

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 11 December 2017  
at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor M Sollitt (Chairman); Councillors Airey, Asman, Atkinson, Bain, Balaam, Bicknell, Boulton, A Broadhurst, H Broadhurst, Campbell, Clarke, Corben, Couldrey, Craig, Cross, Garton, Grajewski, Hall, Holden-Brown, Holes, House, M Hughes, Irish, Kyrle, Lear, Mignot, Morris, Myerscough, Parkinson, Pragnell, Pretty, Roling, Rushton, Scott, Sollitt, Tennent, Thomas, Van Niekerk and Winstanley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allingham, Hatfield, Mann and Rich

31. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an overview of recent Council highlights:

- That the Borough's replacement for Fleming Park Leisure Centre – Places Leisure Eastleigh – opened on 28 November 2017. If anyone had not already done so, she urged everyone to visit. It was a superb facility and being delivered at no cost to Council Tax payers.
- The annual Christmas Light Switch-On and Fun Day took place on 18 November 2017 and attracted thousands to the town centre.
- Submission of a joint bid to the Government, in partnership with Hampshire County Council for £10 million, to help deliver the planned Botley Bypass had taken place.
- Work continued on a new development of 560 homes at Stoneham, providing 200 affordable homes. The first homes would be available in 2018.

32. RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING CALL-INS) REQUIRING DECISION

Consideration was given to the following minutes:

- (a) Cabinet – 16 November 2017

Treasury Management Half Yearly Report (Minute 50)

The Mayor requested that Standing Order 11 be suspended in order to allow debate on the following Item;

- (b) Cabinet – 11 December 2017

Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016 – 2013) (Minute 68)

**RESOLVED -**

**That the recommendations contained in Minutes 50 and 68 be agreed:**

(NOTES: 1(a) Representations were made by: nine members of the Public, one Colden Common Parish Councillor; one Owslebury Parish Councillor; one Upham Parish Councillor; one Allbrook and North Boyatt Parish Council; two Winchester City Councillors; on behalf of Mims Davies the MP for Eastleigh; AC Declo Bowman Archery Club; Eastleigh Labour Party; CPRE; The Woodland Trust; eleven members of Action Against Destructive Development; and Itchen SAC; spoke and raised concerns and objections regarding specific issues contained in the Cabinet report of 11 December 2017; b) Councillors Couldrey and Morris declared disclosable pecuniary interests in this item and left the room before it was considered;

2) Councillor S Sollitt proposed the following amendment to the recommendation: “That Council i) Recognises the need for the Borough of Eastleigh to have a defendable, deliverable and robust local plan; ii) Notes its concern that the evidence base presented, especially information relating to the Strategic Growth Option (Options B & C) is far from complete and that this is likely to lead to the Plan being rejected by the Local Plan Inspector as unsound. Council therefore requests that: i) Option B is rejected in its entirety, as the Council: a) Believes that this part of the proposed Strategic Growth Option, in its present form, is not environmentally sustainable, as defined by the NPPF, for delivering large scale housing in terms of location, impact on biodiversity and increase in pollution; b) Sees no evidence that the proposed link road through the Strategic Growth Option will deal with current and future congestion in Bishopstoke and Fair Oak, will do nothing to improve air quality in the Eastleigh town centre or across Bishopstoke and will increase traffic and reduce air quality in Eastleigh North ward; c) Believes the Plan fails to address the issues of Allbrook Railway Bridge, the impact on Allbrook Village, the environmental damage across the Itchen Valley and the potential damage to habitats near Stoke Park Woods and Crowdhill Copse. Council requests that officers: a) Bring back an updated report to a future meeting: i) That includes re-assessment of Option C, with a view to proposing a solution that includes housing growth on a smaller scale; ii) That has fully investigated Options D, E and other options outlined in the SLAA; iii) That is based on further exploration of other strategic growth areas iv) That includes recommendations based on evidence gathered from expert reports. b) Continue working with local communities, neighbouring authorities, statutory agencies, Members of Parliament and relevant Government departments on the emerging Local Plan and in particular, to press for progression of the Chickenhall Lane Link Road (CLLR) and Junction 6 of the M27. c) Prepares a response to the Local

Plan Intervention letter dated 16 November 2017 from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to outline the status of the local plan and explain why delays are being incurred". This was not approved; and 3) separate recorded votes for Recommendation 1 and 2 were requested, and duly supported, in respect of Minute 35, the result of which was as follows:

Recommendation 1

FOR: Councillors Airey, Asman, Bicknell, Boulton, Broadhurst A, Broadhurst H, Campbell, Clarke, Corben, Craig, Cross, Garton, Holden-Brown, Holes, House, Irish, Kyrle, Mignot, Myerscough, Parkinson, Pragnall, Pretty, Rushton, Van Niekerk and Winstanley.

AGAINST: Councillors Atkinson, Bain, Balaam, Grajewski, Hall, Hughes, Lear and M Sollitt, and S Solitt.

ABSTAINED: Councillor Scott

(FOR 25; AGAINST 9; ABSTAIN 1)

Recommendation 2

FOR: Councillors Airey, Asman, Bicknell, Boulton, Broadhurst A, Broadhurst H, Campbell, Clarke, Corben, Craig, Cross, Garton, Holden-Brown, Holes, House, Irish, Kyrle, Mignot, Myerscough, Parkinson, Pragnall, Pretty, Rushton Van Niekerk and Winstanley.

AGAINST: Councillors Atkinson, Bain, Balaam, Grajewski, Hall, Hughes, Lear and M Sollitt, and S Solitt.

ABSTAINED: Councillor Scott

(FOR 25; AGAINST 9; ABSTAIN 1)

33. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer that recommended changes to the Council's Constitution which included necessary changes to Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny).

**RESOLVED –**

**That the revised amendments to the Constitution be ADOPTED as set out in the report.**

34. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to the report of the Senior Specialist Elections and Democratic regarding the necessity to review the membership of

committees and related proportionality issues following the resignation of three of the elected members from the Liberal Democrat Group, and their formation of a new political group. Consideration was given that since the report had been published membership of the Independent Liberal Democrat Group had increased by two members and that the allocations had been changed to reflect this. They were now as follows:

		<b>LD</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Ind LD</b>	
Policy & Performance Scrutiny and Scrutiny	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	Cllr S Sollitt
Audit and Resources Committee	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Cllr Balaam
Licensing	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	Cllrs Thomas & S Sollitt
Admin Committee	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	Cllr M Sollitt & Bain
Staff & Job Evaluation Appeals Panel	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>			
Places Leisure Consultative Group	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Cllr Bain
Treasury Management Members Review Group	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>TOTAL BY PARTY</b> exc. Council and LACs	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	

It was agreed that the new allocations would be shared with Councillors via email.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the allocation of seats on committees to the political groups be considered; and**
- (2) That the political groups make nominations to fill the seats.**

#### 35. REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

This item was deferred until the Annual General Meeting.

#### 36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Clifford Morris declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 6 (b) Cabinet – 11 December 2017 Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) because although he was not directly involved he was employed by a company who assist the Council in compiling the supporting information for the area marked B on the proposed options for the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan.

Councillor Nicholas Couldrey declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 6 (b) Cabinet – Eastleigh Local Plan (2016-2036) because he is a landowner in the area marked B on the proposed options for the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan.

37. MINUTES

**RESOLVED -**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 be agreed as a correct record.**

38. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader started his report with some good news, that last week the Council's Street Cleansing service won the 'Best Overall Performer' award at the Association of Public Service Excellence Awards. He explained that the APSE awards were very competitive, with over 200 councils involved each year.

This was the seventh consecutive year that the Council has won the award, with the Council's Parks, Open Spaces and Waste and Recycling Services being 'highly commended', having made the list of finalists in the 'Best Overall Performer' and most improved categories. This really was quite a remarkable achievement for the team and he was sure everyone would want to congratulate them.

The Chancellor's Budget contained few surprises for local government. On the back of this, Hampshire County Council had confirmed a further £140million of cuts to local services over the next two years, including axing funding for every school crossing patrol in Hampshire; closing half of the Household Waste Recycling Centres; ending funding for community transport and Dial-a-Ride; and making massive cuts to services for vulnerable adults and children in care. Hampshire planned another five percent Council Tax increase in February 2018.

The Council had worked hard to avoid getting into a place where it had needed to cut frontline services. The Leader confirmed that February's budget reports would once again freeze the Borough's Council Tax. This would be the eighth year in a row that Tax had been frozen, and the fifteenth year of a real term cut in Tax without cuts in services.

He announced another positive cut following that evening's Cabinet meeting. The Council had worked hard with the business community to support the evening economy in Eastleigh Town Centre. Town centres were changing, to become more focused on leisure, food and services, especially in the evening. The Council wanted to continue to make Eastleigh a welcoming evening environment, particularly as many

residents were still feeling the effects of the last recession without pay rises at a time when prices were beginning to rise.

From Tuesday 12 December 2017 all evening parking after 6pm in the Swan Centre, both the rooftop and the ground floor car park accessed from Wells Place would be free. This would be a permanent change to send out a clear message that Eastleigh was open for business.

He stated that not only was the Council protecting services, it was also investing in the community.

The Leader referred to the Mayor's earlier announcement regarding the opening of Eastleigh's new modern, larger, leisure centre. This £28million investment actually had reduced cost to the Council compared to the old Fleming Park, alongside an environmentally sustainable building with combined heat and power and solar PV panels. The naming rights had secured investment to enable the continuation of the Council's nationally regarded HealthWorks programme that picked up GP health referrals for fitness and helped achieve healthier lifestyles and longer lives.

On 7 December 2017, Cabinet agreed additional investment alongside the Stoneham development that would extend Lakeside Country Park to the west next year, right up to Stoneham Lane. This was another example of Eastleigh Borough Council bringing forward investment ahead of development to meet the needs of both the new and existing communities.

The Lakeside Centre had been selected as a regional finalist for the 2018 Civic Trust Award. Having won a regional finalist award meant it would now be considered for a National level award and potentially one of three further special awards. Official notification of that award appeared to be set for 14 December 2017.

He also confirmed that agreement had been reached with Taylor Wimpey to bring forward a relief road for its housing development at the top of Hamble Lane by the end of 2018. The Council bought the car boot sale site opposite Tesco earlier this year to achieve this alongside a new Country Park.

The package with Taylor Wimpey would deliver access to this site and the developer's housing scheme from Bursledon Road, closing off the Hamble Lane entrance. It also accelerated delivery of homes and brought forward the opening of the parkland which achieves guaranteed protection of the Strategic Gap between Southampton and Bursledon. New homes would include not just market sale and homes for affordable rent, but market rented homes, which are so much needed by younger people before getting onto the housing ladder. A planning application for the road would be with the Council in January 2018.

The Council was taking a similar investment-first approach working alongside Hampshire County Council to achieve a new secondary school

west of Woodhouse Lane in Hedge End, that would help realise the local community's longstanding aim for new sports facilities behind Berrywood School, first identified in the Council's Local Plan. The County land also had a housing allocation that is expected to come forward alongside the Botley Bypass that received planning permission in November 2017.

39. CABINET STATEMENTS

There were none on this occasion.

40. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Members' question as set out in the Agenda was answered by the Leader.

41. RESOLVED ITEMS - FOR NOTING AND QUESTIONS ONLY

**RESOLVED -**

**That the Minutes of the following meetings be received:**

**Cabinet**

**(a) 16 November 2017**

**(b) 7 December 2017**

**Administration Committee**

**(c) 20 November 2017**

**Audit and Resources Committee**

**(d) 14 November 2017**

**Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel**

**(e) 9 November 2017**

**Bursledon, Hamble and Hound Local Area Committee**

**(f) 2 November 2017**

**(g) 23 November 2017**

**Chandlers Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Committee**

**(h) 15 November 2017**

**Eastleigh Local Area Committee**

**(i) 21 November 2017**

**Hedge End and West End Local Area Committee**

**(j) 6 November 2017**

The meeting finished at 1:00 am  
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