

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 April 2005 at 10.00 am at County Hall, Lewes.

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

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Barnes	-	items 140, 143 and 147
Councillor Bentley	-	items 140 and 144
Councillor Bridger	-	items 140 and 148
Councillor Dowling	-	item 144
Councillor Field	-	item 147
Councillor Kramer	-	items 143 and 147
Councillor Livings	-	item 144
Councillor Neighbour	-	item 140
Councillor Rogers	-	items 143 and 148
Councillor Simmons	-	item 142
Councillor Tutt	-	item 140, 141 and 142

Also present: Mr D Wells and Mr S Dowsett (Audit Commission) – for item 140.

137. MINUTES

137.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2005 as a correct record.

138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

138.1 Councillor Barnes declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 5 as Chairman of the Bexhill and Rother Primary Care Trust

138.2 Councillor Glazier declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in item 5 as a non executive director of the Bexhill and Rother Primary Care Trust.

138.3 Councillors Dowling, McPherson, Reid and Tidy declared personal, non prejudicial interests in item 14 as Board Members of the Ashdown Forest Conservators

139. REPORTS

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

140. AUDIT COMMISSION WHOLE SYSTEMS REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN EAST SUSSEX

140.1 The Cabinet considered a presentation by the Audit Commission on its whole systems review of services for older people and a report by the Acting Director of Adult Social Services.

140.2 On the motion of Councillor Mrs Waite (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED to agree the Action Plan subject to final discussions regarding a Risk Sharing Strategy.

Reason

140.3 The Action Plan will enable progress to be made in relation to the Audit Commission's recommendations and will assist in addressing the critical issues in relation to successful joint working between the County Council and Health partners.

141 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

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

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

(1) to note the report; and

(2) to endorse the forward looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2005/06.

Reason

141.3 To agree the forward looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2005/06 for submission to Government.

142 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

142.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee on the Best Value review of Sustainable Communities, and a joint report by the Director of Policy Management and Communications and Director of Transport and Environment with observations on the Scrutiny Committee's report.

142.2 On the motion of Councillor Tidy (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to note 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 Director of Policy Management and Communications and the Director of Transport and Environment to the recommendations and their implementation

Reason

142.3 The review has provided a welcome and constructive approach to sustainability in East Sussex and will help to inform consultation on the South East Plan.

143 SOUTH EAST PLAN

143.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

143.2 On the motion of Councillor Lock (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to note the feedback from consultations with stakeholders and residents in East Sussex and to draw the South East England Regional Assembly's attention to it (as summarised in Annexes D and E of the report); and

(2) to agree that a copy of the report be sent to the Regional Assembly as the Council's formal response to the draft South East Plan, drawing attention to the comments in Annexes A and B of the report.

Reason

143.3 To agree the Council's response to SEERA on the draft South East Plan. The response takes account of the relevant recommendations arising from the Council's Best Value review of Sustainable Communities and has been informed by consultations with key partners, stakeholders and residents.

144 LOCAL SPEED LIMITS IN RURAL EAST SUSSEX

144.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the scrutiny review of setting local speed limits in rural East Sussex, and a report by the Director of Transport and Environment with observations on the Scrutiny Committee's report.

144.2 On the motion of Councillor Lock (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 Director of Transport and Environment to the recommendations and their implementation.

Reason

144.3 The scrutiny review has brought a welcome challenge to the setting of speed limits in rural areas. Implementation of the recommendations will undoubtedly assist in the development of an improved and better balanced speed management strategy for the county. .

145 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

145.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Policy Management and Communications.

145.2 On the motion of Councillor Jones (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to agree to the County Council applying to become a pilot in the second round of Local Area Agreements

Reason

145.3 Participation in the Local Area Agreement 2005/06 would enable the determination of local funding priorities and would enable a more efficient negotiation, building on both the LPSA2 and the Community Strategy Review process. The East Sussex Strategic Partnership has indicated that it supports, in principle, the Council's application.

146 ROADSIDE SPONSORSHIP POLICY

146.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment

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

(1) to agree the revised policy statement (PS8/6) on roadside sponsorship as set out at appendix B of the report;

(2) to request the Director of Transport and Environment to draft a Code of Practice for roadside sponsorship; and

(3) to agree that the distribution of any net surplus income from roadside sponsorship should be subject to negotiation with the Director of Transport and Environment

Reason

146.3 To agree the revised roadside sponsorship policy which has been reviewed following consultation with partner agencies.

147 NEW FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOLS FOR 2006/07

147.1 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Director of Children's Services and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources.

147.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to approve the draft response to the consultation document and agree its submission to the Department for Education and Skills; and

(2) to note the potential wider implications of the school proposals on the balance of funding of local authorities.

Reason

147.3 The County Council had promoted medium planning in schools for a number of years. The basic principle of the proposals is welcomed although some of the detailed issues promote stability at the expense of local flexibility. These concerns are highlighted in the Council's response.

148 CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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

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

(1) to approve the Carbon Management Action Plan; and

(2) to agree that the Carbon Management Group report annually to the Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee on progress against the Plan and its review.

Reason

148.3 The Carbon Management Action Plan demonstrates how CO² emissions can be reduced and result in significant cost savings.

149 CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST – BUDGET 2005/06

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

149.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve an increase of £15,000 in the annual grant from the Trust Fund to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

Reason

149.3 The increase of £15,000 in annual grant from the Trust Fund will allow scope for one off in year grants to be considered without reducing the year on year balances

150 ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

150.1 The Cabinet agreed that items 5, 7, 8 and 9 should be reported to the County Council.

151 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

151.1 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 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)

152 WRITE-OFF OF DEBTS

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

152.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to authorise the writing off of debts amounting to £17,795.38 in the Council's 2004/05 accounts.

Reason

152.3 There is little prospect of recovering the outstanding debts which have therefore been written off.

[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 140, 142, 143 and 144]