



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, 28TH OCTOBER 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**
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)**
- 5. PRESENTATION BY GROUP CAPTAIN SHELL OF RAF ODIHAM**
- 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, 22nd October 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, 25th October 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, 28th October 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
Licensing Committee	20 th September	7 - 12	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 st September	38 - 48	
Audit Committee	28 th September	12 - 18	
Cabinet	7 th October	58 - 75	68 – Protocol on Planning Matters 74 – Possible Change to the District Council's Electoral Cycle (See Item 11 on the Agenda)
Planning Committee	13 th October	29 - 35	

Recommendations from the following meetings ONLY if required -

Licensing Committee	18 th October
Planning Committee	20 th October
Standards Committee	21 st October

II. POSSIBLE CHANGE TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL CYCLE

A report from the Chief Executive is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That consideration of this issue be deferred until the 2013/14 Council year.

Date of Despatch: 19th October 2010

COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 28 OCTOBER 2010

TITLE OF REPORT: **POSSIBLE CHANGE TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL CYCLE**

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder: Ken Crookes, Leader

I PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether the Council wishes in principle to move to the system of 'whole-Council' elections with effect from 2015.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That consideration of this issue be deferred until the 2013/14 Council year.

3 INFORMATION

- 3.1 At present the Council is elected 'by thirds', with one-third of the Council being elected at a time. At its meeting on 7 October 2010 Cabinet considered a report about the possibility of moving to whole-Council elections with effect from the 2015 election date. Under the whole-Council approach all seats are up for election at the same time and thus district elections only take place once every four years.
- 3.2 Under the legislation Councils can choose to make such a move, subject to certain conditions. The opportunity to make the move, however, only occurs during certain 'windows' of time. The next 'window' does not occur until 2014. If the Council decided in 2014 to move to whole-Council elections, that decision would take effect from the 2015 elections.
- 3.3 During consideration of this issue Cabinet were concerned that the move to whole-Council elections might take place close to the implementation of the current Local Government Boundary Commission review of electoral arrangements in Hart. It is anticipated that implementation of the findings of that review will take place in 2014, ie a year before the potential move to whole-Council elections. That could mean that all council seats would be up for election in 2014 as a result of the Boundary Commission review, and then again in 2015 as a result of the move to whole-council elections.
- 3.4 Cabinet therefore made a recommendation to Council: "to proceed with consultation on a move to whole-Council elections with effect from 2015 and that a report be prepared for Council setting out how the change could work."
- 3.5 Cabinet's thinking in making this recommendation was that if the Council could decide in the near future to move to whole-Council elections with effect from 2015, that decision could be taken into account as part of the Boundary Commission

review, hopefully putting back the date of implementation of the review's finding to 2015, and thereby avoiding the need for two all-seat elections in succeeding years.

- 3.6 Since the Cabinet meeting, however, it has been learnt that the Council cannot lawfully take a decision to move to whole-Council elections until the "window" opens in 2014. In other words the Council does not have the power at this point in time to decide to make that move. On that basis, the thinking behind the Cabinet recommendation falls.
- 3.7 In light of this new information, and having consulted with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, officers now recommend that the Council defer any further consideration of this issue until the 2013/14 Council year, with a view to a possible decision being taken during the 2014 window.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive

18 October 2010

Contact: Geoff Bonner, Chief Executive, geoff.bonner@hart.gov.uk

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 28th October 2010 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Ive - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Neighbour
Axam	Davies	Parker
Bailey	Evans	Radley J E
Barrell	Gorys	Radley J R
Billings	Harward	Simmons
Blewett	Healey	Simpson
Butler C	Hunt	Singh
Butler G	Kennett	Wheale
Cockarill	Murr	

Officers Present:

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

34. PRAYERS

Councillor Singh led a short prayer.

(Note: Councillor Simmons entered the meeting at 7.02 pm)

35. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th September 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Appleton, Glen, Haffey, Henderson, Kinnell, Maughan, Southern and Street.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

38. PRESENTATION BY MR DAVID BAILEY OF HOMESTART

Mr Bailey thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their support of HomeStart as one of the Chairman's charities this year.

Mr Bailey, who was Chairman of the Board of six Trustees, was joined by his colleagues Irene Pollard, Senior Organiser, and Fiona Walton, Organiser. He explained that HomeStart was a world-wide organisation and there were over 300 schemes in the United Kingdom, and its purpose was to help families build better lives for their children. The issues, in common with many other organisations, was funding, recruiting and training volunteers. There was no shortage of families needing help and currently there were 10 to 15 on the waiting list.

There were currently 44 volunteers and 102 training courses had been completed. These courses covered all aspects of supporting a family within the home, and subjects included debt, isolation, domestic violence, multiple births, unemployment and single parents.

Mrs Pollard and Mrs Walton gave an overview of several cases which covered several of the subjects mentioned.

There was a 50/50 split of families between Hart and Rushmoor, 60% of volunteers came from Hart and 40% from Rushmoor. Operating costs were £65,000 per annum. Mr Bailey was disappointed that their bid for the Lottery had not succeeded because Hart and Rushmoor were not in a "deprived area". However, other sources of funding had been successful.

Councillor Billings congratulated all those involved with HomeStart as she had personal knowledge of their help with her daughter.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr Bailey and his team for their very informative and enlightening presentation.

(Note: Councillor Blewett entered the meeting at 7.06 pm)

39. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received.

40. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions put by Councillors are detailed in the Appendix attached to these Minutes.

41. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Sunday, 3 rd October	Hampshire Harvest Weekend Service, Winchester Cathedral
Monday, 4 th October	HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Meritorious Service Awards Ceremony, Winchester
Tuesday, 5 th October	Junior Road Safety Conference, Basingstoke

Wednesday, 6 th October	Chairman's Civic Day
Monday, 11 th October	High Sheriff of Hampshire Service, Winchester Cathedral
Tuesday, 12 th October	Fundraising Meal at Rice, Yateley In aid of the Brian Randall Charitable Trust
Sunday, 17 th October	Chairman's Civic Service at St Andrew's Church, Minley Manor
Wednesday, 27 th October	The Hampshire Royal British Legion The Hampshire Poppy Launch HMS Victory, Portsmouth

The Chairman announced some forthcoming events:

A Fashion Show at The Elvetham, Fleet on Saturday, 8th January 2011.

Civic Dinner at Fleet Golf Club on Saturday, 5th March 2011, with entertainment from Small Fakers.

42. CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

"Members may recall that as previously announced, we had been part of a Local Enterprise Partnership bid with neighbouring Councils. I have heard today that our bid has not been successful in the first round. Less than half had been successful, but not unsuccessful. I have received a letter which I will circulate to Members suggesting we go and talk to some of the LEP bodies about getting together. I have started informal conversations with bidders in Berkshire.

I had a meeting last week with Eric Pickles to discuss the comprehensive spending review, which the Chief Executive will cover in his report."

There were no announcements for the Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Appleton**.

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Health, **Councillor Butler**, announced that he had received a booklet from the National Housing Federation South East called "Home Truths 2010 – Why Investment in Affordable Housing Matters".

The title was fairly self-explanatory, but there was data on average house prices and incomes across the south east. Councillor Butler agreed that he would email the booklet to all Councillors and Parish Councils who expressed an interest.

There were no announcements for the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Recreation, **Councillor Kinnell**.

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

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, **Councillor Singh**, announced:

"A brief overview of activities that have taken place this month or will be happening next month:

Safety Talks - During October our team have been in senior schools educating over 4,200 school children. We have conducted joint assemblies with the Police informing young people of their responsibilities and possible dangers of Halloween & Fireworks.

Face The People - The first event is taking place today as I speak at the Tythings, Yateley. This will involve a panel of experts from HDC, Police, Fire Service, Youth Offending Team and The Magistrates Court taking questions from members of the public.

Disability sessions - Starting in November, we will be trialling free disability coaching sessions with Aldershot Town FC's Community Trust. This will be a weekly event for adults with disabilities where they can engage in multi-sports activities in a fun and caring environment.

Bike Clinic - We will be holding a Bike Clinic on Saturday 20th November at The Lea, Fleet, where young people can bring their bikes along, have them checked over by an expert volunteer, have minor repairs made, their bikes coded by the police and registered on bikeregister.com

Fleet Festivities - Our team will be at the Fleet Festivities with the Safer Hart van, along with the Police, engaging with the public and giving out safety advice and literature.

(Note: Councillor Wheale entered the meeting at 7.40 pm)

43. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

44. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Licensing Committee	20th September 2010
No questions asked.	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21st September 2010
No questions asked.	
Audit Committee	28th September 2010

Minute No 17 - Internal Audit Progress Report Q2 June 2010 – September 2010

Councillor Bailey stated that members of the Audit Committee had been concerned for some time, a view shared by the Audit Manager, that the Council did not have the consistent compliance with the Complaints Policy that it should have. He requested the assurance of the Chief Executive at the next Council meeting that the current Complaints Policy was being adhered to in a consistent way across the Council.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a report could be prepared for the next Council meeting and requested Councillor Bailey for some supportive evidence of the lack of consistency in the Complaints Policy.

Cabinet

7th October 2010

Minute No 68 - Protocol on Planning Matters

RESOLVED

That the Protocol on Planning Matters be adopted as part of the Constitution.

The Leader of the Council stated that, on reflection the second Recommendation in this Minute required to be more specific. Councillor Crookes moved and Councillor Wheale seconded -

“That training in the Council’s planning policies and protocols be mandatory for Members of the Planning Committee”.

Councillor J E Radley stated that in his view mandatory training had been referred to in the Protocol, and therefore, this could not be debated again for six months.

Accordingly, under Standing Order No 24 – Suspension and Amendment of the Procedure Rules, debate on the motion was allowed.

Councillor Radley moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Ambler, as follows:

“That the Planning Committee cannot meet unless two-thirds of the Members present have been through adequate training”.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

The motion was then put to the vote, the result of which was as follows:

FOR
11

AGAINST
14

ABSTENTIONS
2

The motion was declared LOST.

Planning Committee

13th October 2010

No questions asked.

(Note: Councillor Hunt entered the meeting at 8.30 pm)

45. POSSIBLE CHANGE TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL CYCLE

The Council received a report from the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to consider whether the Council wished, in principle, to move to the system of 'whole-council' elections with effect from 2015.

At its meeting on 7th October 2010, Cabinet recommended Council... "To proceed with consultation on a move to whole-council elections with effect from 2015 and that a report be prepared for Council setting out how the change could work".

Since the Cabinet meeting it was understood that the Council could not lawfully take a decision to move to whole-council elections at this time. The opportunity to make the move only occurred during certain 'windows' of time. The next 'window' did not occur until 2014. As such, the Cabinet recommendation falls.

In the light of new information and having consulted with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the recommendation put forward was that the Council defer any further consideration of this issue until the 2013/14 Council year, with a view to a possible decision being taken during the 2014 window.

RESOLVED

That consideration of this issue be deferred until the 2013/14 Council year.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Axam asked the Cabinet Member for Environment:

“Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment clarify the situation with regard to the collection of annual fees associated with the provision of the garden waste service. I have been made aware by a resident in my ward that this year’s fee has not been collected and from the correspondence sent to me, it suggests there has been a breakdown in the administration, as no reminders for non payment were issued.”

Councillor Parker responded:

“As the Member knows, there has been a delay in sending out a small number of invoices for the Council's garden waste service, caused by problems with the software system being used. Officers are currently working on resolving these problems and are confident that an improved system will be operational within the next month or so. In the meantime all outstanding invoices due for issue up to October 2010 have been raised and have been mailed by first class post today.”

Supplementary Question by Councillor Axam:

“Can the Cabinet Member provide some information on the number of invoices to be raised for non-payment and the cost to the Council? I would also like to know what Officers have agreed with Capita for non-performance as I understand from copies of emails that, in lieu of a cash payment, the Council is to receive enhanced service support from them. I would like to know what cash sum we are talking about as I would always consider it sensible to take the cash and decide the value of the benefits being offered by Capita separately”.

Response by Councillor Parker:

“The number of invoices that were missed was 288 although there have been a few more from the most recent invoice run. It would be inappropriate to publish in open Council the amount of the cash payment that would have been due, but I am more than happy to share that privately.

I can say the enhanced compensation agreed with Capita is more than enough to cover the total loss if none of the 288 is paid. And the other thing is that what we are doing is using the enhanced sum to pay for a new software system for generating green waste invoices. The system handed over to Capita was one that we invented in-house and is not fit for purpose and why we need a new system”.

The Chairman suggested that Councillor Parker shared the figures with all Members, to which Councillor Parker agreed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. Work continues on preparing the Council's **Budget** – although the Government announced the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October, it is still not known what this will mean for the District Council's budget. The Government have indicated that grant allocations to individual councils will be announced in early December. This has made the process of preparing the budget very difficult, as there is still no certainty what the total level of resource available to the Council next year will be. Work is currently proceeding on the assumption that budget savings of the order of £800K to £1M will be required, but there remains an outside possibility that significantly greater savings will need to be made.

The Budget Challenge Group meetings have been progressing well, and currently savings totalling around the target level have been identified. These are being examined in further detail and will be discussed through Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet over the coming weeks.

2. The **Local Government Boundary Commission** have commenced their review of electoral arrangements in the district. The first decision to be taken is the total number of councillors who will sit on Hart District Council in the future. Discussions are taking place between the party group leaders to try to achieve a consensus on this point. The issue will be the subject of a report to the next Full Council meeting (November) for the Council to agree its view, which will then be passed to the Commission.
3. On 5 November **Improvement and Efficiency South East** will be holding their Annual Conference in London. Hart District Council is being held up as an exemplar of good practice for the efficiency improvements we have made over the last couple of years, and Emma Broom and I have been invited to join a panel to address the conference on this work.