

**CABINET  
(FURTHER MEETING)  
(HELD ON 13 JULY 2005)  
(FROM 5.30 PM – 5.48 PM)**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Dr Gardner in the Chair. Councillors Jean Butterfield, Cooper, Ellington, Pat Jones, Skidmore and Sturdy.

**Late Arrivals:** None.

**Early Departures:** None.

34/05 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** There were no apologies for absence.

(5.30 pm)

35/05 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest to any reference on the agenda in connection with the Harrogate International Centre, arising from the use of the facility by his employer for conference purposes.

(5.31 pm)

36/05 - **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 June 2005 were approved unanimously as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

(5.31 pm)

37/05 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:**

Appendices 5 and 6 of the report referred to at Minute 38/05 below were regarded as exempt in accordance with paragraph 11 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. Discussion on the item was, however, held in open session.

(5.31 pm)

**MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION**

38/05 - **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2006/07 TO 2008/09:** The Head of Financial Management submitted a written report in relation to the Council's policy objectives, proposing a means of reconciling spending ambitions with resource projections over the medium term, and providing the appropriate resource reallocation. The report was to be considered in conjunction with the medium-term corporate strategy and one of the key issues before Cabinet was the determination of spending priorities, such decisions to be taken in light of the 2004 Simalto exercise undertaken to identify residents' views and preferences. The report also identified for approval the budget parameters and policy approaches for 2006/07. In addition, financial targets for the three-year period to reflect the overall policy stance were identified for consideration. The further spending pressures, and their likely implications over the period of the strategy were outlined in the report, the major demands being seen as those in respect of recycling, access to services/ICT and

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Human Resources Strategy (single status). In respect of recycling and waste management the Cabinet Member for Environmental Health advised Cabinet of an exercise presently ongoing with regard to such services, a full report on which would be made to Cabinet later in the year in order that the impact of the proposals could be fully assessed prior to the next financial year.

In conclusion, the Director of Resources emphasised the necessity to, in the context of the proposed strategy, resist budgetary growth in order to achieve the target Council Tax rises illustrated in the report and, in doing so, avoid the possibility of Government imposed tax capping.

### **RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

(1) the following proposal for the Medium Term Financial Strategy be agreed:

(a) the revenue budget targets for 2006/07 to 2008/09 as shown in Appendix 6 be agreed.

(b) the following 2006/07 budget parameters be agreed:

Fees and charges increases	3% guideline (subject to service considerations and market forces)
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Pay increases provision	2.95% (or RPI October 2005 if higher)
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Other non demand-led expenditure budgets	0%
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Efficiency savings illustrations (provisional targets)	2.5% (of which 1.25% to be cash-based)
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(c) a continued working balance target of £2m to £2.75m be approved.

(d) the cash limits for Cultural Services and HIC be applied as outlined in the report.

(e) the emerging requirements in respect of Resource Reallocation and other CPA standards be noted (paragraph 10.0 of the report refers).

(f) the further spending pressures illustrated in paragraph 9.8 of the report be classified as follows:

Recycling revenue	Growth item 2006/07 (detailed assessment)
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Recycling capital	Growth item 2006/07/capitalise (detailed assessment)
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Access to Services/ICT	Growth item 2006/07
Memorial Safety	Continue in base budget for one more year
HR Strategy (including Single Status)	Growth item 2007/08 (detailed assessment)
Other Issues	Growth item 2006/07
Capital Investment	Deferred

(2) mindful of the success of the SIMALTO exercise, and its three year validity, the Council contains its consultation to the District Panel on the draft medium-term strategy for this year; and

(3) the Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission be allowed until 31 October 2005 to report on its deliberations on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2006/07 to 2008/09.

(5.31 pm – 5.40 pm)

### 39/05 - **LAND WEST OF MARKET PLACE, RIPON – PROPOSED**

**COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER:** Further to Cabinet Minute 116/04 the Project Manager, Bernard White, submitted a written report, which outlined the current position since authorisation in February 2005 to seek the use of compulsory purchase powers, in the event of this being necessary to facilitate the development of land West of Market Place, Ripon. Following a review of the case by the Council's external legal advisers, additional areas, as shown on the plan at Appendix A to the report were now suggested for inclusion within the scheme and which were, in the main, areas of land to the centre of the highway (to deal with the legal presumption that frontages own the sub-soil to the centre of the highway) and land where new rights would be required in order to carry out the development.

Whilst acquisition of the land required to facilitate the proposed development, by agreement, was still preferable and would give a start time on site early in the new year, securing an acceptable form of development was paramount and the use, if necessary, of compulsory purchase powers would be the means to achieve this and avoid undue delay.

### **RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the report be received;

(2) Cabinet confirm agreement to the seeking of compulsory purchase powers in respect of various parcels of land to the West of Market Place, in order to facilitate the proposed development by Maple Grove Developments Limited and North Yorkshire County Council. The land in question as shown on the plan at Appendix A to the report; and

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(3) the title “the Harrogate Borough Council (land West of the Market Place, Ripon) Compulsory Purchase Order 2005” be adopted for all legal and administrative purposes.

(5.40 pm – 5.43 pm)

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Dr Gardner in the Chair. Councillors Jean Butterfield, Cooper, Ellington, Pat Jones, Skidmore and Sturdy.

**Late Arrivals:** None.

**Early Departures:** None.

#### **MATTER DEALT WITH BY CABINET**

40/05 - **IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT (IEG) 4.5 STATEMENT:**  
The Head of Information Technology and Development submitted a written report on the proposed content of the Council's IEG 4.5 Statement which, if approved by Cabinet, would be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in accordance with the deadline for such statements of 18 July 2005. A copy of the proposed statement was attached as an Appendix to the written report.

#### **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That the IEG 4.5 Statement be approved for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

#### **Reason for making decision:**

The Government has requested that all Councils submit an approved IEG 4.5 Statement by 18 July 2005.

#### **Alternative option considered and rejected:**

Not to approve the IEG 4.5 Statement for submission to the ODPM. Failure to submit an approved IEG 4.5 Statement could undermine the ODPM's confidence in the Council's ability to deliver the E-Government agenda and result in a claw-back of IEG grant funding previously allocated to the Council.

(5.43 pm – 5.48 pm)

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