

## **Extraordinary Council – 26 June 2008**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **26 June 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J E Grey  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr A J Humphries

Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs L M Cox	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr Mrs J Dillnutt	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr M Maddocks	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr D Merrick	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Aves, Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, J P Cottis, Mrs H L A Glynn, K H Hudson, T Livings, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley, J R F Mason and J Thomass.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
C Watkins	-	Financial Services Manager/Chief Accountant
J Bostock	-	Committee Services Manager

### **215 FORMER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR R E VINGOE**

At the commencement of the meeting Council paid tribute and stood in silence to the memory of former District and Hockley Parish Councillor R E Vingoe who had recently passed away.

### **216 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2013**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on a revised Corporate Plan.

Responding to questions the Chief Executive advised on the value of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in facilitating an understanding of the objectives of the Primary Care Trust. It will be important to work through the LSP (on which the PCT has a seat) to ensure that the Trust is aware of the

Council's priorities and the need for these to be given appropriate weighting in the context of the priorities of neighbouring Councils.

### **Resolved**

That the Council's Corporate Plan for 2008 – 2013, as detailed in the report, be approved. (CE)

## **217 PERFORMANCE PLAN 2008**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Best Value Performance Plan.

It was noted that the Plan would need to be populated with statistics relating to a number of national targets yet to be published.

### **Resolved**

That the Performance Plan 2008 be approved and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to populate the document with statistics associated with new national targets once these are published. (HFAPM)

## **218 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007/08**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management presenting the Financial Statements for 2007/08 for scrutiny and approval. The report was further supported by a detailed presentation at Council from the Financial Services Manager which covered questions that had been raised by Councillors before the meeting.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader that it was significant that the Authority was now debt-free. Responding to questions regarding last year's Accounts process it was noted that, unlike the previous year when there had been a concentration on activities associated with the large scale voluntary transfer of housing, this year the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management had been able to meet regularly with the External Auditors and agree the most suitable approach to the formulation of the Financial Statements. There had also been opportunity for the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management to review the accounts and associated working papers. Internal Auditors had also carried out a quality check on the Financial Statements. There were further questions during which it was noted that:-

- The giving of an environmental warranty by the Council was a condition of the large scale voluntary transfer of housing and had been a risk borne by the Council prior to transfer. The value/length of term associated with the warranty was standard. The Council had been a leader in understanding contaminated land issues and officers had assessed risk as low. Should contamination be identified the Council would enter into discussion with the housing association, one option being to bring back a location into

Council control. The small size of the Council's former housing stock meant that the risk was small. In view of its specialist nature, the cost of insurance policies associated with contaminated land issues could be exorbitant.

- The King George Playing Field Trust Fund was associated with the field in Ashingdon.
- The pension fund is fully reviewed every three years, the next review being due in 2010. Contribution rates are fixed for the next two years, although an interim review is due shortly. The Council's budget provision is kept under regular review and would be revised to match the outcome of reviews. The County Pension Service is in the process of consulting on how assets are valued, with the outcome due to be available in 2011. Councillor C G Seagers would be provided with detailed information on how the County Pensions Service calculates current liabilities and how it plans to calculate liabilities in the future. Arrangements will be made for Councillor Seagers to receive invites to Essex County Council Actuary Forums.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Financial Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (2) That the accounts be agreed for submission to the external auditors.
- (3) That the movement on Earmarked Reserves be agreed.
- (4) That authority for approving changes to the Accounts be delegated to the Audit Committee.
- (5) That the recommendation to calculate the Minimum Reserve Provision for 2007/08 on the regulatory method be approved.
- (6) That the recommendation to calculate the Minimum Reserve Provision for 2008/09 on asset life be approved. (HFAPM)

### **219 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT – BACKWARD LOOK 2007/08**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the Annual Efficiency Statement – Backward Look 2007/08. Responding to questions, the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management advised that the Cambridgeshire Extranet Service allowed access to CIPFA material that would be notably more costly if purchased.

### **Resolved**

That the Annual Efficiency Statement – Backward Look 2007/08 be agreed. (HFAPM)

### **220 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the current Capital Programme following closure of accounts for 2007/08.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader that it was pleasing that additional grant had been received for private sector renewal and disabled facilities.

#### **Resolved**

That the revised Capital Programme for 2008/09, as detailed in the report, be agreed. (HFAPM)

### **221 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on Treasury Management for the year 2007/08 and noted the improved value for money achieved from the Treasury Management arrangements.

#### **Resolved**

That the report be accepted. (HFAPM)

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **Resolved**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

### **222 CONTINUATION OF TERM OF OFFICE**

(Note: The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent due to timescale)

Council considered the exempt report of the Head of Information and Customer Services on the granting of approval to the continuation of a term of office.

It was noted that the Member identified in the report had been able to continue working with constituents.

#### **Resolved**

That the term of office of the Member identified in the exempt report be extended until the ordinary meeting of the Council on 28 October 2008 or until they are able to resume attendance at meetings if this is sooner. (HICS)

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The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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