

## CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 December 2005 at 10.00 am at County Hall, Lewes.

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69. PRESENT - Councillor Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors Bentley, Glazier, Lock, Reid, Simmons, Mrs Stroude and B Tidy

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Daniel	-	item 79
Councillor Field	-	item 75
Councillor Howson	-	item 79
Councillor Murphy	-	item 74
Councillor Rogers	-	items 74 and 79
Councillor Shing	-	item 79
Councillor Tutt	-	item 73
Councillor Webb	-	items 73 and 75

## 70 MINUTES

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

## 71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

71.1 Councillor Birch declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 9 as his partner works in a special school

71.2 Councillor Field declared a personal prejudicial interest in item 9 as her husband is a business manager at Frewen College, Northiam, to which the Council sends some of its special educational needs agency placements

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

71.4 Councillor Murphy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 6 as a trustee of the Seaford Community Partnership

## 72. REPORTS

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

## 73 BUDGET MONITORING 2005/06

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

73.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED to note the report and gradually increasing pressures and risks.

Reason

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

74 RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES AND THE COUNCIL PLAN 2006-07

74.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive and all Chief Officers.

74.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED -

(1) to note the report and supporting appendices;

(2) to welcome the comments from Scrutiny Committees and the Music Service Management Committee and the consultation with residents and partners and to ask Lead Members to reflect on those comments in further developing their portfolio service plans;

(3) to note the latest update on the financial position and in particular the fact that the announced grant settlement remains provisional at the current time and further detail is still to emerge;

(4) to note the savings proposals put forward and ask Lead Members to :

a) review achievement against the efficiency targets (including the most appropriate classification of savings);

b) further refine their service plans.

(5) agree the following changes to the initial financial planning guidelines agreed formally by Cabinet in July 2005 and as reflected in Annex A:

a) increase the allocation to Adult Social Care by £3m and note this now equates to a 6.6% cash increase for Adult Social Care before any allocation for increased pensions and energy costs;

b) maintain the target 2% efficiency reduction from standstill for Adult Social Care and Children's Services and revise other service guidelines as follows (with the first 2% coming from efficiency savings):

% Reduction from Standstill

	Original %	Revised %
Highways	3.0	3.5
Libraries	3.0	3.5
Building Maintenance	3.5	4.0
All other	5.0	6.0

c) provide an additional £600,000 for the excess inflation provision (to allow for increased energy costs);

(6) to finance 5 above as follows

a) Reduce the planned pre-existing new risks provision by £1m to £0.5m.

b) phase out the Second Homes Scheme over two years, saving £215,000 or 50% next year, but after retaining the existing contribution, at a cost of £50,000, to the Boroughs and Districts for the extra costs of collecting council tax on second homes.

c) delete the base provision, of £200,000, for special recruitment measures.

d) rephase over 3 years the planned final Waste PFI budget step of £2.5m and note this reduces the total spend profile by £1.6m in 2006/07.

(7) note that work continues on developing the Council's capital programme and Invest to Save initiatives and that this will come back to the Cabinet in January along with any further refinements to the proposed revenue budget guidelines, in the light of the best final information available at that time;

(8) ask portfolio holders, and their respective Chief Officers, to develop further the Council Plan and supporting service plans to reflect the above; and

(9) note that the standstill budget for 2006/07 and the medium term position will be updated and reported to Cabinet on 31 January.

#### Reason

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

#### 75 CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2005

75.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services

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

(1) to note the judgements awarded in the Children's Services Annual Performance Assessment letter and the contribution of the Annual Performance Assessment to the Council's overall Comprehensive Performance Assessment score; and

(2) to note the areas highlighted in the Annual Performance Assessment letter that require attention and to approve the action plan set out at annex 2 to the report.

#### Reason

75.3 Children's Services has been recognised as a service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users and one which has an excellent capacity to improve. The areas identified for development are consistent with the priorities identified in the Annual Self Assessment. The proposed action plan to address these areas has been approved.

#### 76 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FOR EAST SUSSEX

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

76.2 On the motion of Councillor Tidy (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note the progress made regarding the development of the Local Area Agreement for East Sussex

Reason

76.3 To note the update on the development of the Local Area Agreement for East Sussex and the feedback from the East Sussex Strategic Partnership on governance arrangements.

## 77 REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION

77.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services

77.2 On the motion of Councillor Simmons (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED to –

(1) agree to the proposed consultation on changes to the designation and role of St Mary's Special School, Horam; and

(2) note the progress on the four key recommendations of the Special Educational Needs review.

Reason

77.3 The agreed actions are intended to address the objectives of the Special Educational Needs review and to increase the availability of local specialist placements for boys with severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, thereby reducing the need to rely on external placements.

## 78 TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

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

78.2 On the motion of Councillor Lock (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve the following programme for undertaking Transport Accessibility Strategy Local Assessments:

- a Transport Accessibility Strategy Local Assessment for Rye (for inclusion in Local Transport Plan 2, by the end of March 2006):
- Hastings and Rother 2006/07;
- North Wealden Towns (Uckfield, Crowborough, Heathfield [+Lewes] 2007/08;
- Eastbourne and Hailsham 2008/09: and
- Southern Coastal Towns (Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford [+Lewes] 2009/10

Reason

78.3 Local transport accessibility assessments are required to inform the development of transport schemes to address accessibility gaps and the development of the Local Transport Plan 2. A phased programme is required to make efficient use of resources.

## 79 SOUTH EAST PLAN

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

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

(1) to note the outcome of the Council's consultations on future housing provision;

(2) to agree the Sub-Regional Strategy for the Sussex Coast, including the district level distribution of the South East England Regional Assembly's overall housing targets for this area;

(3) to support the designation of Hastings as a Regional Transport Hub; and

(4) to support the identification of the Sussex Coast as a priority Regeneration Area

#### Reason

79.3 The revised Sub-Regional Strategy for the Sussex Coast will help to promote sustainable regeneration and growth throughout Sussex.

#### 80 CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST – BUDGET 2006-07

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

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

(1) approve the annual grant from the Trust Fund for 2006-07;

(2) to recommend to the County Council the annual grant for 2006/07 from the Transport and Environment budget; and

(3) to approve the revised budget for the Conservators.

#### Reason

80.3 In the last two years the Council has been able to achieve savings in the grant to the Conservators due to the flexibility afforded by the Trust Fund while maintaining the overall contribution levels. The additional income to the Trust Fund from the anticipated lease has not however been achieved and therefore it would not be prudent to plan on further increased contributions from the Trust Fund. The Cabinet has approved an annual grant from the Trust Fund at £53,500 for 2006/07 and is recommending a reduced contribution from the Transport and Environment budget at £101,700.

#### 81 ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

81.1 The Cabinet agreed that item 6 should be reported to the County Council.

*[Note: The item being reported to the County Council refers to minute number 74 ]*