indicators and limits and to agree its treasury management strategy and policy statement.

118 SUSSEX DOWNS AND EAST HAMPSHIRE AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

118.1 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Director of Law and Performance Management and the Director of Transport and Environment.

118.2 On the motion of Councillor Lock (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED -

(1) to approve the creation of a new joint committee as a successor to the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the East Hampshire Joint Advisory Committee to carry out the functions of those bodies in the areas of both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, pending the Secretary of State's decision following the Public Enquiry into the proposed South Downs National Park; and

(2) to authorise the Director of Law and Performance Management and the Director of Transport and Environment, following consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, to settle the details, including the terms of the proposed joint agreement, with the other parties.

Reason

118.3 A new joint management of the South Downs on an interim basis will enable any body created in the long term to take up its responsibilities with a smoother transition.

#### 119 ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

119.1 The Cabinet agreed that items 6, 8 12 and 13 should be reported to the County Council.

#### 120 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

120.1 It was RESOLVED – to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda item on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

#### 121. BANKING SERVICES TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL FROM 1 APRIL 2005

121.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

121.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve an extension to the Council's contract with NatWest Bank as the County Council's bankers for a period of a two further years until 31 March 2007.

Reason

121.3 An change in the Council's banking arrangements at the same time as implementing new core back office systems would expose the authority to high levels of risk.

*[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 111, 113, 117 and 118 ]*