



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 29TH JULY, 2010 AT 7.00 PM

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

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

- 1. PRAYERS**
- 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
To confirm the Minutes of the held on 24th June 2010. **(Paper A)**
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)**
- 5. 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, 23rd July 2010.***

- 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 Monday, 26th July 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, 29th July 2010**.*

- 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	Minute Numbers	For Decision
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 th June	1 - 12	
Cabinet	1 st July	13 – 29	22
Audit Committee	5 th July	1 - 11	
Planning Committee	14 th July	10 - 16	
Standards Committee	15 th July	1 - 8	

Recommendations from the following meetings **ONLY** if required -

Licensing Committee	19 th July
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20 th July

**II. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL
REGISTRATION OFFICER**

A report from the Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer is attached. **(Paper B)**

Date of Despatch: 20th July 2010

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

29 July 2010

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Report of the Chief Solicitor

Presented by Councillor Ken Crookes, Leader of the Council

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council's approval for the appointment of a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council agree to appoint the Chief Executive of the Council as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer commencing on the 29th July 2010.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The previous Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer left the authority on the 31st May 2010
- 3.2 Section 35(1) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act requires that the Council appoint an Officer as the Returning Officer for district and parish elections. The appointment of the Deputy Returning Officer at a County Council election is made by the County Returning Officer and is usually made to the individual appointed as the Returning Officer for the District.
- 3.3 Section 8(2) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act requires that this Council appoint an Officer as Electoral Registration Officer for all of the Parliamentary Constituencies within the authorities area. The appointment of the Acting Returning Officer at Parliamentary Elections and the Local Returning Officer at European Elections is made by the Secretary of State and is usually made to the individual appointed as the Electoral Registration Officer.
- 3.4 The position of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer is usually undertaken by a senior officer of the Authority.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Section 36(4) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act requires that all properly incurred expenditure of the Returning Officer in relation to District Elections must be met by the District Council.
- 4.2 The remuneration of the Returning Officer is set by statute or at local elections by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Election fees working group and is not determined by this Council or the individual who undertakes the role
- 4.3 Section 54(1) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act requires that all costs properly incurred by the Electoral Registration Officer in compilation of the register must be met by the District Council.

CONTACT: Andy Tiffin – Democratic Services Manager

EXTENSION: 4158 EMAIL: atiffin@hart.gov.uk

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 29th July 2010 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Ive - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Kinnell
Appleton	Davies	Neighbour
Axam	Evans	Parker
Barrell	Gorys	Radley J E
Blewett	Harward	Radley J R
Butler C	Healey	Simmons
Butler G	Henderson	Simpson
Cockarill	Kennett	Wheale

Officers Present:

Geoff Bonner	-	Chief Executive
Rod Hursthouse	-	Monitoring Officer
Tricia Jackson	-	Senior Committee Services Officer

12. PRAYERS

The Vice-Chairman led a short prayer.

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Note: Councillor Barrell entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billings, Haffey, Murr, Singh, Southern and Street.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

16. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received.

17. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions had been received.

18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

25 th June	Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Medieval Charity Banquet in The Great Hall, Winchester
1 st July	At Home with the High Sheriff of Hampshire at Bishop's Waltham
7 th July	Visit to RAF Odiham with the Vice-Chairman and adjoining Council Mayors
8 th July (am)	Visit to Gibraltar Barracks
8 th July (pm)	Visit to RAF Odiham
12 th July	1 st Fleet Boy's Brigade visit to the Council Chamber and CCTV Room
14 th July	Eastleigh Fire Station, Memorial to all Hampshire Fire Fighters killed while on duty (including one from Fleet in the 1980's) following by attendance at Winchester Cathedral for a Memorial Service for the two Southampton Fire Fighters killed on duty
21 st July	Farnborough International Air Show – Lunch in QinetiQ Chalet
22 nd July	Open Day at Yateley Industries
24 th July	Hart District Council Family Fun Day at Hart Leisure Centre
28 th July	Green Flag Award (Countryside Rangers), Elvetham Heath

The Chairman paid particular reference to the visit by the Boys Brigade to the Council Chamber where democracy and the Council's work in general was discussed.

The Chairman also referred to Henry Perkins, a young resident of Yateley, who had achieved amazing success in becoming the first British Graduate of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. Councillor Ive had been trying to arrange a presentation at this meeting, but unfortunately due to other engagements Henry had been unable to attend. However, his achievements would be rewarded at some future date.

At the next meeting in September a presentation would be made by a representative of the Royal Engineers from Gibraltar Barracks, which would be followed later in the year by a presentation from RAF Odiham.

The Chairman invited Members to join him at the Odiham Fire Show taking place on 7th and 8th August.

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

17 th July	Pelly Concert Orchestra, The Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath
18 th July	Elvetham Heath Car Show

19. CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Crookes**, made the following announcements:

“Cabinet and Management Team away day.

On 2nd July Members of Cabinet and the Management Team spent time together at Highfield Park discussing the issues which face Hart Council.

Local Government Association Conference

Councillor Neighbour, Mr. Bonner and myself attended the annual LGA Conference in Bournemouth. This year the theme was “Changing Times, Changing Minds”

Copies of the speaker presentations are to be found at:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=12461240>

Webcasts of some of the speeches are also available at:

<http://www.lga.public-i.tv/core/>

Members of the new government stressed their commitment to localism, citing recent announcements like the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies.

A Localism Bill is expected in autumn, this will set out the Government’s plans in detail.

Hampshire Senate Plenary Meeting 16th July

One of the roles of Senate is that of Local Area Agreement (LAA) Board. Presentations were made on the achievements of the LAA theme groups during the year. Senate also heard about Hampshire County Council’s Climate Change Strategy and we shall consider the impact of this on Hart at the next Hart Greening Partnership meeting.

Senate discussed the future of partnership “post LAA” ad the future of LAA as a formal mechanism is not yet clear.

Copies of the agenda and presentations are available, please mail me if you would like to receive them.”

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Appleton**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Health, **Councillor Butler**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Recreation, **Councillor Kinnell**, announced:

“Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve has been recognised as one of the country’s best green spaces and has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award.

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks and open spaces in the country and Elvetham Heath stood out after impressing the judges with its excellent use of green space, well-maintained facilities and high standard of safety and security.

I would like to congratulate everyone who was involved in gaining this award. It is a wonderful achievement for our Leisure Department and something we can be proud of”.

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

"I am pleased to advise Members that we have commenced a trial of cashless parking in two car parks - Hartley Wintney and Blackwater. Drivers can make contact by phone, SMS message or internet and buy a virtual ticket, avoiding the need for pocketfuls of coins.

This is in addition to traditional coin payment, Smartcards and credit/debit card payment, the last available in a selection of car parks. Full details are available on our website, and I have some prints of the information available for Members if they wish."

20. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive's report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

21. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15th June 2010

No questions asked.

Cabinet	1st July 2010
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22. Review of Members' Allowances

RESOLVED

"That an Appointment Panel be established comprised of the Chairman of the Council, and each Group Leader or their nominees, and that they be authorised to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of four years commencing with the date of appointment".

26. Free Swimming Provision for Under 16's and Over 60's

Councillor Cockarill asked whether any discussion had taken place on the provision of free swimming now that the government had withdrawn its funding support.

On behalf of the Leader, Councillor Kinnell reported that because the Council could not afford to carry on providing free swimming for under 16's and over 60's, existing members were being offered 365 cards for swimming at a cost of £12 per month (for a yearly subscription). The normal cost was £27. This had been advertised on the Council's website and issued as a press release.

Audit Committee	5th July 2010
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No questions asked.

Planning Committee	14th July 2010
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No questions asked.

Standards Committee	15th July 2010
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No questions asked.

**22. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL
REGISTRATION OFFICER**

The Council was asked to agree the appointment of a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Council agree to appoint the Chief Executive of the Council as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer commencing on the 29th July 2010.

Note: Councillor Simmons entered the meeting at 7.26 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- 1. Finance** – Cabinet on 5th August are considering the current draft Medium Term Financial Strategy. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the Council's financial resources next year, due partly to the general economic situation, partly to uncertainty about the effects of the Government's Public Spending Review, but mainly due to uncertainty about the impact of transferring responsibility for concessionary bus travel from the District Council to the County Council. It is hoped the position on this will clarify soon.
- 2. Fleet Vision** - September's Cabinet will receive the "Fleet Vision", a plan for improving Fleet Town Centre over the next couple of decades. It is intended that the Vision will be subject to public consultation during the autumn, and feed into work on producing the Local Development Framework (LDF) in the new year.
- 3. CCTV** - another report scheduled for September's Cabinet looks at the future of the Council's CCTV service, and the possibility of operating a joint control room with Rushmoor Borough Council.
- 4. Local Enterprise Partnerships** – The Coalition Government have announced that SEEDA, the South East Economic Development Agency, is to be abolished. Similar changes are happening in other parts of the country. The Government sees the regional development agencies being replaced in large measure by Local Enterprise Partnerships, and are inviting local authorities to submit proposals for establishing LEPs. Submissions have to be received by early September. This has given rise to some disagreement in Hampshire, with the County Council favouring a Hampshire-wide LEP, whilst most of the district councils, plus the unitary councils, favour two LEPs, one based on North Hampshire and one in the PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) area.
- 5. Health Service Changes** – The Coalition Government has also proposed the scrapping of two tiers of health service management – the Strategic Health Authorities (we are in the South Central Strategic Health Authority area) and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs – we are in the Hampshire PCT area). Instead, the Government is looking to groups of GPs to work together to manage primary care within their areas. It is likely to lead to a further debate in Hampshire about what the appropriate boundaries for these GP practices should be. It will be important for the District Council to use its influence to ensure that the interests of the residents of the district are properly protected through this process.
- 6. Housing Numbers** – Members will be aware that the Coalition Government's decision to scrap Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) means that the District Council now has to decide for itself how many houses should be built in the district during the life of the new LDF. The Coalition Government are emphasising the importance of local communities in deciding what local housing targets should be set and the Leader of the Council, supported by appropriate Officers, is conducting a series of dialogues with the Parish Councils in Hart, asking them to consider what the future "shape" of their communities should be and, therefore, what future development should take place in them. It is hoped that this work will allow the Parishes to have a meaningful input to the LDF's work in this regard.

7. Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Funding – Until recently, the HCA has been the main funding source to provide public subsidies for affordable housing provision. Housing Associations have looked to the HCA to provide grants to bridge the gap between the cost of housing provision and the level of rent an association needs to charge to break even. The HCA is, however, caught up in the national Public Spending Review, and it is not certain whether, or how much, funding will be available from this source in future. Depending on the outcome of the PSR, the District Council may need to re-think its approach to the provision of affordable housing in response to falling grant levels.

8. Investors in People – During the last week the Council has been the subject of an inspection by Investors in People (IIP), as part of the process of renewing our IIP accreditation. In view of the changes and pressures on budgets and staffing which have taken place over the last few years, we already know that we are not fully compliant with the IIP standard, and the Council's recently agreed Workforce Strategy is aimed (amongst other things) at ensuring compliance in future. We have asked for the inspection to be undertaken at this stage in order to give us a clearer picture of why we are not compliant, and thereby help us to focus on the improvements we need to make. The Assessor's report is expected shortly, and will influence the implementation of the Workforce Strategy in the Autumn.