

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting - 11 December 2007

- Present: Councillors Dhillon (Chairman), Mrs Royston (Vice-Chairman),
Councillors Adams, Miss Arnold, Bowater, Bradford, Brown, Bullock, Busby, Chhokar, Mrs Cranmer, Mrs Evans, Grover, Harding, Hardy, Hollis, Mrs Holloway, D.F.A. Jones, Lidgate, Mrs Lowen-Cooper, Dr Merrick, Reed, Sandy, Mrs Simmonds, Ms Vigor-Hedderly, Walters, Ms Webber, Wilson and Mrs Woolveridge.
- Apologies: Councillors Binns, Chapman, Clark, Miss Hazel, S.W. Jones, Mrs Khan, Oxley, Thomson, Tilbey, Mrs Wallis and Weir.

50. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on recent functions and events attended on behalf of the Council and highlighted attendance at the official opening of the new landmark entrance at Pinewood Studios by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, a Remembrance Sunday Service in Farnham Royal, a Charity Dinner hosted by Aylesbury Vale District Council and the Annual Award Ceremony for Buckinghamshire Scouts (where South Bucks was well represented amongst those receiving awards).

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 October 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

52. CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Leader proposed some changes to Cabinet membership and responsibilities involving some re-alignment of roles.

RESOLVED that Cabinet membership and responsibilities be amended as follows:-

Councillor Reed (Deputy Leader) responsible for the Sustainable Development Portfolio, (responsible for services including Development Control, Building Control, Planning Enforcement and Administration, Trees and Conservation and sustainability issues generally).

Councillor Bowater, responsible for the Local Development Framework Portfolio.

Councillor Lidgate, responsible for the Environment Portfolio.

Councillor Tilbey, responsible for the Community, Leisure and Communications Portfolio.

Councillor Wilson, responsible for the Resources Portfolio.

Councillor Mrs Woolveridge, responsible for the Health and Housing Portfolio.

53. CABINET

The Leader, Mr Busby, presented the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 November 2007. Each minute of the Cabinet was introduced by the relevant Portfolio Holder respectively.

With reference to minute 61 [Partnership Working/Outside Body Reports] the Leader reiterated the concern expressed in his report on SEERA about the proposed transfer of

strategic powers from the Regional Assembly to the unelected, undemocratic SEEDA and undertook to keep the Council informed of any developments (also referred to in minute 59 below).

With reference to minute 62 [Performance Monitoring] the Chief Executive elaborated on the new national Performance Indicator set which had been announced, which would be integrated with the refreshed Local Area Agreement (LAA) to be introduced in Bucks by mid 2008.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

54. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 November 2007 was presented.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

55. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The report of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 November 2007 was presented.

With reference to minute 61 [Planning Appeals] the Chairman of the Committee reported that the progress report on appeal statistics now included cumulative figures on the results of Planning Appeals which could be compared with targets. These figures would form part of the minutes for future meetings.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

56. **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The report of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 14 November 2007 was presented.

With reference to minute 35 [Draft Licensing Act 2003 Policy] the Chairman of the Committee introduced the Council's amended Licensing Act policy now recommended for adoption. It was noted that although some suggestions had been made about inclusion of a "Special Policy", in the absence of specific details and evidence in support of such a policy from local residents, the responsible authorities and/or the Police, it was not possible to introduce a special policy.

With reference to minute 36 [Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Document], the Chairman of the Committee introduced the draft policy document now recommended for adoption.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

57. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 20 November 2007 was presented.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

58. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice having been given under Council Procedure Rule 11, it was moved by Mr D.F.A. Jones and seconded by Mr Grover that:-

“This Council notes that the draft South East Plan, prepared by the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA), has recently been examined by the Government appointed Planning Panel.

1. *This Council proposes that the Secretary of State honours the Prime Minister’s commitment to maintaining the integrity of the Green Belt by specifically rejecting proposals for further large scale ‘Strategic Green Belt Reviews’ in the South East or its replacement by ‘Green wedges’.*
2. *This Council works with Bucks County Council and neighbouring Districts to assess the impacts of growth and population change upon services and infrastructure, and supported by a robust evidence base, identify and cost the infrastructure essential to deliver and support housing and employment growth.*
3. *This Council maximises planning gain through a ‘tariff’, ‘strategic charge’ or enhanced Section 106 arrangements on all new housing and commercial development throughout this District. Such an approach would enable monies collected to contribute towards key strategic and local infrastructure to support public services, including transport, education, health, social care, leisure and open spaces.*
4. *This Council in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks and Supplementary Planning Documents, especially for Developer Contributions and Sustainability, seeks to ensure that all growth and supporting infrastructure is planned to protect and enhance the environment, and wherever possible seeks the most sustainable development design”.*

The motion, having been moved and seconded, was referred without discussion to the Local Development Framework Portfolio Holder/Policy Advisory Group for consideration and report.

59. MEMBERS’ REPORTS

- (1) The Council received an Outside Body report from the Leader on attendance at a meeting of SEERA (South East England Regional Assembly) meeting on 14 November 2007 (see also minute 52 above).
- (2) The Council received a compilation of Outside Body reports presented to recent Policy Advisory Group (PAG) meetings.

Two observations were made on the accuracy of the report to the Health and Housing PAG:

- a) the reference to consultations on proposals from LQ Beacon Homes regarding the re-development of Alexander Korda House in Denham was misleading - insufficient consultation had been carried out - more was required;
 - b) the statement that SBDC had the highest BME population in the County at 13.5% was inaccurate - the true figure being substantially less.
- (3) The Chairman of the Council reported his attendance at a recent meeting of the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (HACC) on 5 December 2007. The meeting had considered reports on the progress of trials prior to the opening of terminal 5 in Spring 2008 and the upgrade works to terminals 1 and 4. A report on “Attitudes to noise from aviation sources in England” had been produced. The report indicated a high degree of annoyance felt by survey respondents in areas where aircraft noise was greater. Although the report was long and technically complex it dealt not only with Heathrow Airport but England generally, and did not contain a summary of easily identifiable prime conclusions. HACC had also considered the Department for Transport consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow Airport, about which 217,000 households had been directly consulted. The proposals could result in an additional 60,000 air movements per year.

60. **WASTE**

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive which proposed seeking Counsel's advice on an issue relating to the choosing of possible sites for waste incineration.

The consultation by Buckinghamshire County Council in summer 2007 on its Waste Development Plan Document had provoked substantial comment and opposition to the possibility of sites at Wapseys Wood and Springfield Farm in South Bucks being designated as possible sites for waste incineration. Other sites in the north of the County, and specifically at Aston Clinton and Long Crendon, were designated as possible sites for incineration.

Recently the County Council had considered removing both the Long Crendon and the Aston Clinton sites from its options on the basis of possible objections from the MOD in relation to RAF bases. The report outlined the background to these objections and went on to raise the following questions:

- Had the County Council gone through due and proper process by its own rules and statutory regulations in removing the site or sites from the options list?
- Had it acted reasonably in doing so, bearing in mind the position of both Springfield Farm and Wapseys Wood adjacent to RAF Northolt and to Heathrow and Denham Aerodrome?
- Were other issues such as the statistical basis for the decision to remove sites, the sustainability criteria used, the air quality and health impacts fully explored?
- Was the issue of the availability of rail or water links to minimise impact of reliance on roads considered?

It was proposed that a Counsel's opinion be sought on the approach and actions adopted by Buckinghamshire Council, the likely cost of which would be a maximum of £2,000.

RESOLVED that a Counsel's opinion be sought, as detailed above, with the wording to be agreed by the Leader of the Council and the Environment Portfolio Holder.

61. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Cabinet meeting (Part II) - 26 November 2007 - as set out in minute 66.
Personnel Committee (Part II) - 20 November 2007 - as set out in minute 18.

62. **CABINET MEETING**

The Part II report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 November 2007 was presented.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

63. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Part II report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 20 November 2007 was presented.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

64. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.