

CABINET

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2006
(11.00 AM – 12.0 noon)



Nottinghamshire
County Council

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

A	Dick Anthony	(Adult Services and Health)
	Chris Baron	(Finance and Property)
	Joyce Bosnjak	(Children and Young People's Services)
	Steve Carroll	(Culture and Regeneration)
	Glynn Gilfoyle	(Community Safety and Partnerships)
	David Kirkham	(Leader)
	Stella Smedley	(Environment)
	John Stocks	(People and Performance)
	Mike Storey	(Deputy Leader)

Also in attendance

Councillor M Brandon-Bravo
Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor Jen Cole
Councillor Barrie Cooper
Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts
Councillor V H Dobson
Councillor Albert Haynes
Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE
Councillor Keith Girling
Councillor Bruce Laughton
Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones
Councillor Jim O'Riordan
Councillor Alan Rhodes
Councillor Sheila Place
Councillor Mark Spencer
Councillor Andy Stewart
Councillor Lynn Sykes
Councillor Kevan Wakefield

1. NOTES

The notes of the last meeting held on 8th November 2006 were received as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader subject to the amendment to resolution no. 2006/148 detailed below.

Councillor Smedley was of the view that the words “No consideration will be given to requests for the provision of the Gating Orders unless contained within an application from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership” placed too much of a responsibility on a local Member to actually prepare an application whereas she felt that Cabinet’s intention was that any proposals going forward would have the support of the local Member. In the circumstances, therefore, she felt that the above words should be deleted and replaced with the following:-

“No consideration will be given to requests for the provision of Gating Orders unless contained within the application from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and supported by the local Member”.

It was moved by Councillor Smedley and seconded by Councillor Gilfoyle that the notes of the previous meeting be amended as set out above and this was agreed by Cabinet.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Dick Anthony

Councillor John Clarke*)	
Councillor Sybil Fielding)	other Members
Councillor John Hemsall)	
Councillor Darrell Pulk*)	
Councillor Martin Suthers)	
Councillor Chris Winterton*)	
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead)	

* denotes on other County Council business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Kevan Wakefield declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item number 4 – Building Schools for the Future – as he was employed at the Joseph Whitaker School.

Councillor Steve Carroll declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item number 13 – Business Security in Rushcliffe – as he was a Director of the Greater Nottingham Partnership.

SECTION A (KEY DECISIONS INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN)

4. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF)

In accordance with his earlier declaration of interest, Councillor Wakefield left the room prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Bosnjak introduced the item and briefly explained the purpose of the proposed consultation. She also referred to the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer about future investment in schools and said that she

understood that the Council would know by 14th December where its proposals sat in the wider scheme of this initiative.

In response to questions raised on the report, Councillor Bosnjak commented that issues concerning, for example the transitory nature of school populations in relation to the Strategy for Change (paragraph 6) and the inclusion of Every Child Matters issues in the Statutory and Policy implications part of the report (paragraph 22) would be pursued; that consultation (paragraph 14) would be undertaken with elected Members through, for example, Local Strategic Partnerships and Members' Forums and that the nature of any consultation in January 2007 (paragraph 16) would very much depend on where the Council's proposals were placed in the national programme.

RESOLVED: 2006/154

1. That the proposed consultation on Strategy for Change with communities served by BSF tranche 1 schools (Magnus Church of England, Newark High, The Grove, Dukeries, Joseph Whitaker, Orchard Special School, Meden and Garibaldi) be approved and
2. that a further report be submitted outlining the outcome of the consultation after Phase 2 in April/May 2007.

Councillor Wakefield returned to the meeting.

5. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES FOR 2007/08

Councillor Smedley introduced the report and explained the main features of the proposals.

Members were supportive of the proposals and particularly welcomed the proposals concerning greater Member consultation, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report, specifically as this would provide the ability to include Parish Councils in this consultation. It was, however, noted that not all areas of the County were parished and would have this opportunity.

Councillor Smedley said that she would provide a written answer to the question raised concerning the reference to the Gamston Park and Ride Scheme in Appendix B to the report and particularly whether the proposal at this location was still ongoing.

RESOLVED: 2006/155

That the schemes for implementation as contained in appendices A and B to the report be approved.

6. DRAFT EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN – COMMENTS ON THE SUBMISSION DRAFT

Further information was circulated at the meeting setting out additional information and comments in respect of the Nottingham – Derby Green Belt

(paragraph 29 of the report and Annex C, section 17) and Housing (paragraphs 40 – 43 of the report). A copy of which is appended to these notes, it being noted that the reference to Annex C in the document circulated to the Cabinet meeting is a typographical error and should properly be a reference to Annex 3.

The Leader introduced the report which set out proposed representations on the Regional Plan which would form the Council's formal response.

Some Members felt that there was no justification for the housing allocations proposed in the Plan and expressed the view that this new system had caused considerable confusion in the parishes in the County. Nevertheless, those Members were pleased that the recent Communities Departmental briefing meeting held the previous month had provided an open forum in which to discuss issues in connection with the Plan. Cabinet Members made the point that, in their view, it was necessary to plan some encroachment into previously undeveloped areas and also to add houses to existing settlements in order to regenerate these areas and increase the supply of housing so that, for example, today's children would have somewhere suitable to live in the future.

Arising from the discussion and on a motion by Councillor Smedley, seconded by the Leader, it was:-

RESOLVED: 2006/156

1. That the report be approved with the inclusion of additional information reported to the meeting;
2. that the representations set out in Annex 3 to the report form the basis of the Council's formal submissions on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy;
3. that the additional comments circulated at the meeting and referred to above in respect of the Nottingham – Derby Green Belt and Housing be incorporated into the Council's formal submission as referred to in (2) above and
4. that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the opposition Groups be authorised to take any decisions on future stages in the Regional Spatial Strategy preparation process on the basis set out in paragraph 54 of the report.

At this stage of proceedings the Leader reported that this would be the final meeting of Cabinet that Richard Ling would attend as he was to retire at the end of the month. In the circumstances, Members thanked Mr Ling for his contribution to this area of the Council's activities and wished him a long and happy retirement.

OTHER DECISIONS

7. BECK MEADOW REPLACEMENT AND HOLLES STREET – PROJECT BUDGETS

In introducing and explaining the reasons for the increase in the project budgets,

as set out in the report, Councillor Rhodes advised that the figure set out in the final bullet point of paragraph 2.4.4 for the reinstatement of client contingency should be £21,000 and not £31,000.

RESOLVED: 2006/157

1. That the budget for the Beck Meadow replacement be increased from £2,080,00 to £2,370,000, with the increase being funded by a revenue contribution of £290,000 from Adult Social Care and Health and
2. the budget for Holles Street be increased from £1,812,000 to £2,062,000, with the increase to be funded by a revenue contribution of £250,000 from Adult Social Care and Health.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME VARIATIONS AND CAPITAL FINANCING

RESOLVED: 2006/158

1. That the granting of a loan of £435,000 to the Becket School be approved;
2. that the previously approved variations to the Capital Programme for 2006/07 be noted;
3. that the current position regarding monitoring of the Capital Programme be noted and
4. that it be noted that the current levels of borrowing are within the prudential limits set out at the beginning of the year.

9. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2006/07

Councillor Baron said that he would provide a written answer to the question raised concerning whether the claw-back of any monies from convicted persons obtained through criminal activities were able to be channelled to portfolio budgets or the Council's general finances.

RESOLVED: 2006/059

That the report be noted.

10. ALLOCATIONS FROM THE CONTINGENCY

RESOLVED: 2006/160

That the allocations from the Contingency as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

11. ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES – JUDGEMENTS AND STAR RATINGS – NOVEMBER 2006

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Leader reported that he had approved submission of this matter as an urgent

item to be considered by Cabinet in order that the judgements and star ratings for Adult Social Services could be reported to the most appropriate Cabinet meeting after the outcomes had been announced.

RESOLVED: 2006/161

That the performance of the County Council's Adult Social Care Services in retaining a two star performance rating as set out in the report be noted.

12. REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

RESOLVED: 2006/162

1. That the biennial review of the Protocol of the Joint Committee on Strategic Planning and Transport be delayed for the reasons set out in the report and
2. that Cabinet be kept informed of the outcome of the wider issues on the work of the Joint Committee.

13. BUSINESS SECURITY IN RUSHCLIFFE

In accordance with his earlier declaration of interest, Councillor Steve Carroll left the room prior to discussion and voting on this item.

RESOLVED: 2006/063

1. That the proposal that the County Council act as finance holder and co-ordinator for a "Business Security Scheme" in Rushcliffe funded by the Greater Nottingham Partnership be approved and
2. that, in accordance with the provisions of Finance Standing Order A3.4, additional expenditure of up to £130,000 be reimbursed by the Greater Nottingham Partnership as outlined in the report.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

NOTE

The decisions contained in these minutes were made on Wednesday 6th December 2006, published on Monday 11th December 2006 and become effective on Tuesday, 19th December 2006 unless a Call-In Request is made to call-in a decision in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules paragraph 15.