

**CABINET  
(FURTHER MEETING)  
HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007  
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 5.54 PM)**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mike Gardner in the Chair. Councillors Cooper, Ellington, Andrew Jones, Pat Jones and Don MacKenzie.

**Late Arrivals:** None.

**Early Departures:** None.

20/07 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Jean Butterfield.

(5.32 pm)

21/07 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest to any reference on the agenda relating to Harrogate International Centre, arising from the use of the facility by his employer for conference purposes.

(5.32 pm)

22/07 - **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 21 June 2007 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(5.32 pm)

23/07 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** The report referred to at Minute 34/07 contained information considered to be exempt in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. Discussion on the item was, however, held in open session.

Prior to the formal proceedings of Cabinet the Leader advised that the Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Improvement, Mr Kevin Douglas was attending his last meeting of the Cabinet, leaving the Council's employment on 29 June 2007 in order to take up the appointment of Chief Executive at Eden District Council. The Leader and Cabinet took the opportunity to thank Kevin for his valued contribution to the running and performance of the Council and to wish him well in his new post at Eden District Council.

**MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION**

24/07 - **GENERAL FUND FINAL ACCOUNTS – 2006/07:** The Head of Financial Management submitted a written report, which set out the main features of the financial position on revenue spending in 2006/07 on the general fund, providing Cabinet with details of outturn for 2006/07 and the level of the working balance as at 31 March 2007, after taking into account the suggested use of under spends for that

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year, as detailed in Section 4 of the report. Since consideration of the use of underspends by the Corporate Management Team and the Cabinet Member (Finance and Resources), the position regarding the potential increased cost in 2006/07 for concessionary fares had now become clearer and, as a consequence, the sum of £141,500 had now to be met, by way of a reduction in the contribution from underspends for 2006/07 to the capital reserve. The contribution to the capital reserve was now reduced from £500,000 to £358,500.

The General Purposes Committee would, at its meeting to be held on 28 June 2007, be formally asked to approve the Council's statement of accounts for 2006/07.

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

That (1) the report be received and information contained in the report on the general fund account for 2006/07 be noted; and

(2) the proposed uses of the 2006/07 underspends as summarised below be endorsed and recommended to Council;

Business Unit normal carry forwards (net of losses) - £323,618

Business Unit additional carry forwards (via working balance) - £65,717

Contribution to Insurance Reserve - £50,000

Contribution to Benefits Subsidy Reserve - £40,000

Contribution to Counsels Fees Reserve - £70,000

Contribution to Transport Reserve - £141,500

Contribution to Capital Reserve - £358,500

Contribution to working balance - £32,820

(5.35 pm – 5.37 pm)

### 25/07 - **THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND CORPORATE**

**IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** The Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Improvement, submitted a written report, together with, for approval, the Strategic Plan and Corporate Improvement Plan which, together with the Corporate Resource Strategy were the three key documents for use in the Council's corporate planning process. Both the Strategic Plan which set out the Council's vision, goal, corporate objectives and strategic actions and also the Corporate Improvement Plan, which set out how the organisation should improve to achieve the goals and corporate objectives, have been developed following detailed consultation with partners, directors, managers and staff. In respect of the Improvement Plan, the Executive Director identified two minor amendments relating to Officer responsibility for the actions under the shared service agenda.

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

That (1) the actions in the 2007/08 Council's Strategic Plan 2005-2008 be approved; and

(2) the actions in the 2007/08 Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 2005-2008 be approved.

(5.37 pm – 5.39 pm)

**26/07 - CPA RE-CATEGORISATION BID – SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT EVIDENCE:** The Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Councillor Broadbank, submitted a written report, setting out the comments from that Commission, following its consideration, on 13 June 2007, of the report on the CPA re-categorisation bid self-assessment of the improvement evidence. In considering Cabinet Minute 7/07 arising from its meeting held on 30 May 2007, the Commission had supported the recommendations, but considered that the proposal not to submit a bid if the County Council's unitary submission was successful would weaken the Council's case in terms of its opposition to a County unitary authority. The Commission had, therefore, proposed that the re-categorisation bid be submitted, regardless of the outcome of the County Council's unitary bid.

In thanking Councillor Broadbank for his attendance and report, the Leader of the Council indicated that in accepting the Commission's findings, he would request the Chief Executive to review the workload associated with pursuing the re-categorisation bid and ask for a further report to be made to the Cabinet in the event that this was viewed as excessive in the context of the yet to be released decision on the County Council's bid for unitary status.

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

That the comments and findings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Commission regarding the re-categorisation bid be accepted.

(5.47 pm – 5.50 pm)