

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Growth Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Michelle Diprose  
Ext: 25566

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## **GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY CABINET PANEL WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2019**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PANEL**

D A Ashley (Chairman), S Boulton, S K Jarvis, A K Khan, P Mason, G McAndrew, A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), S Taylor, A S B Walkington, M A Watkin (*substitute for S Bedford*), J A West,

#### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy meeting on 6 February 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: S Taylor and A Stevenson declared an interest as recorded at minute 3.

*A number of conflict of interests were declared in relation to the Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 and are recorded at 4.1 below.*

### **PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS**

#### **1. MINUTES**

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & The Economy Cabinet Panel meeting held on 14 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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**2 PUBLIC PETITIONS**

2.1 No notices of petitions have been received

**3. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) UPDATE**

Officer Contact: Neil Hayes, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Partnership

3.1 S Taylor and A Stevenson declared an interest as they were both Board Members on the Hertfordshire LEP

3.2 The Panel received a presentation from the LEP providing an update on the Local Industrial Strategy. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). Members noted the Strategy was currently out for consultation.

3.3 Members heard that the loss of fifty percent of office space to residential was possibly due to technical commercial space not being occupied for a number of years. Members noted high-growth firms were lower in Hertfordshire than where it should be. Members were informed small micro companies in Hertfordshire had grown.

3.4 It was noted the LEP were doing some innovation work on protected status to attract companies to Hertfordshire.

3.5 Members noted the natural fact that London assumed the market of high value jobs and this had an impact on some areas of Hertfordshire. Members were also informed that county-wide job growth had been strong.

**CONCLUSION:**

3.6 Members noted the presentation from LEP

**4 INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 - 2022/23 GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY**

Officer Contact: Faisal Mir, Assistant Director Finance and Business Support, Environment and Infrastructure

4.1 All Members who have a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they have been appointed by the County Council, have received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated

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Plan.

All Members have been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land.

#### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

D A Ashley – 1) as he receives an allowance from the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and 2) as he is Chairman of Hitchin Educational Foundation, a charity which derives part of its income from leasing a property to the County Council; and he is a Board member of Groundwork which derives part of its income from the County Council.

M A Watkin – by virtue of his wife being employed as a part-time teacher in the music service in Hertfordshire. He had been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to participate, debate and vote in business in which this Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is mentioned provided that the business to be considered did not directly affect his financial position or that of his wife; which he considered it did not.

#### Declarable Interest

S Boulton as he is a Member of Welwyn Hatfield Council

- 4.2 The Panel received a report highlighting the areas of the Integrated Plan which related to Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & The Economy in order for Panel to consider these and provide comment on.
- 4.3 Members were informed of the proposed changes to the budgets which included funding for a new Growth & Infrastructure team, charging for planning advisory work and a £5 increase to the price of the Savercard. The Savercard charge was originally deferred from the proposed IP savings in 2018/19 until 2019/20. It was noted the proposed increase to the Savercard would bring income for the County Council of £30k in 2019/20 and £60k thereafter.
- 4.4 Some Members believed that given the ambition for modal-shift, the Savercard should be free of charge or the proposed increase of £5 should be deferred as the income would be relatively small to the county council. It was noted the travel card in London was free to young people and pensioners. Some Members also believed that the County Council should be looking at subsidies to

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bus companies and encouraging the use of bus services. It was also noted that the price of the Savercard had not been increased for a number of years and that charges the Council makes should generally keep pace with inflation and the even after any increase the Savercard offer was still very strong.

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- 4.5 Following discussion a motion was proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group to defer the increase of £5 to the Savercard. Following a vote by a show of hands seven Members voted in favour of the increase and five Members voted against the increase. Therefore the vote was lost.
- 4.6 Following further discussion a motion was raised by the Labour Group to make the Savercard free of charge. Following a vote by show of hands five Members voted in favour of no charge to the Savercard and seven Members voted against no charge. Therefore the vote was lost.
- 4.7 The Chairman invited Members to a vote on the agreement of the budget proposals. Following a vote by a show of hands seven Members voted in favour of the budget proposals and five Members abstained.

### **CONCLUSION**

- 4.8 The Panel commented and supported the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy and identified any issues that it feels that Cabinet should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals.

## **5. REVIEW OF HERTFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – FINAL STRATEGY**

Officer Contact: John Rumble, Head of Environmental Resource Planning, Tel: (01992) 556296, Andy Hardstaff, Flood Risk Management Team Leader, Tel (01992) 556470

- 5.1 The Panel received a report advising of the results of the consultation on the draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Hertfordshire and to seek the Panel's endorsement of the final LFRMS for Hertfordshire prior to it being passed to Cabinet for final adoption.
- 5.2 Members agreed that the report was very detailed and following a request for a helpful easy guide for residents on the County Councils responsibility to flooding, Members were informed all information relating to the flooding was on the County Council's website and can be found [here](#). Officers agreed to review the

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website to ensure Members and residents could find the information more easily.

- 5.3 In relation to Section 19's Members were informed it was a legal requirement for these to be published on the Council's website.
- 5.4 In response to a Member query it was noted the Local Flood Authority could hold to account relevant authorities such as the Environment Agency, the Highways Authority, Thames Water and the County Council.
- 5.5 In response to a Member question, it was noted that contributions could be made to the 'small works pot' from Members Highways Locality Budget.
- 5.6 Following discussions it was noted that several Members had difficulty in contacting various authorities i.e. Thames Water, officers requested that Members let them know of such issues and they would assist in getting the relevant information from the authorities.
- 5.7 There were further queries in relation to the maps which detailed water flooding areas. Members were invited to contact officers if they needed any clarification on the maps. Members were also informed the maps were created for web based access and would be available on the Council's website at a greater resolution which will aid clarity to viewing the maps.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 5.8 That the Panel recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet adopts the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

**6. REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE FUNDED PROJECTS – PROPERTY LEVEL RESILIENCE PILOT STUDY**

Officer Contact: Ryan Thomas, Schemes and Partnerships Officer, Tel: (01992) 556549

- 6.1 The Panel received a report giving an update of the successful outcome of a recent bid to the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for funding towards a Pilot Property Level Resilience Scheme within the Thames RFCC area in Hertfordshire. The report also advised the Cabinet Panel of the proposal to implement the resulting Pilot Property Level Resilience (PLR) Scheme on a county-wide basis which used existing resources allocated for flood risk management work by

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the County Council.

- 6.2 Members were informed that the County Council had been allocated £128k of funding to support up to 30 properties to receive flood resistance measures, the allocation equated to £4,200 per property. It was noted that any other costs would be met by the councils existing flood risk management budget.
- 6.3 Members were pleased to hear of the work being undertaken to assist with potential flooding issues and welcomed the pilot study.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 6.4 That the Cabinet Panel noted the report.

**7. HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING PROSPECTUS**

Officer Contact: Lewis Claridge, Principal Planning Officer, Strategic Planning, Spatial Planning Unit, Tel: (01992) 556447

- 7.1 The Panel received a report in relation to the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Funding Prospectus (HIFP). This report summarised the main findings of the Prospectus and outlined the potential next stages for this area of work. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- 7.2 Members heard the prospectus was owned by all ten local authorities within Hertfordshire. It was noted the prospectus informed officers to understand all the information of the local authorities' contributions and the infrastructure provisions and demands across borders.
- 7.3 Members welcomed the prospectus and agreed it was a useful 'tool'. Members also believed it was good for residents if the infrastructure needs were being met alongside the growth of building developments.
- 7.4 In relation to business rate retention Members questioned if the fifty percent that the Council received back from central Government could be used as a way to capture lost money and land value. Members were informed the £2.3m had been received via the Enterprise Zone for growth.
- 7.5 Following a discussion In relation to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the Executive Member agreed he would be happy to work with South West Authority to see how it was working.

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**Conclusion**

7.6 That the Cabinet Panel noted the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Funding Prospectus and commented on the potential next steps as detailed in the Executive Summary, attached as Appendix 2 and paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the report.

**8.. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

8.1 There was no other Part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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