

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on Thursday 27 November 2014 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, CREDITON.

Present

Councillors: C J Eginton (Leader),
R J Chesterton, N V Davey, P H D Hare-
Scott, Mrs B M Hull, C R Slade and R L
Stanley

Also Present

Councillors: M D Binks, D R Coren, J M Downes, Mrs M E
Squires, K D Wilson and R Wright

Also Present

Officers: K Finan (Chief Executive), A Jarrett (Head of
Finance), J Guscott (Head of Planning and
Regeneration), D Titchener (Principal
Forward Planning Officer) and S Gabriel
(Principal Member Services Officer).

Member	Minute No	Type of Interest
C J Eginton	71	Personal
P H D Hare-Scott	71	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

67 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00-01-38)**

Mr Coryton (Chair of Governors, Q E School) referring to item 6 on the agenda (Local Plan Review) asked: Is the Cabinet aware that the playing field at Forches Cross, also known as the Stonewall Lane site, which is operated by Queen Elizabeth's Academy (QE) and the ownership of the freehold of which is being transferred to QE, forms the central and critical part of a major redevelopment plan by QE for a substantial investment in sporting facilities at its Barnfield campus, that will include an increase in playing field capacity there, an all-weather pitch and Olympic standard track and field facilities, new tennis courts and gym facilities that will be for community use as well as for current students. This major enhancement of community and school sporting facilities will only be possible with funding from the disposal of the Forches Cross/Stonewall Lane site, which QE no longer uses, which is listed as an alternative site for housing development in the existing local plan. Is the Cabinet aware of the informal discussions that have taken place between the school and officers. Is the Cabinet aware of the considerable public good that will result from QE's plans and the considerable public harm that will result in excluding the Forches Cross/Stonewall Lane site from consideration for housing development? Is the Cabinet prepared to receive representations from QE on this matter and consider an alteration to the Mid Devon Local Plan to allow housing

development on Forches Cross/Stonewall Lane during the consultation process that will follow this meeting of the Cabinet?

The Chairman stated that these issues would be addressed when the item was discussed.

Mr Wood (Chief Officer at INVOLVE) referring to Item 4(a) (Grants) on the agenda stated that we have been key partners of MDDC for more than a decade and approve of the reduction of 5% in our funding rather than the proposed 33%. The group offered a huge range of services and the demand in our services has increased dramatically. Over the last 2 years INVOLVE has reduced its staff by 40% and our establishment costs by 60%. The MDDC Corporate Plan has 4 parts, one of which is empowering the community and one of the key challenges is to work with voluntary community groups in the district and help them with advice and training. Will the Council consider incorporating the achievements of the partners it funds such as ourselves when it reports performance against its corporate aims which other councils do as we produce significant results against that specific corporate target.

68 **MINUTES (00-09-01)**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

69 **MATTERS REFERRED BY NON-EXECUTIVE BODIES OF THE COUNCIL (00-09-34)**

a) Community Well-Being Policy Development Group - 13 November 2014

Arising from a report of the Grant and Funding Officer seeking Member approval for the level of grant funding to external organisations for 2015/16, the PDG had recommended that subject to changes indicated, and the use of the Seed Fund to finance those changes

a) Members endorse the 2015/16 levels of grant funding for external and charitable organisations as set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to the following amendments:

i) A reduction of £2500.00 be made to the grant payable to the Citizens Advice Bureau, making their grant payment for 2015-16 £47,500.00.

ii) The grant payable to the Tiverton and District Community Transport and Crediton and District Community Transport be cut by 5%.

iii). The grant payable to INVOLVE be cut by 5%.

b) Members approve the 2015/16 budget allocation to the Seed Fund as amended.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: *Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

b) Managing the Environment Policy Development Group - 13 November 2014

Arising from a report of the Head of Finance regarding the budget, the PDG had recommended that: the Cabinet consider the draft budget proposals for 2015/16 and start to plan for additional savings as identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan; and that Officers look at the current level of play area provision within the District and ascertain if surplus play areas could be omitted from any maintenance programme for 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be **NOTED**.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: *Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

c) Managing the Environment Policy Development Group - 13 November 2014

Arising from a report of the Head of Finance regarding revised recommendations on the refuse and recycling collection scheme commencing in October 2015, the PDG had recommended that the following two changes to previous recommendations be approved that of: the collection of food waste in a new kerbside caddy weekly and the continuation of collecting residual waste from sacks.

RECOMMENDED to the Council that the recommendations for the collection of food waste in a new kerbside caddy weekly and the continuation of collecting residual waste from sacks be approved.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: *Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

70 **MOTION 498 (COUNCILLOR MRS N WOOLLATT – 15 OCTOBER 2014) (00.27.01)**

The Council considered the following Motion referred by Council:

That this Council:

1. notes that, during the recent public consultation on the Cullompton North West Urban Extension Masterplan, it did not directly advise all residents in the immediate vicinity of the development area of the consultation.
2. recognises that there is a public expectation from residents that they should be informed directly about consultations relating to

major development and master planning exercises in their immediate vicinity.

3. resolves to amend the adopted Statement of Community Involvement to ensure that in future communications advising of consultation exercises are targeted at all residents in the immediate vicinity who are likely to be affected when the council consults on major developments and master planning exercises.

The Chairman read a representation from Cllr Mrs Woollatt with regard to her Motion which outlined the proposed amendment she wished to make to paragraph 3 of her original motion:

“3. resolves that in the case of site specific Supplementary Planning Documents and pre-application consultation on strategic scale developments to amend the adopted Statement of Community Involvement policies SCI/13, 14 and 15 to ensure that in future communications advising of consultation exercises include immediately adjoining residents who are likely to be affected”.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration explained that an amendment to the Statement of Community Involvement had to follow a process which would involve public consultation and a possible inquiry and that none of this would be possible before the next stage of the consultation process for the North West Cullompton Urban Extension Master Plan.

It was therefore

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to reject the Motion.

FURTHER RESOLVED that

- a) a review of the Statement of Community Involvement take place after the completion of the Local Plan Review; and
- b) consultation take place with adjoining residents on the next consultation stage for the Cullompton NW Urban Extension Master Plan and for the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension Master Plan for Area B.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

71 **MID DEVON LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2013-2033 – PROPOSED SUBMISSION POLICIES FOR THE CREDITON AND WEST AREA (00-26-22)**

The Cabinet had before it a report * of the Head of Planning and Regeneration requesting the Cabinet to consider the Local Plan review proposed submission policies relating to Crediton and the western part of the district and recommend to Council that this part of the Local Plan be approved for formal public consultation and submission.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration in answer to Mr Coryton's question in public question time stated that the Cabinet would consider his proposals with regard to the inclusion of the Stonewell Lane site within the Local Plan Review.

He then outlined the contents of the report by outlining the history of the current adopted plan and the reasons for the review. He stated that the approval process required consideration at three cabinet meetings to be held in Crediton, Tiverton and Cullompton with each meeting discussing strategic policy and allocations for the specific areas. Recommendations would then be made to Full Council on 17 December 2014. Following approval of Council an 8 week consultation process would then take place and the document would then be submitted to the Secretary of State to be considered by an Independent Planning Inspector at examination. Representations received on the submission document would be sent to the Inspector alongside the Local Plan, the Community Infrastructure Levy and supporting documentation. The Local Plan Review proposed an overall level of development for the 20 year period from 2013-2033 and allocations for specific sites to meet this requirement. Commercial development, employment land and a strategic housing assessment would all form part of the review. For the Crediton area the target equated to 10% of the overall housing need for Mid Devon up to 2033.

Members then walked through the report and initially highlighted the **Stonewell Lane site** which had been raised earlier in the meeting. Discussion took place regarding:

- the narrow access to the site;
- the impact of developing the site;
- the need for the sale of the land to finance further development for QE School;
- The number of dwellings proposed in the draft policy in the Local Plan Options Consultation and the need to lower the number of dwellings to mitigate the visual impact;
- The need to identify an alternative provision for playing fields if the site was brought forward;
- Issues with regard to highways infrastructure if the allocation on the Pedlerspool site was also supported;

RECOMMENDED that the Stonewell Lane site be incorporated into the Plan and that Officers be requested to bring forward policy conditions to the Full Council meeting on 17 December 2014.

(Proposed by Cllr R J Chesterton and seconded by Cllr P H D Hare-Scott)

Consideration was then given to allocations within the village of Morchard Bishop and in particular an area of proposed Local Green Space at **Gurneys**. Cllr Mrs M E Squires read a letter from the landowner which highlighted issues with regard to lack of consultation and that the field had no recreational significance and that it was adjacent to existing housing development.

It was therefore:

RECOMMENDED that the proposed Local Green Space at “Gurneys” be removed from the plan”

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: Cllr C J Eginton declared a personal interest as he knew the landowner and was a former Morchard Bishop Parish Councillor.

Consideration was given to the Crediton Town Policies with discussion taking place and amendments suggested for the following:

Crediton Policy S12

It was suggested that the wording within the policy be amended:

RECOMMENDED that the words “quantity and” be added to paragraph (a) after “improve the” and before “quality” and that “facilities” be added to paragraph (d) after “tourism” and before “and visitor role”.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

CRE 1 – Wellparks

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration informed the meeting that this was a previously allocated site and that a current planning application was being considered.

CRE 2 – Red Hill Cross

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration informed the meeting that this was a previously allocated site which had planning permission but had not yet stated construction. Discussion regarding the affordable housing target took place and it was **AGREED** that the Head of Planning and Regeneration ensure the policy text included the affordable housing target specified in the current planning permission.

CRE 5 - Pedlerspool

Discussion took place regarding concerns of the Town Council with regard to infrastructure for this and other sites to the north of the town. Devon County Council (Highway Authority) had made no representation with regard to possible infrastructure problems; however it was **AGREED** that the Head of Planning and Regeneration make contact with the Highways Authority and seek clarification with regard to infrastructure issues if the land at Pedlerspool and Stonehill Lane were put forward.

CRE 10 – Crediton Infrastructure

Further discussion took place with regard to proposed development at Pedlerspool and Stonehill Lane, it was

RECOMMENDED that an additional item be inserted into the list “(i) Potential Highway Improvements”.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Cheriton Fitzpaine

Discussion took place regarding the proposed allocations within the village:

RECOMMENDED that the proposed Local Green Space at the Glebe be removed from the plan”

(Proposed by Cllr R L Stanley and seconded by Cllr Mrs B M Hull)

Having considered the policies for the whole of the Crediton and the western villages, it was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- a) the policies and proposals for Crediton and the western villages contained within appendices 2 and 3 of the report be approved as amended for publication and submission;
- b) Delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration to make minor changes to the text and maps, such amendments to be published on the website and Members advised.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

- Note:
- (i) Cllr C J Eginton declared personal interests with regard to proposals for Chawleigh and Lapford as he was the Ward Member
 - (ii) Cllr P H D Hare-Scott declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Policies CRE – 2,3,5 and 6 as he owned a property in Cromwell’s Meadow and left the meeting during the discussion thereon;
 - (iii) * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

72 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK FOR THE FIRST TWO QUARTERS OF 2014/15 (02-25-46)**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a report * of Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2014/15 as well as providing an update on any key business risks.

Cabinet Members identified the risks within their services and commented on performance indicators that were below target.

Note * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

73 **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS TO 31 OCTOBER 2014 (02-28-02)**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a report * of the Head of Finance presenting a financial update in respect of the income and expenditure so far in the year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report, he hoped that continued savings could be made to set a balanced budget in February 2015.

Cabinet Members reported on their individual services.

The issue of car parking charges was raised and the Cabinet Member for the Environment informed all those present that the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group had resolved to form a working group to consider car parking issues to include the condition of all car parks and the charging strategy.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

74 **BUDGET (02-42-14)**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a report * of the Head of Finance putting forward options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2015/16 and to agree a future strategy for further budget reductions for 2016/17 onwards.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report explained that at this stage the budget for 2015-16 was draft due to a number of unknowns, however the initial aggregation of all service budgets (which also included assumptions surrounding predictions of all interest receipts, contributions to the capital programme, transfers from/to reserves and Council Tax levels) currently indicated a General Fund Budget gap of £650k.

The Head of Finance explained that the Formula Grant would not be known until late in December, along with the referendum limit and the Council Tax Freeze Grant. Senior Officers had looked at where savings could be made and these had been factored into the budget. He further explained that Leisure Services were not achieving predicted savings and that he had not yet estimated savings for the new Waste and Recycling scheme.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

75 **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16 (02-46-43)**

The Cabinet had before it a report of the Benefits Manager and Revenues Manager requesting that the Cabinet consider the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report stating that Council Tax Reduction was a local scheme for working age customers. Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992,

required the Council to approve a council tax reduction scheme by 31 January each year. No changes were being proposed from the existing scheme.

Members considered how the scheme had settled in and it was reported there had been little disruption for the Council and the claimants which had not created any additional administrative costs and involved no additional risk.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working ages customers be approved for 2015/16;
- b) The Council's revised Council Tax Reduction, Section 13A Policy outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

76 **NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS (02-49-42)**

The Cabinet had before it, and **NOTED**, its rolling plan * for December 2014 containing future key decisions.

Note: * Plan previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

(The meeting ended at 1.30pm)

CHAIRMAN