



## SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2016 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY  
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

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## AGENDA

**COPIES OF THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND  
BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

### **1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 February 2016. **Paper A**

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

### **4 PRESENTATION - FLEET PHOENIX**

### **5 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

To receive any questions from members of the public submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 12 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than **Noon on Tuesday, 29 March 2016.***

### **6 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

To receive any questions from Members submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.3 must be given to the **Chief Executive not later than 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 29 March 2016.**

The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the **Chief Executive before 10.00 am on Thursday, 31 March 2016.**

**7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

**10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, are submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, Members are allowed to put questions at Council without Notice in respect of any matters in the Minutes to the Leader of the Council or any Chairman of the relevant meeting at the time those Minutes are received by Council.

Meeting	Date	Page Numbers	For Decision
Overview & Scrutiny	16 February 2016	25-28	
Overview & Scrutiny	15 March 2016	29-32	
Licensing	1 March 2016	8-10	<b>21 - Stage 1 Statement Of Principles Under The Gambling Act 2005 For Adoption</b>
Staffing	1 March 2016	7-8	<b>24 - Consideration Of Leisure Centre Membership By Staff</b>
Staffing	17 March 2016	9-10	
Cabinet	3 March 2016	39-42	
Planning	9 March 2016	140-156	<b>15/02782/FUL</b> - Little Rye Farm, Rye Common, Odiham, Hook – Departure from the Local Plan – Only If Requested.  <b>15/02766/FUL</b> - St. Neots Preparatory School Ltd, St. Neots Road, Eversley – Departure from the Local Plan – Only If Requested. *

*\* Note: These applications do not accord with the Local Plan or approved policy of the Council. They represent a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan because the sites are located in the open countryside outside of any defined settlement boundary. There are no policies in the Local Plan that support the proposals and consequently each is contrary to Saved Policy RUR2. The Planning Committee considered that although a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan and approved policy, there was no overall harm to the open countryside and that the proposals comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement.*

**Date of Despatch: 22 March 2016**

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 25 February 2016 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

**Present:**

## **COUNCILLORS –**

Oliver - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Makepeace-Browne
Axam	Dickens	Morris
Bailey	Forster S	Neighbour
Billings	Gray	Parker
Blewett	Gorys	Radley JE
Burchfield	Harward	Radley JR
Clarke	Kennett	Renshaw
Cockarill	Kinnell	Southern
Collett	Leeson	Wheale
Crampton	Lewis	Woods
Crisp		

Officers Present:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Tony Higgins	Head of Finance
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

### **85 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillor James Radley confirmed he had not attended the meeting.

With this amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 January 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **86 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Butler.

### **87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

### **88 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

Questions had been received from Mr David Turver, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

## 89 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions received.

## 90 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Chairman** attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

26 February Yateley United FC Chairman's Dinner at Casa Hotel, Yateley

The **Vice Chairman** attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

1 February Handover of both leisure centres from HDC to Everyone Active at Hart Leisure Centre

11 February Mayor of Test Valley, Young Musician of the Year, St Mary's Church, Andover

23 February Safer North Hampshire Awards Ceremony, the Ark Conference Centre, Basingstoke

The Chairman reminded members that the Chairman's Community Volunteer Event was scheduled for Tuesday, 22 March at 7pm at the Harlington Centre. To ensure a broad range from across the district, he asked members to consider if they would like to propose any voluntary groups for awards, and to give the details to Caroline Winchurch at Hart Voluntary Action. After a query the Chairman confirmed that the proposed did not have to be a registered charity, volunteers could be just individuals or informal groups.

## 91 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced

Firstly, one I missed last month.

In December, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the draft Local Government Settlement for consultation. This document proposed a four year settlement which reduced Revenue Support Grant (RSG) by half for the forthcoming year, to small change in 2017/18, and negative for the next two years – that is, we pay them. Some sister authorities were to go negative in 2017/18. All districts could – indeed were encouraged to – levy a Council Tax increase on up to 2% but the lowest quartile Band D councils were able to charge an increase of £5 at Band D; this means that wealthy Basingstoke could charge a £5 increase but strapped Hart could not. There was a lot of concern among leaders of Districts, and I voiced that concern with the District Councils Network (DCN) and South East England Councils, on whose executive committees I sit, and the Local Government Association (LGA), on whose Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board I sit as a substitute member. There was a lot of lobbying over December resulting in me joining a delegation from DCN to Mr. Greg Clarke, the Secretary of State on 4<sup>th</sup> January. We asked for four things; transitional funding for the drop in RSG, the abandonment of the concept of negative grant until the reset of National Non-Domestic Rates (NDR), the availability of the £5 council tax increase equally to all

councils and local setting of charges currently dictated by Government such as planning fees. What we have got is transitional funding for the drop in RSG amounting to about £108k for the next two years, the abandonment of the concept of negative grant until 2018/19, the availability of the £5 council tax increase equally to all councils and a consultation on local setting of charges currently dictated by Government such as planning fees. I have to say that we have achieved way more than I thought we would which allows us choices in the budget we are discussing later which we would otherwise not have had. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the umbrella bodies who have enabled this to happen. Meanwhile, the mood music coming out of the LGA and others is that the NNDR reset is being brought forward to 2019/20. The next challenge is New Homes Bonus, on which there is a current consultation to which we will be responding.

Devolution; At the end of March, the Hampshire authorities were joined by James Wharton MP, a DCLG minister responsible for devolution. During his comments he made it clear that if Hampshire opted for a directly elected Metro Mayor, even if constrained in his powers, he would personally push the Hampshire devolution deal through for the March budget. The second option for fast track devolution would be for unitarisation. If we continued to press for any other governance option, there would be no deal this year. It was and is my view that we should have indicated a Metro Mayor as a possibility to see whether the deal on offer would be sufficiently beneficial to make it worth doing. The majority of sister authorities in Hampshire felt that a Metro Mayor, even constrained, is a red line. The Leader of Hampshire County Council is seeing ministers to convey that view seeking a way forward.

Finally, with Mr. Phillips I met two senior executives from the Berkeley Group. They raised the site at Grove Farm. We advised that we are in the process of a public consultation at the end of which we will formulate our draft local plan. Until then, our stance on this and other sites will not change.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, reported

It was announced today that 7 district councils (Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, Oxford City, Cherwell, West Oxon, Cotswolds and South Northants) are proposing a devolution deal to government which includes the abolition of Oxfordshire County Council and the creation of new Local Unitary Councils.

Given the close working relationship over the corporate services contract with Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire, they informed me a few days ago to reassure us that it will have no negative impact on our forthcoming contract. If anything, they figure that there is the potential (in the medium-term) to hugely increase the volume of work we put through the contract with knock on benefits to all of us.

I will keep Council informed as things progress in this matter.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, announced:

You may be knocking on doors over the next few months. Imagine calling on one of your residents who appears a little confused. Or you may meet a carer of someone

with dementia and they ask you what is available locally to help me and my husband/wife/mother or father with dementia?

If you attend the dementia training session on 7th March at 6.45pm you will be able to help your residents in a positive and constructive way. This session is open not only to Councillors but any of your team who would like more information on helping those in our Community caring for or living with this most distressing of conditions. It will only last an hour but could make all the difference to your resident

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

One of the most satisfying aspects of being a Councillor is community involvement. The Clean for the Queen campaign is going well locally because it is a community event that has inspired groups and organisations to take part, and organisations put their efforts behind it, for instance Hart Voluntary Action. There are several events in Hart, the first being on 5 March in Hartley Wintney, where the countryside rangers are doing a big clean up with the public. Other venues are Blackwater Deep Clean 14-18 March, Winchfield 10 April, and Fleet 23 April. Part of the clean up is looking for where graffiti needs to be cleaned up, not necessarily in public areas, and Graffiti Focus week starts on 11 April. As a Council we are offering support with the loan of equipment and bin bags etc. It is satisfying to see so many people taking part. Details can be found on the website at <http://www.hart.gov.uk/clean-for-the-queen>. *Councillor Crisp added that Yateley would be holding an event on 27 February at Yateley Common.*

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Gorys**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, reported:

On 11 February I met with the Deputy Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to discuss regeneration projects and their progress and funding. Much can be learnt from successful regeneration projects such as the Basingstoke Shopping Centre and I am looking forward to further meetings with Basingstoke and Deane to learn from their valued experience.

Yesterday I met with 23 of the retailers in Blackwater and I would express thanks to the restaurant for the use of their premises for the meeting. We have encouraged the Blackwater retailers to form a retail association which is now getting off the ground. The re-fostered community spirit means that works are programmed; many shops along the Blackwater retail area are refurbishing their interiors and window displays and the exterior of Swan Public House is going to be painted with the local football team repainting the inside. I look forward to the many Blackwater community driven tasks in the future.

In consultation with Rotherwick Parish Council I am currently seeking funding through Sport England for the restoration of the Sports Pavilion in Rotherwick. The building is in great need of restoration so that sports teams can safely shower and change after their activities.

I would like to thank Mr Turver for his question, and would add to Councillor Parker's response in that I am willing to meet with him so I can provide him with further details of my role.

## **92 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executives have ensured that Hart's profile is raised outside the district. The JCE recently gave evidence to the Government's CIL Review Panel and through the District Councils Network have been invited to join DCLG think tanks on how to overcome the widely perceived issue of developer land banking and also consistency in producing SHMAs and the method for calculating 5 year land supply.

## **93 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>	<b>19 January 2016</b>
No questions asked	
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>21 January 2016</b>

*(These minutes were considered at the Council meeting of 28 January)*

*\* Para 25.1 of the Constitution states that 'Any motion to change the Constitution will, when proposed and seconded, be referred without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.' This item was deferred for discussion and decision from the Council meeting of 28 January 2016.*

### **Minute No 103 - Joint Procurement**

Councillor Parker had moved the resolution, seconded by Councillor Burchfield. Members considered the proposed changes to the Constitution.

The present Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bailey, asked for clarity on how members of the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be appointed. After discussion Councillor Bailey put an addition to the resolution:

That members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would not be members of the Executive and that the membership would be politically proportionate.

Councillor Parker accepted this amendment.

Councillor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Makepeace-Browne, put a further addition to the resolution:

That members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee should only be drawn from the members of the Hart Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members considered the amendment.

After a vote the amendment was DEFEATED.

Members voted on the amended Resolution and it was:

## **RESOLVED**

- 1 That a Joint Committee be established, in accordance with the details outlined in Appendix 3 of the report, and that authority be delegated to the Joint Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to be authorised to seek any minor changes to the Joint Committee terms of reference as necessary and be delegated to sign this agreement on behalf of the Council.
- 2 That a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established, in accordance with details outlined in Appendix 4 of the report, and that authority be delegated to the Joint Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to be authorised to seek any minor changes to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference as necessary and be delegated to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.
- 3 That members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would not be members of the Executive and that the membership would be politically proportionate.
- 4 That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Standards Committee and the Three Group Leaders, be delegated to amend the constitution accordingly.

### **Cabinet**

**4 February 2016**

No questions asked

**Minute 112 - 2016/17 Budget (see Minute 94 below)**

### **Planning Committee**

**10 February 2016**

No questions asked.

### **Minute 73 - 15/01542/FUL Hook House Hotel, London Road, Hook RG27 9EQ**

The application was brought to Committee as a **DEPARTURE** because the site lies outside the settlement boundary of Hook and in that respect is contrary to Local

Plan Policy RUR2.

The Planning Committee considered that although a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan and approved policy, there was no overall harm to the open countryside and that the proposal complies with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement.

Since no request to debate had been received this Departure to the Local Plan was deemed to be **ACCEPTED**

#### **Minute 73 - 15/02401/FUL Land at Church Lane, Dogmersfield**

The application was brought to Committee as a **DEPARTURE** because the site lies outside the settlement boundary of Dogmersfield and in that respect is contrary to Local Plan Policy RUR2.

The Planning Committee considered that although a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan and approved policy, there was no overall harm to the open countryside and that the proposal complies with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement.

Since no request to debate had been received this Departure to the Local Plan was deemed to be **ACCEPTED**

#### **94 2016/17 BUDGET**

Council considered the Cabinet's revenue and capital budget recommendations for 2016/17 to enable Council to calculate and approve its Council Tax requirement for 2016/17. The report also included the Head of Finance's (Section 151) statutory statement to Council on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves.

The Portfolio Holder for finance introduced the proposed budget for 2016/17. In light of the government's announcement since the Cabinet meeting, to allow District Councils to increase Council Tax by £5 on a Band D property, he proposed an amendment seconded by Councillor Parker:

That the Council increase the council tax by £5 per band D property.

The Head of Finance circulated an amended resolution to reflect the impact of an increase based on a £5 increase on a Band D property, with back up information to enable Members to make an informed decision. Appendix C had included some incorrect figures, and an updated Appendix C, Fees and Charges, was also circulated.

Members considered and discussed the information. Issues raised included the consequences to the Council of not increasing Council tax over the last five years, the impact of an increase on services and residents, future threats to Council income, the medium term financial position at present, the future of the Council Tax reduction scheme, reduced income from Fleet car parks and parish council tax rises

Statutory regulations requiring this vote to be recorded, a vote was taken.

Members FOR the resolution:

Ambler, Axam, Bailey, Billings, Blewett, Burchfield, Clarke, Cockarill, Collett, Crampton, Crisp, Crookes, Dickens, Forster, Gray, Gorys, Harward, Kennett, Kinnell, Leeson, Lewis, Morris, Neighbour, Parker, Radley JE, Radley JR, Renshaw, Southern, Wheale, Woods

Members AGAINST the resolution: None

Abstained: Makepeace-Browne, Oliver

The resolution was therefore carried and it was:

## **RESOLVED**

I That:

1. That the Council Tax Base for 2016/17 be noted
  - (a) for the whole Council area as 38,487.21 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix IA.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,036,330.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 and 34 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) £42,125,449 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - (b) £33,247,698 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £ 8,877,751 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
  - (d) £230.67 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

- (e) £2,841,421 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Column 2 of Appendix 1A).
- (f) £156.84 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) The amounts set out in column 6 of Appendix 1A for each part of the Council's area being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix 1A divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (h) The amounts set out in columns 1 to 9 of Appendix 1B for each part of the Council's area being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

2 That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 the Hampshire County Council, and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings below:

Valuation Band	Hampshire County Council (£)	Hampshire Fire & Rescue (£)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (£)
A(R)	599.60	34.78	89.14
A	719.52	41.73	106.97
B	839.44	48.69	124.80
C	959.36	55.64	142.63
D	1,079.28	62.60	160.46
E	1,319.12	76.51	196.12

F	1,558.96	90.42	231.77
G	1,798.80	104.33	267.43
H	2,158.56	125.20	320.92

- 3 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 2 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix 1D as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings in each of the Parishes.
- 4 That for the purposes of section 35 (2) (d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, any expenses incurred by the District Council in the financial year 2016/17 in performing functions in a part of the district which elsewhere in the district are performed by a Parish Council, shall not be special expenses of the District Council.
- 5 That the growth and savings set out in Appendix A be approved.
- 6 That the revised Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix B be approved.
- 7 That the fees and charges for 2016/17 as set out in the revised Appendix C be approved.
- 8 That the Section 151 officer's statutory report regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves detailed in paragraph 14 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

### QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr David Turver asked:

- 1) What is the remit of the Cabinet member for Town and Village Regeneration, what are the objectives of the role and how will he measure how successful he has been?

**Councillor Parker** responded:

The Town and Village Regeneration portfolio is a cross-cutting one working with all other Cabinet members but particularly Economic Development, Environment and Planning Policy. It works with other agencies such as town and parish councils and neighbourhood planning teams. It also has responsibility for Parking due to its importance to aspects of regeneration. The role is an innovation for Hart in that it seeks improvements to the environments of our towns and villages within existing budgets. The measure of success will be outcomes, although much of the work started in this first year will take more than one municipal year to complete.

An example of the benefits of the role is the founding of a retailers association in Blackwater bringing about cooperation in the delivery of a number of local improvements to the environment of the retail area which we hope will increase footfall and thus the viability of a retail offer which is just walking distance from Marks & Spencers and Tesco at The Meadows. This was done in cooperation with the retailers, the town council as well as the Cabinet Member.

- 2) Can you elaborate on the proposal in the Corporate Plan to “explore the opportunity for the creation of a trading company which can (working in partnership) provide housing that meets local needs”?

**Councillor Gorys** responded:

The Council is aware that in recent years, a significant number of local authorities have opted to establish limited companies for the purpose of delivering housing. It has been a successful approach, with different variations on a general theme emerging based on local pressures and housing markets, around the country.

We are interested in exploring how such a model might be applicable in Hart and whether it could afford us the opportunity to generate income, invest in a sustainable model to deliver housing while supporting the delivery of local rented housing that meets the financial capacity and needs of families locally.

At this stage, and with the caveat that it is a work in progress (and hence the Corporate Plan is not necessarily committing us to delivering a trading arm) it is anticipated any local model would need to deliver both market and affordable housing locally in order to be viable, and would be commenced on a relatively small scale with scope to grow. It is unlikely that the trading arm would “develop” new housing, rather it would initially seek to purchase

properties within affordable housing contributions on new sites, or purchase units becoming available on the open market.

No decision has been taken and there is work to be done in terms of looking at the viability of such a model in Hart, the business case and governance, the scale of the approach including the scale (and timescale) for any required investment, which partners we may need to work with, our current capacity to deliver such a model (or other variations on that theme), and whether it will ultimately deliver desired outcomes.

- 3) The House of Lords Committee [report into the Built Environment](#) (para 313) identified that there is a gap between planning permissions granted and houses built due in part to developer land-banking. Can you give details for each of the past five years on how many houses have been permitted and how many built in Hart District?

*Response: This question had been deemed to be a Freedom of Information request as technical information and would be answered by Officers in a written response in accordance with the legislation.*

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 31 March 2016 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

**Present:**

## **COUNCILLORS –**

Oliver - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crisp	Morris
Billings	Crookes	Neighbour
Blewett	Dickens	Parker
Burchfield	Forster	Radley JE
Butler	Gray	Radley JR
Clarke	Harward	Renshaw
Collett	Kennett	Southern
Crampton	Leeson	Wheale

### **Officers Present:**

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

## **95 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Axam, Bailey, Cockarill Gorys, Kinnell, Lewis, Makepeace-Browne and Woods.

## **97 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Crampton declared a personal interest in that she is a member of 365 scheme (Hart Leisure Centre) (Minute 104 - Minutes of Committees).

## **98 PRESENTATION - FLEET PHOENIX**

The Chairman announced that apologies had been received from Charlotte Tickner of Fleet Phoenix. Fleet Phoenix would be invited to present to the Council later in the year.

## **99 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

Questions had been received from Mr Meyrick Williams, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

## **100 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

No questions received.

## **101 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

26 February	Yateley United FC Chairman's Dinner at Casa Hotel, Yateley
3 March	Potley Hill Primary School opening of pond
4 March	Rushmoor Borough Council Mayor's Charity Jazz Ball at Princes Hall, Aldershot
5 March	Yateley Mayor Charity Dinner at The Casa Hotel, Yateley
10 March	Opening of new Sainsbury's Store in Aldershot Road, Fleet
16 March	Gosport Mayor Civic Day, Town Hall, Gosport
16 March	Hants IOW Air Ambulance Launch Event at National Motor Museum, Beaulieu
18 March	Southampton Mayor Charity Ball, Mike Channon Suite at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton
22 March	Chairman's Community Volunteer Event at The Harlington

The Chairman thanked those Members who had attended his Community Volunteer Event, held in conjunction with Hart Voluntary Action. It had been a successful event where 14 awards had been made in recognition of voluntary work in Hart.

The Chairman also reminded Members of his charity dinner planned for Monday, 11 April at 7pm at Hook Tandoori, with proceeds going to his charity, Hart Foodbank.

## **102 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In Councillor Gorys' absence, the Leader gave the announcements for the Cabinet Member for Housing:

The affordable rent event held on 17<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chambers was terrific and really very successful. It made great use of the Council Chamber space now that we have moveable furniture and enabled the Housing Service and a range of partners to deliver advice and support to over 100 people attending the event. I would like to make a special mention for Alison Smithen and Katy Herrington who worked really hard to organise the event, and to Nicola Harpham who oversaw the arrangements. The feedback from those who came along has been really fantastic and made all the team's efforts worthwhile. I would also like to thank the various partner housing associations who were present at the event and contributed to its success.

Also, thanks go to officers in the Business Support Unit who helped us to receive customers and show them to the Council Chamber.

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced:

On the topic of housing events, can I remind members of the second Affordable Home Ownership Event. This will take place in the Council Chamber, Committee Room 1 and Committee Room 2 at Hart District Council on Tuesday 12th April between 2pm - 7pm.

The purpose of this event is to promote intermediate housing products in both the Rushmoor and Hart Districts. There will be a variety of organisations attending this event to provide specialist information and advice including Housing Associations, Financial Advisors, Help to Buy South and representatives from both council's housing teams.

Members will be aware that the devolution saga continues. Currently, the districts to the South and East of the county, together with the three unitary authorities, are promoting a Solent devolution bid without the Northern Hampshire districts or the New Forest. They have formally invited Hampshire County Council, Winchester, Test Valley and New Forest to join them, although they have not included Hart. Meanwhile the six districts excluded from the Solent core bid have been meeting to consider options, most recently last Thursday. I am chairman of this group. We are examining the possibilities of a Combined Authority covering North Hampshire and the New Forest. This work is at an early stage, and I will continue to brief group leaders so they can keep members updated.

Members will know that the Housing Options consultation ended successfully with a total of some 4600 responses; the final total may be a little different as many paper responses have yet to be transferred to the computer system. Whilst officers are tabulating the results, our consultants are finishing work on the revised SHMA. Some concern has been expressed regarding any impact on the local plan timetable of the consultation issues. One of the benefits of using the planning policy team from East Hampshire District Council is that by adding their resources to ours we now have a team of over a dozen staff working on the plan. They are preparing a draft plan for statutory consultation in late summer with submission on track for the first quarter of next year.

Whilst work continues on the Approach to Encourage Brownfield Development agreed at our September council meeting, we have been successful in securing a grant to become part of a Government pilot to bring forward a statutory register of brownfield land. The background is that the Government has set out its commitment to introduce a statutory brownfield register and ensure that 90% of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. Through brownfield registers, a standard set of information will be kept up-to date and made publicly available to help provide certainty for developers and communities and encourage investment in local areas. This project provides an opportunity for us to work together with other local planning authorities and the Department for Communities and Local Government to shape and develop this policy. The experiences of pilot authorities will feed into the development of secondary legislation and guidance to support local planning authorities more widely. By participating in the project, we will gain early experience of preparing brownfield registers, and have some early data on the amount of brownfield land in our area that may be suitable for housing.

While I am on the topic of brownfield, breaking news today is that following much patient work by officers with the relevant landowners, a joint venture company part owned by Berkeley Group has acquired the 135 acre Pyestock site, also known by some as Hartland Park. They have submitted a proposal for the site to be considered for residential development as part of Hart District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The headline capacity is 1500 homes, although the SHLAA entry has yet to be seen and validated. The announcement follows a recent call from the council to bring forward sites in 'Zones of Brownfield Opportunity'. The company, known as St Edwards, will be working with Hart District Council to provide a sustainable new village with homes, shops, community space and residential amenities. This will supersede the existing implemented consent for 1,350,000 square metres of distribution warehousing which was granted by the then outgoing Labour government in 2009 against the advice of the planning inspector. Not only does this resolve a vacant site and provide for a significant portion of our Objectively Assessed Housing Need but it removes the threat of the night time heavy goods vehicle movements from residents in Pondtail, Minley Link and Southwood.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, reported that he had met with the Joint Chief Executive today regarding the contracting for the procurement of a wide range of services with a number of other Councils. The contracts are very close to being finalised. On Monday Hart will be hosting the contract signing event, which will be attended by all Leaders and Chief Executives of the partner Councils.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

Thank you to those volunteers who participated in the Hartley Witney Clean for the Queen event this month, which went very well. Thanks also to the volunteer Marshalls at the Fleet Half Marathon, as usual a very successful event, and thank you to the Scouts for the clean up. Also this month we had the very successful clean up in Blackwater town centre, which has really made a difference. Thanks also to my fellow Cabinet Member, Councillor Morris for his efforts in getting everyone involved in Blackwater, which hopefully will result in a much more successful town centre. I would also like to remind members of the Fleet Town Council Action Day on 23 April and ask for their support.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, reported:

On 11<sup>th</sup> March I took part in a confirmation hearing for Mrs Olivia Pinkney as the new Chief Constable held by the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel. Mrs Pinkney was previously Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex and before that had been seconded to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Mrs Pinkney has a degree in Maths from Cambridge but still started on the beat when she joined the police.

Changing the subject, I am sure members will want to join with me in congratulating Lyn Byfield after nearly twenty five years with the Council. As Dog Warden she has been the main force in winning the RSPCA Gold Footprint award for five years running.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, reported:

I thank Councillor Forster for his kind words regarding the Blackwater clean up.

Members are aware of the clean up that has been processed as part of the uplifting of deep clean of Blackwater's retail area and I'm pleased to announce that pavements has now been cleaned and the results are astonishing. This work was carried out as a result of the Joint Service contract Hart has with Basingstoke and Deane. I would like to thank Mr Philip Munday, Hart's Street Cleansing Manager, for managing for the completion of this excellent project.

Not only am I extremely pleased with this proficient work but much praise has been received from retailers, local residents and shoppers. My thanks also go out to the contractor Graffiti Removal Ltd, who not only did a superb job but found time to explain to all passers-by the detail on how their detergent free equipment would remove more than 20 years of grime.

Other works in Blackwater are planned and as soon as they are completed I will update members.

### **103 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executives' had no announcements.

### **104 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>16 February 2016</b>
No questions asked.	
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>	<b>15 March 2016</b>
No questions asked.	
<b>Licensing</b>	<b>1 March 2016</b>
No questions asked.	

## **Minute 21 - Stage I Statement of Principles Under The Gambling Act 2005 For Adoption**

Councillor Collett moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Jenny Radley.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Stage I review of the Statement of Principles be adopted.

### **Staffing**

**1 March 2016**

No questions asked.

## **Minute 24 - Consideration of Leisure Centre Membership by Staff**

Councillor Burchfield moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Neighbour. Councillor Burchfield drew Members' attention to the Policy in that it would be reviewed in January 2017 when the budget process for 2017/18 began.

It was also clarified that the usage requirement of four times a month would be averaged over three months so as not disadvantage staff because of annual leave.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the Policy on Staff Membership Scheme of Leisure Facilities 2016/17 be approved, subject to amendments to paragraph 3.1 to reflect a monthly charge to staff of £15 and usage requirement of four times per month.
- 2 That consideration is given to this approach being applied to all members of the 365 Scheme, both staff and Councillors.

### **Staffing**

**17 March 2016**

No questions asked. Councillor Butler pointed out she had sent her apologies and had not been present.

**3 March 2016**

### **Cabinet**

No questions asked.

### **Planning Committee**

**9 March 2016**

No questions asked.

## **I5/02782/FUL - Little Rye Farm, Rye Common, Odiham, Hook**

The application was brought to Committee as a **DEPARTURE** because the site lies outside the settlement boundary of Hook and in that respect is contrary to Local Plan Policy RUR2.

The Planning Committee considered that although a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan and approved policy, there was no overall harm to the open countryside and that the proposal complies with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement.

Since no request to debate had been received this Departure to the Local Plan was deemed to be **ACCEPTED**

**I5/02766/FUL - St. Neots Preparatory School Ltd, St. Neots Road, Eversley**

The application was brought to Committee as a **DEPARTURE** because the site lies outside the settlement boundary of Eversley and in that respect is contrary to Local Plan Policy RUR2.

The Planning Committee considered that although a **DEPARTURE** to the Local Plan and approved policy, there was no overall harm to the open countryside and that the proposal complies with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement.

Since no request to debate had been received this Departure to the Local Plan was deemed to be **ACCEPTED**

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

## COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

### QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

**Mr Meyrick Williams asked:**

#### **Question 1**

With Rushmoor Borough Council deciding to delay the production of a draft local plan until after the revised SHMAA has been published in June 2016, does Hart District Council now intend to follow suit and adjust its Local Plan timetable accordingly?

#### **Response**

*Rushmoor has already published its draft Plan (which it calls is the Preferred Approach Local Plan) for consultation last summer. It is therefore, a whole stage in front of a Hart. In November it will publish a draft Submission Local Plan with a view to submitting its final Submission Plan to the Secretary of State in April 2017. All it is waiting for is to see whether the scale of any under-delivery against its objective assessed needs is materially changed by the new SHMAA.*

*In terms of the Hart Plan all we are doing is catching Rushmoor up. We have no intention of delaying. We have also always clearly said that we will address the implications of the refreshed SHMAA in any draft Plan that we prepare this summer. That remains the case.*

**Mr Williams asked a supplementary question:**

What is the expected date for publication of the revised SHMA for Hart?

#### **Response**

*We have a project plan in place, and we intend to continue delivering our current strategy at the end of the summer and our draft Submission Local Plan early next year.*

#### **Question 2**

How does the LPSG intend to fulfil its role of guiding the preparation of the Local Plan now that the work is being done by the East Hants Team?

#### **Response**

*The current overview of Local Plan preparation by the Local Plan Steering Group remains unchanged. Its preparation is simply being conducted led by East Hampshire planners working with Hart staff, all of whom remain answerable to Hart Council. It will still therefore, be a Hart Local Plan agreed by Hart Members in the same way as before.*

**Mr Williams asked a supplementary question:**

As the LPSG meetings in Feb and March have been cancelled, when does the LPSG plan to meet and when will they set and publish the criteria for assessing the consultation submissions?

#### **Response**

*The intention is to publish and analyse all of the responses to the Consultation, a piece of work that may not be done until May. We will meet as an LSPG when we have that information.*

**Question 3**

What thought has the Council given to emulate the arrangement struck between Luton Council and the hedge fund Cheyne Capital who will invest £850m over the next 3years providing some 400 homes available at low rent for the next 20 years?

**Response**

*There are two deals between Cheyne Capital and Luton BC; the first was a year ago on a brownfield site, formerly a leisure complex already owned by the Council for some 80 homes now under construction. The second is a straight forward funding deal for council housing, replacing traditional public housing funding streams but otherwise unexceptional. We will always learn from our peers when the opportunity arises, as exemplified by the current proposal for an arms length housing company sometimes known as ALMOs, where we are actively seeking the wisdom of those who have gone before.*

**Question 4**

If either the original Hampshire and IOW devolution proposition or the possible alternative goes ahead, how many additional new houses will Hart provide of the 500 per year proposed across the whole area?

**Response**

*Whatever devolution proposition may eventually prevail, I have made it abundantly clear to Hampshire partners that Hart will not sign up to any agreement that seeks to accelerate housing delivery or impose additional housing over and above meeting objectively assessed needs within Hart.*

**Mr Williams asked a supplementary question:**

Will the HDC contribution be proportionate to the number of and relative size of any Councils that participate in any devolution proposal?

**Response**

*No, we would not be offering any increase over and above our assessed needs and obligations. Never say never, but at the moment none of our partners in the devolution discussions are committing to any numbers over and above those already committed to.*