

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 17th 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 11th 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

Meeting	Date
Overview & Scrutiny	16 February 2016
No questions asked.	
Overview & Scrutiny	15 March 2016
No questions asked.	
Licensing	1 March 2016
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.