

# CABINET

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007  
(11.00 AM – 11.45 AM)



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

## MEMBERSHIP

### Councillors

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

### Also in attendance

Councillor Peter Barnes  
Councillor Martin Brandon-Bravo  
Councillor Richard Butler  
Councillor John Cottee  
Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts  
Councillor Andy Freeman  
Councillor Albert Haynes  
Councillor Bruce Laughton  
Councillor Jim O'Riordan  
Councillor Sheila Place  
Councillor Mark Spencer  
Councillor Martin Suthers

## 1. NOTES

The notes of the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were received as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak\*  
Councillor Alan Rhodes\*  
Councillor Stella Smedley\*

Councillor Sybil Fielding )  
Councillor Keith Girling\* ) non-voting Members

Councillor Stan Heptinstall	)	
Councillor Richard Jackson	)	
Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones	)	non-voting Members
Councillor Mark Spencer	)	
Councillor Yvonne Woodhead*	)	

\* denotes on other County Council business.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There were no declarations of interest received by Members or Officers.

### **SECTION A (Key decisions included in the Forward Plan)**

#### **4. LATEST ESTIMATED COST – RETFORD YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S CENTRE**

**RESOLVED: 2007/138**

1. That the variation to the Capital Programme, as set out in the report, be approved and
2. that the latest estimated cost report for the building works, as set out in the report, be approved.

### **OTHER DECISIONS**

#### **5. ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE ADOPTION SERVICE**

**RESOLVED: 2007/139**

That the Nottinghamshire Adoption Service’s Statement of Purpose, as set out in appendix A to the report, be approved.

#### **6. A REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

Non-voting Members sought clarification on the principles applied in selecting representatives of associations of teachers referred to in Group C on page 2 of the appendix and also on the procedures for removal from membership of the denomination or associations as referred to in paragraph 4.5 on page 3 of the appendix to the report. They hoped that these matters might be resolved through discussion with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services, the Conservative Group’s spokesperson for this portfolio and the Strategic Director. Councillor O’Riordan assured colleagues that these issues would be investigated.

**RESOLVED: 2007/140**

That the revised constitution set out in the appendix to the report be agreed and adopted as the new constitution for the Nottinghamshire SACRE with immediate effect, subject to clarification of the issues raised in debate.

## **7. WHITE HILLS PARK FEDERATION – POST 16 DEVELOPMENTS**

### **RESOLVED: 2007/141**

That the proposed developments at White Hills Park College, as set out in the report, be supported and that the proposal to incur additional capital expenditure of £400,000 be approved.

## **8. REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS INITIATIVE SCHEME**

All Members expressed great satisfaction with the Scheme and welcomed the proposed increase in the annual allocation per Member. In the context of these opening comments, some Members raised minor concerns with regard to the proposed level of carry forward of the annual allocation and also that some local projects, for example highway schemes, were not always in the spirit of the Scheme.

### **RESOLVED: 2007/142**

1. That the annual allocation per Member in respect of the Electoral Divisions Initiative be increased from £5,000 per annum to £7,500 per annum in the current financial year;
2. that the maximum amount of carry forward be normally limited to 10% of the annual allocation per Member and
3. that, where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, then the normal carry forward rules may be varied on approval of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property.

## **SECTION B (Strategic Decisions)**

### **9. “HOMES FOR THE FUTURE” GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION – AUGUST 2007**

The Leader introduced the background to the report and sought the views of Members on the proposed response to the Green Paper as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

Non-voting representatives of the Conservative Group thanked the Leader for the opportunity to comment on the report prior to its consideration at today's meeting.

Arising from the debate, Cabinet colleagues and non-voting Members made the following comments:-

- The aspiration of making housing more affordable was to be welcomed but not at the expense of skewing the normal supply and demand chain of the housing market or restricting the profitability of house building companies
- there was a view that some affordable housing units were in fact difficult to sell on an individual basis and were therefore sold “en-bloc” to larger purchasers, thus forcing local people out of the housing market

- there was too much top down prescription with regard to housing, which did not necessarily reflect local priorities
- the tax regime was different and undoubtedly had an effect on the market in that new homes were exempt from tax but the improvement of existing homes was not
- in terms of creating houses that people wished to live in it was felt that better design in terms of improved safety and security did not appear to have been properly addressed
- it needed to be acknowledged that the importance of the road and general transport infrastructure in an area was relevant in terms of planning future housing provision
- although the County Council was not a Housing Authority it was nevertheless important for the Council to influence the national debate around, for example, the issue concerning infrastructure
- the importance of the planning gain/developer contributions issue was stressed and the comments set out in paragraph 31 of the report were strongly supported and
- some Members took issue with the earlier view expressed concerning the saleability of affordable housing and felt that the newer high density houses in the urban areas were in fact popular and selling and were a necessity if the Green Belt was not to be infringed.

The Leader thanked Cabinet colleagues and non-voting Members for their comments and contribution to the debate and said that many of the comments raised were included in the response drafted at appendix 1 to the report. He agreed with the comments made concerning designing for safety and security and agreed that these be included in the proposed response.

**RESOLVED: 2007/143**

1. That the proposed response of the County Council to the Housing Green Paper, as set out in summary in paragraphs 21 – 44 of the report and in full in appendix 1 of the report (as supplemented above), be approved and submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government and
2. that the contents of appendix 2 to the report, setting out the views of the Minority Parties on the County Council, be noted and forwarded to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

**SECTION C**

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED: 2007/144**

That under paragraph 3 of the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining

item of business on the agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

With regard to the observers at the meeting, it was further:-

**RESOLVED: 2007/0145**

That the representatives of the IDeA in attendance at the meeting be authorised to remain in the meeting during consideration of the exempt information item.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEM**

**10. LATEST ESTIMATED COST – RETFORD YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

**RESOLVED: 2007/146**

That the information contained in the report in relation to the variation to the Capital Programme and the latest estimated cost of the building works, which are not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006, be received.

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**NOTE**

The decisions contained in these minutes were made on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007, published on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 and become effective on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 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.