

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 July 2008 at County Hall, Lewes.

12. PRESENT - Councillor Jones (Chairman)
Councillors Bentley, Elkin, Glazier, Kirby, Lock, Reid and
Mrs Stroude

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Barnes	-	items 21 and 22
Councillor Birch	-	item 20
Councillor Daniel	-	items 23 and 24
Councillor Field	-	items 20, 21 and 22
Councillor Freeman	-	item 23
Councillor Harris	-	items 21 and 24
Councillor Scott	-	items 20 and 21
Councillor Simmons	-	item 20
Councillor Tunwell	-	item 22
Councillor Tutt	-	items 17, 18, 19 and 24
Councillor Mrs Waite	-	item 20
Councillor Webb	-	item 22
Councillor Whetstone	-	item 20

Also present – Richard Bint (PFK) and Sandra Prail (Audit Commission) – for item 5 (minute number 17)

13 MINUTES

13.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2008 as a correct record.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.1 Councillor Barnes declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 9 as his wife was a governor of Hurst Green Primary School and in item 10 as the Chairman of the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust

14.2 Councillor Freeman declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 9 as a governor of Cradle Hill Primary School, Seaford

14.3 Councillor Harris declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 8 as an employee of British Telecom.

14.4 Councillor Tutt declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 9 as his daughter attended a Junior School in Eastbourne

14.5 Councillor Wilson declared a personal prejudicial interest in item 8 as a governor of The Grove Secondary School, Hastings. Councillor Wilson left the meeting room while this item was considered

15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

15.1 Councillor Tidy

16 REPORTS

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

17 EXTERNAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2008/09

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

17.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve the External Audit and Inspection Plan for 2008/09

Reason

17.3 To agree the Audit and Inspection Plan.

18 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND OPINION 2007/08

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

18.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note the internal audit service's opinion on the Council's control environment.

Reason

18.3 To note the Internal Audit Service opinion on the adequacy of the Council's control environment as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

19 INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY AND PLAN 2008/09

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

19.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to endorse the Council's Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2008/09

Reason

19.3 To approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan which sets out how the Council will meet its statutory requirements for internal audit.

20 HASTINGS SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

20.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to agree to the County Council moving to the next stage of exploring the possibility of two academies in Hastings by preparing an Expression of Interest for submission to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families; and to do so as a co-sponsor with the University of Brighton (as the lead sponsor) and British Telecom (as co-sponsor).

Reason

20.3 Moving to the next stage does not commit the County Council nor the sponsors to the establishment of academies in Hastings. It provides the opportunity to explore

the issues in more detail and to test out proposals in a detailed feasibility study (including public consultation) before a final decision is taken. This provides the basis for considering a clear long-term strategy for sustainable improvement for the mixed sex schools in Hastings.

21 PRIMARY STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

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

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

(1) approve the Primary Strategy for Change;

(2) agree to the proposed alignment of Children's Services budgets as reflected in the Children's Services department's medium term financial plan; and

(3) agree to delegate the decisions on the finalised list of schools for the first four years of the programme, following notification from the Department of Children, Schools and Families, to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness and the Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services.

Reason

21.3 To approve the Primary Strategy for Change to enable a significant number of schools to benefit from the Primary Capital Programme.

22 DIRECTLY PROVIDED SERVICES REVIEW OF LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES

22.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Adult Social Care together with comments from the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care on the proposals set out in the report.

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

(1) agree to explore with current service users, the option of utilising Individual Budgets to exercise choice over how and where their care and support needs are met;

(2) agree to the retention of the six day centres and the phased implementation of a new service model for day opportunities on a locality basis in Hastings and Rother, Eastbourne and South Wealden, Lewes District and North Wealden by ensuring access to the following services in each locality:

a) vocational opportunities to provide employment training;

b) an employment service developing and supporting a range of work and voluntary placements in the community;

c) an independence skills development service providing individual programmes aimed at developing greater independence and supporting social inclusion, community integration and participation;

d) a short term service to support adults with a mild learning disability access employment and independent living; and

e) a specialist support service for individuals with complex needs and/or challenging behaviour providing skills development and appropriate day respite provision that supports family carers;

(3) agree to establish an employment support service to maintain and increase the number and range of work placements for adults with a learning disability within the County Council; and

(4) agree to review the needs of those service users who are living in funded residential care costing more than £700 per week and access day services to ensure best value and the appropriateness of the new service.

Reason

22.3 The guidance set out in “Putting People First” states that service users should be given as much choice and control over their care as possible. To facilitate service users will be offered an Individual Budget to enable them to consider alternatives to directly provided day services. If a significant number of service users decide to purchase an alternative service then further consideration of the services commissioned may be required. In line with the Joint Commissioning strategy, the development of a new service model with a focus on developing employment and vocational opportunities, skills development and social integration, in addition to providing specialist support services and appropriate day respite services for individuals with complex needs or challenging behaviour. This model should be available in each locality, and will need to be developed over time, after consideration of the specific suitability of the current buildings, alongside the development of other community based services and with regard to the potential impact of Putting People First. As one of the largest employers in the County and, in line with national policy, the County Council has the opportunity to set a positive example in respect of the employment of disabled people. It has been agreed that a service is created to develop and support employment opportunities for people with a learning disability within the Council. Employment opportunities for disabled people could also potentially be enhanced by the establishment of a Social Enterprise. Further research into the feasibility of developing a Social Enterprise does however need to be undertaken and a business case developed to determine whether this is a viable option. The Review team identified a number of day service users were also being funded in residential care, in some cases at considerable cost. It has been agreed that service users who fall into this category have their needs reviewed.

23 DROPPED KERBS

23.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the review of dropped kerbs, and a report by the Director of Transport and Environment with observations on the Scrutiny Committee’s report.

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

(1) note and welcome the report of the Scrutiny Committee; and

(2) recommend the County Council to welcome the recommendations as set out in the Scrutiny Committee’s report and to agree the response of the Director of Transport and Environment to the recommendations and their implementation.

Reason

23.3 The Scrutiny Review has provided a useful insight into the current arrangements and demand for the provision of dropped kerbs.

24 COUNCIL PLAN 2007/08 MONITORING

24.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive.

24.2 On the motion of Councillor Jones (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to

(1) note the achievements and performance against the Council Plan targets (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report);

(2) note the unachieved performance measures scored red at the end of the year (as set out in Appendix 2);

(3) agree to extend the monitoring period to the end of quarter one 2008/09 for the performance measures set out in Appendix 3; and

(4) note the performance of the Local Area Agreement stretch targets for which the Council is the lead partner (as set out in Appendix 4)

Reason

24.3 To note the performance in 2008/09

25 CORPORATE SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS POLICY

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

25.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to approve the Corporate Sustainable Buildings Policy

Reason

25.3 By adopting the Sustainable Buildings Policy the Council will be furthering specific policy steers in this area and be mitigating the effects of, and adapting to, climate change.

26 CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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

26.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note the progress made since the adoption of the Carbon Management Action Plan

Reason

26.3 The Carbon Management Action Plan has exceeded the overall target ahead of programme and has proved valuable in attracting external funding.

27 ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST

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

27.2 On the motion of Councillor Reid (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note and the Trust's Income and Expenditure Account for 2007/08 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008.

Reason

27.3 To note the final accounts for the Trust for 2007/08

28 EASTBOURNE PARKING (RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION)

28.1 Councillor Jones left the meeting room prior to consideration of this item because he might be regarded as having a predetermined view about this issue and Councillor Reid took the Chair.

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

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

(1) approve the publication of draft Orders for the purposes of the statutory consultation;

(2) delegate to the Director of Transport and Environment authority to decide whether or not to make the necessary Orders having considered the results of the consultation, and any recommendations made by the Planning Committee; and

(3) delegate to the Director of Transport and Environment, in the event of any Orders being made under recommendation 2 above and Civil Parking powers be granted, authority to approve the publication of such draft Orders as necessary to ensure that any Orders made under recommendation 2 above are compliant with the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Reason

28.4 For the reasons set out in the report and appendices the Cabinet agreed that draft Orders should be advertised. In the absence of a decision about the Council's application for Civil Parking Enforcement powers these Orders should be drafted to permit enforcement under powers contained in the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act. Any Orders which were then made would be amended if Civil Parking Enforcement Powers were granted.

29 ITEMS TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

29.1 The Cabinet agreed that items 5, 8, 11, 12 and 15 should be reported to the County Council.

[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 17, 20, 23, 24 and 27]