



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 25TH MARCH, 2010 AT 7.00 PM

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

1. PRAYERS

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2010.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)

5. PRESENTATION BY ODIHAM COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL (LEAPFROGS), ODIHAM

6. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

To receive any question 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 Friday, 19th March 2010.***

7. 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 Monday, 22nd March 2010.

The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before 10.00 am on Thursday, 25th March 2010.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

9. CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

11. 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	Minute Numbers	For Decision
Licensing Committee	15 th February 2010	17 - 22	21 – Triennial Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Policy
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 th February 2010	73 - 84	
Resumed Planning Committee	17 th February 2010	73 - 76	
Cabinet	4 th March 2010	129 – 146	143 - Scheme of Delegation Adjustment – Planning Performance (Revision as amended by Cabinet is attached to the Minutes)
Planning Committee	10 th March 2010	77 -	

Recommendations from the following meetings ONLY if required –

Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 th March 2010
Resumed Planning Committee	17 th March 2010
Audit Committee	23 rd March 2010

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

A report from the Chief Executive Officer is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council agree to appoint Mr Alan Hill as interim Chief Finance Officer of the Council for the period to 30th June 2010.

NB: Appendix 1 is confidential under Paragraph 1 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – relating to any individual. Members must decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Date of Despatch: 16th March 2010

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

25 MARCH 2010

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

Report of the Chief Executive

Presented by Councillor Ken Crookes, Leader of the Council

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council's approval to the appointment of an interim Chief Finance Officer (also known as the Section 151 Officer) for the period to 30 June 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council agree to appoint Mr Alan Hill as interim Chief Finance Officer of the Council for the period to 30 June 2010.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members will be aware that councils are statutorily obliged to designate a suitably qualified person as their Chief Finance Officer – generally known as the Section 151 Officer after the relevant section in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
- 3.2 The Council's current Chief Finance Officer, Mr Kevin Jaquest, took up his post on a trial basis from 1 September 2009. Since that time Mr Jaquest has been employed jointly by Basingstoke and Deane and this Council, dividing his time between the two. Whilst this arrangement has worked well from Hart's point of view, for personal reasons Mr Jaquest has decided that he does not think he can continue with it after 31 March. He has therefore tendered his resignation with effect from that date.
- 3.3 From Hart's point of view, the shared arrangement with Basingstoke and Deane has been successful. In procedural terms, budget preparation ran smoothly this year, notwithstanding the change-over to Capita which preceded it, and while there have been difficult decisions to take, in technical terms the process worked well. It is therefore proposed to seek a similar shared officer arrangement with another Council, as a permanent replacement for Mr Jaquest. A number of Councils have been canvassed for their interest in such an arrangement, and discussions are currently taking place with five of them to try to find a satisfactory arrangement.
- 3.4 However, the Council has to cover the gap between Mr Jaquest leaving and any new joint arrangements coming into place. This means the Council needs to appoint an interim Chief Finance Officer for the period between April and the

end of June. Having approached several agencies that specialise in interim management placements, the Corporate Director and I interviewed three potential candidates.

- 3.5 Of these, Mr Alan Hill, who has extensive experience both as a Director of Finance in a unitary authority in his own right, and also through a series of interim placements over the last 5 years, seems to fit the Council's needs. Attached as a confidential appendix is Mr Hill's CV showing his previous experience.
- 3.6 The Council is asked to confirm Mr Hill's appointment for the period to the end of June 2010.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Interim appointments are inevitably more expensive on a unit cost basis than permanent appointments. The estimated cost of employing Mr Hill for the period in question is approximately £20,000, against which the cost of continuing with the previous arrangement with Basingstoke and Deane would have been around £11,000. The difference in cost can be accommodated within the Client side budget for monitoring the Capita contract over the coming year, assuming it is possible to agree a permanent replacement as outlined in the report, on a cost comparable with the current arrangement.

Appendix I – Mr Hill's CV

CONTACT: Geoff Bonner – Chief Executive
EXTENSION: 4108 EMAIL: geoff.bonner@hart.gov.uk

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 25th March 2010 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Wheale - (Chairman)

Ambler	Cockarill	Ive
Appleton	Crookes	Kennett
Bailey	Davies	Kinnell
Band	Glen	Neighbour
Bennison	Gorys	Parker
Billings	Gotel	Radley J E
Blewett	Haffey	Radley J R
Butler C	Healey	Street
Butler G		

Officers Present:

Geoff Bonner	-	Chief Executive
Rod Hursthouse	-	Monitoring Officer
Emma Broom	-	Corporate Director
Daryl Phillips	-	Head of Planning Services
Tricia Jackson	-	Senior Committee Services Officer

81. PRAYERS

Councillor Billings led Members in a short prayer.

Note: Councillor Glen entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

82. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Axam, Barrell, Henderson, Maughan, Murr, Simpson and Singh.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)

Councillor Billings declared a personal interest in Minute No 22 of the Licensing Committee Minutes as she had a family connection with a taxi business.

85. PRESENTATION BY ODIHAM COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL (LEAPFROGS)

The Chairman introduced Samantha Corfield and Nicola Trubridge from Leapfrogs, the Odiham Community Pre-School, who gave a presentation on the activities of the pre-school and the new building project which was due to commence in May 2010. All the funds had been secured to enable the new building to go ahead, but further fundraising was in process to provide a variety of essential furniture, toys and equipment.

The pre-school was supported by a variety of organisations and individuals including Hampshire County Council, community and local businesses in Odiham and surrounding areas, the Parish Council and Odiham Town Partnership amongst others.

They were delighted that the Chairman had chosen Leapfrogs as one of her charities for the year.

The Chairman thanked Samantha and Nicola for their excellent presentation and congratulated them on their success in securing the funding for the new premises. The Chairman and Members wished Leapfrogs continued success with such an excellent facility in Odiham.

Note: Councillors Blewett, Cockarill and Bailey entered the meeting at 7.11 pm and 7.17 respectively.

86. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received.

87. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions had been received.

88. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Friday, 5 th March	Calthorpe Park School, Local Action Plan Event
Friday, 12 th March	Leapfrogs Pre-School Quiz Night – Chairman's Charity Fundraising Event
Saturday, 13 th March	Mayor of Gosport's Charity Dinner
Thursday, 18 th March	Chairman of Hampshire County Council, Civic Day
Saturday, 20 th March	Lions Club 45 th Annual District Convention, Mortimer
Saturday, 20 th March	Mayor of Eastleigh's Charity Ball
Monday, 22 nd March	Step Up Catering Project run by Hart Neighbourhood Centre at Rosefield Court, Hartley Wintney

The Chairman highlighted two fund-raising events – the dinner at El Castelllos in Fleet on Monday, 29th March in aid of the Gurkhas and a charity meal at Hook Tandoori on 9th and 10th May with proceeds to Leapfrogs.

The Chairman had attended the Civic Day of Hampshire County Council Chairman and had visited the Hampshire Records Office, which she commended as a very interesting and informative place to visit.

On 22nd March the Chairman had attended a lunch at Rosefield Court, Hartley Wintney, which had been prepared by the Step Up Catering Project run by Hart Neighbourhood Centre, comprising eight learners, mainly vulnerable adults and young people who need employment skills, who are learning to cook under the watchful eye of an ex-army chef. The residents of Rosefield Court and other elderly people in the neighbourhood are invited to pay £4 each to have a delicious two course lunch and is proving extremely popular. It is hoped it will be extended to other sheltered housing schemes in the district in the coming months. I had great pleasure in presenting the students who had recently completed a “Healthy Living Course” with their certificates.

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

Wednesday, 17 th March	Hampshire County Council, Road Safety in Hampshire Reception
Thursday, 18 th March	Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Open Day
Sunday, 21 st March	Mayor of Yateley Town Council Civic Service

89. **CABINET MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Crookes**, announced –

“Hart District Council wins IESE Award – Making Changes

On 4th March 2010, Improvement Efficiency South East (IESE) held a Conference and Awards ceremony in recognition of the achievements of local authorities in the south east. This was the third annual IESE conference and encompassed themes surrounding construction, social care, waste, sustainable communities and procurement. Hart District Council was one of ten councils nominated for the award entitled “making changes”. This award is given to the council most able to demonstrate having instigated major changes resulting in improved working. Hart District Council beat off competition from six other short-listed councils to win the prestigious award.

My thanks to all members of staff who have worked hard to make these changes over the past year and in particular to Ms Broom for her leadership.

South East England Councils (SEEC)

I today attended the plenary meeting of SEEC. This is the successor body to the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) but with some key differences. Its members are only Councils, no other bodies and each member has a vote, so each District has the same voting power as a County Council. SEEC considered its future in the light of a possible change of government, the Conservatives having pledged to abolish the regional government layer and Regional Development Agencies. SEEC agreed to continue as an assembly of Councils because it was felt that the region needs a strong co-ordinated voice to Central Government and to Europe.

SEEC also considered a draft response to the Conservative Green Paper “Open Source Planning” and agreed to finalise a response in the next two to three weeks.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Appleton**, wished to congratulate the Planning Officers for successfully managing to appeal and secure a further £70,000 of much needed Housing and Housing Planning Delivery Grant. It means that we have secured a

grant of £237,000 which is a tremendous achievement, although the grant may have been bigger if we had been able to publish our SHLAA earlier.

Good planning performance is something that all Governments will reward. This enhanced grant aware goes to show just how important it is that we achieve the timescales for the publication of documents as set out in our Local Development Scheme – we do not have the luxury of delay. This means that we must be prepared to make the right decisions even if those decisions are hard and sometimes not popular. Delay, for whatever purposes, means that we lose significant amounts of grant – something this Council can ill afford.

Let us not, however, forget that a good performance on the determination of planning applications is also extremely important. Where we do not meet the performance targets our award can be abated. We will be in that position if we are not careful. That is why it is important that we make sure that in the Scheme of Delegation for planning applications District Councillors are placed in a position of controlling the Planning Committee agenda using their discretion and knowledge working in partnership with the Head of Planning Services, rather than the current position whereby third parties who are not responsible for either decisions (or the implication of any decisions) have the controlling say in how we manage our business.

Again, thank you to the Officers for securing the enhanced grant.”

The Cabinet Member for Health & Housing, **Councillor Band**, announced

Health

“Yesterday I attended a meeting of health professionals looking at pathways of care for frail and elderly people. This included a discussion on the role of community hospitals in providing rehabilitation beds and the work that still has to be done to decide the future of Odiham Cottage Hospital.

Surrey Heath Council and Surrey County Councillor Bill Chapman, who is the local authority member on Frimley Park Hospital governing board addressed the last meeting of the Health Board on the Hospital’s record and work programme. Details are included in the minutes of that meeting to go to Cabinet on 1st April.

Housing

Repossession successes: 11 mortgage rescue packages have now been successful or approved making Hart one of the top performing authorities in Hampshire.

The first issue of the Hart Housing Newsletters is all about what the Council is doing to provide housing, both in the public and private sectors, to rent or buy homes in Hart and to show what and where new housing is under construction ready for occupation in 2010 and 2011.”

The Cabinet Member for Public & Business Engagement, **Councillor Kennett**, announced

“It is important that we, as Councillors, understand as much as we can about our residents and how we can best provide services to them. On 12th March a presentation on Customer Insight was held in this chamber. Only about five councillors were able to attend but I would recommend that members look at the findings of the study, which was done by

Experian. The presentation included pen portraits of 'typical' residents which will be helpful in refining the way we deliver our services; members may also find them useful when canvassing.

That was on what one might call the consumer side. On the business side, the Hampshire Economic Partnership organised a presentation at Sparsholt of the results of an independent assessment of how Hampshire businesses have responded to the economic situation. In short, they are coping quite well although some have cut pay or payrolls so the number of people on job seekers allowances increased by 80% to 31,500 across the County. Detailed results, broken down both by business type and by individual District, have been put onto CD rom and both I and Cllr. Crookes have copies if members wish to refer to them.”

The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Recreation, **Councillor Kinnell**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Parker**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Partnerships, **Councillor Singh**, had no announcements.

90. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. The **new Parish Councils** will come into formal legal existence on 1st April. Work is in hand on finalising the Transfer Order to set them up. Elections to the new councils will take place either on 6 May or (if that date is used for the General Election) 3 weeks later. Until then, the Parishes will be run by the Shadow Councillors, although it is not anticipated that they will need to take any decisions during that time.

2. Last autumn the Council received an initial indication of the likely level of **Local Public Services Agreement Phase 2 (LPSA2)** money, received from the Government Office for the South-East (GOSE) via Hampshire County Council. Around 3 years' ago agreement was reached between GOSE and the County and District Councils in Hampshire that if performance was improved across a range of indicators there would be reward grants paid to councils. Around a dozen indicators were drawn up to set the reward grant targets, and the end result is now confirmed as a total grant of £489,000 to Hart. The figure had already been included in the budget calculations, so there is no “new” money here, but it is good to get confirmation of it.

3. Members may also be interested to know that a long standing difference of view over the level of **North Hampshire Transport Strategy** payments which the District Council needs to make over to Hampshire County Council has been settled. This should mean that a number of transport related projects within the district can now proceed.

4. On the staffing front, Cabinet recently agreed the proposal for a limited **senior management restructuring** of the Council, resulting in the redundancy of two posts. Discussions are now taking place with the two individuals involved to try to find a mutually agreed future for them. Implementation of the restructuring will take place once that agreement has been reached.

5. Members may also like to note that **Iris Thompson**, the Residential Environmental Health Manager, will be leaving the Council on 31st March after 10 years at Hart. We wish her all the best in her future career.

91. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting

Date

Licensing Committee

15th February 2010

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fee Increase

Councillor Cockarill asked the Chairman of the Licensing Committee the reason why the Committee had raised the cost of the various licences listed in the table by 4%.

The Chairman of the Committee responded that the Committee had considered the rise in terms of meeting the Council's costs in performing its duties. The matter would be considered again in April after the formal consultation process.

Triennial Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Policy

RESOLVED

That the amended Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles be adopted.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

16th February 2010

No questions asked.

Resumed Planning Committee

17th February 2010

No questions asked.

Cabinet

4th March 2010

Hart Health Board

Councillor Appleton referred to Councillor Band's announcements in respect of a meeting she had attended and asked whether the issue of lack of accessibility to Frimley Park Hospital had been raised. Residents of Hart District had been asking what was to be done about it.

At the request of the Leader, Councillor Band replied that the access to Frimley Park Hospital had been raised in respect of the lack of transport and difficulty in parking with Councillor Bill Chapman. There were various measures being undertaken especially in relation to parking arrangements on an area behind the hospital. If Councillor Appleton wished to have further information, she suggested that he spoke to Councillor Gotel who was Hart's representative on the Board of Governors.

Councillor Neighbour raised the issue of reduced visiting hours and whether the reason for this was a direct result of the parking problems. He wished to know whether representations had also been made about this.

Councillor Band responded that it was quite difficult to make representations as only two Members had attended the Health Board meeting. Visiting hours had been discussed but parking was not the chief reason for the change of hours but congestion in roads around Frimley Park Hospital which had eased the flow of traffic. Councillor Chapman stated this had been very well received.

Councillor Jenny Radley was not convinced about the representations and had concerns about visiting times. She was aware many staff used the neighbouring residential roads which was causing problems, and it might be a subject to be raised in the future.

Draft Service Plans 2010/11

Councillor Neighbour stated that it was unfortunate that the Draft Service Plans accepted by Cabinet had not included Equality Impact Assessments, and requested reassurance from the Leader that if there were any issues about equality, they would be addressed prior to the next Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Crookes confirmed that the Equality Impact Assessments would be included.

Scheme of Delegation Adjustment – Planning Performance

RESOLVED

That the adjustments to the Planning Scheme of Delegation, attached as Appendix B, be adopted subject to amendment of page 2 to change “5 letters of objection to “3 letters of objection”.

Planning Committee

10th March 2010

No questions asked.

92. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

Councillor Crookes outlined the need for the Council to appoint a Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) as the current officer, Mr Jaquest, had been unable to continue with this shared post with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with effect from 31st March.

It was proposed to seek a similar shared officer arrangement with another Council as a permanent replacement for Mr Jaquest, and until this arrangement was in place, it was necessary to appoint an interim Chief Finance Officer for the period between April and the end of June.

RESOLVED

That Mr Alan Hill be appointed as interim Chief Finance Officer of the Council for the period to 30th June 2010.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.